



## Tidewater Division

# CALLBOARD

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NMRA MEMBER

August, 2019

### “Tracks Ahead”

**Fred Humphrey, Superintendent**

I want to take a moment to discuss the upcoming the Tidewater Division annual business meeting to be held in at 10AM, 18 Jan 2020 at the Lee Hall Railroad Station and Museum, Newport News, VA. As a non-profit organization we are obligated to hold one annual business meeting per year. In the past when we held the annual business meetings it also included an auction and white elephant sale for members to have an opportunity to exchange model railroad stuff. In keeping with our continued community outreach which began in 2018 and carried through 2019 for all modelers to understand the Tidewater Division isn't just a HO Scale association. We want to promote all model railroad scales, have the ability to learn from each other on better or improved way of building layouts, upgrade rolling equipment, electrical wiring or electronics to run our locomotives, etc.

As you remember, earlier this year we discussed what

*continued on page 3*

### This Month in Rail History

Aug 1, 1873: B&O starts construction at Hyattsville on 12.4-mile-long Alexandria Branch to Shepherd's Landing and completed January 24, 1874.

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

Aug 14, 1868: Union Pacific Railroad decides on a northern route around the Great Salt Lake.

Aug 15-16, 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.”

### BILL OF LADING – AUG 2019

- 2** Founder of Lionel Trains.
- 2** “From the Timekeeper” July Business Meeting Minutes
- 3** Union Pacific Derails in Iowa
- 3** Sierra Northern to Receive Upgrades
- 4** Rebuilding An “Old Master”
- 4** Genesee Going Private

“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](mailto:sorcerer54@cox.net)

## Joshua Lionel Cowen

### Held a Patent for 1<sup>st</sup> Photographer's Flash

Joshua Lionel Cowen was born in New York City's Lower East Side. Cowen had built his first toy train at age 7, attaching a small motor under a model of a railroad flatcar.

Cowen received his first patent in 1899, for a device that ignited a photographer's flash. The same year, Cowen received a defense



contract from the United States Navy to produce mine fuses that netted him \$12,000. The following year, Cowen and one of his partners founded Lionel Corporation in New York City. Cowen sold his first electric train in 1901 to a store owner in Manhattan, intending to use the train to call attention to other merchandise. By 1902, Lionel was primarily a toy train manufacturer. He started his company, the Lionel Corporation. He legally changed the spelling of his last name (from Cohn to Cowen) in 1910.

Cowen's marketing skills ultimately made him more money than his talents at invention. The tradition linking toy trains to Christmas originated in Germany in the mid-19th century. It was expanded by Cowen, who in the 1920s convinced the owners of large department stores to incorporate elaborate train setups, which he provided, around their large Christmas tree displays, hoping to increase demand among small boys for toy trains as Christmas gifts. Lionel was soon the largest of three American toy train manufacturers, and for a short time in the early 1950s, Lionel was the largest toy manufacturer in the world. However, by the mid-1950s, public interest had shifted from trains to airplanes and slot cars.

Cowen retired in 1959, selling his 55,000 shares of Lionel stock to his great-nephew Roy Cohn. He died September 8, 1965 in Palm Beach, Florida. He is buried in Union Field Cemetery, a Jewish cemetery maintained for the Congregation of Rodeph Shalom in Brooklyn, New York.



## Minutes of the Tidewater Division Meeting July 21, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 1020 at The Villa restaurant, Elizabeth City, NC  
Attendees: 8, 6 visitors.

Membership: 154 members

Comments: The superintendent thanked the President of Albemarle Railroad Club, Graham Davis and staff for hosting the Tidewater Division meeting.

Schedule:

- Bill Shafer from the Tennessee Valley Museum and Southern Railroad presented an overview of Deadheading on the Old Norfolk Southern between Atlanta, Ga and Norfolk, VA on 22-24 June 1974. Following the meeting, we took a tour of the Albemarle Railroad Club. All model railroad scales are on display. They have a Polar Express (O scale) layout that is available to purchase.
- The 21 September meeting will be in the Suffolk Seaboard Station Railroad Museum, 326 N. Main Street Suffolk, Virginia 23434. Norm Garner will provide a history of the layout there. Coordinator is John Fallon.

*continued on page 5*

## Union Pacific Derails In Iowa No Injuries Reported

A Union Pacific train derailed early Wednesday morning in Tama County, Iowa between Belle Plaine and Chelsea — near X Avenue. Several rail cars are completely off the tracks laying on their sides — and others are crunched together further down. First reports indicated that 15 cars were involved but according to a spokeswoman with Union Pacific, 28 cars were involved.

It doesn't appear the engine was part of the derailment nor were there any hazardous materials involved. The manifest train was headed to Chicago from North Platte, Nebraska and was carrying sugar and soda ash. The undamaged portions of the train have been removed but there's no word yet on when the rest of the wreckage will be cleared away. No injuries were reported. The accident remains under investigation.



*"Tracks Ahead" continued from page 1*

direction our outreach effort we would take this year. This included moving our meetings around the Tidewater Division and changing to a white elephant sale only this time (NO AUCTION). The main reason for this change was to accommodate non-NMRA members to attend our meeting to gain an understanding that the Tidewater Division is promoting all scale modelers. That's why they're being invited to attend our annual business meeting, precipitate in the white elephant sale and door prize drawings.

I request each Tidewater Division member to help get the word out and invite other railroad clubs and modelers to attend this year annual business meeting.

**fred**

## Sierra Northern To Receive Upgrades \$17.4M Allotted Railroad

The Sierra Northern Railway just got a \$17.4 million federal grant and will cover the rest of the cost itself. The six-year project will involve new ties, rails and road crossings on much of the 55-mile route. The line, which started 122 years ago as the Sierra Railroad, hauls lumber, propane, crushed rock, canned food and several other goods.

The upgrade is scheduled to start in January 2020 and will not interfere with service. The Federal Railroad Administration awarded the grant. The application came with letters of support from public officials in Stanislaus and Tuolumne counties and businesses that ship on the Sierra Northern. Many noted that the improved rails will reduce truck traffic on Highway 108 and other roads.

The Sierra Railroad was built between Oakdale and Standard, a few miles east of Sonora, mainly to serve the timber industry that emerged around 1900. The rails also carried concrete during Tuolumne County's dam-building boom from the 1920s to 1950s. A daily passenger service ran until 1939. Today, the line hauls lumber down from sawmills owned by Sierra Pacific Industries in Standard and Chinese Camp. The railroad brings turkey feed to Diestel Family Farms, a premium producer with a branch in Chinese Camp.

The grant will improve the surfaces at 10 highway crossings. The work will include replacing about 90,000 of the 175,000 wooden ties on the line and about 10 miles of steel rails.

### Railroad Lingo

**BLOW UP:** Use the blower to increase draft on the fire and thereby raise the steam pressure in the boiler. Also quit a job suddenly.

**GRASSHOPPER:** Old type of locomotive with vertical boiler and cylinders.

**HOW MANY EMS HAVE YOU GOT?** How many thousand pounds of tonnage is your engine pulling? (M stands for 1,000)

## Rebuilding An Old “Master”

### CP’s Dome Car 3605

The car was built in 1937 by Pullman Standard as SP Lunch-counter-Tavern Car No. 10312. By 1955 it was rebuilt by SP as Dome-Lounge Car No. 3605 and used in Shasta Daylight service. In 1971 it was leased to Amtrak and in 1972 transferred to Amtrak as Dome-Lounge No. 9374. It was retired by Amtrak in 1981 and stored in Los Angeles. From 1981 to 2000 it had various owners and was in excursion service for a time in Mexico. It was once named ‘Laura’ in 1995 after the wife of the then-owner Bill Wallace. In 2000 it went to Colorado as part of the fleet of the Canon City & Royal Gorge Railway and was re-numbered CCRG No.9374. After that, it went into storage in Canon City in 2005. In 2018 it was acquired by Canadian Pacific and arrived at Ogden Yard on 26 May 2018.

The CP Heritage Fleet team spent some 13 months rebuilding the car, including replacement of the steel sides with a heavier gauge metal; the rebuild was completed early this week, a test run on Monday evening to Bearsaw apparently was flawless. The car has CP number 3605 and is named ‘SELKIRK’. A masterful job was done on the rebuild. Old time craftsmanship is certainly evident! The paint job is so shiny that the surface acts like a mirror!



## Division Mtg/Contest Schedule

Sept 21, 2019: 10am, Suffolk Seaboard Station Rail Museum, 326 N. Main St, Suffolk VA, Guest Speaker: Norm Garner – Contest: Engines (Steam vs Diesel)

Nov 16, 2019: 10am-Portsmouth Children’s Museum of Virginia, 221 High St, Portsmouth VA, Guest Speaker: Skip Novac – Contest: Your Favorite Car

Jan 18, 2020: Annual Meeting & White Elephant Table: 10am, Lee Hall Depot, Elmhurst St, Newport News, VA – Contest: Favorite Train.

## Genesee & Wyoming Is Going Private

Railroad operator Genesee & Wyoming is being taken private by Brookfield Infrastructure and GIC in a deal valued at about \$6.37 billion.

Genesee & Wyoming Inc. owns 120 short line railroads, mostly in North America, with operations in Europe and Australia. Through its subsidiaries worldwide, it provides transportation infrastructure services over more than 26,000 kilometers of track.

G&W shareholders will receive \$112 in cash for each share held. The companies put the deal’s value at \$8.4 billion, including debt.

The transaction is expected to close by year-end or early next year. It needs approval from G&W stockholders, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, the U.S. Surface Transportation Board, and certain competition and antitrust approvals.



## Tidewater Division

### Board of Directors

Superintendent: Fred Humphrey  
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Member at Large: Norm Garner  
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- The 16 November meeting is in the Portsmouth Children's Museum of Virginia, 221 High St, Portsmouth, VA 23704. Skip Novac will provide a presentation. Coordinator is Fred Humphrey.  
The meeting at the Virginia Beach Central Library, 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23452, was cancelled due to construction. Coordinator is Pat Mahoney.
- The 18 January meeting will be held at the Lee Hall Depot and Museum off Route 60 and 238. Roger Bir is the coordinator. Roger Bir and John Robey will check space availability at Lee Hall to accommodate our white elephant sale.
- The 21 March 2020 meeting is planned to be held in Courtland with an opportunity to view several layouts. Coordinator is Bryan Holloman.
- The 16 May 2020 meeting will be in Denbigh. Coordinator is John Fallon.
- Membership was advised that September 21 meeting will discuss the balance of our 2020 meeting schedule and whether or not to have no meetings during June – August 2020 time frame.

#### New Business

- Mid-Eastern Region (MER) released a change to the By-Laws related to Code of Conduct. The change has been printed in the CALLBOARD and was discuss at the meeting.
- Chuck Davis stated that clinics were available for division use from the NMRA web site. Membership discussed this issue and recommended that these presentations maybe useful in helping an individual in presentation preparation. Additionally, some discussion on when the presentation or clinic should be presented. The superintendent decided at the next meeting the presentation will be given first followed by the meeting. This is a trial to see how well it works.
- At the last meeting, we ask the membership if we wanted to take on holding the MER Mid-Eastern Region Convention in 2022. Membership approved exploring the idea. John Fallon and Fred Humphrey went to Williamsburg for a layout tour and had the opportunity to set down with MER (Clint Hype editor of "The Local" MER Newsletter) and James River Division (Phil Taylor, superintendent of James River Division) reps to discuss their vision of the co-hosting a Divisional Conference in the future. It appears several divisions are interested in having a joint co-hosting effort with James River. It includes multiple divisions up and down the east coast and includes a division that includes Canada. There will be a meeting this fall (sometime in September) in Charlottesville, VA to discuss who will help support James River Division and what responsibilities each division(s) would have. BOD approved John Robey and John Fallon would be our representatives. They have experience with organizing a MER Divisional Conference. During discussion at the meeting, Gary Brown was interested in supporting this effort. The superintendent directed Gary to attend the 11 Sep 2019 BOD meeting at TMRC. Membership agreed with the superintendent's decision.
- Sharon Prescott won 1sr prize for prototypical photo and 2<sup>nd</sup> place for scale model photo. David Rigby won the door prize.
- Next meeting will be 21  
Sep 2019, 10 AM at the Suffolk Seaboard Station Railroad Museum, N. Main St., Suffolk, VA

The meeting was adjourned at 1147am.

### **NMRA Benefits Information**

As an NMRA member, are you aware of discounts on purchased merchandise? Yes, the NMRA partners with multiple manufacturers giving the membership varying discounts when you purchase an item.

For more details, click on [NMRA Partners](#)

### **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](mailto:sorcerer54@cox.net) for details.