



Tidewater Division

CALLBOARD

Volume 2018, Issue 6

NMRA MEMBER

June, 2018

“From the Caboose”

Pat Mahoney, Superintendent

Let's talk about clinics. Clinics are intended for one purpose: to improve model railroader knowledge and skills. This is not a new idea. Model railroaders have been sharing knowledge and ideas forever through print, clubs, conventions, the NMRA, and various other ways. Tidewater Division membership collectively has a tremendous wealth of knowledge and well developed skills, and we should be willing to share it, especially with those who are just starting out as model railroaders.

We all can help in sharing our stories of success (and failures too) in the basics of track planning and construction, basic electricity and wiring, structures, and the maintenance on repair of rolling stock and motive power. These are essential to reliable and enjoyable operation. I started “playing with trains in 1954 and I'm just now beginning to understand the basics of DCC operation and appreciation of how much it enhances operations.

continued on page 8

BILL OF LADING – MAY 2018

- 2** Amtrak Failed To Heed Work Zone Speed Advice
- 2** Railroad Fever “Railroad Oddities”
- 4** Broken Rail Likely Cause in Suffolk Derailment
- 5** “From the Timekeeper” BoD & Division Meeting Minutes
- 6** Mid East Region News
- 9** June Division Meeting – Agenda Items

Member Update

The following members are in the hospital or home recovering from injury or surgical procedures. We wish them a speedy recovery:

Celeste Robbins (wife of Max) passed away on 10 June 2018 after a lengthy illness. Funeral arrangements are pending at this time.

Jim Curth is in medical rehab after surgery from complications associated with diabetes.

George Schmidt is home on the mend after cardiac surgery in which several stents were placed.

This Month in Rail History

June, 1981: Washington Terminal Co purchased by Amtrak. Takes until December, 1985 to assimilate all unions into its Washington Division.

1 Jun 1982: Norfolk & Western and the Southern Railway consolidate to become Norfolk Southern.

June 7, 1953: C&O Hudson #490 comes out of retirement for Washington Chapter. This was the last C&O steam into or out of Washington.

June 8, 1877: Plans are discussed regarding the building of 36 rail miles from Buchanan VA to Clifton Forge VA.

30 Jun 1977: Last regular RPO service in the United States ends.

“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

Investing In Regional Rail Can Ease Gridlock

Against that backdrop, Metrolink, Southern California's regional rail system, is partnering with freight and intercity rail operators in seeking \$10 billion in local, state and federal funds to transform Southern California passenger rail service over the next decade in time for the 2028 Olympics. It's called the Southern California Optimized Rail Expansion plan and will relieve our freeways, which rank among the world's most congested, while improving air quality and ensuring goods can move safely and efficiently.

Track additions, new signals and switches, station upgrades, grade crossings and maintenance facility enhancements will bolster safety, speed, and reliability and nearly double Metrolink's capacity allowing for a significant expansion including express service.

European Rail Hands Out Free Rail Passes

The European Union is convinced it has found a new way for young people to fall in love with the continent: free train rides. The EU kicked off the Discover EU Project to send up to 30,000 18-year olds Chugging across the 28-member states this year, giving them free rail transport to broaden their horizon beyond national borders. All for a taxpayers' cost of 12 million euros (\$14 million).

If all goes well, and the next seven-year EU budget plans are approved, that could turn into a budget of 100 million euros (\$120 million) a year, with some 200,000 teenagers getting to know the joys of EU-wide Interrail travel.

The Club Car

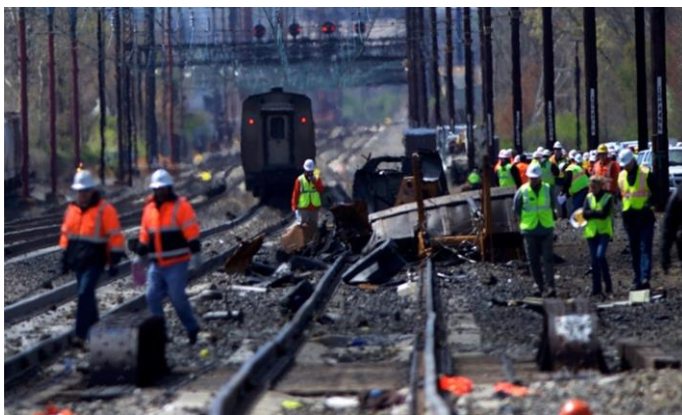
Division Meeting
16 June 2018, 10am
Portsmouth Rail Museum of Virginia
16 Crawford Circle
Portsmouth, VA

Amtrak Failed to Heed Work-Zone Speed Advice

Two Track Workers Killed in 2016

Five months ago, in a scathing report on a 2016 accident in which two track workers were killed, U.S. safety investigators urged Amtrak to slow its trains when they pass work crews. The nation's passenger rail service didn't follow the advice and still hasn't replied to the safety recommendations the National Transportation Safety Board announced in November, according to government records and details released from investigators.

Last week, another Amtrak worker was hit and killed in a similar accident in Bowie, Maryland. The victim was an Amtrak watchman who was helping monitor safety during track work between Baltimore and Washington, when struck April 24 by Train 86



Railroad Fever "*Railroad Oddities*" by Fred Humphrey

In 1955, a conductor on a Pennsylvania train honored a ticket presented by a lady whose father had purchased it in 1872.

The average speed of a first-class Union Pacific train in the early 1870's was 22 m.p.h.

Before the use of telegraph, station agents often climbed up to lofty perches to scan the horizon for approaching trains.

During World War II, many "combat railroaders" were known to have cooked their eggs on a coal shovel heated by locomotive steam.

UP Lifts “Big Boy” Boiler

Union Pacific plans to lift the boiler of Big Boy #4014 were carried out on March 5th. Once the boiler was lifted, it was rolled out to the trailing truck for inspection and repairs. With work on the front engine largely done, the steam crew is turning attention to the rear half.

To meet the 2019 goal some work has been outsourced, to Pennsylvania's Strasburg Rail Road Museum for tire and pin work, and minor use of a shop in Denver.



Have you ever wondered what Division member Tom Trombauer does on his time off from Dale's Trains? I “think” we have an answer.



Answer on Page 7



June 26 – July 1, 2018

Model Train Landscape

Enjoy a working model railroad, courtesy of the Tidewater Modular Railroad Club (TMRC). This “HO” scale display features models that are 1/87 the size of real trains.

Visit odu.edu/gordongalleries for a schedule of visits by TMRC members.

Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries Free Admission

Tuesday – Saturday, 11 AM – 5 PM
Sunday, 1 PM – 5 PM

4509 Monarch Way
Norfolk, VA 23508

(757) 683-6271
odu.edu/gordongalleries

Broken, Cracked Rail Likely Cause Suffolk Derailment

Photos by John Fallon

A “broken or cracked” rail is considered the cause of the train derailment that shut down the railway through the Suffolk Meadows neighborhood on May 7, State Corporation Commission spokesperson Andy Farmer said on Wednesday.

The SCC’s Railroad Regulation section works with the Federal Railroad Administration to ensure safe railroad operations in the commonwealth and is conducting the ongoing investigation.

“The rail itself was removed and was sent to a lab for testing to determine the precise cause of the malfunction,” Farmer said in a phone interview. “That process could take several weeks or even months to complete.”

A locomotive and eight cars derailed near the 300 block of Baron Boulevard at Shoulders Hill Road on May 7 at approximately 4 p.m., according to a city press release. The shuttle train was coming from the Virginia International Gateway port and largely consisted of empty rail cars, with less than 100 containers aboard, according to a Port of Virginia press release on May 8. No injuries were reported, and no hazardous cargo was involved. The track is owned and operated by Commonwealth Railway, Inc. Crews cleaned up the scene and operations on the track resumed the evening of May 9.



From the Division "Timekeeper"
Minutes of the Business Meeting - Tidewater Division
May 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 1003 at Denbigh Community Center in Newport News.

Membership: No new members. 158 active members in the Division. 16 members were present for the meeting.

Reports:

- Minutes of the BOD meeting of 2 May were published in the callboard and copies were available so the minutes were not read.
- The paymaster's report was is available in the BOD minutes. Total funds available is \$16,964.05.
- Publicity Chairman for the Annual Show is Sharon Prescott. Fee for ads in the Pilot will be \$2600. The show is an "all hands" event. Volunteers are needed for Friday setup, Saturday and Sunday support, and Sunday breakdown. Invitations to vendors are to go out next week.
- November is Model Railroad Month and the Virginia Beach Library has reserved showcases. The auditorium and rooms are not available for our use. The Superintendent is looking for alternatives.
- George Downer won the model contest for freight cars (Derrick car), Bob Cook second for pulpwood car, and John Cryderman third for tank flatcar.
- Looking into the location for the June 16th meeting as the meeting room for the Fort Eustis Museum is not available. Looking at the Virginia Railroad Museum. The contest is favorite photo.
- There will be a Greenberg show in Virginia Beach on 29-30 December 2018.
- The Superintendent noted the expanded presence at the Denbigh Community Center with the gymnasium full of layouts, rail enthusiasts, and vendors.
- Roger Bir reported progress on the web site. It will have photos and videos (via a You Tube account). Should be ready by 19 May.

Meeting was adjourned at 1035

From the Division "Timekeeper"
Minutes of the Meeting - Tidewater Division Board of Directors (BOD)
June 6, 2018

Call to order: in the absence of the superintendent, the assistant superintendent called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. Members present were: John Fallon, John Robey, John Cryderman, Fred Humphrey and Roger Bir. Members absent were Pat Mahoney and Bob Cook

Committee Reports:

1. Membership: from the chairman, there is no change to the current membership.
2. Division Paymaster: currently there is \$7,268 in checking with expenditures being the norm for the month.
3. Train Show (from John Robey): payment was made for the show handbills as was the insurance premium.

Division News:

1. Jim Curth is currently in rehab recovering from several surgeries as a result of complications associated with diabetes.
2. George Schmidt had several cardiac stents implanted and is recovering nicely at home.
3. Greenburg train show is moving back to Virginia Beach Convention Center 29-30 Dec 2018
4. Parking for the June business meeting will be at the Sausage Factory, park on the circle, or park at the maintenance facility. Main entrance to the facility is by the Caboose...not the engine.
5. John "JJ" Johnson is the Achievement Programs chairman.

continued on page 6

NMRA - Mid East Region News

The MER 2018 Convention

by Ed Rosado (Potomac Division)

As our convention train gets closer to arrival on October 4, excitement levels are beginning to rise. The MER 2018 convention, "Crossroads to the MER", is only a few months away. Our crew is busy organizing the important events modelers will find educational, such as our broad list of clinics. Marty McGuirk, our clinics organizer, is assembling an impressive list of clinicians that will be providing informative, educational, and entertaining presentations on almost all aspects of this wonderful hobby.

Clinics are one of the main reasons for attending the "Crossroads to the MER", October 4-7, 2018. So far, we have scheduled a total of 26 clinics. There are several time slots still available. If you're interested in presenting a clinic, please contact the clinic chair at cvrxfan@gmail.com. But do so soon, as slots are filling up fast.

Our banquet speaker, well known author and photographer Lou Sassi, will also be presenting two clinics-one sharing his techniques for creating scenery and the second dealing with modeling realistic vehicles and rolling stock. Wondering what an Arduino is, and what you can do with it? Then attend Terry Terrance's "Introduction to Micro-Controllers." Andrew Dodge, MMR, will show you how he scratchbuilt his O scale (Proto:48) steam locomotive roster from brass. These are just some of the opportunities available for convention goers to learn about the hobby. A full list of additional clinics will be available shortly. Stay tuned!

In addition to the opportunities to learn from the clinics, don't forget about the layout tours. There are loads of great layouts to visit between Thursday and Sunday. And if you like operations, there are a number of great operating sessions scheduled during the convention. If you enjoy camaraderie while sharing a nice meal, sign up for our banquet on Saturday night. Our speaker is experienced modeler and Model Railroader magazine Associate Editor Lou Sassi.

Make your hotel reservations early and don't miss out on convention rates. Washington DC has lots to offer and the subway station is right across the street behind the Rockville Hilton, our convention hotel. A subway ride is about 30 minutes to downtown Washington DC. We look forward to seeing you there and having a great time.

For additional details, please go to our web page at: <http://potomac-nmra.org/MER2018/>



From "the Division Timekeeper" continued from page 5

6. Roger Bir was named chairman of the Club Committee. Basic duties include interaction with local railroad clubs.
7. November business meeting location. Several locations are under discussion:
8. Chesapeake Library, Princess Anne & Kempsville Rec Center.
9. Discussions surrounding the purchase of the new meeting signs. John Fallon's sister is a graphic designer and he will discuss different concepts with her.
10. Discussions regarding division attendance. What can the division do to encourage members to come to the meetings. Suggestions were: clinics, railroad related field trips, museums, interactions with other clubs. Change the concept/idea of how the meeting is conducted:

Next Meeting:

18 August 2018, Trinity United Methodist Church, 1294 Poquoson Ave, Poquoson VA

Adjourn: meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm

2018 O-Scale National Convention

Our 50th Year

Anyone and everyone interested in 1/4" scale modeling is invited to the **50th O Scale National Convention**, co-sponsored with the MER NMRA. Standard gauge, narrow gauge, P48, traction, and transit. *We welcome everyone* from any background and any scale that is interested in O Scale to join us.

It will be held August 22-26, 2018 at the Rockville Hilton Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852.

Some highlights of the convention include:

- Trading Halls
- Clinics with new presentations, and 'extra fare' hands-on clinics
- Onsite Modular layouts
- Manufacturer/Vendor Displays
- Convention Cars
- Model Contest
- Door prizes/goodie bags for pre-registered attendees
- Banquet
- Layout tours
- Side trips
- Keynote speaker & dinner **with Tony Koester**, discussing his venture into Proto48
- Metro access is 108 steps from the hotel - go explore everything Washington DC has to offer (Make it a family trip!)

For additional details, please visit our [website](http://www.nmra-mer-tidewater.org/).



He “moonlights” as the wrangler “Shiloh” for the Grand Canyon Railway. 😊



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

"from the Caboose" continued from page 1

But there are other subjects that would be interesting clinics. Presentations on the many historical aspects of model railroading, safe and legal photography of prototype operations, and railroad history come to mind. So if you would like to share your knowledge and present a clinic, go for it. If you want some suggestions on how to prepare your clinic presentation, our Division has several master model railroaders. Or follow the recommended "Edu-Train" development process available at the NMRA website (NMRA.org). Until next time ... "All Aboard!"

Pat



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)

On the Advertised

Division Meeting Schedule for 2018

June 16 – Portsmouth Railroad Museum of Virginia, 16 Crawford Circle, Portsmouth VA – Contest: Favorite Photo

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

NMRA News

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

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.

Meeting Agenda for June 16, 2018 Portsmouth Rail Museum of Virginia

1. Call to Order.
2. Welcome New Members and Guests.
3. Reports.
 - Minutes of the Board Meeting
 - Membership
 - Finance
 - Other
4. Division Business.
 - Annual Show
 - Participating with Other Model Railroad Clubs
 - Voting for NMRA Candidates and Changes to NMRA Bylaws
5. Contest. *Favorite Railroad Photo*
6. Clinic. No clinic this month.
7. Contest Results.
8. Open Mike from the Floor.
9. Announcements.
 - No lunch today
10. Adjournment.

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