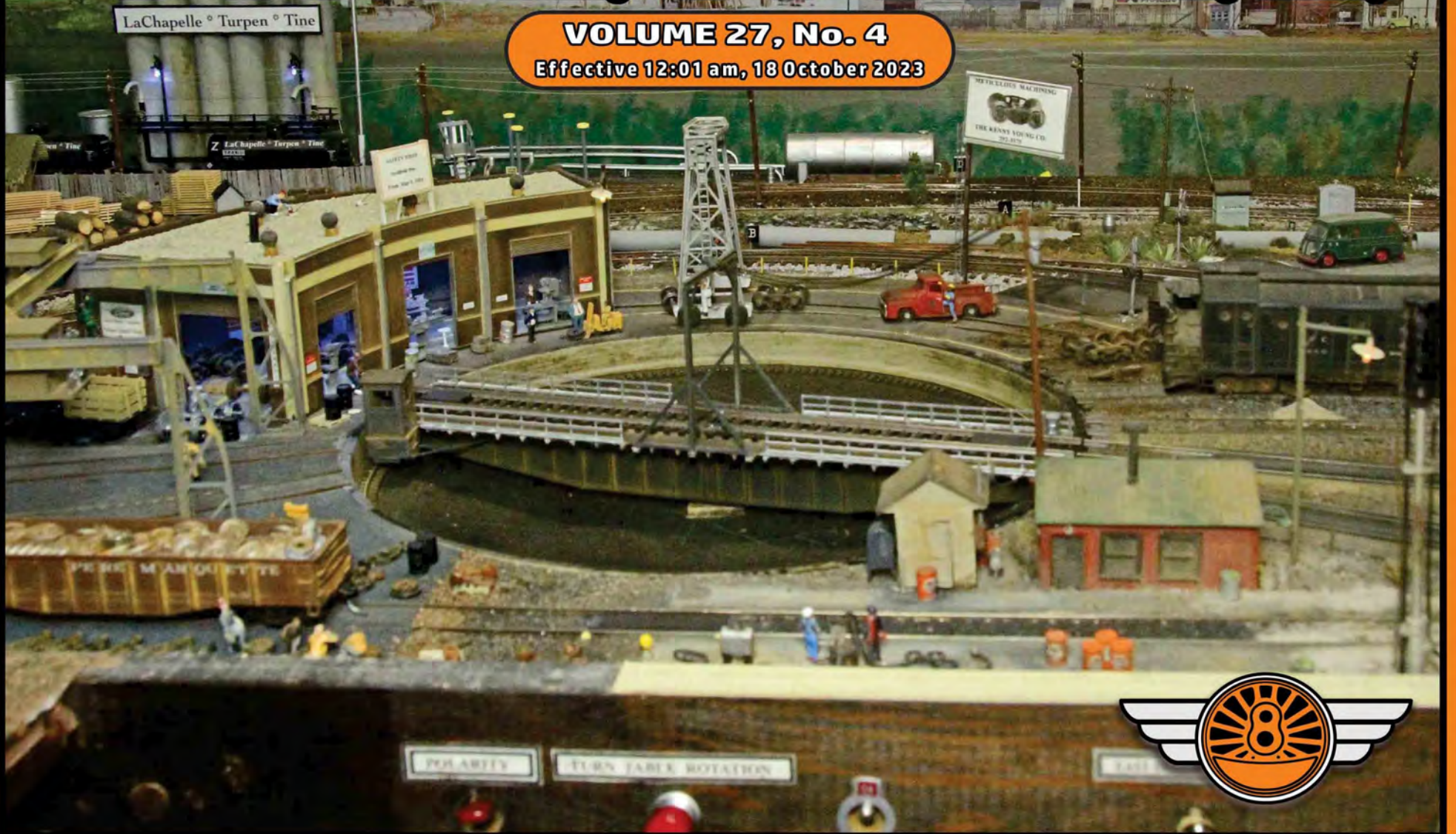


THE PIEDMONT DIVISION

SOUTHEAST REGION, NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

TIMETABLE

VOLUME 27, No. 4
Effective 12:01 am, 18 October 2023



PIEDMONT DIVISION

SOUTHEASTERN REGION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



TIMETABLE

VOLUME 27

No. 4

Effective 12:01am, Eastern Time

WEDNESDAY, OCT 18, 2023

Jim Datka Editor and Publisher

Doug Alexander. Associate Editor

James Bando. Photo Editor

CONTRIBUTORS

Perry Lamb

Charlie Mason, MMR

Deadline for the
1st Quarter 2024 TIMETABLE:

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Send Submissions to:

timetable@piedmont-div.org

"WE'RE ALL ABOUT THE TRAINS"



ON THE ROAD AGAIN, BUT STILL BEHIND

You might have noticed that I appeared on the August and September meetings via WebEx wearing a cervical brace. Let me assure you this was not a fashion statement.

Fortunately I was freed from this harness the day before the 2023 Southeastern Region Convention—*The Cartersville Express*. This gave me the freedom to move my head up, down and side-to-side and to once again drive and attend the convention in person.

If you missed the convention, you missed a great time. Convention Chair Walt Liles has attended many such events and knew what makes for a memorable and enjoyable experience for attendees. He broke with conventional wisdom and pushed the event into September and planned activities that brought people in on Thursday. Both paid off handsomely as you will see in this issue.

Did convention goers have fun? Twice while off-site for lunch I had attendees approach me to say this was the best regional convention they have attended.

One thing losing the neck brace did not do was eliminate the backlog of work created by having severe activity restrictions and limitations for the seven weeks I was wearing it.

To get this issue out at a not-too-delayed timeframe, I have shortened this issue by not reporting on the meetings held during the third quarter. Fortunately we have the two meetings on our YouTube channel. I want to especially apologize to the modelers who presented at the two *Bring-and-Brag*s for not showcasing their handiwork.

August Meeting: www.youtube.com/watch?v=AK3wqvay7Dk&t=44s

September Meeting: www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdkOeTq9OOE&t=104s

Our July meeting was our swap meet and pizza party, so there was no recording of that event.

Charles Mason MMR® provides guidance on his first and one of the most popular Achievement Program certificates awarded in our Division.

Also featured in this issue is Jerry Michnewicz MMR's *Mitch's New York Central Railroad*. This was my first visit to his layout, but it won't be my last. It is incredible how much detail and humor he was able to fit into it.

—Jim Datka

TIMETABLE Editor and Publisher

timetable@piedmont-div.org

770 772-1538

PIEDMONT  DIVISION
LEADERSHIP

SUPERINTENDENT (2024) PERRY LAMB
superintendent@piedmont-div.org 770 218-9744

OPERATIONS (2023) TOM GORDON
operations@piedmont-div.org

FINANCE (2023) JIM FOLEY
finance@piedmont-div.org 404 542-4660

ADMINISTRATION (2024) JIM DATKA
admin@piedmont-div.org 770 772-1538

PERSONNEL (2024) JERRY KNAZEK
personnel@piedmont-div.org 770 605-1841

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

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

WALT LILES (2024) RAYMOND STEWART (2024)
wiles.crrman@gmail.com raystew@yahoo.com
 678 896-6311 678 925-3270

BOB KELSHAW (2023) JOE SULLIVAN (2023)
bkk151-UPTrainman@yahoo.com joesullivanx2377@gmail.com
 678 224-1261 770 630-1915

HANK PRIMAS (2024) PETER THOMAS (2024)
hprimas@gmail.com peter3292004@gmail.com
 301 706-7932 404 435-5684

SUPERINTENDENT EMERITUS

CHARLIE CRAWFORD MMR®
cacrawford@bellsouth.net 678 982-4699

PIEDMONT DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
FALL 2023



Ok, it is cool outside and I am looking forward to Fall being here. The one good thing about it being so cool outside is that I feel OK working in my basement, getting ready for my Piedmont Pilgrimage open house. Beyond the change in weather, by the time you read this, the SER Convention will be in the books and I hope that many of you were able to attend and really enjoyed yourselves. I know Walt and his crew worked hard to build a convention for you all.

October is the start of the Division's Piedmont Pilgrimage. This will be the 21st installment of this wonderful event. There will be layouts from all over the Division open to the public, during the weekends, starting this month! I love this program as it is an awesome way to introduce everyone to this amazing hobby. I have seen the same families come by my own railroad and, just as my railroad has grown, so have the kids. Some of these young folks now have their own layouts! That is magical. For our October meeting, NMRA President Gordy Robinson will be the featured speaker. Gordy will be speaking on 3D printing layout modules. This should prove to be a fascinating clinic. I guess you really can print almost anything with a 3D printer!

For the month of November, the Piedmont Pilgrimage continues. If you've never attended any of our open houses, this is a great chance to. The schedule is on the Pilgrimage website (piedmontpilgrimage.com) and you can see where and when to visit.

For our Division meeting, we will have two events. First, Jon Myers is giving a clinic on SCARM Track Planning Software. This should be interesting for anyone working on planning a layout. This could also be a good opportunity for anyone working on their Chief Dispatcher Certificate to learn the skills needed to complete a track plan of your own layout. The second thing we will complete in November are our yearly elections.

Finally comes December. Hopefully, after this busy year, we'll be able to take some time and relax a bit. Our Division meeting will feature our annual Holiday Party. The Division will supply the meat and entertainment of some format and the members will bring the sides. Oh, yes, Trivia will be back. Come prepared with knowledge on a WIDE variety of subject... Most importantly, we will feature a toy drive for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. I really love seeing the all the different things that folks bring to donate. We always end up with an overflowing conference table filled with new, unwrapped, toys. Yes, I know we are a train group, but I always hunt for Tonka trucks. Did you know they are again made of steel? Awesome!

I think that is enough for now. I need to get back to my full-time job, and see what's happening with a lab interface in Canada. Sigh. I really hope you enjoy the Fall and into the Winter. Make time for your family and friends and get something done in your railroad life. This IS an amazing hobby.

Until next time, Engage!

—Perry Lamb
 SUPERINTENDENT, PIEDMONT DIVISION
superintendent@piedmont-div.org



Mark your Calendar!!!

The Piedmont Division Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 6:00pm

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church

805 Mount Vernon Hwy, Sandy Springs, GA 30327

Fried Chicken provided by the Division

Sides & Desserts provided by Our Members

To sign up for the dish that you are bringing,
please email Diana Watson at

christmasparty@piedmont-div.org

and let her know:

Your Name

If you are Bringing a Guest
and

WHAT YOU ARE BRINGING

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Don't forget to bring a new,
unwrapped toy to donate to

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Jack Spangler
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404 539-3981

TIMETABLE
Jim Datka
timetable@piedmont-div.org
770 772-1538

APPAREL/DIVISION STORE
Open
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MODEL RAILROAD AND
DIVISION HELP
Ovidiu Trifanescu
memberaid@piedmont-div.org
678 230-3184

TRAIN SHOW
Hank Primas
showmanager@themodeltrainshow.com
301 706-7932

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

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

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

GOOD AND WELFARE
Lori and Peter Thomas
gw@piedmont-div.org
404-435-5684

PIEDMONT PILGRIMAGE
Joe Sullivan
770 630-1915
pilgrimage@piedmont-div.org

WEB/IT COORDINATOR
Bob Keshaw
webmaster@piedmont-div.org
678 224-1261

ELECTIONS
Rick Coble
elections@piedmont-div.org

HELP OUR DIVISION
BY VOLUNTEERING!

Piedmont Division monthly meetings are held at:

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church

805 Mt. Vernon Highway, Atlanta, GA 30327



Division meeting 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!

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DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

September Transactions:

Income	
Admin Income	
> Contributions	\$472.00
> Interest Income	\$16.09
> Meeting 'bucket' contributions	\$147.00
> Meeting 'paypal' contributions	\$22.37
Total Admin Income	\$657.46
SER 2023 Income	
Advance from Division	-\$3,000.00
> Raffle	\$1,375.00
> Registration Fees	\$776.28
> Tours	\$529.17
> White Elephant	\$185.00
Total SER 2023 Income	-\$134.55
> Train Show Income	\$820.00
Total Income	\$1,342.91
Expenses	
Admin Expense	
Advance to SER2023	\$3,000.00
> Meeting Room Rental	-\$300.00
> Software & Internet	-\$299.50
Total Admin Expense	\$2,400.50
> SER 2023 Expense	-\$15,529.33
Total Expenses	-\$13,128.83
Total	-\$11,785.92

September Assets decrease \$11,785.92

ACCOUNT	2023 4/30/23	2023 5/31/23	2023 6/30/23	2023 7/31/23	2023 8/31/23	2023 9/30/23
Assets						
Cash						
Fidelity	\$41,994.74	\$42,028.12	\$42,045.73	\$42,139.95	\$42,158.56	\$42,174.65
Piedmont Div Train Show	\$39,516.47	\$27,230.45	\$27,046.77	\$30,503.37	\$30,503.37	\$31,323.37
Piedmont Division 6586	\$2,922.68	\$13,383.41	\$12,976.42	\$12,487.26	\$12,313.40	\$15,355.27
SER 2023 Convention	\$14,800.68	\$19,275.65	\$20,764.53	\$21,577.11	\$25,023.42	\$9,359.54
Total Cash	\$99,234.57	\$101,917.63	\$102,833.45	\$106,707.69	\$109,998.75	\$98,212.83

—Jim Foley, Director of Finance
finance@piedmont-div.org
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PIEDMONT DIVISION CALENDAR

PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg
HONORED GUEST SPEAKER: **GORDY ROBINSON**, NMRA PRESIDENT
BRING & BRAG: Bring a nicely done model to show off!

PIEDMONT PILGRIMAGE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 through SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19
For more info go to piedmontpilgrimage.com

PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETING AND ELECTIONS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg
CLINICIAN: **JON MYERS** TITLE: **SCARM LAYOUT PLANNING SOFTWARE**
BRING & BRAG: Bring some unusual freight cars - ANY ERA

FESTIVAL OF TRAINS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 through SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 10 AM to 5 PM
Tellus Science Museum, 100 Tellus Drive, Cartersville, GA 30120 For more info go to tellusmuseum.org

PIEDMONT DIVISION HOLIDAY PARTY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 6 PM to 10 PM
BRING: **TOYS FOR TOTS**

PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg
CLINICIAN: **DR. JOE NICHOLS JR** TITLE: **TBA—IT'S ALWAYS GOOD!**
BRING & BRAG: TBA

TRAINS, TRAINS, TRAINS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 through SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 9:30 AM to 5 PM
Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History, 2829 Cherokee St NW
Kennesaw, GA 30144 For more info go to southernmuseum.org

PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg
CLINICIAN: **JOE SULLIVAN** TITLE: **WEATHERING OPEN TOP CARS**
BRING & BRAG: TBA

O-SCALE SOUTH SHOW

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24
Railroad Model Club of Atlanta For more info go to www.oscale-atlanta.info

IN MEMORIAM
SCOTT PERRY



Scott Perry passed away on Tuesday, September 12, 2023. He returned to the Atlanta area and began attending Division meetings in July of 2022.

Scott had a real passion for recruiting new members—especially young people—into model railroading. He actively and energetically performed public outreach at train shows and Division events. He proposed many innovative ways to grow our Division and the hobby at large.

—Jim Datka

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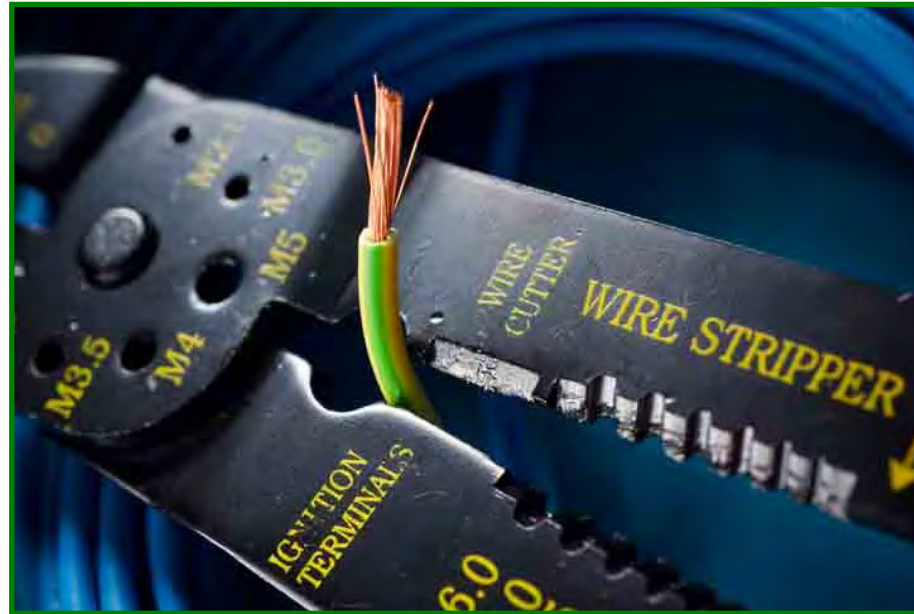
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM NEWS



A Piedmont Division member recently contacted me by email saying that he was interested in earning the Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical AP Certificate. This would be his initial effort in earning an AP certificate. He wanted to know how to get started. The following is the information I provided to him about getting started. Perhaps this information will spur other members to work toward the Electrical Certificate.

The Electrical Engineer AP Certificate is a good place to start working on the NMRA's Achievement Program. It is the first certificate that I myself earned. Your first step should be to thoroughly read the information on that particular certificate on the NMRA website. Go to: www.nmra.org

Once you are in the website, place your cursor on "Education" and select "Achievement Program". Then select "Categories" and look for "Engineering and Operation". Select "Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical". You will then see the complete requirements and hints about fulfilling these requirements. Near the end of the article is a paragraph entitled "Further Information". I highly recommend that you click on the link to "Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical". This particular write-up goes into detail on how to fulfill the requirements and provides examples of the required wiring diagrams.



Also on the NMRA website is a place to download the forms that must be completed. Once you have completed all the requirements and filled out the SOQ forms, you then submit the application to me. I review the application to make sure you have fulfilled all the requirements. I then contact you to arrange a visit so that I can check that all the electrical features are present on your layout and operational. I will then sign off on the application and forward it to the SER Achievement Program coordinator. As long as everything is proper on your application, a month or two later I should receive the certificate from the national office. The certificate will be presented to you at an upcoming Piedmont Division meeting.

That's all there is to it. The Electrical Certificate is one of the most popular certificates in terms of the number that have been awarded to Piedmont Division members. Check out the spreadsheet on the Piedmont Division's website to see the names of all the division members who have earned the Electrical Certificate. The spreadsheet can be found in the

Achievement Program section.

I am always available to answer any questions that may arise and to provide any assistance you may need on working toward AP certificates.

—Charles Mason MMR®
Piedmont Division Achievement Program Chair
ap@piedmont-div.org
770 993-1589



2023 SOUTHEASTERN REGION ANNUAL CONVENTION CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS

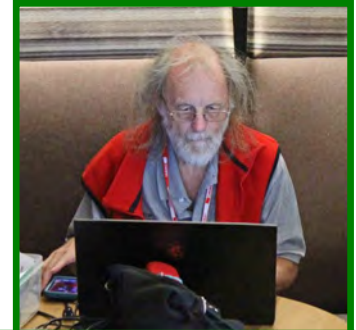


The Piedmont Division hosted the 2023 Convention at the Clarence Brown Convention Center from September 14th through 18th.

It was a resounding success for the more than 140 in attendance.

Convention Chair Walt Liles broke with convention and kicked it off on Thursday with two clinics and a welcoming reception at the adjacent Courtyard by Marriott hotel. OPS sessions and layout open houses were also available to attendees for stops along their way to the event.

(continued on next page)



PETER THOMAS KEPT EVERYTHING RUNNING BEHIND THE SCENES



LORI THOMAS AND JANET LILES ENJOY REFRESHMENTS WHILE WELCOMING GUESTS



WALT LILES, PETER AND LORI THOMAS AND SALLY BANDO MAKING CERTAIN EVERYTHING IS READY TO REGISTER ARRIVING ATTENDEES



2023 SOUTHEASTERN REGION ANNUAL CONVENTION CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS WELCOME RECEPTION



The Welcoming Reception was a huge success. Turnout was better than expected and it set the tone for the rest of the Convention. Lively conversations and laughter filled the hotel's reception area.



(continued on next page)

HASN'T ANYONE TOLD HOWARD GOODWIN MMR® THAT IT IS IMPOLITE TO POINT—ESPECIALLY AT A CAMERA?



2023 SOUTHEASTERN REGION ANNUAL CONVENTION CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS CONVENTION CENTER AND TOURS



On Friday the Convention went into full swing and moved to the Clarence Brown Convention Center.

As the facilities staff has done for our Train Shows, they were extremely supportive. They put out snacks and refreshments first thing in the morning and again in the afternoon.

The Convention Center was the launching point for both the rail and non-rail tours.



Walt Liles photo



Walt Liles photo

(continued on next page)



2023 SOUTHEASTERN REGION ANNUAL CONVENTION CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS RAILFANNING TOURS



The busy rail lines in and around Cartersville provided a lot of action for those on the tours.

A miles long train, which included mid-train helper engines, gave an impressive experience.

But most memorable of all was a CSX locomotive embossed with the famous Chessie sleeping cat logo! As it appeared to be a recent paint scheme, speculation as to who and how this livery came about was a topic of much discussion.

(continued on next page)



Photos by John Stevens





2023 SOUTHEASTERN REGION ANNUAL CONVENTION CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS MODEL CONTEST



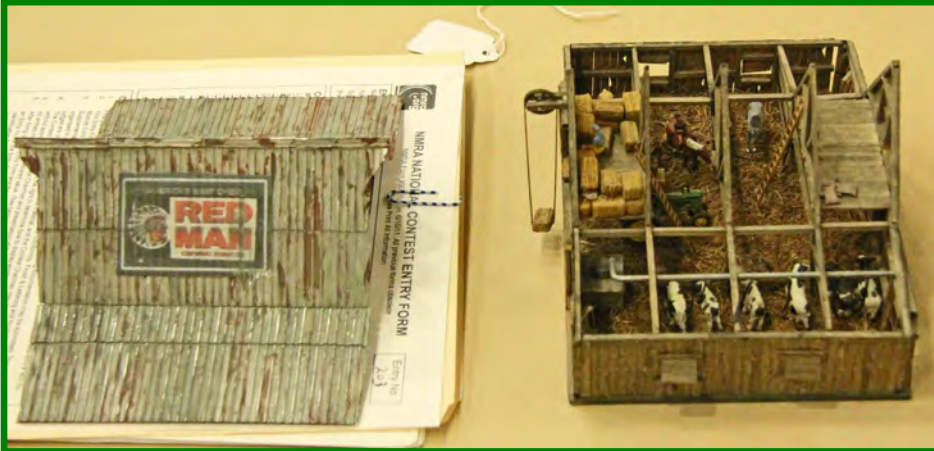
As expected, the modelers of the Southeastern Region demonstrated their exceptional modeling abilities.



(continued on next page)



2023 SOUTHEASTERN REGION ANNUAL CONVENTION CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS MODEL CONTEST



(continued on next page)



2023 SOUTHEASTERN REGION ANNUAL CONVENTION CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS PHOTO CONTEST



The photo contest showcased the memories of railfanning trips.



(continued on next page)



2023 SOUTHEASTERN REGION ANNUAL CONVENTION CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS SEMINARS



Seminars on a wide variety of modeling topics and prototype histories were presented. One of the most popular was on using AK paints, washes and other products.



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2023 SOUTHEASTERN REGION ANNUAL CONVENTION CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS SEMINARS



(continued on next page)



2023 SOUTHEASTERN REGION ANNUAL CONVENTION CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS BANQUET RECEPTION



The Clarence Brown staff provided an incredible cocktail party before the banquet.

Walt Liles said when the banquet door were finally opened, noise from all the happy convention-goers hit him like a wall of sound.



(continued on next page)



2023 SOUTHEASTERN REGION ANNUAL CONVENTION CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS BANQUET RECEPTION



DIVISION SUPERINTENDANT PERRY LAMB CONTEMPLATING ALL THE FUN HE MISSED DUE TO WORK REQUIREMENTS

(continued on next page)



2023 SOUTHEASTERN REGION ANNUAL CONVENTION CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS BANQUET



SER PRESIDENT ROY MASTERSON AND CONVENTION CHAIR WALT LILES WELCOME ATTENDEES AND BEGIN THE PRESENTATIONS



(continued on next page)



2023 SOUTHEASTERN REGION ANNUAL CONVENTION CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS BANQUET



(continued on next page)





2023 SOUTHEASTERN REGION ANNUAL CONVENTION CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS BANQUET



Todd L Stennis III, Director of Government Affairs for Amtrak's South region was the keynote speaker. He provided a behind-the-scenes glimpse into how Amtrak plans for its future, as well as presenting several route priorities that are being considered.

Todd shared a picture of him as a child watching a train with his father. He also showed a picture where he recreated the same scene with his children.



—Jim Datka

We would like to thank our sponsors and advertisers who played a major role in the success of this year's convention.

Go to 2023serconvention.org/advertisers to see the complete list.





FEATURED MEMBER LAYOUT: JERRY MICHNEWICZ MMR® MITCH'S NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD



JERRY POSING IN FRONT OF THE DUCK-UNDER WHICH IS THE INSPIRATION FOR HIS TEE SHIRT

Article and Photos by Jim Datka



Most layouts in our Division feature forested hills, expansive farm land and windswept prairies. Jerry's *NEW YORK CENTRAL* don't need no stinkin' trees, open spaces or even elevation changes (short of the many overpasses.)

He models the densely-packed urban landscape of his hometown Detroit metro area. His is a gritty, hard-working place with details that require multiple visits to see all that he has put into it. You can spend hours trying to absorb all of the action packed into every scene. His skilled use of backdrops makes every view seem a glimpse into a much larger world. The clever addition of lights in the backdrops makes ships in the harbor an active part of the layout.

There are many stories presented here of where he grew up and worked as a tower operator for the *NEW YORK CENTRAL*. His telling is done with tremendous wit, wisdom and great attention to detail.

(continued on next page)





FEATURED MEMBER LAYOUT: JERRY MICHNEWICZ MMR® MITCH'S NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD



Jerry's 1950's transition era layout is powered by MRC Prodigy Advance DCC.
As you would expect in a large city, there are many customers serviced by his railroad.



(continued on next page)





FEATURED MEMBER LAYOUT: JERRY MICHNEWICZ MMR® MITCH'S NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD



Every rail customer is beautifully detailed. Doors are open and interiors are lighted to showcase all the goods inside. A small army of workers are constantly busy keeping operations running and freight moving in and out.



(continued on next page)



FEATURED MEMBER LAYOUT: JERRY MICHNEWICZ MMR® MITCH'S NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD



Moving passengers—both living and dead—also make up a large part of Jerry's railroad.

(continued on next page)





FEATURED MEMBER LAYOUT: JERRY MICHNEWICZ MMR® MITCH'S NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD



A major feature on his layout is a large coal dock which is off-loading the beautifully crafted and weathered *HENRY FORD II* barge.

Jerry has created a spotting challenge to service the rail cars at this facility. He thoughtfully marked the cars with large numerals for those of us having eyes that also date from the transition era.



(continued on next page)



FEATURED MEMBER LAYOUT: JERRY MICHNEWICZ MMR® MITCH'S NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD



As someone who spent much of his life driving in the upper Midwest, I can tell you there are only 2 season on these highways: winter and road construction. Jerry has this well represented, along with other driving hazards of accidents and someone who has apparently been falling from a bridge for many years.



(continued on next page)



FEATURED MEMBER LAYOUT: JERRY MICHNEWICZ MMR® MITCH'S NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD



Jerry's first-hand knowledge of railroad operations is demonstrated by the engine facility and turntable.

Looking inside the engine service buildings you expect to hear the roar of the machinery and smell the machine oil.



(continued on next page)



FEATURED MEMBER LAYOUT: JERRY MICHNEWICZ MMR® MITCH'S NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD



The incredible level of detail means you can't just see Jerry's layout once. Every time you come back you will see something new.

His abilities as a Master Model Railroader® are evident everywhere you look.

His wit and humor make this an enjoyable experience for visitors of any age.

—Jim Datka

