

PIEDMONT DIVISION TIMETABLE

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 1

Effective 12:01 AM ET Saturday, January 1, 2022

REMEMBERING GEORGE MASAK
AND DAN BERMAN

SEE TRAINS, DINOSAURS AND SANTA...
...WHILE IN YOUR PAJAMAS!

DIVISION MEMBER SURVEY

- VIEWS ON COVID
- MEETING CLINICS
- WHERE WE LIVE

HOLIDAY PARTY FINDS GAP
BETWEEN DELTA AND
OMICRON VARIANTS



TELLUS MUSEUM'S
FESTIVAL OF TRAINS



PIEDMONT  DIVISION
LEADERSHIP

SUPERINTENDENT (2022) PERRY LAMB
perry_lamb@mindspring.com 770 218-9744

OPERATIONS (2023) TOM GORDON
TomGordonPiedmontDiv@gmail.com

FINANCE (2023) JIM FOLEY
james.foley@comcast.net 404 542-4660

ADMINISTRATION (2022) JIM DATKA
jdatka@mindspring.com 770 772-1538

PERSONNEL (2022) GARY FISH
bigfish600@gmail.com 770 846-2222

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

DOUG ALEXANDER (2023) JOHN STEVENS (2023)
doug_alexander@bellsouth.net snevets4@bellsouth.net
404 272-2986 678-873-3770

STEVE FUNSTEN (2023) RAYMOND STEWART (2022)
stevefunsten@bellsouth.net raystew@yahoo.com
404-312-6467 678 925-3270

JIM HOBBS (2022) PETER THOMAS (2022)
jchobbs3@bellsouth.net peter3292004@gmail.com
404 316-7557 404 435-5684

HANK PRIMAS (2022)
hprimas@gmail.com
301 706-7932

SUPERINTENDENT EMERITUS

PETER YOUNGBLOOD MMR®
santaferailway@aol.com 770 966-1661

PIEDMONT DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
WINTER 2022



Welcome to a brand-new year! I can honestly say, I will not really miss 2021, but that's behind us now!

Last year, as I wrote this, it really was Winter. It was cold, I was getting work done on my model railroad, and I needed a coat to go outside! Today, I walked around most of the park in the middle of the community in which I live, in short sleeves! Where the heck did Winter go? (The forecast says it will be back tomorrow!) Nevertheless, I am working away on the UC&W. I've added more detail and scenery, I'm about to pour a river and I'm mid-weathering a pair of 89-foot flats my fluffers gave me for Christmas! In addition, I'm building a library that will be named for my mom, a long-time librarian in Oklahoma, before she passed away.

Looking into the start of 2022, I believe we will be starting the year with virtual meetings. I'm very saddened by this, given the response we had for our 2021 Christmas party. If you missed it, we had a great time. We enjoyed wonderful food, had door prizes, watched a short but very funny movie, and, most importantly, reconnected, in-person, with people we hadn't seen in months. Given the decline in the infection rate, the response to the Christmas party, and general conditions, I was looking forward to the start of the year.

Sadly, the infection rate is now higher than it was when we first locked down in March of 2020. A number of schools and at least one university have announced that they will be virtual for the start of 2022, and the Division will do the same. I am very hopeful, like it seems Emory University is, that this wave will blow over by the end of the month. They are looking to open to in-person classes at the start of February. With any fortune, we will meet again, in-person, for our February meeting. Given this turn of events, we are reworking the clinic schedule for the start of the year, **so stay tuned to both the e-blasts and our Facebook and Web pages for more information.** In addition to our in-person meetings returning in February, we are planning on restarting the member-only open house program in the same month. Look for information to come out about that as well.

Having trouble with WebEx or other problems accessing our virtual meetings? We have created a helpline to give you individualized support and assistance.

Send an email to webexhelp@piedmont-div.org and we will walk you through the steps so you can attend our meetings from everywhere.

(continued on next page)

DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT—WINTER 2022

(CONTINUED)

As far as other events that are coming our way, remember that on January 29 & 30, the City of Kennesaw is hosting its annual TRAINS! TRAINS! TRAINS! event at The Southern Museum. We will have our booth, our ambassador layout, Walt's Winter Wonderland, and Peter Thomas' mobile layout all on display. We will need volunteers to man all of this activity!

Also, remember that our 2022 MODEL TRAIN SHOW is scheduled for March 12 & 13, 2022, again in Cartersville, GA. The 2021 show, held this past October, was wonderful! That coupled with our interaction with the Cartersville community at the Tellus Science Museum's FESTIVAL OF TRAINS, this past December, put us in a good place in Cartersville, and I think we will have good name recognition for our show in 2022!

We are also in the process of putting together the TRAIN 'N CAMP schedule for 2022. Our first Camp is January 22, and will be our annual MODEL RAILROADING 101. Last year, Walt Liles and I presented to over 100 people from, literally, all over the world! That was really amazing. Hopefully we can replicate that this year.

Also, if you are looking to improve your track skills, we are planning on hosting a Camp on constructing turnouts using the Fast Tracks jigs. The Board of Directors approved the purchase of a Fast Tracks jig set for use by members who wish to pursue their Civil Engineering certificate and the Division was given several other jigs that are here for use during Camps or as a substitute for the set the Division purchased. This should be a fun and informative Camp, watch for email.

Additionally, we'll head back to the workbench to address Weathering. There have been some cool improvements in weathering products since the last time this Camp was offered, and those products, and the techniques to utilize them will be added.

Finally, please watch our website. The project to completely rebuild the Division, Train Show, and Pilgrimage sites is getting close to being complete. The work has been amazing and I, for one, am impressed. The company that is doing the work for us has provided quality workmanship, will have complete documentation and we will be able to easily edit content on our own, instead of depending on one or two others to edit a hard-to-manage set of sites.

There are two things to note. First, there is a donate button on the page now, and this will continue to the new pages. This button allows members to set up recurring donations to help cover Division expenses as we've not seen nearly as many people at our monthly in-person meetings as we did before the pandemic hit in 2020. I've set up a contribution to the Division and I hope you will as well.

Second, we are planning a "Featured Layout" each month on our new website. If you were at the Christmas party, you saw what this featured looked like. This layout, of course, will be there for the entire planet to see.

If you'd like to potentially have your own layout featured, there are three ways to have your layout selected:

- Attend our in-person meetings – 2 chances to be selected.
- Set up a recurring donation to the Division – 2 chances to be selected.
- Attend our virtual meetings – 1 chance to be selected.

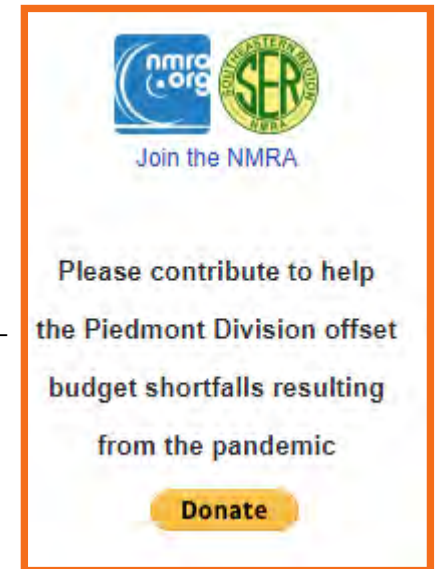
Hmmm, I wonder if Vulcans have seen our website??? Maybe they've seen the UC&W???

Well, I'm headed back to my weathering project. My fluffers want to see "their" flat cars on the layout... well, Shadow does, anyway! Hope you are making progress too.

Until next quarter, Engage!

—Perry Lamb

SUPERINTENDENT, PIEDMONT DIVISION
perry_lamb@mindspring.com





THIS IS ALL ABOUT YOU

This issue takes a look at our Division from several aspects. How are we dealing with the pandemic? What do we want to learn at our monthly meetings? Where do we want to hold our monthly meetings?

There are no quick or easy answers to any of these questions. Lots of opinions—which is always good—but we are most successful when we work together. Or at least try to pull in the same direction.

The results of our member survey and mapping that follow are inputs, not decisions. There are many ways to interpret this data, and each of us will look at it a different way and likely come to different conclusions. That can be a very good thing.

We are a diverse and far-flung membership. The Board can make better decisions the more we hear from you.

Please take a look at what we said we wanted from our meetings and where we live and share your questions and opinions. Send me an email and I will present them in the next *TIMETABLE*, or just reach out to one of our Board members.

Some of My Observations

I'll start. An important take-away to me is that 10.3% of our membership is interested in learning Basic Modeling Techniques and Skills.

These are people wanting to increase their interest and involvement in the hobby. Proper cultivation of these members is how we will grow our Division and the hobby.

This includes members new to the hobby, are looking to wade deeper in to it, or are returning to it from decades ago. I am part of this group.

Our TRAIN 'N CAMPS and YouTube videos are perfect for this. I want to offer additional support through a new recurring feature in future issues of the *TIMETABLE*. And I am looking at you to supply the content.

Looking for Your Shortcuts and Learning Experiences

I want to feature your brief hints and tips that you think would help everyone become better modelers and get more enjoyment from model railroading.

Simply, if you ever had cause to say, "I wish I had known that earlier," those are the tips I want to share with our readers. This can be any topic covering any aspect of the hobby.

Not asking for more than a quick summary, a few photos or even a quick video. If you have an idea, email or call me and I can assist.

I will be contacting several members with ideas for the next issue to serve as examples.

Tom Gordon is taking over the Director of Operations for our Division which is no small roll. While they are a smaller size, he still has some pretty big shoes to fill.

Tom has said he will contribute as he is able, but this leaves a hole in our editorial content.

Communication and Notification Issues

The good news is that the new websites will greatly improve the communications issues cited in the survey. Events and announcements will be created and updated by the responsible committee chair or director.

Best of all, it will offer communications among our members. Forums will allow posting on message boards organized around aspects of the hobby. There will be a public forum for questions, but most of these conversations can only be accessed by active members.

I think this is something we can look forward to in 2022.

—Jim Datka

TIMETABLE Editor and Publisher

jdatka@mindspring.com 770 772-1538

PIEDMONT DIVISION

COMMITTEE, PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY CHAIRS AND CONTACTS

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
Charles Mason, MMR®
candmjason@att.net
770 993-1589

LIBRARY—VIDEOS
Jack Spangler
ajspan@comcast.net
404 539-3981

SPECIAL PROJECTS
Open

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING
Sally Bando
sbandogeorgia@comcast.net
770 928-2135

**MODEL RAILROAD AND
DIVISION HELP**
Ovidiu Trifanescu
memberaid@piedmont-div.org
678 230-3184

TIMETABLE
Jim Datka
jdatka@mindspring.com
770 772-1538

APPAREL/DIVISION STORE
Open

NAME TAGS
James Bando
horailroader@comcast.net
770 928-2135

TRAIN SHOW
Hank Primas
hprimas@gmail.com
301 706-7932

COFFEE COORDINATOR
John Falk
johnfalk50@gmail.com
678 361-4458

PIEDMONT PILGRIMAGE
Mike Deaton
mdeaton@mindspring.com
404-272-2070

TRAIN 'N CAMP
Perry Lamb
training@piedmont-div.org
770 331-1669

GOOD AND WELFARE
Chuck & Mary Ann
Hoesch
hoesch@brmemc.net
828 837-9686

RAFFLE LAYOUT
Walt Liles
willes.crman@gmail.com
678 896-6311

WEB/IT COORDINATOR
Bob Kelshaw
bkk151-UPTrainman@yahoo.com
678 224-1261

LIBRARY—BOOKS
Stephen Leydon
booklibrary@piedmont-div.org
770 338-4966

REFRESHMENTS
Dr. Gary Fish
bigfish600@gmail.com
770 846-2222

**HELP OUR DIVISION
BY VOLUNTEERING!**

PIEDMONT DIVISION TIMETABLE VOLUME 26 NUMBER 1

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER
Jim Datka jdatka@mindspring.com
770 772-1538

CONTRIBUTORS

Jim Foley Perry Lamb

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Doug Alexander

DEADLINE FOR THE QTR 2 2022 *TIMETABLE*

Wednesday March 16, 2022

Please send submissions to :

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Tom Gordon

PHOTO EDITOR
James Bando

jdatka@mindspring.com



NMRA MEMBER BENEFITS

NMRA PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Like saving money?

Your membership can save you 5%, 10%, 15%, 20% and even up to 25% from more than 50 manufacturers and distributors of model railroad equipment, supplies and services.

Simply login to the NMRA.ORG website and highlight the "Benefits" tab on the member home page. Then click on "NMRA Partnership Program" in the pull down menu. This will take you to a page listing all of the participating vendors with detailed instructions on how to take advantage of their discounts. It even includes links to the vendor websites. Nothing could be easier!

Start saving today by taking advantage of this outstanding NMRA member benefit!

Piedmont Division monthly meetings are held at:

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church

805 Mt. Vernon Highway, Atlanta, GA 30327



Division meetings are open to everyone. Come join us to see what fun Model Railroading is. See Division Calendar for details.

We hope to see you at our next meeting!

Scale Accessories • Figures • Animals • Buildings • Vehicles

From Z-Scale (1:220) to G-Scale (1:22.5) and everything inbetween!



CatzPaw Innovations, LLC

www.CatzPaw.com • Facebook: [catzpaw_164](https://www.facebook.com/catzpaw_164)

Visit our website to see our products and place your order!

Send \$8.00 US for a printed copy of our current catalog • 1255 Coan Dr, Locust Grove, GA 30248 USA

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT



TIME TO UPDATE EVERYONE ON OUR FINANCIAL POSITION.

2020 and 2021 Financial Results

As you might expect, the last two Covid-19 years have been difficult, including financially. We had to cancel the 2020 train show, and ran a scaled-back 2021 show. The consequence was an operating deficit of \$10,131 in 2020 and about \$7000 this year.

For next year, pending board approval at our January meeting, the projected deficit will be about \$6300. At first look, these numbers sounds scary, and indeed the 2020 deficit is!

Long-Term Investments

But, these numbers are based on cash accounting (to keep accounting simple), which means that long-term investments, whose cost should be depreciated over multiple years, are charged to the year in which they occurred.

In 2021 and 2022, we are making two long-term investments that will benefit us for many years.

The first is a \$14,000 investment for new, more modern, more informative and more easily-maintained web sites for the Division, the Train Show and the Piedmont Pilgrimage.

The second is a \$1500 computer for video/audio mixing and streaming of our monthly meetings, enabling more members to join the meetings from afar.

If we think of these costs as being spread out over five years, then the 2020 and 2021 deficits come down by a total of about \$6800, cutting them nearly in half.

How did we lose so much in 2020?

Recall that the train show was cancelled just a few weeks in advance as Covid-19 was rapidly spreading. We had already spent a lot on advertising and other expenses and lost a non-refundable deposit for a deficit of \$6,922 instead of the projected revenue of nearly \$14,000!

Filling the Meeting Room Contribution Bucket

An on-going expense that we can all help with is the \$300 per month rental for our Holy Innocents' meeting place. Since we started meeting, our bucket collections have averaged about \$125 each month.

Pending board approval in January, we will be asking those meeting attendees, both in-person and via the internet, to consider a \$3 donation – by cash in the bucket or by a PayPal button on our web site.

The Financial Health of the Division is GOOD!

The good news is that we have a healthy cash reserves of about \$65,000, built up primarily from past train shows.

This means we can in the short-term manage the deficits until Covid passes and we collectively figure out what is the “new normal” for our meetings and train show and hence for our budgeting in 2023 and beyond.

Please contact me if you would like to see the details behind these numbers.

—Jim Foley
Director of Finance
james.foley@comcast.net
404 542-4660



840 Barrett Parkway - Kennesaw, GA 30144



With nearly 6,000 sq. ft. dedicated to Model Trains in almost every gauge and scale, we probably have what you want in stock. And if we don't, we can get it for you quickly!



We also carry an enormous selection of "modelers tackle" such as tools, paints, airbrushes, paint brushes, masking tapes, glues, plastic parts, LEDs, track buildings, vehicles and other stuff you just can't do without.

Find us on Facebook,
email us at hobbytownusatrails@gmail.com
phone us at 770-426-8800,
or better yet, just come to our store and see for yourself!

We are open Mondays thru Saturdays from 10 am until 9 pm.
On Sundays, we're open from Noon until 6.



Bring your NMRA card for
your 10% discount.

Some exclusions apply. See store for details



MODEL TRAIN SHOW

March 12 & 13

Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-4

The Clarence Brown Conference Center

5450 GA Hwy 20 – Cartersville, Georgia
Easy access from Hwy 41 and 75.

A Courtyard by Marriott hotel is adjacent to the Conference Center.

Operating Model Railroads to Enjoy,
150 Tables of Model Train Dealers,
"White Elephant" tables

Admission is just \$10 per Person
Kids 9 and Under are Free!

FREE PARKING

Masks & Social Distancing are Encouraged



Sponsored by the Piedmont Division
of the National Model Railroad Association

www.themodeltrainshow.com

www.piedmont-div.org

PIEDMONT DIVISION CALENDAR



PIEDMONT DIVISION WEBEX MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg
CLINICIAN: PETER THOMAS TITLE: MODEL RAILROAD OPERATIONS

**MODEL AND PHOTO CONTEST POSTPONED
UNTIL WE CAN SAFELY MEET IN-PERSON**

60TH ATLANTA MODEL TRAIN AND RAILRODIANA SHOW

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2022 9 AM to 5 PM
Golden Spike Show. Gas South District Convention Center, 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth, GA 30093. For more info go to www.gserr.com

TRAIN 'N CAMP MODEL RAILROADING 101

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2022 12:30 PM to 4 PM
This clinic will show you how to get started and turn your train set into a model railroad. Experienced instructors will answer all of your questions. This class is free and open to the public. His Hands Church, 550 Molly Lane, Woodstock, GA 30189, For more info contact training@piedmont-div.org

TRAINS! TRAINS! TRAINS!

SATURDAY, JAN 29 and SUNDAY, JAN 30, 2022 9:30 AM to 5 PM
Southern Museum, 2829 Cherokee St NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144. For more information, go to SouthernMuseum.org

PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg
CLINICIAN: PETER YOUNGBLOOD MMR® TITLE: FROM PLANNING TO BENCHWORK & BEYOND An overview of planning, room prep, benchwork, track, wiring, scenery, water, forced perspective and mini-scenes.

PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg
CLINICIAN: WALT LILES TITLE: SAVANAH RAIL PORT

PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2022 10 AM to 5 PM
SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022 10 AM to 4 PM
Clarence Brown Conference Center, 5450 GA-20, Cartersville, GA 30121. For more info go to themodeltrainshow.com

BLUE OX TRAINS

425 Market Place Roswell GA 30075

**LOCOMOTIVES - ROLLING STOCK - TRACK SUPPLIES
STRUCTURE KITS - DETAIL PARTS - HOBBY TOOLS
DCC DECODERS AND SYSTEMS - SCENERY MATERIALS
*OPERATING HO SCALE LAYOUT***



Store hours - Monday - Saturday 10-6pm - Sunday - Call

Keeping the Hobby Fun!

Steve Funsten

www.blueoxtrains.com

404-312-6467

blueoxtrains@bellsouth.net

**Support Our
Advertisers!**

Legacy Station

Atlanta's Favorite Train Store



Lionel * MTH * AtlasO * HO * G Scales
Kid Friendly Store with 2 operating layouts



Lionel & MTH Top Dealer
Best Service Dept in Atlanta
New Expanded HO Section
Trains, Track, Accessories, Gifts
Large Department 56 Inventory
Knowledgeable & Friendly Staff
11,000 SF of Selection
Great Prices
Many Children's Play Stations
20 Years in Business
Hours Mon- Sat 10-6

**Large 25 x 19
operating layout
with 6 trains!**

770-339-7780

www.legacystation.com

4153 Lawrenceville Hwy NW # 12, Lilburn GA 30047
(Kroger Shopping Center at Corner of Beaver Ruin & Hwy 29)



\$10 Certificate
On Purchases of \$50

Not valid with any other offers.
One Coupon per person.
Expires Dec 1, 2017

FREE Tote Bag
With purchase

Not valid with any other offers
While supplies last..
One Coupon per person
Expires Dec 1, 2017

Engineer's Wish List



Embroidery
Design & Gifts
by On-Line Consign, Inc.



Sally Bando | 404.550.4816 | sbandogeorgia@comcast.net

Machine embroidery designs & themes on shirts and gifts.
Prices upon request. Company and group projects welcome.



\$2

TRAIN RIDES

NORTH GEORGIA LIVE STEAMERS  CONYERS & HIGHTOWER RAILROAD

Saturdays
1:00-4:30

2022 Schedule
April 30, May 21, Oct 1, Nov 5

Cash Only

1632 Centennial Olympic Parkway, Conyers, GA

Cash Only

GEORGE MERLE MASAK



George Merle Masak of Suwanee, Ga, passed away on November 13, 2021, at the age of 78. Born on January 12, 1943, in Oak Park, IL George was the eldest son of George and Anne Masak.

A graduate of West Georgia College & University and alum of Grady High School (1960), he taught mathematics before finding "temporary" employment with PBT (later Regional Transit Partners). He spent the next 4 decades helping expand and improve the MARTA transit system as a programmer analyst.

George was a fixture of the model railroading community as a longtime member of European Train Enthusiasts, National Model Railroad Association Piedmont Division and the Jasper Roundhouse. For more than 20 years he operated the Dunwoody, Norcross & Lilburn based Toy Trains 'N Things retail store along with myriad partners. As the proprietor of the Orient Express LLC, he traveled the country attending and participating in model train and collectible shows & conventions, and was at one time the largest east coast retailer of Märklin model trains in the U.S.

A diehard soccer fan, George was intimately involved in the foundation of the sport in metro Atlanta, first as a booster of the nascent Atlanta Chiefs and avid supporter of the many professional and semi-professional teams in the region. For many years he served as a professional soccer referee and instructor, even serving as the 4th official in an international friendly between the United States and China.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Margaret S. Masak, his son Christopher Masak, daughter-in-law Caroline Masak, grandchildren Griffin and Lincoln Masak, brother Ret. Col. Steven Masak, his nieces Laura Jones and Michelle Sawyer and nephew Jimmy Masak, as well as numerous cousins and countless friends. A lover of animals, he is also survived by his dog Bentley.

A remembrance service was held on Saturday, November 20th at Flanigan Funeral Home and Crematory.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Alzheimer's Association or American Hemerocallis Society.



MAXWELL DANIEL BERMAN



Maxwell Daniel Berman, age 86, of Marietta, Ga passed away on December 7, 2021. He was born in 1935 to Isaac Berman and Lila Clark.

Dan graduated from Georgia Tech in 1957 with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. Upon his graduation, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Airforce and was the base transportation officer at Rhein Mein Airforce base in Frankfurt, Germany. Upon his return to the United States, Dan attended Yale University where he graduated with a master's degree in Transportation. He worked for Southern Railway/Norfolk Southern for 32 years and retired in 1989.

Dan had many passions in his life! He loved to travel, he loved to play tennis, he loved the railroad, he loved Georgia Tech, he loved college football, but most of all he loved his family and his wife of 63 years. Dan was a member of Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church for 40 years. After visiting all 50 states, Dan and his wife traveled extensively to many countries and regions throughout the world. They visited China, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, Europe, Russia, Southeast Asia, Scandinavia, and many, many more. In retirement, he loved to work on his model railroad and was a member of the Atlanta Piedmont Model Railroad Club. He spent many hours perfecting his layout. He was a member of the Georgia Society of Ferroequinologists (Iron Horse Trains).

Dan was a lifelong owner of a Nissan 280ZX and regularly participated in the Atlanta Z Club events. Dan played competitive tennis in ALTA until he was 81 and when he could no longer play, he would go to the matches and keep score for his team.

With the passion for his job at Southern Railway in Car Distribution & Utilization, he loved every part of working for the railroad. On family trips across the country, he would always stop and count the cars of a passing train. He was the quintessential Railroad Man.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Isaac Berman and Lila Clark.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Berman. His children, son, Greg Berman, and wife Debbie Berman; daughter Cindy Hadden and husband Thann Hadden. His grandchildren Christopher Colt, Austin Berman and Kelsey Berman.

A service was held Monday, December 13, 2021, at H.M. Patterson & Son-Canton Hill Chapel

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Maxwell's memory may be made to Georgia Tech Alumni Fund, gtalumni.org/Berman.



PIEDMONT DIVISION'S NOVEMBER MEETING BRING-AND-BRAG: FAVORITE KIT-BASHED LOCO OR CAR



Unfortunately our planned speaker was not able to attend. Fortunately we were able to access the NMRA library and were able to enjoy a previously recorded clinic.

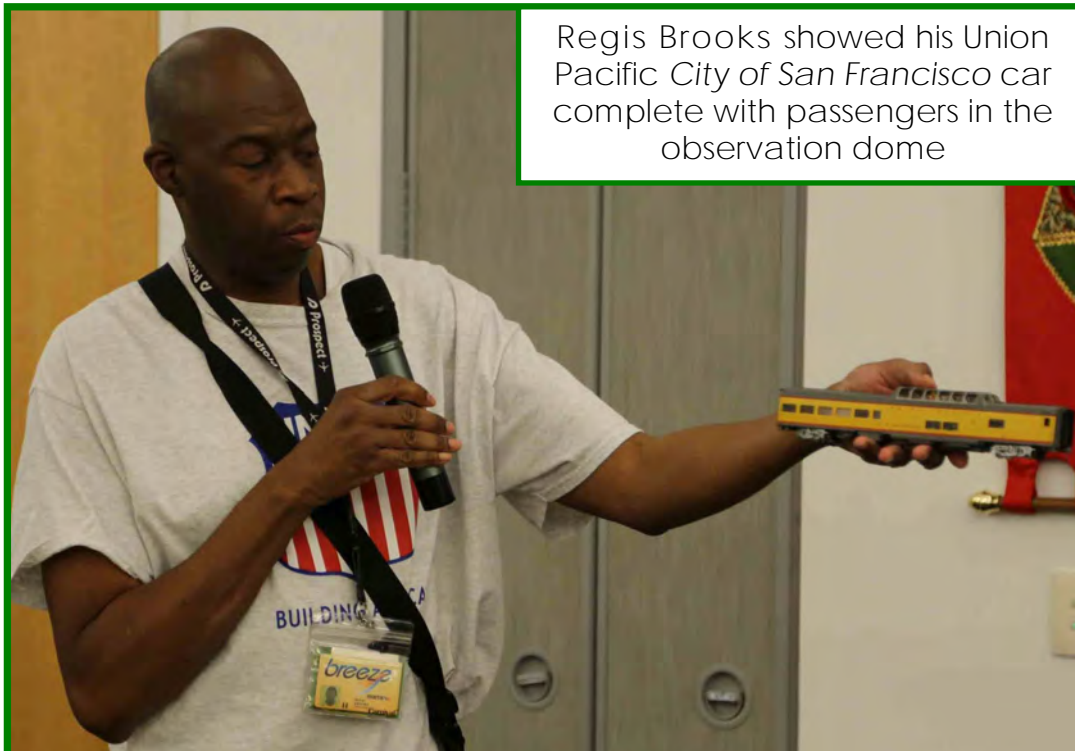


Photos by James Bando



Stefan Bartelski brought in his Georgia Marble SW1 and a CSX GP40-2 in a "stealth" livery

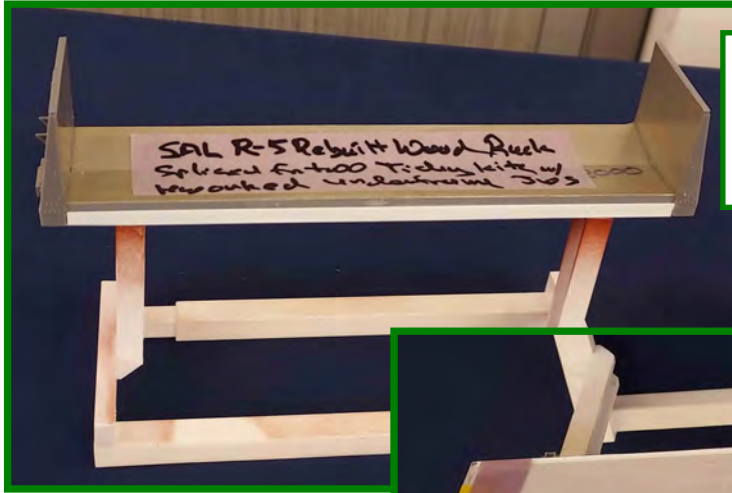
Regis Brooks showed his Union Pacific *City of San Francisco* car complete with passengers in the observation dome



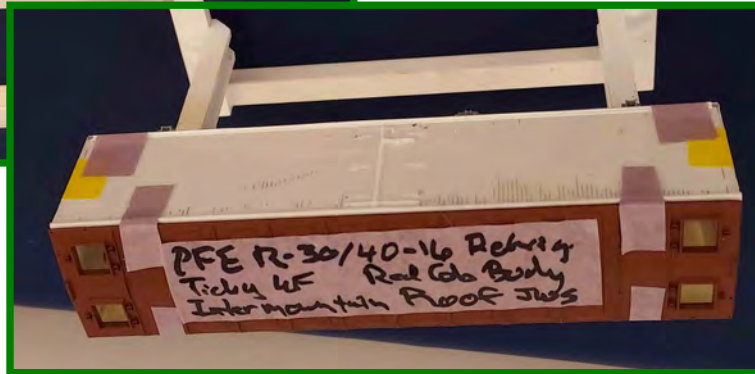
(continued on next page)



PIEDMONT DIVISION'S NOVEMBER MEETING BRING-AND-BRAG: FAVORITE KIT-BASHED LOCO OR CAR



Joe Sullivan showed two projects: his Seaboard Air Line lumber flat car with tall ends and a Pacific Fruit Express wood reefer receiving a metal roof



Mike Deaton presented Santa Fe and Rio Grande locomotives that he has modified, detailed and beautifully weathered





PIEDMONT DIVISION'S DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY



We were fortunate to celebrate and share Holidays cheer together in the brief gap between Delta and Omicron.

The room was filled with visible smiles as maskless faces shared in the bounty.

It truly was great to actually SEE each other, even if for just a brief meal.



Photos by James Bando



The people who made the Holiday Party a fun and successful event: (left to right)

Randall and Diana Watson, Sally Bando,
Leslie Ann and Russell Bundy

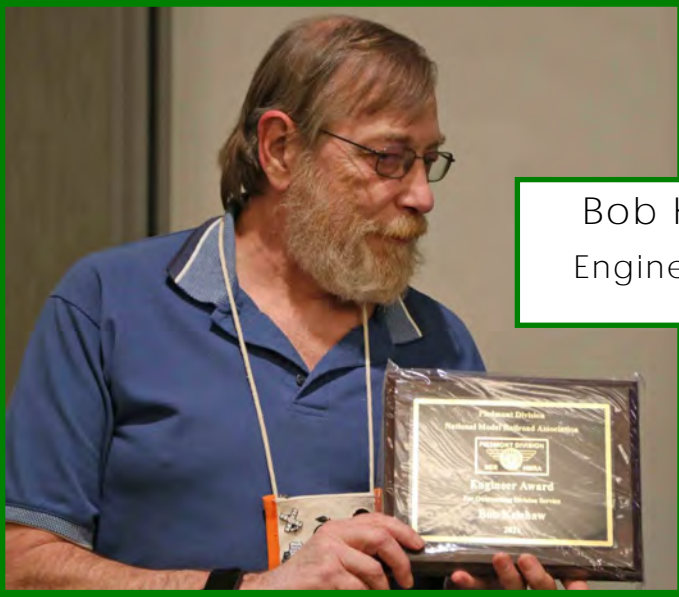
(continued on next page)



PIEDMONT DIVISION'S DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY



In addition to the great fellowship, we also recognized members who have gone above and beyond for our Division.



Bob Kelshaw
Engineer Award



Sally Bando
Conductor Award



Peter Thomas
Brakeman Award



(continued on next page)



PIEDMONT DIVISION'S DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY



Doug Alexander
Certificate of Appreciation



Blue Ox Trains
Certificate of Appreciation



Trainz.com
Certificate of Appreciation

Hobby Town USA—Kennesaw
Certificate of Appreciation





MEMBER SURVEY OF PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETINGS



Thanks to everyone who completed our online survey. We received 123 responses which is over 38% of our current active membership. That is nearly twice the response rate of similar surveys.

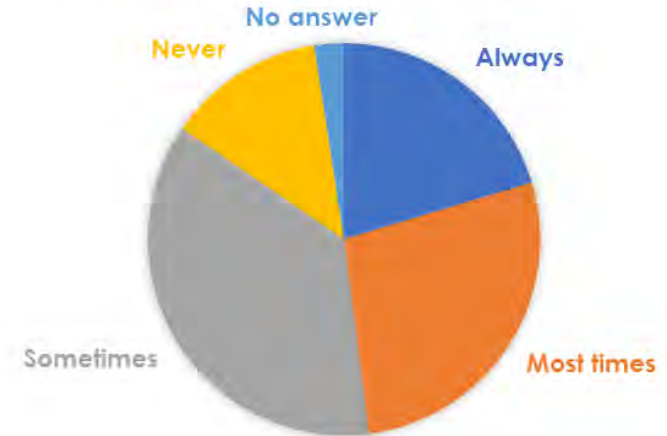
COVID-19 IMPACTS

87% of our members reported they have been vaccinated against COVID. When in an indoor public setting, nearly 48% wear a face mask always or most times. Only 13% said they never wear one.

When asked about mandated mask wearing at Piedmont meetings, over three-quarters said it makes them more likely to attend or made no difference in this decision.

More likely	41.5%
Less likely	23.6%
No difference	35.0%

HOW OFTEN DO YOU WEAR A FACE MASK IN AN INDOOR PUBLIC SETTING?



WHEN WOULD YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE ATTENDING AN INDOOR PIEDMONT DIVISION EVENT?



Nearly two-thirds of respondents said that they were comfortable attending meetings at this time, while nearly 20% were unsure when they would feel comfortable.

Now	65.9%
1-3 months from now	8.9%
4-6 months from now	5.7%
Not certain at this time	19.5%

(continued on next page)

MEMBER SURVEY OF PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETINGS

(CONTINUED)

IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING ATTENDANCE

Since April of 2020, half of the respondents have not attend any meetings in-person.

None	50.4%
1-2	26.8%
3 or more	22.8%

Nearly 62% have attended at least one meeting virtually via WebEx while it was occurring.

None	38.2%
1-3	31.7%
4 or more	30.1%

One-quarter of our members have watched a meetings afterwards on our YouTube channel.

None	74.0%
1-3	21.1%
4 or more	4.9%

Asked to consider where they live, Atlanta traffic and the location of Holy Innocents Church, a little more than one-quarter prefer to attend future meetings virtually.

In-person	52.8%
Virtually	26.0%
No preference	21.1%

(continued on next page)

1981 RIVERDALE STATION

As Mark Twain might say,

*"The rumors of my retirement have been greatly...
...exaggerated"*



DON'T LISTEN TO RUMORS!

Bob Branim has been serving Model Railroaders for 36 years and - if the good Lord's willing and the creek don't rise - he will continue to run **THE** store for the Advanced Modeler for another 36 at least!

He's not going *anywhere!* Bob's **Riverdale Station** will continue to have metro Atlanta's best selection of brass and plastic locomotives, R-T-R and craftsman kit passenger and freight cars, scenery supplies and model buildings; track and power systems and a huge selection of detail parts and books and magazines.

RIVERDALE STATION remains open with everything you need to bring your model railroad to life!

**Open Tuesday - Saturday
10 am - 6 pm**

**Riverdale Station Hobbies
6632 Ga. Hwy 85
Riverdale, GA 30274**

770-991-6085
Fax: 770-907-4992

Rivstatainc@aol.com



MEMBER SURVEY OF PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETINGS (CONTINUED)



IMPROVING VIRTUAL MEETING PRESENTATIONS

The most common requests dealt with improving the audio: asking for all speakers to talk directly into a microphone and remove masks before talking. The Division has been upgrading the hardware and software being used and hopefully virtual attendees will be experiencing better audio going forward.

More active camera work was also requested: moving to whoever is speaking and showing close-ups for things such as *Bring-and-Brag*. Connection problems were also mentioned, recognizing that the problem may be on their end. Better and earlier notification of meeting topics was requested. Users requested our YouTube channel provide better info when new videos are added and to provide indexes, categories and descriptions for easier search.

TOPICS FOR MEETING CLINICS

Unsurprisingly, members most often requested advanced modeling techniques and skills. Combined with layout electronics, layout planning and basic level techniques and skills, these four categories represented two-thirds of the total responses.

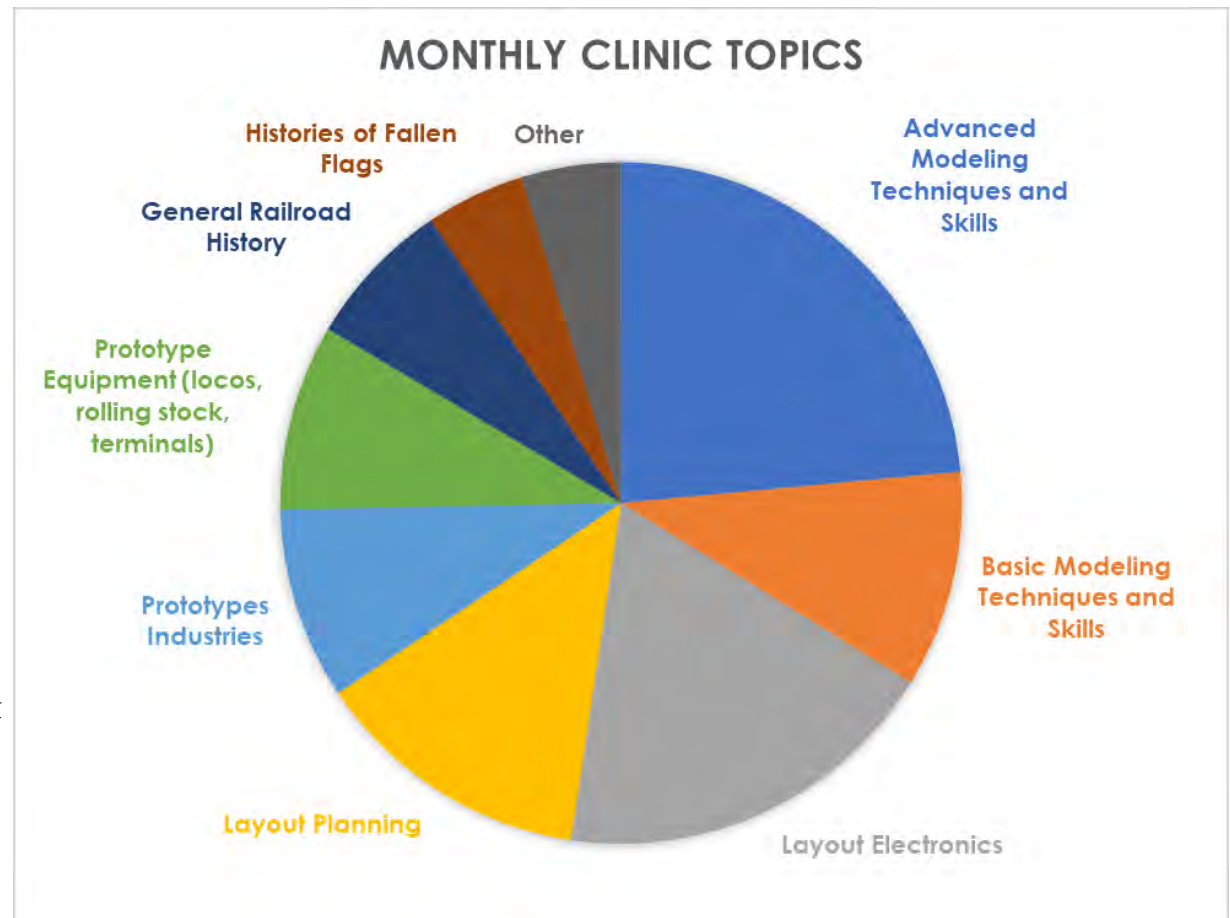
The most common "other" response was "all of the above." This was followed in order by:

- Layout maintenance (track and rolling stock)
- Operations (card systems, switch lists, JMRI, etc.)
- Use of new products in building layouts and models
- Enhancing layouts with movement and sounds
- Layout construction
- Kitbashing (especially in N scale)
- 3-rail topics

Two requests asked for help breaking down a layout due to health issues, and having someone review and assist in completing their layout. These members should reach out to a Board member and we can make arrangements to assist you.

Thanks again to everyone who took our survey!

—Jim Datka



DIVISION MEMBERSHIP MAP

There have been discussions about finding a new location for Division meetings. Peter Thomas produced a map showing the number of members in each zip code for the metro Atlanta area.

Recently I remembered that addresses can be batch loaded into Google Maps. Sorry Peter for not remembering this earlier.

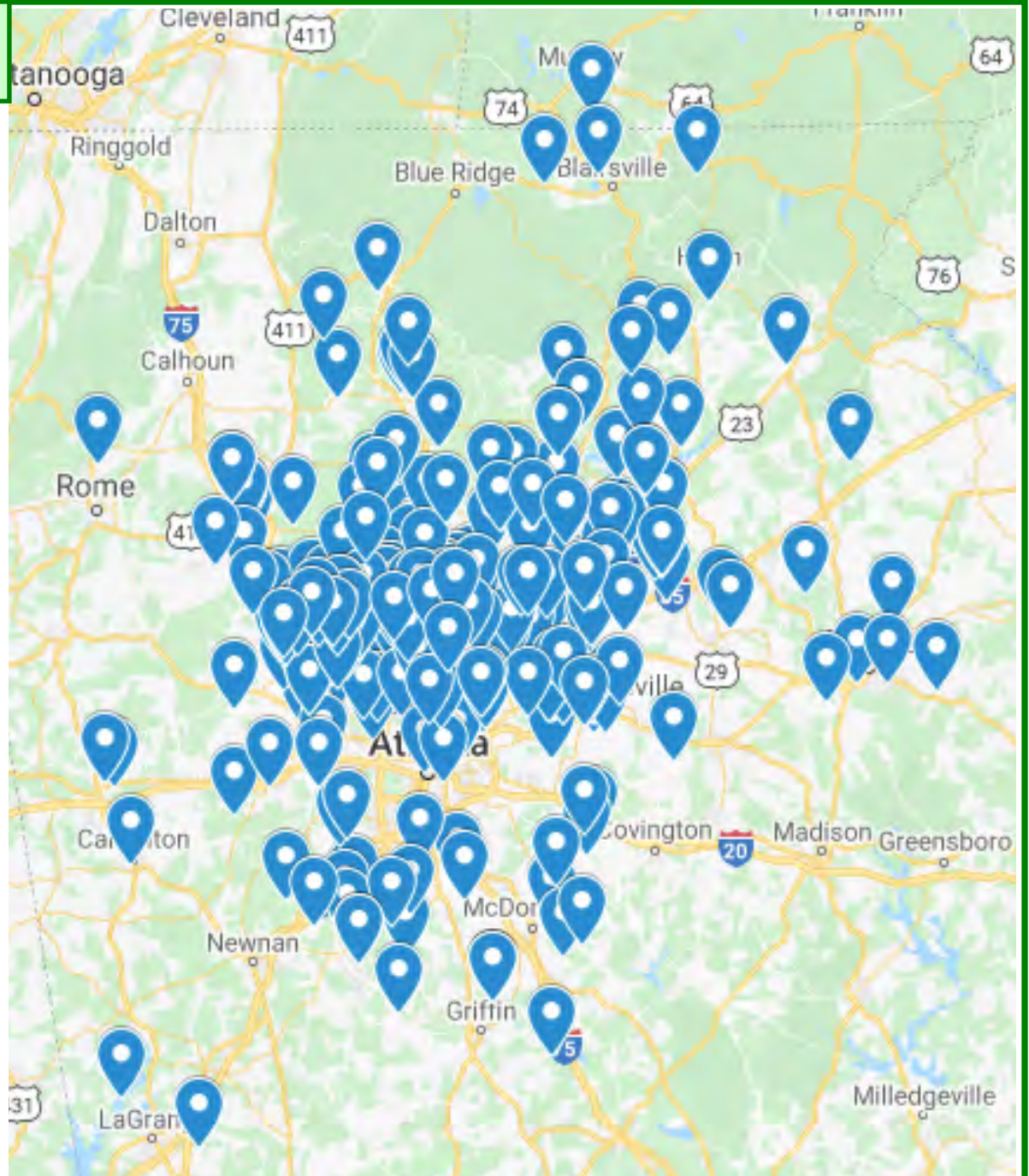
This is a map of the 325 Piedmont Division members active as of December 2021, less 12 members who have a Post Office box rather than a street address on file with the NMRA.

At this scale, it is difficult to use, so I have provided closeups of different parts of north Georgia on the next five pages.

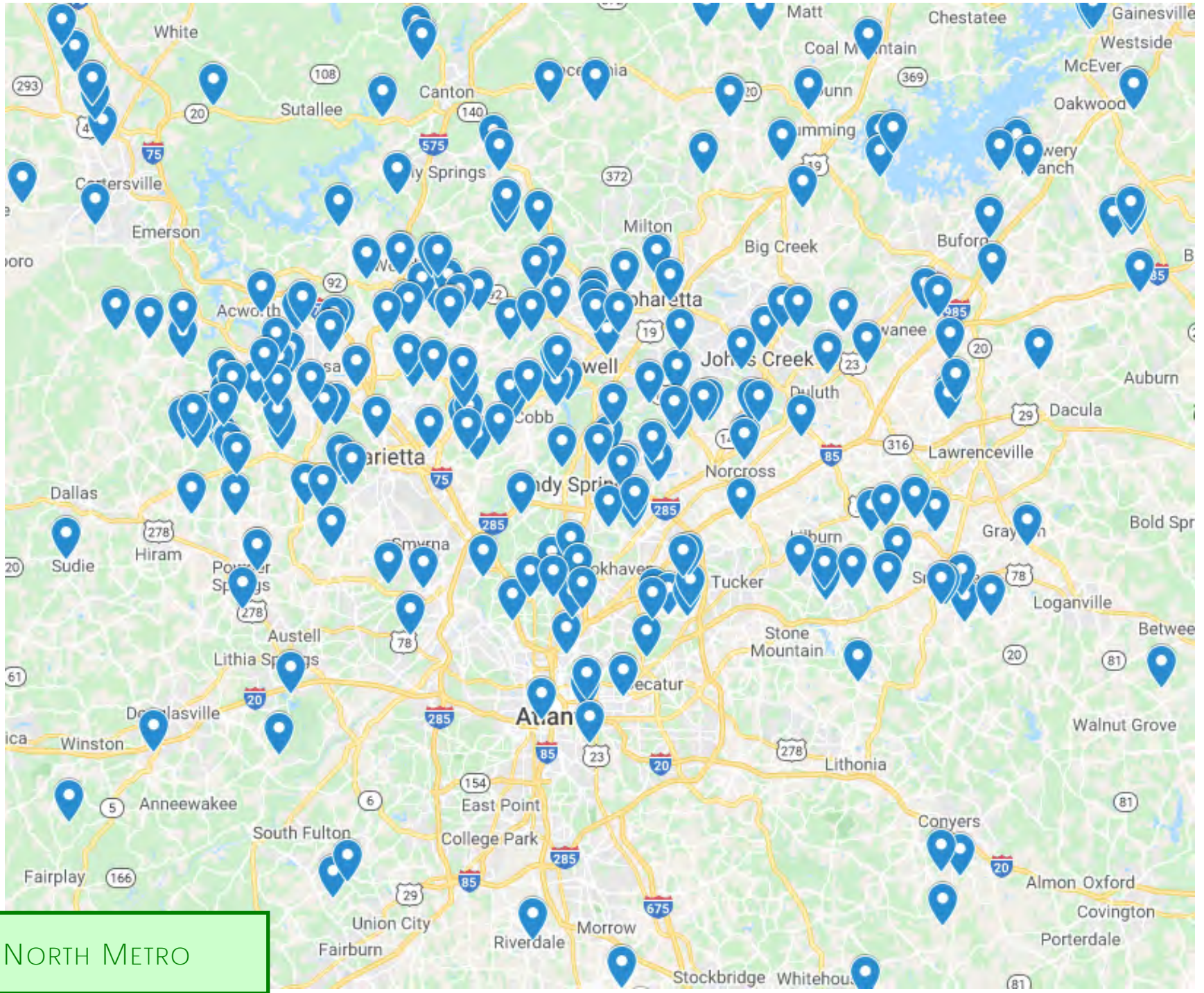
If you would like to view this in even greater detail, go to the web address at the bottom of this page to see the original map. You will be able to zoom in and move around the map locations.

As Peter found in his analysis, Steve Funsten's Blue Ox Trains in Roswell is probably at the epicenter of our membership. It also appears there is a distinct east-west split in the metro Atlanta area.

—Jim Datka

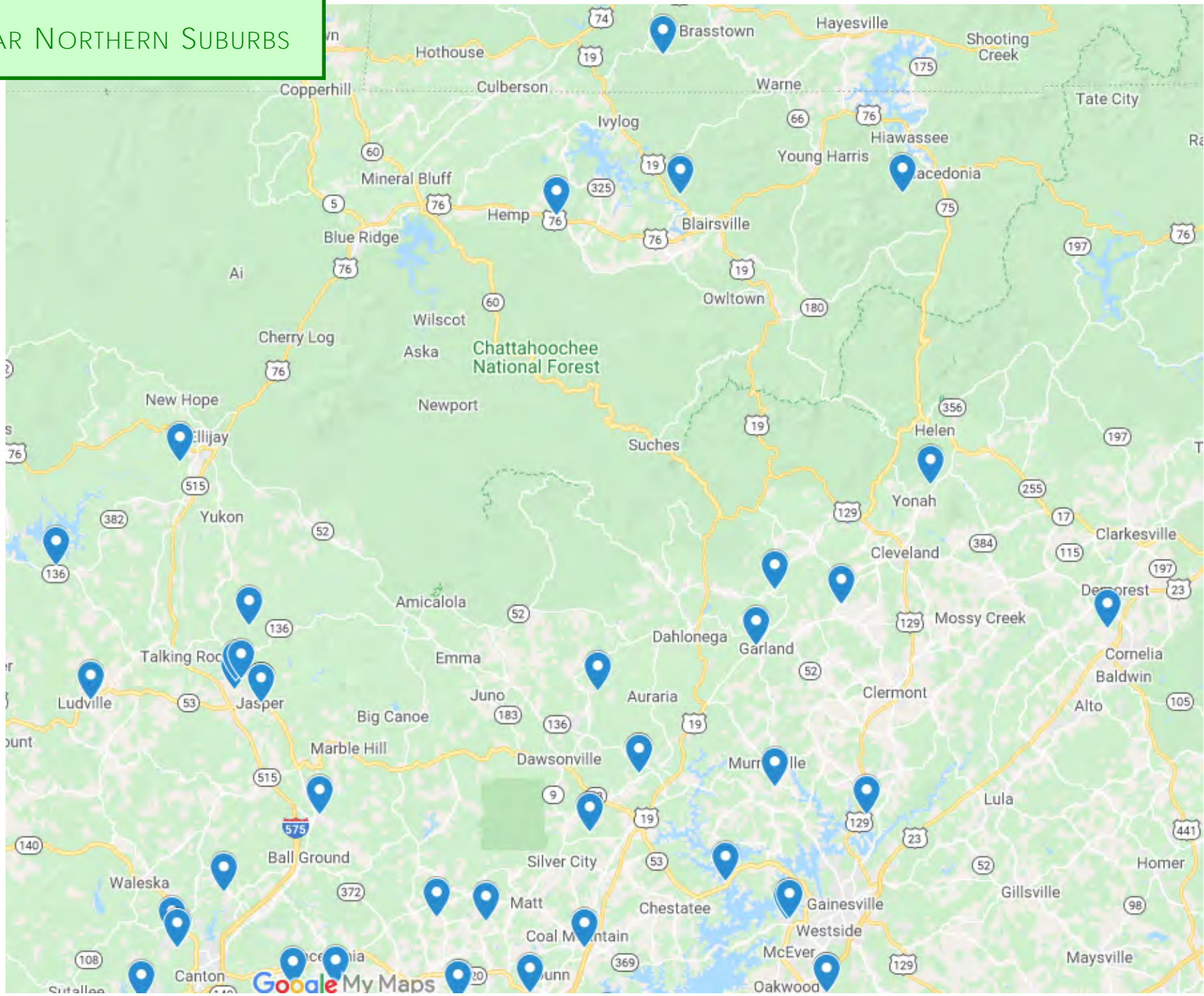


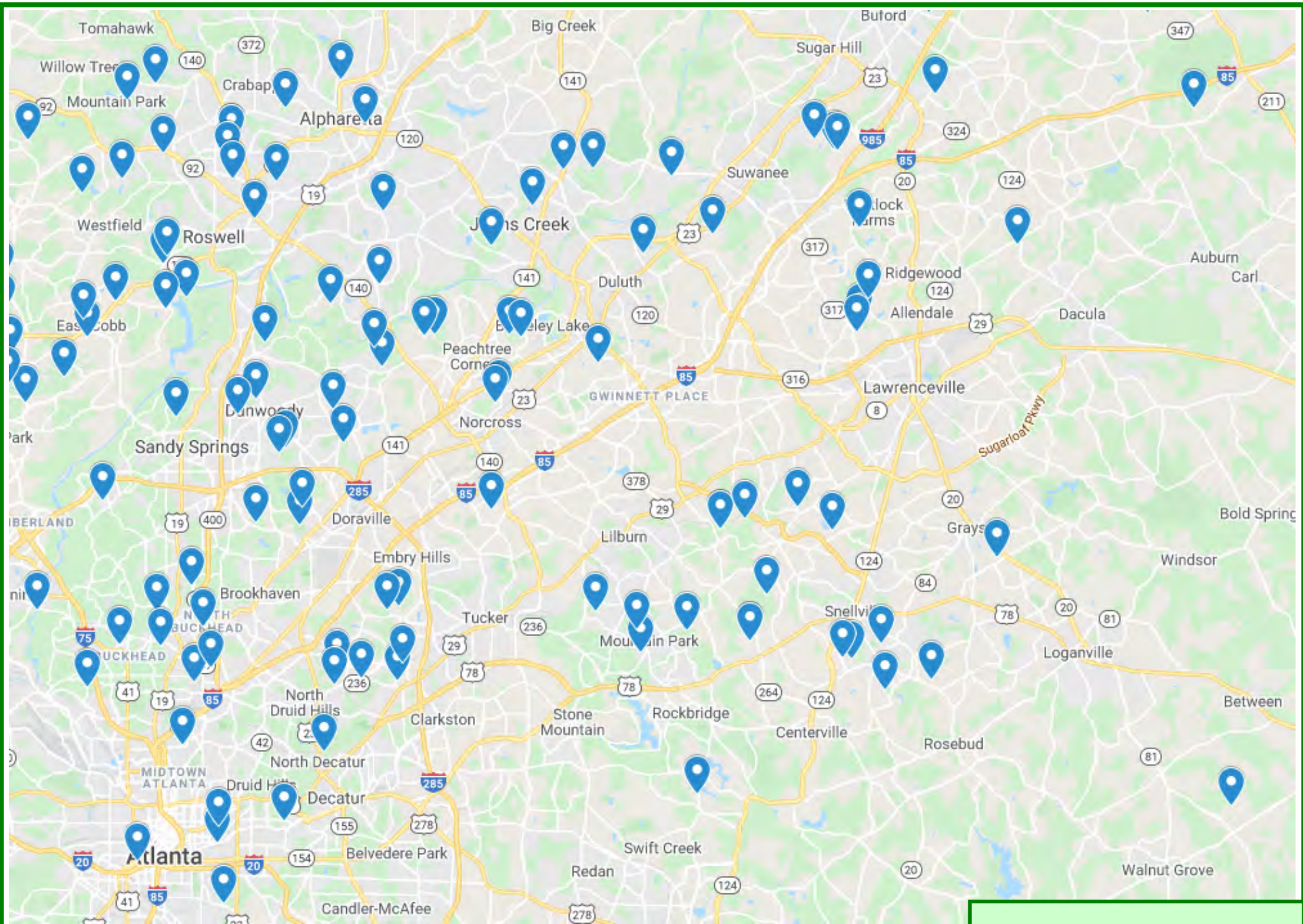
www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1SDWu-btL-f6Vs8lxql6cFHQn6npySCXP&usp=sharing



NORTH METRO

FAR NORTHERN SUBURBS





NORTHEAST METRO



Nothing fills your heart like seeing the excitement of a young child discovering the miniature world of model railroading. This was clearly on display at the first annual *FESTIVAL OF TRAINS* held at the Tellus Science Museum on December 11th and 12th in Cartersville.

The Piedmont Division was well represented with our Ambassador layout and Walt Liles' Christmas layout, plus modular, Lego and Garden rail clubs. It was an incredible opportunity to share the hobby and promote our March Train Show. How big an opportunity? There were over 1700 people on Saturday, with 800 in just the first hour. Weekend attendance was more than 500 above the museum's goal. Dozens of attendees told me they were at our October Train Show and HUNDREDS were delighted to find out there was another fun family activity just a few months away.

This was a family event and was promoted to come in your PJs which made it even more enjoyable for children. It was so adorable seeing whole families sporting matching pajamas! Santa was also in attendance and I am certain he heard a lot of requests for a train set to be found under their Christmas trees.

Continued on next page



Article and Photos by Jim Datka





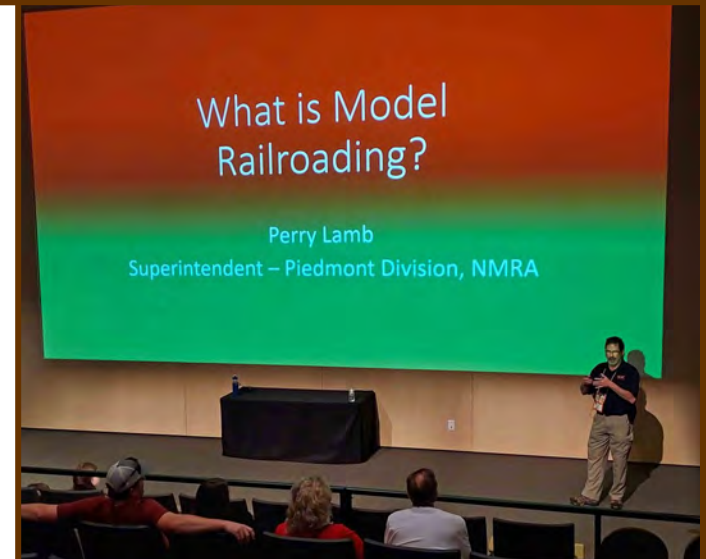
The museum interviewed Walt and put it on their website as part of their promotion, and Perry gave a presentation on the hobby Saturday afternoon.

Attendees were also shown how to make trees and add scenery to a layout.

Most of the Division layouts were in the main lobby surrounding the huge dinosaur fossil.

Saturday morning was non-stop and packed with families.

Continued on next page





Children of all ages enjoyed the layouts on display.

At least a dozen parents told me they had no idea how much artistry was a part of the hobby. They said it could be the creative outlet they were looking for in a family activity.

Several made plans to go to our website and a hobby shop to learn more.

Continued on next page



I have to make a special call out to the Lego club for their delightful winter wonderland display. It was a great way to connect with the kids.

This was truly a wonderful event and a great way to promote model railroading as a terrific family activity. Best of all, it is timed perfectly as a lead-in to our March Train Show.

I am looking forward to next year's *FESTIVAL OF TRAINS*.

—Jim Datka





TRADITIONAL CLUBS

The Railroad Model Club of Atlanta (O-Gauge)
www.oscale-atlanta.info
 Terry Weldon 770 979-0473
 Bob Peppel 770 934-4067
 Meets every Monday at 7:30 PM

Tri-State Area Model Railroad, Inc. (HO-Gauge)
www.tsmri.org
 Thomas Roskelly 828 361-2210
thomasroskelly@gmail.com
 Meets the first Monday of each month in Mineral Bluff

MODULAR CLUBS

Atlanta Interlocking Model Railroad Club (HO-Gauge)
<http://home.earthlink.net/~wiles/>
 Charlie Crawford, MMR 770 565-1845
cacrawford@bellsouth.net

Chattanooga Modular Modelers
www.chatanoogamodularmodelers.org
 Mark McAllister 423 653-7487
mimcallister@gmail.com

North Georgia LEGO Train Club
www.ngltc.org questions@ngltc.org
 James Trobaugh 770 844-1076
james.trobaugh@ngltc.org

Metro Atlanta N-Scalers (NTRAK)
 Larry Graus Roadmaster 770 237-0094
 Charles Leak 404 262-2969
 Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM

North Georgia Modurail (HO-Gauge)
www.northgeorgiamodurail.org
 Bruce Bliss 770-344-8963
brucew.bliss45@gmail.com

North West Georgia T-Trak Club
 Kennesaw, GA
 Jim Nealand 678-358-9171
casadiego86@gmail.com

OPERATING GROUPS

Atlanta Intown Model Railroaders
 Inside-ish I-285
 Tom Gordon 678 643-6022 tgordon@mindspring.com

Boomers
 Athens/Gwinnett/Commerce areas
[John Rieken jrieken916@gmail.com](mailto:John.Rieken@jrieken916@gmail.com)
 Saturday mornings—email for specific dates

Chattahoochee Express Operating Group
 North Atlanta Metro
 Chris White 770 594-2618

Joint Railway Association of Georgia
www.dixierail.com
[Norm Stenzel stenzeln@mindspring.com](mailto:Norm.Stenzel@stenzeln@mindspring.com)
 Meets most Fridays

North Atlanta Rail Barons
www.northatlantarailbarons.com
 Howard "HOrn" Goodwin 770 529-2103
horn69@bellsouth.net

North County Interchange
 I-85/I-985 corridor
[Paul Rankin paul_r@mindspring.com](mailto:Paul.Rankin@paul_r@mindspring.com)

S-COG Southern Crescent Operating Group
 South of I-20
 David Gelmini 770 707-5019 atcgel@gmail.com

OTHER CLUBS

Atlantic Coast S-Gaugers
www.trainweb.org/acsg
 Bob Lacheen Home: 770 578-9937 Cell: 404 431-8032

Georgia Association of Narrow Gaugers
fecrr@mindspring.com
 Pat Turner 423-453-0468

Georgia Garden Railway Society
www.ggrs.info
 Ted Yarbrough
yarbrought@charter.net

OTHER CLUBS (continued)

Georgia Society of FerroEquinologists
www.trainweb.org/gsof/
 Robert Hunt 770 428-3864
 Bob Hoenes 770 422-0081
 Meets the second Friday of each month at 7:30 PM at
 Covenant Presbyterian Church in Marietta

Jasper Roundhouse (All Scales)
 Jasper, GA
[Phil Stead trainman07@aol.com](mailto:Phil.Stead@trainman07@aol.com)
 Meets weekly at a member's home

North Atlanta O-Gauge Railroad Club
 Roswell, GA
[Jeff Pergl 770 516-6378](mailto:Jeff.Pergl@770.516.6378)

Southern O-Scalers
 Canton, GA
[Dan Mason 470 385-6638](mailto:Dan.Mason@470.385.6638)
daniel@masonlawfirmga.com

Volunteer Garden RR Club
 Vines Botanical Garden
 3500 Oak Grove Road
 Loganville, GA 30052

Need your club information updated?
 Please contact Jim Datka
jdatka@mindspring.com
 770 772-1538



Around the Shops

MAIN LINES

FULL-SERVICE HOBBY SHOPS IN THE Piedmont Division Area



Indicates in-store discounts for NMRA Members



Indicates Piedmont Division Member-Owned Establishment

B & B HOBBY SHOP

1142 Athens Highway, Suite 107
Grayson, GA 30017

Kimberly Franklin

770-972-2328

<http://www.bandbhobby.com/>

BLUE OX TRAIN

425 Market Place
Roswell, GA 30075

Steve Funsten

404-312-6467

www.blueoxtrains.com

FREE TIME HOBBIES

4167 East First Street
Blue Ridge, GA 30513

706-946-1120

www.freetimehobbies.com

HOBBYTOWNUSA—DULUTH

3360 Satellite Blvd.
Duluth, GA 30096

770-418-0850

www.hobbytown.com

HOBBYTOWNUSA—KENNESAW

840 Barrett Lakes Blvd.
Kennesaw, GA 30144

Michael Murray

770-426-8800

www.hobbytown.com

LEGACY STATION TOYS TRAINS AND HOBBIES

4153 Lawrenceville Hwy, #12
Lilburn, GA 30047

Brian Sheffield

770-339-7780

www.legacystation.com

RIVERDALE STATION

6632 Georgia Hwy 85
Riverdale, GA 30274

Bob Branin

770-991-6085

rivstatinc@aol.com

BACK SHOPS

MODEL TRAIN SERVICE & REPAIR

AMERICAN FLYER REPAIR

165 Primrose Pass / Newnan, GA 30265

Jack Shaw

678-230-3184

ATLANTA LOCOMOTIVE COMPANY

HO & N-scale Electrical & mechanical repairs
3204 Timbercreek Cir / Roswell, GA 30076-8810

Ovidiu Trifanescu

piko7403@yahoo.com

678-230-3184

Lathbury Electric Train Sales & Service

Authorized Lionel Service Center
959 Highland Terrace NE #6, Atlanta, GA 30306

Johnathan Lathbury

(404) 892-3113

jdtrain@aol.com

FLAG STOPS

STORES WITH TRAIN-RELATED MERCHANDISE

Southeastern Railway Museum

3595 Buford Hwy.
Duluth, GA 3009

(770) 476-2013

www.southeasternrailwaymuseum.org

Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History

2829 Cherokee Street
Kennesaw, GA 30144

(770) 427-2117

www.southernmuseum.org

BRANCH LINES

OTHER HOBBY OUTLETS IN GEORGIA

Bull Street Station

307 Kentucky Avenue
Savannah, Georgia 31404

Ellie Tardif

(912) 236-4344
sales@bullst.com

Lindy's Trains

Multiple Locations

See web site for details

www.lindystrains.com

Picayune Toys

2482 Jett Ferry Rd, 660
Sandy Springs, Georgia 30338

(770) 395-0890

Picayunetoys@bellsouth.net

Southern Digital Railroad Hobbies

5295 Hwy 78, Suite D-322
Stone Mountain, Georgia 30087

(770) 929-1888

www.sodigi.com