

Tidewater Division

CALLBOARD

Volume 2018, Issue 8

NMRA MEMBER

August, 2018

“From the Caboose”

Pat Mahoney, Superintendent

As you read this month's *Callboard* I am in Kansas City at the NMRA convention and National Model Train Show. The last time I attended one of these spectacular events was in 1973. Now the Tidewater Division is in final preparations for our own spectacular Model Train Show under the leadership of Chairman Bill Miller, who has been working hard to lineup previous reliable vendors as well as new vendors.

As summer retreats, it's time for us to get going with plans for the coming year. Here is one idea.

Model railroading is truly a hobby for everyone! It offers tremendous fascination for anyone who has ever been interested in trains. So, encourage someone you know is interested in the hobby. Start by helping to build a small table-top layout (not a gigantic empire to fill your basement or backyard) and

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BILL OF LADING – AUG 2018

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Division Member Updates

Division member Brian Holloman is recovering nicely from a total knee replacement (I can relate) and hopes to return to trains shortly.

Jimmy Curth continues his recovery process at the Bayside Rehabilitation Center off Independence Blvd. Jim is ready for visitors.

This Month in Rail History

Aug 8, 1829: Stourbridge Lion first run in Honesdale, PA.

Aug15-16, 1964: First mainline steam since 1954. Reading Rambles Washington to Baltimore & Philadelphia powered by Reading T- 1 #2102.

Aug 20,1935: Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis electric inter-urban railroad abandons all operations.

Aug 25,1835: Washington Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio RR opens for service. First station located at 2nd St. & Pennsylvania Ave. NW, now an empty site at the edge of the U.S. Capitol grounds

Aug 25, 1877: Joshua “Lionel” Cohen is born in New York City.

Aug 28, 1864: first permanent RPO route is established for service.

Aug 28, 1830: First Baltimore & Ohio steam run, the “Tom Thumb.”

“The Callboard” is the newsletter of the Tidewater Division of the Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA and any opinions found herein are those of the authors thereof and of the Editors and do not necessarily reflect any policies of this organization. The Tidewater Division, as a non-profit organization, does not endorse any position. Your comments are welcome! Please direct all questions or concerns to: sorcerer54@cox.net

How To Use A Cri-cut Machine 101 by George Downer

I'm going to do a clinic right after the August business meeting, on using the Cricut machine for model railroad projects. I'll demonstrate the machine's ability to accurately cut cardstock, styrene and wood.

This building was made out of cardstock. The walls, shingles, windows and doors were all cut on the machine. It's O-scale, but the scale doesn't matter, the machine could have cut the pieces in HO scale.



The Blue Flag

by Dr. Bill Krantz, Ontario & Western Historical Society

The Blue signal has long been recognized as a symbol of protections for car department forces and must be placed as specified in the rules.

Neglect on the part of carmen to utilize this important warning device when required in accordance with the rule has resulted in many fatalities and serious injuries.

"The Blue Flag is the carman's best friend."

Woman Killed by UP #844 Took Pictures Too Close to Track

DENVER – Investigators say the pedestrian that was struck and killed by one of Union Pacific's historic steam trains was taking pictures of the locomotive and apparently ventured too close to the tracks.

The 21-car train, being pulled by locomotive #844, was returning from a day-long trip to Cheyenne Frontier Days. The train, called the "Denver Post Special," because the trip was sponsored by the Denver Post newspaper, was southbound, and had just arrived at the 124th Avenue crossing near Henderson, at 7:45pm when the accident happened.

Union Pacific posted the following response. "We are working with local authorities to see what happened leading up to the crash," said Union Pacific spokeswoman Kristen Smith. The Adams County Sheriff's Office and Commerce City Police were at the scene shortly after the accident, but the Sheriff's Office said, "Union Pacific is leading the investigation." Passengers were bused back to Denver as the train remained on the scene for several hours.



Man Killed Crawling Under Train

Sioux City, Iowa authorities reported that a 45-year-old Winnebago, Nebraska man, Kalmer Crowe, died when a train moved as he was crawling beneath it. Sioux City, Iowa police said the accident occurred just after 11 p.m. Monday.

The train had stopped in downtown and the man tried to crawl under it to continue on his way. But it moved, running over him. Crowe was pronounced dead at the scene.

CSX Double-Stack Derails

A freight train derailed in Worcester, Mass. after a double stack freight car was unable to clear an overpass. Firefighters responded to the Cambridge Street overpass at approximately 7:45 a.m. Saturday and found several cars off the tracks. Officials said the double stack train was on the higher track and didn't clear the bridge.

About 15 cars were impacted by the derailment. Witnesses inside their homes at the time of the crash described the sound of impact as an explosion. No hazardous materials were involved. The incident remains under investigation.



Railroad Fever, "Nuthin' To It"

by Fred Humphrey

A Southern Pacific express train sped along the edge of one of the biggest cattle ranches in Texas. A passenger gazed intently at the huge herds grazing near the right of way. When the train passed the end of the ranch, he turned to the man who occupied the seat with him and said, "Quite a herd of cattle on that ranch. I counted 11,442 head."

The man next to him looked at him in astonishment. "I am the owner of that ranch, and I know for certain that there are exactly 11,442 head of cattle out on that pasture. How in the world did you manage to count them from a train that is going sixty miles an hour?"

"Oh, it's easy enough, if you know the system," said the man. "you just count their legs and divide by four."

NS Rebuilding SD-70's

The NS is rebuilding several of their standard cab SD70s resulting in a new model, the SD70ACC with the new Safety Cab. Two of these engines had been sent to Pueblo for testing and were returned to the BNSF at Sterling, CO in June. NS 1800 & 1801 went north from the test center near Pueblo to Denver and to Sterling via the UP.

Rumors are that the pair was still in primer as they were to have a special paint scheme when they got to Altoona, PA

BNSF Layoff's Engines...Not Employees

Again this month, BNSF has reduced the number of laid up locomotives in the surge fleet. The engines in Laid Up Good Order (LUGO) status was 325 at the beginning of July. Of those in LUGO, there were 72 of them that were the 867 class of Dash 8-40CWs that were purchased by the ATSF in 1993. There were a total of 294 SD70MCs in LUGO and 5 Dash 9-44CWs. Also, there were 3 gensets, the 1233 – 1235.

All of the more that 200 engines that had been stored in Oklahoma City are now gone. The last of them was moved out on June 23rd as train D-OKCLIN1-20T. This train had BNSF Dash 9-44CWs 4682 & 5153 as the working power followed by SD70MCs 9777, 8840, 9956, 9885, 9930, 9756, Dash 9-44CW 991, SD70MACs 9957, 9911, & 9921. The engines were going to Lincoln to be put back in service. The 991 had not been put back in service as of this writing and was one of the five Dash 9s still listed as LUGO.

On the Advertised

Division Meeting Schedule for 2018

August 18 – Trinity United Methodist Church, 1294 Poquoson Ave, Poquoson VA – Contest: Locomotive

September 15 – TBD – Contest: Off Line Structures

November 17 – Virginia Beach (Main) Library - Contest: Dioramas

Local Lighting Strike - Update

by Fred Humphrey

To my model railroad friends. The last few weeks have been busy with family, friends and fixing my train shed. Two weeks ago my train shed was hit with lightning for second time this year in the same spot. Lost one monitor, verizon cable box, replaced four GFI Outlets and one row of overhead lights. Water damage to several spots on the roof and an area blown out where the light hit.



Roofers are here today fixing the roof. The area immediately under the lightning strike spot will require more investigation which means I must tear the layout down to gain access to the walls to examine the outlets. Have two more cuts and I'll be able to remove the last 2 layout sections from the north wall leaving the the west and south walls for later. This will permit me to troubleshoot the North wall. When all is fixed can then begin rebuilding the layout.

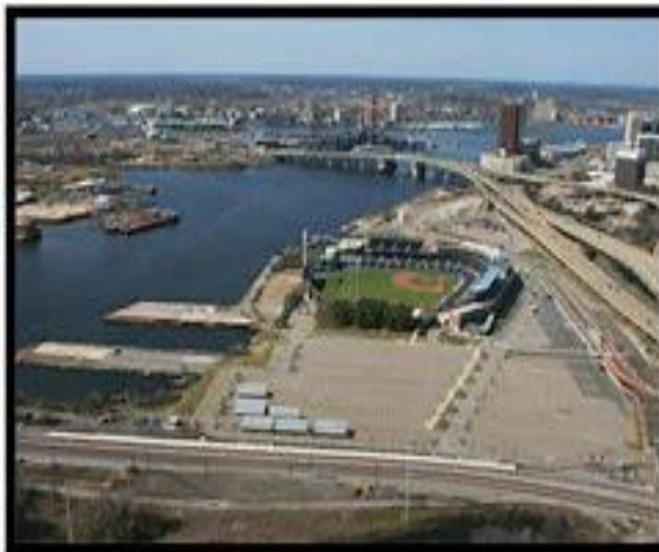
With the knowledge gain from you helped improve my layout for running train and hopefully an op secession or two later. Thanks for all advices.

Baseball & Trains

Harbor Park, Norfolk VA

Harbor Park Stadium, which serves as the home for the Baltimore Orioles AAA affiliate, the Norfolk Tides, play their games adjacent to Norfolk's newest Amtrak Station. Amtrak, which began Norfolk service in 2012, opened the new facility a year later in December 2013.

While Amtrak's schedule at Norfolk is not the most convenient for baseball, you may see Norfolk Southern trains crossing the Elizabeth River over the outfield wall.



BNSF Plans \$3B Infrastructure Plan 4th Track at Needles Subdivision

As part of a network-wide \$3.3B infrastructure program, BNSF will lay a fourth track through Needles, California in 2018. The 4-mile section of quadruple track is expected to boost the capacity of existing triple track on the railroad's Needles Subdivision of the Southern Transcon.

That improvement project is in addition to \$230M in other projects planned in California this year.

NMRA - Mid East Region News

JAMES RIVER RAILS Operations Weekend – October 2018

An Invitation to a Weekend of Model Railroad Operations

During the weekend of October 19 – 21, a team of modelers in the Richmond and South-Central Virginia area is hosting JAMES RIVER RAILS, an Operations Weekend. Layouts located in the Richmond, Williamsburg, Farmville, Appomattox, and Charlottesville, Virginia areas will be hosting operating sessions on Friday evening (October 19), Saturday morning and afternoon (October 20), and Sunday (October 21). The sessions are designed primarily for individuals with previous experience in model railroad operations, but everyone is invited to participate. If you enjoy model railroad operations, this promises to be a special weekend that you won't want to miss.



Individuals interested in participating in JAMES RIVER RAILS must sign-up in advance. There are a maximum number of positions available for registration based on the crew sizes of participating layouts and operating session scheduling, so you are encouraged to register early! A \$20.00 per person nonrefundable registration fee is being charged to cover event costs. The operations weekend is a not-for-profit event and any money remaining after event expenses have been covered will be donated to the James River Division of the NMRA. NMRA membership is not required to participate in the operations weekend.

For additional information and to register, see the JAMES RIVER RAILS website: www.jamesriverrails.org

MER 2018 Convention Update

Mark your calendar for October 4 to 7 as busy and head to the Rockville Hilton for the fall MER convention "Crossroads of the MER". While plenty will be happening inside the hotel, you have a world of wonderful sightseeing all around you in Washington DC.

We have an exciting excursion planned for Saturday morning. The Walkersville Southern Railroad <http://wsrr.org/ws/> is a small, scenic railroad just north of Frederick, Maryland. After a guided walking tour of their yard, where you can see some of their small, diesel switchers and vintage freight and passenger cars undergoing restoration, you then will take a 70 minute ride in a restored P-54 passenger cars built around 1925, and/or, (if the weather is nice) an open-air flat car. This is a self drive prototype tour.

For those of you who have a spouse that is not participating in the convention, or if you plan to stay over an extra day or so and take in some of the sights of the Washington, DC area, our hotel is located directly across the street from the Twinbrook Metro Station <https://wmata.com/rider-guide/stations/twinbrook.cfm> . Boarding the Metro Red Line there will take you directly to downtown DC.

Registering for the convention is now easier than ever. Go on line at <http://merregistrar.coffeecup.com/forms/2018> [Online Registration/](#) and pay with your credit card. Those that prefer can print a form and mail that to the registrar at MER Conventions, P.O. Box 467, Crosswicks, NJ 08515-0467. The form includes a link to the Rockville Hilton. We have a very low rate of \$114. The committee would love to see you in Rockville this fall, so sign up now.



From "The Timekeeper"
Board of Director – Business Meeting Minutes
8 August 2018

Meeting was held at the Tidewater Modular Railroad Club (TMRC) from 1800 to 1903.

Attending: John Fallon, Bob Cook, Fred Humphrey, and Roger Bir.

Paymaster Report: None

Membership: 158 with two new members.

Business:

- a. The August 18th meeting will be at the Trinity United Methodist Church (1294 Poquoson Ave) in Poquoson. We can hold it in the chapel. There will be a train show there, and the UMW will be selling refreshments.
- b. George Downer will be presenting a clinic on the Cricut Cutting Machine. The Cricut cuts thin plastic and wood to your pattern. George will demonstrate its use to cut out items for a scratch-built building. Plans are to video tape it for viewing via the web site.
- c. Roger Bir reported the web site has been up for three months. Highlighting the Milwaukee Road and C&O this month.
- d. Roger has emailed several scale clubs in the division to work on highlighting their efforts in a try to promote the model railroading hobby.
- e. The James River Division has asked to include them on our Callboard distribution.
- f. Bob Cook asked that a link be included in the email notification of the publication of the Callboard. Roger said that he had some problems with putting a link in the email causing it to be filtered as spam, but he would try again and await feedback.
- g. Bill Miller had told John Fallon that the train show progress is on track with last year. Intend to put the word out for volunteers at the August meeting (and September's). John Fallon will be taking over for Bill Miller for the 2019 show.
- h. Jimmy Curth is recuperating at the Bayside Health and Rehabilitation Center, 1004 Independence Boulevard Virginia Beach, VA 23455-5503, Room 24B.
- i. Meeting adjourned at 1902.

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Iowa To Break Ground for Truck/Rail Complex

Des Moines to Host Transloading Facility

Construction is expected to begin next month on a long-anticipated rail-truck transloading facility in Des Moines that will provide shippers with options for shipping raw materials and other commodities in and out of the Central Iowa region. The planned facility east of downtown will offer access to 3 major rail carriers -- BNSF, NS, and the UP plus the regional Iowa Interstate Railroad.

The due process for approving the sale of the land proved to be complicated. Before the transaction could be completed, a competitor for the transloading contract -- Merchants Distribution Service in Des Moines -- had raised concerns in 2016 after the selection of the Omaha-based owner, Steven Braithwaite, who will own and operate the facility as Des Moines Transloading L.L.C. The allegations involved the safety and environmental records of several rail-service related companies Braithwaite owns and operates in Omaha, and were detailed in a private investigator's report that Merchants Distribution gave to city officials. "We're now at the finish line," reported Rita Connor, Des Moines' economic development director, who said a construction contractor to build the facility is expected to announce early next week, with construction planned to begin in August.

Tidewater Division

Board of Directors

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Hobby Shop News

[HobbyTown USA](#)

4000 Virginia Beach Blvd
Virginia Beach, VA
(757) 306-4760

[Denbigh Hobby Center](#)

14351 Warwick Blvd
Newport News, VA
(757) 874-5708

[Engine House Trains](#)

3900 Bonney Rd, Ste 107
Virginia Beach, VA
(757) 463-1240

[Dales' Trains](#)

5880 Poplar Hall Dr.
Norfolk, VA
(757)461-3636

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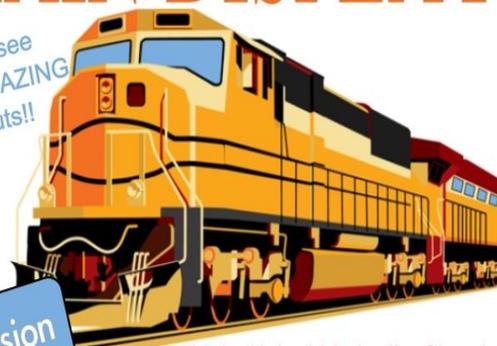
The Callboard is available for free via e-mail or at the Tidewater Division web-site: <http://www.nmar-mer-tidewater.org/>. Printed copies in B/W are available on request, contact the Callboard editor at sorcerer54@cox.net for details.

NMRA News

For the latest updates, news, clinics and anything model railroad related to the NMRA, click on the link and be connected. [NMRA](#)

TRAIN DISPLAY

Come see
these AMAZING
layouts!!



Admission
is FREE

Trinity United Methodist Church
1294 Poquoson Avenue
Poquoson, Virginia 23662
868-6174

Friday, August 17th, 4 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 18th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Multiple Gauges on Display
Poquoson Police & Fire Departments
will be joining us for the show!

Sponsored by Trinity United
Methodist Church and
Tidewater Big Train Operators



From "the Caboose" continued from page 1

that someone will find this hobby full of fascinating elements to capture and hold their interest.

Encourage that person by showing them that model railroaders build skills in carpentry, electronics, painting, and the mechanics of "...how things work." Teach that person that model railroading connects us with history in a tangible way. Railroads changed the USA forever by connecting our coasts and helped create our identity. As skills improve, model railroaders can recreate a moment in time of their choice with painstaking detail and get great satisfaction for doing it.

And invite that person as a guest at a Division meeting.

Pat