

# THE ORDER BOARD

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

Vol. 22 Issue 10

## Cumberland Div/TC Ry Museum Donations

**Bob King**- Various model RRing items to Cumberland Division sold for \$100 at the Nov 1 Division Meet

**Hugh & Marie Nichols**- \$50 cash in memory of TCRM member **Jeff Gill**

**Dr John Payne**- 16 framed railroad prints

## November Meeting Host Committee

Roy Brantley	Charles/Rosemary Burdeshaw	
<b>*Jane &amp; Terry Coats</b>	Dan Cole	Chris Cook
Will & Jean Crowthers	Mike Curtis	Chris Dotye
Brian Ehni	Wayne Frey	Don Gage
Dave Gara	Jack Garner	
*Host Committee Chair		

## 2003-2004 Schedule

Nov 7-16 Whistlestop Weekend- Adventure Science Ctr Nashville  
Nov 20 Thursday Night Meeting- TCRM Nashville TN  
Dec 6 Watertown- Two Santa Trips!  
Dec 13 Lebanon Victorian Christmas Trip  
Dec 19 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 20 Cumberland Division Meet & Model Train Show- TCRM  
Apr 3 Watertown Easter Bunny Trip I  
Apr 10 Watertown Easter Bunny Trip II  
Apr 24 Watertown Mile-Long Yard Sale Trip  
May 1 Cookeville TC Ry Spring Rendezvous Trip  
May 28-30 SER Convention Birmingham AL

Note change to our remaining 2003 schedule- added Lebanon Victorian Christmas Trip; rescheduled to Dec 13.

## Program Notes

**November**- Since November is National Model Railroad Month, our program will be a panel discussion/demonstration of "Keeping Your Model Railroad Rolling Stock and Track in Tip-Top Shape" moderated by **Bob Hultman**. The **December** meeting will be our **Road Kill Buffet** followed by an appropriate program.

## Hobby Shop News

The Hobby Shop will start carrying kits from FOS Scale Limited. These are HO scale craftsman style kits produced in a very limited number. These are advertised in all of the major railroad publications and have been reviewed in the Narrow Gauge & Short Line Gazette. They are not available through Walthers so we will be ordering them directly from the manufacturer as a special order item. The member discount will apply. If you want more information or would like to order a kit, contact Paul Brock at 217-2038. You can see their kits at: [www.foslimited.com](http://www.foslimited.com)

## Dan Cole's Pacific RR Co in NG&SLG

Bob Brown, editor of the magazine Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette has notified **Dan Cole** that his railroad, Pacific Railroad Co, will be one of those featured in the Nov/Dec 03 issue. The Pacific RR Co features HO, HOn3, and HOn30 gauge trackage. Dan might even have his railroad open as part of the Spring 2004 Cumberland Division Meet.

## Dec 13 Excursion Train Seats Available for TCRM Members

TCRM members can get free tickets for the Dec 13 Lebanon Victorian Christmas trip. This offer is limited to 76 seats. If you take the tickets, you are expected to go on the trip. Call TCRM at 615-244-9001, ext 1 and leave your request for tickets. Requests are limited to a maximum of 4 tickets so more folks have a chance to go on this trip.

## Cumberland Division HO Car Project

**Allen Hicks** has sent the final approved artwork to Red Caboose to start production on the 500 series & 7900 series TC Ry 40' box car kits. There will be 2 different numbered cars in each of the 2 series, giving 4 different car numbers in total (TC 501, 537, 7923 & 7942). Price for local delivery (no shipping involved) will be about \$16.50 each, with a bit of a discount if you buy the set of 4 cars. With any luck RC could have the kits shipped to us before the Dec meeting.

## Nashville Chapter, NRHS News

By Robert W Thurman Jr, Chapter President

The Nashville Chapter, National Railway Historical Society was chartered in 1961. It was composed of modelers, collectors, and prototype fans—very similar to the make up of the TCRM today. We actually operated several excursions on the Tennessee Central in years gone by. We also staffed the Bicentennial steam (4501) operated trains in 1980 for the Family Lines (CSX) from Chattanooga, four round trips to Columbia, and back to Chattanooga over a four-day period. We also made several trips to other cities in chartered Pullman cars over the L&N. We truly had some great times on these trips which included St. Louis, Atlanta, Indianapolis, and New Orleans. Several current members of the TCRM including some of the officers can trace their beginnings in railroad-oriented clubs to the Nashville Chapter, NRHS. We would like to have all of them back as NRHS members.

Our annual election of officers will be held at the November TCRM meeting, and we will have a spin-off meeting that night to discuss our future meetings. We welcome anyone who has an interest in this nationally-affiliated chapter and what we are all about. If you would like an application before this meeting, please contact Treasurer Herb Roth at 370-3429. I am asking Allen Hicks, Herb Roth, W. O. Greene, and DeLoy Nelms to serve as our nominating committee for this year's election. Please get your thoughts together before the meeting date. Our fiscal year runs December through November.

**NEXT MEETING Willow St Building Thursday November 20, 2003 7:00 PM**

## 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>

## Whistle Stop Weekend at Adventure Science Center

The HO RR is 24' x 40' in size. Starting clockwise from the NE corner of the RR, modules in place are Pete Hoadley's Hell Gate Arch bridge (4'), Len Hollinger's Firestone Tire Plant complex (16'; includes the first of the Len H-designed light-wt modules in service... good show, Len!), Wayne Frey's Oil Refinery (12'), corner, 4- Drop-In module, Fast Eddie's Plywood Pacific (12' of the new Len H-designed modules, main tracks laid, with more to come.... On 11 Nov Eddie's modules came out of the RR & Don Garrison's 12' of Slaughterhouse/Cannery Row modules were put into the RR with minimal disruption to mainline running), corner, Paul Brock's Thurman modules (8'... yes, Paul now owns these beautiful modules built by Pete Hoadley), Robert Marsmakers' 24' of Illinois agriculture modules, corner, Jack Sircy's Sircy Bros Circus (12' and always an attraction to kids of all ages) and George Gilbert's prize-winning Forge Creek module (4'). Today Len H had 2 sound-equipped steam locos running a Sou Ry passenger train & an NKP freight train on the inside main. On Sunday Bob Hultman & Eddie J unintentionally put on a couple derailments involving containers fouling an oncoming train with the predictable consequences. All in all, lots of model railroading, promotion of the hobby and of TC Ry Museum.

## FROM THE WATER LEVEL ROUTE TO THE CUMBERLAND PLATEAU

Riding behind NYC E-units on the old Tennessee Central

By Lyle Key

### "FREIGHT SERVICE ONLY" AND EXCURSION TRAINS ON THE OLD TC

TC was a struggling "freight service only" railroad when I matriculated at the University of Tennessee in the mid-'60's. I always regretted that I was ten years too late to ride a TC passenger train over the rugged and scenic terrain of the Cumberland Plateau.

When Southern Railway's steam excursion program was in its full flower, however, all of us had another chance to ride over the easternmost 35 miles of the former TC between Harriman and Crossville. Some of those excursions actually got onto the old TC trackage at Emory Gap, which is about two miles south of Harriman. In any event, from 1969 until 1987, TVRM's Autumn Leaf Specials ran from Chattanooga to Emory Gap or Harriman on the CNO&TP and then climbed the eastern ramparts of the Plateau to Crossville.

Unfortunately, I never rode one of TVRM's excursion trains to Crossville, and before I knew it, that opportunity had slipped away. In October of 1987, Norfolk Southern ran the last excursion train

up the former TC line to Crossville. It subsequently abandoned the 11-mile segment from Crossville to the Franklin Industries Plant at Crab Orchard. In 1983, Crossville had lost its rail line to the west when L&N's successor, Seaboard System Railroad, Inc. (SBD), abandoned its trackage from Crossville to Monterey, a distance of 22 miles. It seemed that I had lost my last chance to ride a passenger train over any portion of the former TC.

Thankfully, further opportunities did come my way. In August of 1986, L&N/SBD successor CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) sold its remaining portion of the old TC – *i.e.*, the mainline between Nashville and Monterey plus the Carthage and Old Hickory branches – to the Nashville & Eastern Railroad Authority. The railroad was renamed the Nashville & Eastern, and both the rail authority and the contract operator were receptive to running special passenger trains. Nashville's Broadway Dinner Train operated over the Nashville – Old Hickory portion of the N&E until July 19, 1999, and N&E also became the host railroad for frequent excursions operated by the Tennessee Central Railway Museum (the "Museum").

I had some enjoyable rides on the Broadway Dinner Train, and I rode a special campaign train from Nashville to Watertown, but until this spring, I had yet to ride one of the Museum's excursions to the end of N&E's active trackage at Algood. The 14-mile section of track from Algood to Monterey is still in place but out of service.

In late 2002, my old railfan buddy Marvin Clemons from Birmingham began to explore the feasibility of chartering a Museum train for an excursion from Nashville to Cookeville and return. After negotiating a flexible charter agreement with the Museum, Marvin started marketing the "Tennessee Wildflower Special" in early 2003. Marvin markets his trips under the name "Southern Rail Charters," and he maintains a web site at [www.southernrailcharters.com](http://www.southernrailcharters.com). Both Marvin and TC Museum President Terry Bebout were kind enough to invite my wife and me to ride the train in the luxurious surroundings of Terry's private car.

Ticket sales were slow at first, but as the excursion date of May 10 approached, Marvin topped the break-even point and ultimately sold all but 17 seats. The excursion was designed for serious railfans only and featured an on-board photo clinic, photo runbys, and drawings for rides on the locomotives. The ticket price also included a complimentary box lunch.

Even after ticket sales took off, there were still some last minute uncertainties. There was some doubt as to whether the locomotives of choice – two ex-NYC E-8's – would be ready for the trip. Several NYC fans were traveling long distances to ride behind some of their favorite railroad's motive power, and thankfully, the venerable locomotives got a clean bill of health for the trip. Everyone also was concerned about the torrential rains and tornadoes that had pounded Tennessee in the days leading up to the excursion, but the N&E roadbed survived the deluge, and the day of the excursion actually turned out to be mostly sunny.

Continued in the December 2003 Meeting Notice