



Tidewater Division

CALLBOARD

Volume 2018, Issue 9

NMRA MEMBER

September, 2018

“From the Caboose”

Pat Mahoney, Superintendent

The National Train Show in Kansas City was worth the effort by any and all measures. The operating exhibits (all modular) were impressive and clearly represented operations in the Plain States. All had wind turbines included in the scenery. HO dominated but N and G scales were impressive. I attended the show on opening day and attendance seemed thin. My son Sean reminded me that it was the last week-end of school vacation and many families had gone to Lake of the Ozarks for one last week-end of fun in the sun.

We're one month away from our 29th Annual Show and Sale on 13-14 October at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. This is a Division event and I encourage all members to help as much as they are able to.

November is National Model Railroad Month. The

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Division Elections

Mark your calendars as the annual Division Meeting and Auction is less than four months away. With the annual meeting, also comes elections for your Board of Directors.

In 2019, three positions will be open for consideration. If you are so inclined, contact the Board Superintendent (Pat Mahoney) to express your interest in serving the Division, for further details.

This Month in Rail History

Sep 1, 1935: NMRA organizes in Milwaukee, WI

Sep 3, 1930: Thomas Edison runs first experimental electric passenger train between Hoboken and Montclair, New Jersey.

Sep 7, 1958: Eckington-Mt. Rainier-Branchville (Washington) street car line is abandoned.

Sep 15, 1981 Smithsonian hosts a 150th grand celebration of the "John Bull" steam locomotive, with it operating on the B&O's Georgetown Branch

Sep 20, 1850: President Millard Fillmore signs first Railroad Land Grant Act.

Sep 29, 1897: Capital Traction Co. cable car powerhouse burns on site of present Wilson/District Building and Ronald Reagan Building.

BILL OF LADING – SEP 2018

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"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

Origins of the Railroad Pocket Watch

by George Downer

About the Pocket Watch, a very interesting story. If you were in the market for a watch in 1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right? Well, of course you could do that, but if you wanted one that was cheaper and a bit better than most of the store watches, you went to the train station! Sound a bit funny? Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found.

Why were the best watches found at the train station? The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all. The telegraph operator was. Most of the time the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town. It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-way had already been secured for the rail line.

Most of the station agents were also skilled telegraph operators and it was the primary way they communicated with the railroad. They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their next station. And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches. As a matter of fact, they sold more of them than almost all the stores combined for a period of about 9 years.

This was all arranged by "Richard", who was a telegraph operator himself. He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of watches arrived from the East. It was a huge crate of pocket watches. No one ever came to claim them. So Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the watches. The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them. So Richard did. He sent a wire to every agent in the system asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good, pocket watch. He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit. That started it all.



He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all the travelers. It worked! It didn't take long for the word to spread and, before long, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches. Richard became so busy that he had to hire a professional watchmaker to help him with the orders. That was Alvah. And the rest is history as they say. The business took off and soon expanded to many other lines of dry goods. Richard Sears and Alvah Roebuck left the train station and moved their company to Chicago.....and as Paul Harvey would say, "now...you know the rest of the story."

Maryland & Pennsylvania Transit Updates

Receive New Siemens Locomotives

Siemens has delivered new locomotives to the Maryland and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority. The MTA has received three Charger locomotives for its Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) service. The MTA has ordered a total of eight of the diesel-electric locomotives.

Powered by a 4,400 horsepower Cummins engine, the Charger can operate at speeds up to 125 mph.



Is Steam Dead We Say “No Way!”

The question is often posed, “is steam dead?” In response, we say to you “look at the following venues who are supporting steam:

Milwaukee Road: No 261’s first appearance in North Dakota in 20 years celebrating the Red River Valley & Western’s 30th anniversary.



Ft. Wayne Historical Society: NKP’s #765 had multiple mini trips on Metra’s Rock Island District from Joliet, Ill to LaSalle Street Station Chicago where 1940’s-themed parties were held on various platforms.

Union Pacific: No 844’s return to display during the College World Series of Baseball (Omaha, NE) this past June after a three-year absence.

Southern Pacific: No 4449’s first mainline outing in five years took place with an overnight trip on June 24-25 at Portland Bend, OR.



Southern Railway: No 4501’s appearance on a doubleheader with SR 2-8-0 No 630 at a National Railway Historical Society annual convention in late June 2017.

Maine Narrow Gauge Museum to Open

Care to take a trip to New England and visit a rail museum? The Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Company and Museum hopes to break ground in the Spring of 2019 on its new facility on 20 acres in the town of Gray.

The museum was established in 1992 and has spent the past 25 years on the Portland, Maine, waterfront. Rising rents and commercial development forced the museum to find a new home.

The Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Co. & Museum is located in Portland, Maine, United States. Operating out of the former Portland Company Marine Complex, the organization was founded in 1993. The collection consists of passenger and freight equipment, as well as artifacts from the 2 ft narrow gauge railways that ran in the state of Maine in the late 19th century and early 20th century.

Railroad Fever “The Staff of Ignorance” by Fred Humphrey

A switchman’s job was to link and unlink the cars by using a hickory staff that was known as a “Brakeman’s Club,” or “The Staff of Ignorance.”

One trainman snuck up behind a gunman who refused to pay his fare, and he used his “Staff of Ignorance” as a “persuader.” It turned out the outlaw had a price on his head, and the trainman collected a \$2,000 reward.

On the Advertised Division Meeting Schedule for 2018

September 15 – St. Matthew’s Church, 3316 Sandra Lane, Virginia Beach, VA – Contest: Off Line Structures

November 17 – Virginia Beach (Main) Library 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd - Contest: Dioramas

“Go West Young Man”

by “the Two John’s” (Cryderman & Fallon)

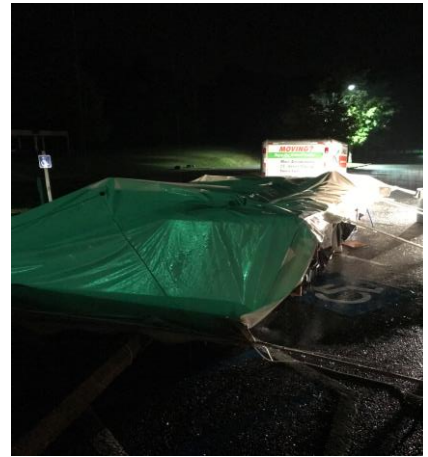
Photos Courtesy of John Cryderman

In July of 2018, the Tidewater Modular Railroad Club loaded their “travel” modules and headed to the far western reaches of Virginia (by Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina) for an eight-hour truck ride to the Natural Tunnel State Park. The massive naturally formed cave, that is so large it is used as a railroad tunnel. The Natural tunnel, which is 200 feet wide and 80 feet high, began to form more than a million years ago when groundwater bearing carbonic acid percolated through crevices and slowly dissolved the limestone and dolomite bedrock.

Those included in the trip were John Fallon, Rick Lloyd, John Cryderman and John’s daughter, Haley. After arriving at the park, it was decided to set up the layout...but with one caveat. Even though the hosts provided a tent-like-structure...they would need to cover the modules as the weather forecast was predicting rain.

Mother Nature didn’t disappoint and the TMRC crew was met the following morning with a collapsed canvas...but plastic prevailed and most of the modules escaped serious water damage. The lone module “casualty” was one of Rick Lloyd’s.

According to the TMRC travelers, the modules were well received by all the visitors.



NMRA - Mid East Region News

MER 2018 Convention Update

If you haven't reserved your seat yet here is why you should. We are extending the deadline for early registration. Sign up by September 13th and you will get the discounted early bird registration fee of only \$55. In addition, you can still get a great hotel room rate of \$114 a night at the Hilton Hotel in Rockville. Room rates at 4 star hotels around the area average \$200 a night for the same weekend. Our negotiated rate is far below the market price and includes free parking in their garage.

Our chairman Marty McGuirk, a former Model Railroader editor has lined up three tracks of clinics. Here's a listing of the Clinics:

Civil War Railroads - Noted model railroad author Bernard Kempinski builds displays for museums and models Civil War trains. He will explain how to use modern techniques like laser cutting and 3D printing to build his railroad set in the 1860's.

Model Railroading as Art - Lance Mindheim is a custom layout builder that has shared his 'unbelievably' realistic CSX Downtown Miami spur in many Model Railroader articles. He will surprise you as he describes model railroading as a form of 'art'. Each enhancement that he discusses will further improve the masterpiece that each of us is building.

Changing Prototypes - Local modeler and long time MR contributor Paul Dolkos was well known for his New England railroad. Then he declared the railroad done, found a buyer and changed his prototype to Baltimore urban. Paul will explain how he made the transition, including all the trials and tribulations.

Lehigh Valley RR's First Steel Auto Boxcars - Prototype modeler Chuck Davis details the history of 1,000 boxcars ordered by the LV and the many modifications. He has published more than 20 articles in MRC and was featured in Great Model Railroads 2015.

And more clinics - Speed ballasting, C/MRI, Background sounds, Small Space Model Railroading, Large backdrops, Layout Design and so many more . . .

Home Layout Visits

Need some new ideas for your layout? There are over 30 great model railroad layout tours scheduled in the DC/Maryland/Virginia region that you can visit and learn some new techniques from the owners. The home layouts have been grouped to minimize your drive time.

Friday morning, Monroe Stewart will open his Hooch Junction, one of the largest N scale home railroads in the country. His modeling of a large mine (right), tree covered hills and the huge port is something to be seen.

Friday afternoon, Jane and Pete Clarke welcome convention registrants to their East Broad Top RR, featured in 2016 Great Model Railroads. This realistic prototype railroad models actual towns along the EBT, a must see.



From "The Timekeeper"
Division - 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.

From "The Timekeeper"
Board of Director - Business Meeting Minutes
5 September 2018

Meeting was held at the Tidewater Modular Railroad Club (TMRC) from 7:32pm to 7:30pm.

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

Membership: 161 with two new members. Membership is reminded that NMRA membership must be current to sell items at the white elephant table.

Paymaster Report:

- Checking 8,130.70
- Savings 8,890.09
- Cash 175.00
- Total 17,195.79
- Show expenses still to be paid: Sunday hall rental, Tables and chairs, and Tax License.
- Paying \$25/month for the web site.

Business:

- We will need volunteers for table set up and break down on Friday starting a 0900 and Sunday after show end. Vendors will be allowed in the hall after 1200 on Friday and will need assistance in unloading.

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Tidewater Division

Board of Directors

Superintendent: Pat Mahoney
(patmahoney356@gmail.com)
Asst Superintendent: John Fallon
(zzoxdoc@yahoo.com)
Timekeeper: Bob Cook
(seadevil8@verizon.net)
Paymaster: John Robey
(jrobey6@cox.net)
Member at Large: John Cryderman
(hjcryderman@cox.net)
Member at Large: Fred Humphrey
(fredrickhumphrey@outlook.com)
Member at Large: Roger Bir
(sorcerer54@cox.net)

From "the Caboose" continued from page 1

Virginia Beach Central Library has reserved all the display cases for us from 1-30 November. In previous years we have also been invited to have an operating exhibit and TMRC has always provided. This year extensive renovations will be in progress and the rooms will not be available. The auditorium *may* be available for the November Division Meeting. Our reservation is pending.

Please read the monthly Callboard. Roger Bir works hard to keep it interesting and informs all members of Division scheduled events. And Bob Cook ensures meeting minutes are posted there too. The Callboard is always readily available at the Division website.

And last, don't forget our new show contest. Member dioramas will be displayed and judged at the Tidewater Division Annual Train Show. Awards will consist of 1st Place: a \$75 prize; 2nd Place a \$50 prize; and 3rd Place a \$25 prize. A separate "People's Choice" award will be \$50.

Pat

Callboard Subscribers

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.

from "The Timekeeper" continued from page 6

VA Beach Library auditorium is available for the meeting on November 10th from 1000 to 1200 for \$80. The Superintendent intends to resolve the meeting location for November by the September Division meeting. Jennifer McDade, archivist for Norfolk Southern has been invited to speak. Other rec centers in Virginia Beach charge \$40/hour.

Bill Shaffer, Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum is not available for the September meeting.

The contest for the September meeting is Off Line Structures.

Reminders: Greenberg Show at the Va Beach Convention Center on 29-30 December; NMRA Web Site lists vendors that offer discounts, and the MER Convention will be held on 3-7 October in Rockville, MD.

Richard Moody of the Railroad Museum of Virginia sent a letter thanking the Division for meeting at their site. Staff of the museum came to the Tidewater Modular Railroad Club in Fairfield Shopping Center on both Wednesday and Saturday to see the layout so they can better refer visitors to the site.

John Robey obtained a letter of resignation from our previous attorney and received confirmation from the state that our new attorney is our agent of record.

John Fallon recommended a payment of \$50 to Trinity UMC for hosting our meeting in August. The Board approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

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

[Dales' Trains](#)

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



Railroad Museum of Virginia, Inc.

June 25, 2018

Board of Directors:

Willard J. Moody, Sr.
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C. Raeford Eure
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Kenneth R. Kwedar, CRACGMA
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Paul G. Moody, Esq.

Richard Turner

Honorary Members:

Hon. Paul D. Frain
Former Mayor of Norfolk

Junius H. Williams

Ex-Officio Members:

Betty Burnell

Nancy Perry
Director of Museums

Tidewater Division NMRA/MER
1313 Smith Cove Circle
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Dear Members,

I want to thank you for your generous contribution of \$100.00 for the Railroad Museum of Virginia. This was very generous of your organization, and I, along with the Board Members, appreciate this personal and helpful support you have provided. You are advised that the Railroad Museum of Virginia, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization and your contribution is tax deductible.

Thanking you, and with best regards, I remain

Sincerely,

Willard J. Moody, Sr., President
Railroad Museum of Virginia, Inc.

WJMSr/sca

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**Tidewater Division
National Model Railroad Association/Mid-eastern Region**

“Advancing the worldwide scale model railroad community through education and standards as well as advocacy and fellowship.”

Meeting Agenda for September 15, 2018

Call to Order:

Welcome New Members and Guests:

Reports:

- Minutes of the Board Meeting – Bob Cook
- Membership –John Fallon
- Finance – John Robey
- Show Update – Bill Miller

Division Business:

- **Annual Show:** October 13 – 14, Virginia Beach Convention Center
- **National Model Railroad Month – November**
 - **Displays at the Virginia Beach Central Library**
- **Participating with Other Model Railroad Clubs**

Contest: Off-Line Structures

Clinic: Tentative – presentation by Jennifer McDaid, Historical Archivist for Norfolk Southern.

Contest Results:

1. S
2. S
3. S

Open Mike from the Floor: Any member may make an announcement or comment pertaining to the Division business.

Announcements:

- a. Greenberg Train Show at the Virginia Beach Convention Center December 29-30, 2018 - 10am-4pm.
- b. Visit NMRA.org website. Many vendors offering up to 20% discount to NMRA members.
- c. Remember to vote in the MER election. The voting deadline is Sep 04 2018 11:59 pm Eastern Time (US & Canada).
- d. MER Convention 3-7 October in Rockville, MD
- e. Next meeting will be Saturday, 15 September 2018 (location to be announced). Contest will be *“Off-line Structure”*.

Adjournment: