

THE ORDER BOARD

A Publication Of The
Cumberland Division SER-NMRA Inc
Tennessee Central Railway Museum
Nashville Chapter NRHS

Vol. 23 Issue 1

Big Museum & Model Train Spring Show Planned!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday March 27**- that's the day **Cumberland Division** of Southeastern Region National Model RR Association and **Tennessee Central Ry Museum** are holding a large **Nashville's Trains of Spring Show** at the Museum. Combining the Cumberland Division's semiannual Division Meet and a Tennessee Central Ry Museum open house, there will be many events and activities for young and old alike! There will be guided tours of luxurious restored private passenger cars, a dome car and other classic restored passenger cars will be open for tours, dinner is available in the dining car, see a functioning live steam locomotive up close, see restored cabooses that used to bring up the end of every freight train, go into a functioning diesel locomotive cab and blow the horn and ring the bell, see operating model railroads with multiple trains running on the same tracks, shop the dealers selling model RR merchandise, patronize the Company Store where attendees can buy and sell model RR items, attend live clinics where you can learn more about model railroading and self-guided tours of home model RRs. There's lots more going on for this show than previous shows, so please help publicize this show and also by volunteering help for the show.

2004 Schedule

Jan 22 Thursday Night Meeting- TCRM Nashville TN
Jan 31 Watertown Mother Goose Trip
Feb 14 Watertown Valentines Day Murder Mystery Trip
Feb 28-29 GATS Show Nashville Municipal Auditorium
Mar 13 Watertown Train Robbery Trip
Mar 27 Nashville's Trains of Spring Show- TCRM
Apr 3 Watertown Easter Bunny Trip I
Apr 10 Watertown Easter Bunny Trip II
Apr 24 Watertown Mile-Long Yard Sale Trip
Apr 29-May 2 Mid-South Live Steamers' Spring Meet
May 1 Cookeville TC Ry Spring Rendezvous Trip
May 28-30 SER Convention Birmingham AL
June 5 Watertown Civil War Reenactment Trip
July 10 Watertown Murder Mystery/Jazz Festival Trip
Aug Nsv Ntrak at Viola TN
Sep 4-5 Day Out With Thomas at TCRM Nashville TN
Sep 10-19 TN State Fair
Sep 11-12 Day Out With Thomas at TCRM Nashville TN
Oct 2 Watertown Train Robbery Trip
Oct 9 Watertown Mile-Long Yard Sale Trip
Oct 16 Cookeville Super Fall Foliage Trip I
Oct 23 Cookeville Super Fall Foliage Trip II
Oct 30 Cookeville Super Fall Foliage Trip III
Dec 4 Lebanon Victorian Christmas Santa Trip
Dec 11 Watertown Santa Trips (Two Trips)

Cumberland Div/TC Ry Museum Donations

Audio Productions- \$250 cash (John Stoecker's efforts)

Bill Strong- \$500 cash

Robert Thurman Jr- \$100 cash

January 2004 Meeting Host Committee

Jim/Cheryl Brown	Don Garrison	Albert Gerth
Ben Gerth	George Gilbert	Harold Golk
Clarence Graham	John/Misty Graves	W O Greene
Bill Griffin	Jimmie Guthrie	Warren Hannas
Bill Hemrick	Ken Herrell	Allen Hicks

Host Committee Chair in **Bold** type

Program Notes

January- Annual excursion train car host recertification class and test. If you want to work on our excursion trains, you'll need to attend the class and pass the written test given at the end of the class. **Jim & Cheryl Brown** will be coordinating this class.
February- A clinic/demonstration on resin kit assembly by **Garrett Rea & James Bilbrey** is planned, so get those Westerfield, F&C and other resin kits ready!

New Members

Phil Gainer, Brentwood TN (Family)

Tom Schmidt, Smyrna TN (Family)

Chris Wehman, Nashville TN

Please welcome these new members as they join us in making our organization even better for the future.

Hobby Shop News

TCRM Hobby Shop has received the Walthers 2004 catalogs for HO scale, N&Z scales & Big Trains which are on sale now. Be sure to get your copy before they're all sold out. Also, several other shipments of goodies have arrived in the shop, so be sure to stop in, see what's new & add those locomotives, freight & passenger cars and structures that your railroad just can't get along without. Shop manager **Eddie J** has marked down some items for quicker sale.

Don't forget the shop has the **Cumberland Division Red** Caboose-produced HO 500 series & 7900 series TC Ry 40' box car kits- 2 different numbered cars for the 2 series (TC 501, 537, 7923 & 7942). These cars include NMRA RP25 metal wheelsets with narrow wheel treads and realistically tapered metal axles. Price for local delivery (no shipping involved) is \$16.50 each, \$64/set of 4. Mail-order price is \$17.50/car postpaid, \$68/set of 4 postpaid.

2004 Activity Fee Now Due

If you have not yet paid your 2004 activity fee, please do so promptly. The fee is \$30/yr for individuals, \$35/yr for individual and family in the same household. Please send your payment to Membership Chairman **George Gilbert** at 750 Rodney Dr

NEXT MEETING Willow St Building Thursday January 22, 2004 7:00 PM

Nashville TN 37205-3016. Please include any updates to your mailing address, phone # or E-mail address so George can maintain an accurate roster. Don't forget we accept American Express, Discovery, MasterCard & VISA credit/debit cards in payment of activity fees.

And You Thought You Had a Bad Day...

Can you hear me now? It had to happen eventually: Someone riding a train, in this case a Metro-North commuter train last Wednesday night, dropped his cell phone in to a toilet and for whatever reason, decided to stick his hand in to retrieve it. Not grossed out yet? Well, the rider got his arm stuck.

Rider Edwin Gallart's fishing expedition on the 6:19 pm Harlem Line local out of Grand Central Terminal caused the conductor to have a supervisor come aboard at the next stop, but not even the power of middle management could extract the problem. A rescue crew boarded a few stops farther up the line and halted the train. Firefighters had to use the Jaws of Life and power tools to cut through the toilet, which had to be torn out of the lavatory before being cut open to free Gallart's arm. Passengers either had to wait for the rescue to be completed or take other trains to their final destinations. The phone? It never was found. Even if it were, would you ever want to use it again? (Thanks to member **Hank Sherwood** for this tidbit.....)

Nashville Chapter, NRHS News

By **Herb Roth**, Chapter Secretary-Treasurer

The Nashville Chapter, National Railway Historical Society officers for 2004 are: President - **Robert Thurman, Jr.**; Secretary & Treasurer - **Herb Roth**; National Director - **DeLoy Nelms**; Historian - **Ron McGhee**; Board Members - **W O Greene** and **Ron Musick**.

Nashville Ntrak Report

By **Tom Staggs**

After our long run at the Adventure Science Center we tore down our modules on Sunday the 4th of January and brought them back to the TCRM. Tuesday night was used to repair and get them ready to go on the road again on Thursday. We went to the Louisville GATS for the weekend. We were among 14 Ntrak clubs that set up miles and miles of layouts. It would take you about an hour to get around the layout. We also visited hobby shops and home layouts on Thursday night. 14 of our number went along with a new prospect invited by Stanley Johnson. We were the second largest group there with 150 feet of layout. We were back at the TCRM Sunday at 10:30 pm. Worn out but very happy with the happenings of the weekend. We will be getting ready for the Nashville GATS in February and the Grundy County fair in May.

SER 2004 Convention Information

The 2004 SER convention at Birmingham has 5 nationally well know modelers scheduled for clinics and panel discussions. The five are: Dave Frary, Dean Freytag, Charlie Getz, Boone Morrison & Sam Swanson.

These five are all well known, and are widely published in the hobby press. Plan now for attending this convention in Birmingham next Memorial Day weekend. For more information, see the web site: <http://www.scd-nmra.org/Convention/clinics.htm>

FROM THE WATER LEVEL ROUTE TO THE CUMBERLAND PLATEAU

Riding behind NYC E-units on the old Tennessee Central
By **Lyle Key**

THE MEMORABLE RUN OF THE TENNESSEE
WILDFLOWER SPECIAL ON MAY 10, 2003

The maximum track speed on the N&E is 30 mph, and Terry had told us that we would be averaging about 22 mph. Some of us repair to the rear platform, and sure enough, my "unofficial" timing indicates that we're running around 23 mph. The scenery is beautiful with the railroad gently curving back and forth under a canopy of trees.

Even though we're running less than 25 mph, it seems a lot faster. I remember that David P. Morgan once wrote that nothing quite compared with the thrill of riding on the rear platform of a fast passenger train. He commented that "a Boeing 707 doesn't seem nearly as fast." My old friend Stan Burnett is riding with me, and we understand just what David Morgan meant! We also wonder how passengers did survive riding on the rear platforms of really fast passenger trains.

At 2:55, we're back in the "flatlands" and crossing the Caney Fork River. We make a brief stop in Lebanon for a last rotation of cab riders, and at 4:29, we're rolling west once again. On the west side of Lebanon, we pass the distinctive buildings that once housed Castle Heights Military Academy.

As we cover the last miles into Nashville, I think of the possibility that someday in the future, we actually may get a chance to ride a train all the way from Nashville to Knoxville. N&E President Bill Drunsic thinks big, and in his vision of the future, he sees his railroad as a high-speed bridge route between the east and west. Bill Drunsic's plan calls for laying track east from Monterey on one of three possible routes. The most direct alignment would be north of the one that TC actually followed. It generally would follow Highway 62 through Clarkrange, Lancing, and Wartburg to the junction with CSX and NS at Oliver Springs. Since the 14 miles of dormant track between Algood and Monterey would have to be rebuilt, "closing the gap" actually would require building 67 miles of new trackage.

In Bill Drunsic's dream of N&E's future, he sees intermodal traffic and high-speed passenger trains running across the Cumberland Plateau via his railroad. Former Congressman Bob Clement obtained a half million dollar federal grant for a feasibility study of the cross Tennessee rail corridor, and after studying the proposal as part of its State Rail Plan update, Tennessee DOT gave the idea a generally favorable report.

I know that we're almost back to Nashville when we pass the wye for N&E's line to the CSXT interchange at Vine Hill. Our train backs into the track alongside the Museum's platform and eases to a gentle stop at 5:47. Marvin and the folks at the Museum have pulled off a thoroughly enjoyable excursion, and almost 48 years after TC discontinued its last passenger trains, I finally have had my train ride from Nashville to the top of the Cumberland Plateau.

THE END