

THE ORDER BOARD

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

Vol. 27 Issue 4

Donations

Predators Foundation- \$1800 cash for TCRM 2007 Rail Camp.
Robert Marsmaker- Several videotapes and DVDs for the TCRM Video Library.

2007 Cumberland Div-TCRM Schedule

Mar 31 Easter Bunny Trip I to Watertown
Apr 5 Thursday Meeting at TCRM 6:30 pm
Apr 7 Easter Bunny Trip II to Watertown
Apr 14-15 Artrain Public Tours at TCRM
Apr 16-17 Artrain Educational Tours at TCRM
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
July 7 Murder Mystery Trip to Watertown's Jazz Festival
July 22-28 NMRA National convention Detroit MI
Website - <http://www.nmra.org/2007/>
Aug 21-25 NRHS Nat'l Convention at Chattanooga TN

Program Notes

April 5, 2007- A videotape/DVD from the TCRM Video Library

Host Committee – April 5, 2007 Meeting

Rusty Lacy	Kevin Matthews	Lynn & Porter McGill
Mike Medley	Horton Monroe	Ron Musick
John Neely	Ann & DeLoy Nelms	Jim Nichols
Dave O'Brien	Tim O'Neal	Ken Oosting
Charles Owens*	Ed Pella	Mark Perry

* = Host Committee Chair

Predators Grant for TCRM Rail Camp

By **Terry Bebout**

Board member **Gordon Smith** was successful in getting a \$1,800 grant from the **Predators Foundation** to be used toward our June Rail Camp for we have for youngsters. These funds will assist in the expense of the many educational projects that go on during that week. Good job, Gordon!

Artrain USA News

Artrain USA reception for TCRM members will be held on Friday, April 13, 6-8 pm. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by signing the sheet at the meeting or calling Jenny if you are not at the April Thursday night meeting.

Hobby Shop News

New in the shop – Athearn's HO 1955 Ford F-150 Pickup Trucks and Panel Trucks have arrived, both in several color choices. Stop in and see what's on the shelves and new in the world of DCC.

New Members

Steve, Sue, Anthony & Alex Hamilton, Brentwood TN (Family)
Dave Kinser, Tullahoma TN
Sam Martin, Huntsville AL
Keith & Alex Ray, Goodlettsville TN
Marcell & Vickie Rialland, Nashville TN (Family)
Tim Smith, Hendersonville TN
Tom, Kathy, Michael & Sarah Weiss, Brentwood TN (Family)

Please welcome our new members and let them feel at home.

TCRM Membership Renewals - 2007

By **Bob Hultman**

It's now renewal time for your TCRM membership. Our Activity fee for 2007 stays 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 **Tom Staggs**

Brenda and I stopped by **Barry Beckett's** house Saturday March 17 after a wedding and talked to Diane. Barry is in Rehab at NHC in room 113. That is across from the Hospital in Hendersonville. He is doing pretty well. He is able to stand for a while and is feeling pretty good. He was in the Hospital for 10 days before he went to Rehab. Using Lasix, they were able to get a lot of water out of his body that he was retaining from Congestive Heart Failure. We need to keep **Barry** in our thoughts and prayers.

Mark Perry reports his brother **Mike** suffered a fall and severe cuts last weekend. Mike had some stitches & bruising, but is on the mend.

NRHS Notes

By **Herb Roth**

Don't forget the 2007 NRHS Convention in Chattanooga TN, Aug 21 - 25, at the Chattanooga ChooChoo Holiday Inn. Pre-registration fee is \$15; after April 15 - \$25. Forms are available on line at www.chattrails.com

When the N&W dieselized in the late 1950s they kept a few of their 4-8-4 Class Js, as standby power. I saw #600, with steam up, at Portsmouth OH. They would turn the engine so it faced in the direction the next passenger train was traveling. However, this procedure did not last too long. #600 was scrapped in June 1959.

TCRM News

By **Terry Bebout**

The two open window coaches we purchased should make interchange later this week (written on Mar 26). They are currently located on the Great Lakes Central RR in Michigan. Cost for moving both cars to NERR will be a little over \$6,000.00.

The work has started on the track between Algood and

NEXT MEETING TCRM Willow St Building Thursday April 5, 2007 6:30 PM

Monterey. Plans are it will be completed sometime this fall. I have received several calls from organizations and the media concerning excursions operating over this restored section of track. There is much excitement about excursion trains operating to Monterey after a long absence.

Don't forget our Easter Bunny excursions on the next two Saturdays followed by the Artrain USA being at our facility on April 13-17. We will have a members-only reception on Friday evening the 13th from 6 pm-8 pm. More details to follow on this. We will need some members to volunteer as hosts on Saturday and Sunday for our guests and also for the school tours on Monday and Tuesday. Bob will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting for this.

For several years we have had the NYC E-units at our museum and used them on several excursions over the years. These were owned by one of our friends and TCRM member **Mike Fox** in Kansas City. These units were recently sold to a museum in upper New York State to be used in excursion train service on an ex-NYC line. They left the NERR last Friday for the trip back to home rails.

Thanks to **Mike Pugh** and **Charles Owens** one side of the 8519 diner has been stripped of its Amtrak stripes. They will continue on the remaining side to get it ready for TCRM lettering. **Steve Tomblin** got the charger replaced and rewired for the emergency lighting on the diner. On Saturday the car got jacked up and its trucks were rolled out for inspection, cleaning and painting.

Our switcher #52 got its batteries serviced this past Saturday and the 9400 dome car got its remaining brake valves replaced for its COT&S. **Mark Matthews** continued restoration work on our ex L&N GP7.

TCRM Excursion Train News

By **Bob Hultman**

Our next excursion train is the March 31 Easter Bunny Trip I to Watertown. This trip departs at 9 am; return to Nashville around 3:30 pm. Notify **Bob Hultman** E-mail hultman@bellsouth.net or 615-833-5158 (home) or cell 615-513-7187 or if you will work this trip. There will be a crew sign-up sheet at the meeting for the April 7 Easter Bunny Trip II to Watertown. There are still plenty of seats available for this trip so please publicize it as much as possible.

Model Railroad News

By **Bob Hultman**

The HO modular RR setup at Bellevue Center Mall has been extended to Saturday April 7 with teardown to start at 2 pm. We've had a steady stream of visitors who have been picking up handouts for Day Out With Thomas, Artrain USA and our excursion trains. The RR is running well and many members have helped run the RR for the visitors. Many thanks again to **Charles Owens** for arranging for this setup.

Upgrading the Atlas HO Alco RS-3 Diesel

By **James Bilbrey**

In December of 2006, Atlas pleased a lot of Tennessee Central Ry fans and modelers by releasing their RS-3's in TC black-and-white. This article deals with some improvements that may be made to make the models closer to the prototypes. This information really only applies to the RS-3's that TC bought new. The ex-RDG RS-3's differed in many ways. As a result, they will be dealt with separately.

PAINTING - Atlas did a terrific job on painting the models. There

is only one "nitpick" I can think of. To be totally correct, only the forward portions of the radiator louvers should be painted white. The backs (facing the cab) of the louvers and the depressed area in which they sit should be black.

HORNS - The stock Atlas horns are incorrect. Replace them with 5-chime horns with all bells facing forward. The horns should be mounted on a bracket that is attached to the front of the cab, near the top and in between the two center windows.

DETAILING THE HOODS - TC 253 is a phase 1a RS-3 while TC 256 is a phase 1b RS-3. The difference lies in the vents on the battery boxes. These vents should be vertical on 253. But, look at your pictures carefully; at some point TC 253 received a replacement battery box cover from a phase 1b RS-3.

There should be marker lamps on the front corners of the shell. The marker lamps are the same types as used on then-modern steam locomotives.

If one looks at the top of the shells, one will see four small rectangles (one on the rear hood and three on the front hood); these should be U-shaped lift rings. There are two small grabs that are missing. These are located on top of the hoods in line with the series of grabs that form the ladders. While I am not going to change them, the grabs on the ends of the hoods should go straight into the sides of the hoods instead at an angle.

One final note on the hoods- the exhaust stack is poorly represented on the Atlas shell. The stack should have vertical sides instead of sides that slope inward from bottom to top.

STEAM GENERATOR DETAILS - TC 256 was equipped with a steam generator. A stack and intake needs to be added to the rear (short) hood.

UNDERFRAME DETAILS - An additional detail that one can add to the underframe is the handbrake chains and pulley details.

PILOT DETAILS - To be totally correct, the "nubs" for the MU hoses should be removed from the pilot faces. The best idea I have come up with to model the prototypes is to take some small dia. brass tubing and slide DA MU hoses into the ends of them. Then, holes need to be drilled into the top of the pilots to accept the tubing and hoses.

Nashville Ntrak News

By **Brandon Baxter**

Nashville Ntrak has been enjoying the milder temperatures during the month of March. We have been working on two junction, or "T", modules that will be used at the 2008 National N Scale Convention in Louisville. These modules will allow our loop to connect with several other loops. We will be part of a 50,000 ft² layout at that show, so the planning starts now! We have also been making improvements to our yard modules by installing bi-color LED's to show switch position and programming a computer interface that allows users to throw switches remotely from a CTC-type application. Work continues on the layout at the TCRM every Sunday afternoon and Tuesday evening. The staging yard and viaduct are progressing nicely and the city area is becoming more populated with buildings each week. Our next modular layout setup is April 26 & 27 at Kids' City in Murfreesboro.