



# CENTRAL CROSSINGS

Monthly Newsletter of the  
Central Railway Model & Historical Association, Inc



Volume 24, Issue 5

May 2014

SERVES THE UPSTATE

108 Werner St  
Central, SC 29627

Website:  
[www.crmha.org](http://www.crmha.org)

President  
Dan Marrett

Vice Presidents  
Joe Fitzpatrick  
Rob Seel, AIA

Stationmaster  
Ralph Watson

Paymaster  
Christine Grewcock

Curator  
Jack Green

Newsletter  
J.T. Thorpe

Next  
Meeting  
May 1,  
2014

7:10 PM

at the  
Central  
Railway  
Museum

## A New Layout

Rob Seel has been hard at work building a 4x7 HO-scale layout that the public will be allowed to operate at shows. The Dambridge Loop is based on a typical branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad in New Jersey.





Upcoming Events for the

**Central Railway Model & Historical Association**

as well as regional shows and events worth mentioning

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

**May 1: TBD**

**The rest of 2014 is Wide Open**

2<sup>nd</sup> SATURDAY  
**MUSEUM OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
 May 10, 2014  
 June 14, 2014

**OPERATING SESSIONS**  
 Second Thursdays (usual l y) 7PM

May 8, 2014  
 June 12, 2014

The CRM&HA has begun regular operating sessions on the Thursday preceding our Museum's open house each month. Club members interested in learning how to operate the layout and gain their certification in order to be able to run trains on the museum layout are encouraged to attend these sessions.

If you have locomotives equipped with DCC decoders and/or you have a Digitrax handheld throttle, please bring them. This way, we can be assured of having enough equipment to run.

**> SCHEDULED EVENTS & SHOWS**

May 3, 2014

**Raleigh, NC – TCA Southeastern Division Toy Train Sale**

Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds

Times: Saturday 10am-3:30pm

Admission: Adults: \$5 (\$4 with newspaper ad or flyer), Children under 13: Free w/adult

[www.se-tca.org](http://www.se-tca.org)

May 10, 2014

**Toccoa, GA – Annual National Train Day**

Toccoa Depot

Times: Saturday 9am-3pm

Admission: free

May 16-18, 2014

**Cass, WV – Cass Railfan Weekend 2014, Return to Spruce and Beyond Geared Steam Photo Spectacular**

Cass Scenic Railroad State Park

Times: Check website

Admission: \$250 all three days (No Saturday only tickets)

[www.msrlha.org/rfw/index.html](http://www.msrlha.org/rfw/index.html)

May 29- June 1, 2014

**Spencer, NC – Streamliners at Spencer**

North Carolina Transportation Museum , Historic Spencer Shops

Times: Thursday - Saturday 8am-11:30pm,

Sunday 8am-8pm

Admission: *see website*

[www.nctrans.org](http://www.nctrans.org)

May 30 or May 31, 2014

**Charlotte & Spencer, NC – Streamliner Special**

Round trip from Charlotte Regional Intermodal Facility to Spencer Shops

Times: Depart CRIF 1pm; Return from Spencer Shops 5:30pm

Admission: \$1000 per person

[www.nctrans.org/Events/Streamliners-at-Spencer-\(1\)/Streamliner-Special.aspx](http://www.nctrans.org/Events/Streamliners-at-Spencer-(1)/Streamliner-Special.aspx)





A little natural lighting does wonders for the realism of a well-crafted model railroad as Rob's pictures attest.





## General Meeting Minutes

By **Ralph Watson**  
**Stationmaster**  
**April 3, 2014**

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM by President Dan Marrett. 24 members and 1 guest were present.

### **President – Dan Marrett**

The upcoming Central Railroad Festival is our current area of interest. A duty roster/sign up sheet is available, many roles need to be filled. We have been invited to bring the portable layouts to Toccoa on May 10th. Miniature World of Trains in Greenville would like us to display for the first week of August at the Camperdown location. There are also opportunities to display at the Greenville and Spartanburg Libraries in mid-August and later in the Fall respectively.

### **Treasurer—Christine Grewcock**

Bank balance of \$9869.

### **Secretary—Ralph Watson**

Reported that 52 members have renewed for 2014. Membership cards for 2014 should be available soon. He showed a prototype step stool made from 1 x 12 pine shelf boards.

### **First VP—Joe Fitzpatrick**

All non-Lionel materials be removed from the Lionel room by April 15th.

### **Second VP—Rob Seel**

Gave details of upcoming Central Railroad Festival April 26. The live steam modelers will be present. Also the Dambridge layout will have its premiere showing. A volunteer signup sheet was circulated.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Electrical – Howard Garner**

The computer controlled double crossover on the Museum HO layout will be repaired soon. He is studying the use of artists pencil graphite as a rail conditioner to improve wheel to rail conductivity.

### **Newsletter—J.T. Thorpe**

He needs articles and ideas for the newsletter.

### **Portable Layout—Jim McGinnis**

Progress on the portable layout in scenery structures track work and splitting the large modules to make them less difficult to transport. The dockside crane is getting wheels and 2 new ships, at tanker and a bulk grain hauler, will be calling at the port.

### **Scenery**

The scenery crew has completed rough construction on the deep viaduct area. Seneca yard turnout controls are all on the fascia. In turn fascia work continues around the layout with drapes to follow.

### **Education – Sandy Eustice**

The how to session on the 17th will be held at Bob Folsom's home in Central. The member home layout tour is being rescheduled in June.

### **Operations**

Operations night on April 10 will pair mentor/newbies on crews.

### **Heritage/American Flyer—Sage Viehe**

Reports all systems 'Go' for Railfest as does Bob Folsom on HO trackwork.

### **Railfan Reports**

Railfan reports include NW J611 will be traveling to Spencer NC for the Streamliners at Spencer May 29 to June 1

### **Building – Glenn Nasworthy**

Interior Constructs LLC aka Jim and Don has added additional bad order car shelving and the interior of Function Junction is painted and cleaned. The change is amazing. Rob Seel has hung many of his photo prints as well.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Motion to take the portable layout to the Greenville County Library on August 16<sup>th</sup> was made, seconded, and carried.

### **PROGRAM**

Craig Lund of Palmetto Railways, a class III railway owned by the State of South Carolina and operating as the ‘First Mile and Last Mile’ connection between BOTH NS and CSX in the Charleston port area and other trackage in South Carolina gave a detailed presentation on the history capabilities and role of this unique company. He showed statistics and maps of current and projected services. Great growth is expected when the improvements are completed at the Panama Canal allowing even larger ships access to the Eastern ports. The railway keeps thousands of truck off I-26 and move much more freight much more efficiently than road vehicles. A new intermodal facility using existing rails with minimal impact on the infrastructure is under development at the old Navy facility in North Charleston. See [PalmettoRailways.com](http://PalmettoRailways.com) for pictures and information on YOUR railroad.

Z

## Third Thursdays "HOW-TO" WORKSHOPS

By popular demand, we will be starting a wonderful, new CRM&HA program this month. On the third Thursday evening of each month, a skilled CRM&HA member will be putting on a FREE 90 minute, hands-on, "How-To" Workshop related to his or her area of expertise. So now you'll be able to attend our regular monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month, a fun operating session on the second Thursday, and an informative how-to workshop on the third Thursday -- all beginning at 7:15 p.m. at the museum. Please, please feel free to bring guests with you to any of these programs.

Here's the schedule :

5/22: Beyond Basic Wiring: Stationary Decoders, Advanced Circuits, etc. -- with Howard Garner

6/19: Lighting and Detailing Structure Interiors -- with Joe Fitzpatrick

7/17: Making Realistic Terrain: Mountains and Valleys: Rockwork, Tunnels, Water Features, etc. -- with Sandy Eustis

8/15: Scenery "Top Coating": Ground Covers and Vegetation -- with Jim Reece

Whether you're working on a home layout, or just wanting to contribute more to the ongoing development of our permanent or portable museum layouts, these ongoing how-to sessions are sure to increase your modeling knowledge and skill set. So please set aside the third Thursday evening of each month, and plan to attend regularly.

Z

# Function Junction Refurbishments

The D and J Constructors have been at it again. Jim Alexander has been painting the walls of the Junction over the last several weeks. Jim Kimbell has painted a new crossbuck and Function Junction sign on the window.

We had help from Glenn Nasworthy, who brought some pre-owned (aka: used) floor moulding. He and I installed it around the "staircase" paneled area underneath the Thomas layout. Jim Alexander painted most of the three sides with some extra blue paint.

So, the Junction is looking better. Thanks to all of you who are helping set it up for the 26th.



Don

[Editor's Note:] The new paintwork looks terrific!

## Seneca Newcomers' Meeting

Jim Alexander and Ralph Watson attended the Seneca Newcomers' Meeting on April first as representatives of the CRM&HA, Inc., and here are some photos that Jim has shared with us.



S

CENTRAL

S

CENTRAL

C

CENTRAL

a

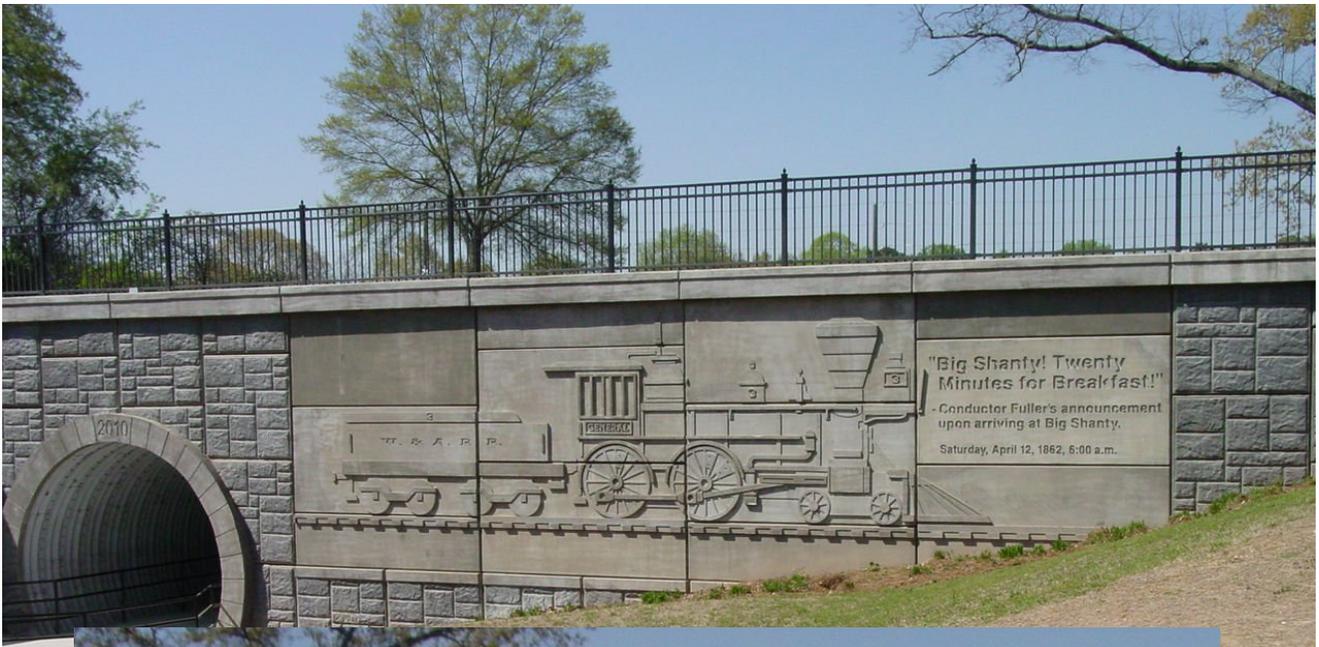
CENTRAL

## > Big Shanty š

Submitted by Ralph Watson

Nice of CSX to schedule a slow order meet of southbound juice cars and northbound auto racks in the middle of town while 50,000 people are in the street at the annual Big Shanty Festival on the 152nd anniversary of the Great Locomotive Chase. These folks are really into the Andrews Raid. The portal is the inner end of the pedestrian underpass below the 2 track main line. There is a courtyard with several information stations depicting the chronology of events on April 12 1862.

We left currency in the Gift shop but will go back for the Museum and Machine Shop tour another day. Mac should verify the trucks on that caboose, those look like roller bearings. Z





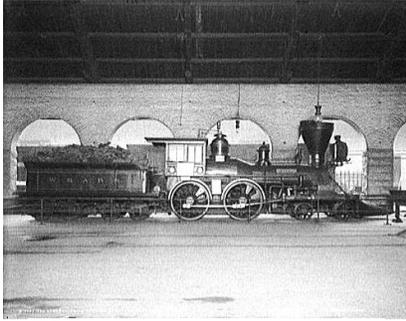


Image of The General on display in 1907 at Union Station Chattanooga, TN.

Via the Detroit Collection, Library of Congress



## > Percent Grade Chart š

Submitted by Ralph Watson

<b>Elevation</b>										
<b>-&gt;</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>2.25</b>	<b>2.50</b>
Percent Grade										
0.25	100.00	200.00	300.00	400.00	500.00	600.00	700.00	800.00	900.00	1000.00
0.50	50.00	100.00	150.00	200.00	250.00	300.00	350.00	400.00	450.00	500.00
1.00	25.00	50.00	75.00	100.00	125.00	150.00	175.00	200.00	225.00	250.00
1.50	16.70	33.30	50.00	66.60	83.30	100.00	116.60	133.30	150.00	166.60
2.00	12.50	25.00	37.50	50.00	62.50	75.00	87.50	100.00	112.50	125.00
2.50	10.00	20.00	30.00	40.00	50.00	60.00	70.00	80.00	90.00	100.00
3.00	8.30	16.60	25.00	33.30	41.60	50.00	58.30	66.60	75.00	83.30
3.50	7.10	14.20	21.40	28.50	35.70	42.80	50.00	57.10	64.20	71.40
4.00	6.30	12.50	18.80	25.00	31.30	37.50	47.70	50.00	56.30	62.50
4.50	5.50	11.10	16.60	22.30	27.80	33.30	38.80	44.40	40.00	55.50
5.00	5.00	10.00	15.00	20.00	25.00	30.00	35.00	40.00	45.00	50.00

<b>Elevation</b>										
<b>-&gt;</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>3.75</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>4.25</b>	<b>4.50</b>	<b>4.75</b>	<b>5.00</b>
Percent Grade										
0.25	1100.00	1200.00	1300.00	1400.00	1500.00	1600.00	1700.00	1800.00	1900.00	2000.00
0.50	550.00	600.00	650.00	700.00	750.00	800.00	850.00	900.00	950.00	1000.00
1.00	275.00	300.00	325.00	350.00	375.00	400.00	425.00	450.00	475.00	500.00
1.50	183.30	200.00	216.60	233.30	250.00	266.60	283.30	300.00	316.60	333.30
2.00	137.50	150.00	162.50	175.00	187.50	200.00	212.50	225.00	237.50	250.00
2.50	110.00	120.00	130.00	140.00	150.00	160.00	170.00	180.00	190.00	200.00
3.00	91.60	100.00	108.30	116.60	125.00	133.30	141.60	150.00	158.30	166.60
3.50	78.50	85.70	92.80	100.00	107.10	114.30	121.40	128.60	135.70	142.80
4.00	68.80	75.00	81.30	87.50	93.80	100.00	106.30	112.50	118.80	125.00
4.50	61.10	66.60	72.30	77.80	83.30	88.90	94.40	100.00	105.50	111.10
5.00	55.00	60.00	65.00	70.00	75.00	80.00	85.00	90.00	95.00	100.00

## > Chaplain's Corner Š

The other day, several of us were standing in a group, and "Captain Dan" walked up with these words, "I'm going up to Function Junction, and I really need you fellows to join me up there. We've got a lot of work to do on the portable." I'm reminded of One who many times while He was here on earth, would suggest to His closest workers, "I want you guys to go with me, ok?"

Thank of it, the Creator of the universe, needing someone to go with Him somewhere, yet He does it just to get us involved in His mission. Someone once ask Francis of Assisi how he was able to do so much, and he replied-"This may be the answer, My special friend looked down, and said to himself, where is the weakest, smallest man on earth, and then He saw me, and said, "I've found him, and I'll work through him. He's proven that he won't be too proud of it, because of the humbleness I've seen in him in the past."

You know, you may be small in your own eyes, but God has a real need in you working with Him.

"Yours is a mission you alone can fill,

Whether it be to build, teach, or often till:

Your goal may still be hidden from your view,

But somewhere God has an urgent need for you"

-Thayer-

Chaplain Fred

## > MODELER'S TIP Š

In a museum environment, we often see issues with our layout more quickly than the average home modeler. For example, with the near continuous running of trains, we wear out switches and have to maintain locomotives a lot more frequently. Also, constant construction activities on a working layout can take their toll.

Often operators experience problems with what appear to be balky locomotives. A quick diagnostic check is to see if the wheels are dirty and losing electrical contact with the rails. If the wheels are dirty, it is almost guaranteed that the track is dirty, too. Simple remedy: clean both track and locomotive wheels.

If that doesn't work,\*then\* start looking inside the locomotive. Loose connections or dirty commutators are the second most likely culprit. A little re-soldering for loose connections and a little judicious cleaning and lubricating will probably resolve the issue with a dirty commutator.

For locomotives with DCC installed, it is useful to know that the DCC decoders will wear out with time. If you have your locomotive sounds switched on all the time—even when not actively running your locomotive—you are "burning cycles". It may be possible that you've worn out your decoder.



The slide at left is from the Walt Sanders collection. In 1965 a flood occurred in Savannah,IL.

Burlington #4960, a 2-8-2 was captured on film attempting to navigate the floodwaters.