

THE ORDER BOARD

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

Vol. 26 Issue 12

Donations

Ken Oosting - \$500 cash

TNT Foundation - \$1,000 cash; many thanks to **John Stoecker** for facilitating the **TNT Foundation** donations.

2006-2007 Cumberland Div-TCRM Schedule

Dec 9 Polar Express Trip II to Watertown
Dec 14 Road Kill Buffet & Christmas Party at TCRM
Dec 16 Polar Express Trip III to Watertown
Feb 10 Valentines Day Murder Mystery Trip to Watertown
Mar 3 Girl Scout Excursion Train Trips
Mar 10 Mother Goose Fairyland Trip to Watertown
Mar 17 Spring 2007 Cumberland Division Meet at TCRM
Mar 31 Easter Bunny Trip I to Watertown
Apr 7 Easter Bunny Trip II to Watertown
Apr 13 Artrain Opening Reception at TCRM
Apr 14-15 Artrain Public Tours
Apr 16-16 Artrain School Tours
Apr 28 Mile-Long Yard Sale Trip to Watertown
May 4-6 Mid-South Live Steamers Spring 2007 Meet
May 5 TC Ry Rendezvous Trip to Cookeville
May 19 Train Robbery Trip to Watertown

Program Notes

Dec 14, 2006- Road Kill Buffet & Christmas Party with live entertainment. Note start time of **6:30 pm**.

New Members

Walter Barnes, Pegram TN (Family)

Dan Chisom, Smyrna TN (Family)

Matt Josephson, Ashland City TN (Family)

Please welcome our new members and make them feel at home at TCRM!

Benefit for Ben Gerth

By **Bob Hultman**

There will be a benefit show for our own **Ben Gerth** on Sunday, Dec 10, 2006 from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Marriott Franklin in Cool Springs at 700 Cool Springs Blvd (Exit 68A off I-65). Featured entertainment will be Faye Woodroof, "The Grandmother from Hell" and Bucky St. Stephen and guests. This will be a fun night celebrating life with Ben, who has been diagnosed with inoperable cancer next to his liver. Requested minimum donation is \$15, cash or check, payable to the Gailor (Ben) Gerth Benefit Fund. The account is established with SunTrust Bank, where donations can be made directly or call Heather at 615-418-8604 to place your name on the list to get your tickets at the door; 100% of the proceeds go to Ben. Contributions are tax deductible. Because of language and content, you must be 18 years old to attend the benefit and 21 years old to drink at the cash bar.

TCRM Membership Renewals - 2007

By **Bob Hultman**

It's now renewal time for your TCRM membership. Activity fee for 2007 will stay at \$30/individual or \$35 for family members of the same household. Please make your checks payable to TCRM and mail to TC Ry Museum Attn- Jenny Smith at 220 Willow St in Nashville TN 37210-2159. TCRM will acknowledge your renewal via E-mail or USPS.

Sick Call

By **Bob Hultman**

Horton Monroe has recently undergone left shoulder rotator cuff surgery & is on the mend. He came by the TCRM hobby shop Tuesday this week to get some model RR items. All the best, **Horton**, on your continued recovery!

Nashville Ntrak News

By **Jimmie Guthrie**

Whistlestop Weekend was a tremendous success for both the N-Trak and HO groups with over 4000 visitors to the Adventure Science Center. Numerous questions were asked and answered with some potential new members interested. Nashville Ntrak is at last count to over 42 members. We welcome all to come out and visit the layout at the ASC. We have plans to attend the Greenburg Train Show in Louisville, Kentucky January 27-28, 2007.

By **Tom Staggs**

While being set up for an extended period, the Nashville Ntrak's modules' scenery and paint have been refurbished. If you would like to look at our layout the Adventure Science Center has a "TrainCam" set up to allow you to do so. Go to <http://www.adventuresci.com/scicam/trainpan.shtml> and take control of the camera. Our layout is on the right and close to the camera.

Some of our members are also using Sunday afternoon to build new modules at TCRM. This will allow us to set up more than one layout at a time. Our new member this month is **Matt Josephson**. His train interests are in both N scale and O scale.

Hobby Shop News

By **Bob Hultman**

New in the shop – Atlas HO TC Ry #'s 97 & 98 northeastern cabooses in stock! Also the same caboose in undecorated, too..... Stop in the shop and see what else is new and what's been added to the sale table!

TCRM Excursion Train News

By **Bob Hultman**

Our next excursion train is the Dec 9 Polar Express Trip to Watertown. This trip is a 9 am departure with return to Nashville around 3:20 pm. Notify **Bob Hultman** at 615-833-5158 or E-mail hultman@bellsouth.net if you will to work this trip.

NEXT MEETING TCRM Willow St Building Thursday Nov 16, 2006 6:30 PM

TCRM News

by **Terry Bebout**

Congratulations to TCRM member **Brandon Baxter** who is now certified as a dispatcher on the NERR. Brandon completed his training over the past several weeks and took his final tests this past week. He will be a valuable asset to our excursion train program and he will also work part-time for the NERR for special trains and events as needed.

As our organization grows we sometimes find ourselves facing new challenges, regulations and laws that did not apply to us as a small organization. Such is the case regarding our State certification to solicit donations as a Federal income tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Our current gross income puts us in a bracket that we have to meet the State of Tennessee law requiring a formal financial audit for 2005. TCRM has retained an accounting firm, Frazier, Dean and Howard, to perform this audit. When completed, copies of the audit will be available to all members.

Our recently purchased ex-Amtrak 48-seat full diner #8519 has been pre-pared for movement from Beech Grove, IN to Nashville. As soon as CSX enters a waybill into their system we can get it moving. Thanks to **Robert Marsmaker** and **Gene Turnage** for going to Beech Grove to lock the car up and get the air work done so it can move. We have also acquired the replacement stainless fluting need to repair the damage on the body when it was rerailed. This car will be an excellent addition to our passenger car fleet.

Music City Star News

by **Terry Bebout**

The RTA would like to have some assistance on Sunday, Dec 31 from TCRM members on helping with ticket sales on the MCS station platforms from 8am until 11am. Anyone who would like to help will receive some free tickets to ride the Music City Star with their families on another date. Please e-mail me if you are interested.

Reflecting on 2006, Looking Toward the New Year

By **Ralcon Wagner**

As we approach the holiday season, as well of the end of another year, it's also a time to look at all the positive things that have happened relating to trains, railroading and even our museum. While much of the news over the past year tended to get a bit depressing when it came to world events, 2006 was actually a terrific year for railroading in general. For most of us living in Middle Tennessee, the most exciting thing to happen was the debut of the Music City Star commuter train in September. Just watching the progress each week of the construction of the commuter stations, the track work, the activation of the signaling system – all things that most of us thought would never happen in our lifetimes – was a very inspirational experience.

A couple months before the bi-level coaches were rolling regularly between Nashville and Lebanon, the city of Albuquerque NM became the only city between Ft. Worth and Los Angeles to get a new commuter service, the Rail Runner! With the support of New Mexico's governor, various legislators and the citizens of central New Mexico, the Rail Runner has been eagerly anticipated. Only days ago, a new route was chosen that will eventually link Albuquerque with the state's capitol at Santa Fe, a city that has never really had any real dedicated train service – the AT&SF main tracks always passed by their namesake city. Eventual plans

will expand the rail passenger service to Denver and El Paso when monies become available.

In October, Amtrak in conjunction with Illinois DOT, began operation of four new round trips within that state between Chicago and Quincy (1), St. Louis (2), and Carbondale (1). The state of Pennsylvania is investing millions in several rail projects throughout the state and beefing up its Amtrak line between Philadelphia and Harrisburg. Across the U.S. a myriad of expansions of light rail lines and commuter lines are taking place.

During the past year, both BNSF and Union Pacific have invested millions to continue double (and triple) tracking their transcon lines between Chicago and the West Coast. The BNSF's double-tracking is nearing completion (the Abo Canyon area is one that is still single main track- Bob H).

Commuter agencies and several transit agencies are placing order for new cars to accommodate more ridership. The most recent order has been placed by NJ Transit for bi-level coaches that will operate on NJ Transit's more heavily-traveled lines.

Freight carriers also had a good year. Both intermodal and other freight traffic are up sharply. The past year has been equally good for our Museum. The Thomas event was more successful than ever and our excursion trains mostly sell out. Most recently, the Museum recently acquired another car, increasing excursion train capacity even more for each trip.

Next year is looking like an even better year. In January, numerous passenger train-friendly senators and congressmen will be sworn in. Amtrak funding, as well as other rail-related projects, will be more likely to get more attention – and more funding for the next few years. Cities such as Salt Lake City, Minneapolis, Charlotte, Austin and Denver will get even closer to completing their commuter rail systems.

Closer to home, Nashville's leaders will also take a closer and more serious look at the feasibility of commuter rail in its two busiest corridors to Gallatin and Murfreesboro. As Nashville's mayoral election next August draws closer, this will surely be one of the election issues (two of the four candidates already have an interest in commuter rail).

For the first time in years, trains are becoming more popular than ever, for both shipping, and yes, now for both intercity travel and commuting – a trend that will continue as long as there is gridlock on the interstates and long delays at airports.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2007!

Tennessee Rails in the News

By **Ralcon Wagner**

This month, railroads in the mid-state area have gotten some national attention. On the front page of the January 2007 issue of Railfan & Railroad Magazine is a photo of a Franklin Industrial Minerals Co train, led by one of the company's locomotives (in this case, No. 4023) crossing a trestle over Fall Creek near Ozone, TN. In addition, there is a four-page article that covers the line's history and operation. Until 1968, this had been the extreme eastern portion of the Tennessee Central Ry, before being folded into the Southern Railway, and later Norfolk Southern. Franklin Industrial Minerals purchased the 15.8-mile from NS in 2001.

Also in the same issue, on page 31, is a photo showing the Music City Star equipment at the Lebanon layover facility showing all three train sets. If the photographer had just waited another ten minutes on the day the photo was snapped, he could have gotten our excursion train in it as well (this writer waited around to get the shot).