



## Tidewater Division

# CALLBOARD

Volume 2020, Issue 2

NMRA MEMBER

March, 2020

### “Tracks Ahead”

**Fred Humphrey, Superintendent**

As we move forward into 2020 and adjust our TWD meeting schedule by reducing our traveling to different reaches of the division. We are setting up to stay close to home for a while. Our 10am, 21 March 2020 meeting at Southhampton Heritage Village and Agriculture/Forestry Museum, 26315 Heritage Lane, Courtland, VA 23837 will be our last meeting outside of the area. Over the past several meetings we've discuss the possibilities of visiting personal layouts in conjunction with our meeting. We have a strong possibility John Johnson may attend the Courtland meeting and have the opportunity to visit his layout on return to Hampton Road after the meeting. Once we receive permission to make the visit it will be passed along as to the time and direction to his house during the meeting. Our meeting will be at the Denbigh Recreational Center on 9 May. The 25 July 2020 meeting is schedule to be a social event, but I require a volunteer to organize it (what type of event, where

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### 2020 Division Show Cancelled Pandemic Virus Sited as Cause

After a lengthy discussion at the March Tidewater Board of Directors business meeting, the board has decided to not have a train show in 2020. Concerns regarding the pandemic portions of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and concerns about show attendees was sited as the reason for the cancellation.

The overall fate of the train show was quickly revived as the board has decided to pursue a train show in the September 2021 timeframe. John Fallon was tasked by superintendent Fred Humphrey to search out a location for the 2021 event. Locations under discussion include Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Norfolk and Hampton. Once a venue location is determined, the board will announce the 2021 date.

### CB&W Cancels Open House Event Scheduled for 21-22 March

According to the president of the Chesapeake Bay & Western Model Railroad Club, their March 21 – 22, 2020 open house and white elephant table is cancelled due to concerns regarding the Coronavirus (CONVID-19) currently affecting the United States.

Currently there has been no discussion as to a reschedule date. The CB&W is scheduled to host a one-day open house and white elephant table on July 25, 2020.

### BILL OF LADING – MAR 2020

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- 2 MMR Update – Tidewater Division Members
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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 and does not endorse any position. Your comments are welcome! Please direct all questions or concerns to: [sorcerer54@cox.net](mailto:sorcerer54@cox.net)

## UP To Retire Challenger

### Overall Costs Cited

(Smokstak Antique Engine Community – 10 Feb 2020 & Wikipedia)

In January 2020, Union Pacific Steam Team executive Ed Dickens announced that the decision had been made to officially retire No. 3985 from excursion service, as the railroad felt they could only maintain and operate two historic steam locomotives at a time (Nos. 4014 and 844), in addition to the locomotive requiring a full rebuild as a result of poor mechanical condition. The announcement came first on Facebook and was later confirmed in an email newsletter. No further information about the future of the locomotive has been released, and the 3985 continues to remain stored at the Union Pacific roundhouse in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

UP 3985 was part of the 4664-4 group of Challengers built in 1943. Although this group consisted of 31 locomotives, only 25 went to the Union Pacific. The other six were leased to the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad after completion, where they operated until the Rio Grande sold them to the Clinchfield Railroad in 1947. While the Union Pacific Challengers operated primarily in freight service, a few were assigned to passenger trains.

UP 3985 operated in its last "revenue" train service in 1957. The locomotive was officially retired in 1962 and was stored in the Union Pacific's roundhouse at Cheyenne, Wyoming.



## Master Model Railroader Update

### Tidewater Division Members

Most division members are aware of who within Tidewater holds the prestigious "MMR" rating. Currently John Johnson, Chuck Davis and most recently Norm Garner carry the coveted title of MMR. The "Callboard" would like to acknowledge the following members in their quest to join JJ, Chuck and Norm:

Bob Cook: Chief Dispatcher & Model Railroad Engineer-Electric  
Charles Brown: Official  
Gary Brown: Official  
James Curth: Official  
Jim Keiper: Official

Qualifications for this ranking include choosing seven of the following eleven categories and successfully completing all the requirements. They are: Author, Official, Volunteer, Master Builder-Scenery, Master Builder-Cars, Master Builder-Motive Power, Master Builder-Structures, Master Builder-Prototype Models, Model Railroad Engineer-Civil, Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical and Chief Dispatcher. For more details contact the Achievement Program chairman, Norm Garner at: [nwgrail2@aol.com](mailto:nwgrail2@aol.com)

## Tidewater Division

### Board of Directors

Superintendent: Fred Humphrey  
([fredrickhumphrey@outlook.com](mailto:fredrickhumphrey@outlook.com))

Asst Superintendent: John Fallon  
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Timekeeper: Jim Keiper  
([eljek8952@gmail.com](mailto:eljek8952@gmail.com))

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Member at Large: John Cryderman  
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Member at Large: Norm Garner  
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Member at Large: Roger Bir  
([sorcerer54@cox.net](mailto:sorcerer54@cox.net))

Achievement Program: Norm Garner  
([nwgrail2@aol.com](mailto:nwgrail2@aol.com))

## 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.

## Division Club Car

### (Train Related Events)

Great Scale Model Train & Railroad Collectors  
Train Show  
May 2-3, 2020  
Sat: 9am to 5pm – Sun: 10am to 4pm  
Maryland State Fairground  
Timonium, MD

## ATSF #2926

**Steam Tested in February 2020  
by Gordy Miller**

The Locomotive, ATSF 2926, Steamed again last week, Checking Air Pumps etc. Gaskets Leaked on the Steam Side of the Air Pumps, so new Gaskets are in order.(on now) The Old Girl, is only over 60 Years Old, and Sat Rusting in the Park, for over 40 Years. It's looking Better, than when it Came out of the Baldwin Shops, in '44. I've been Running Wires, we're trying to make a Space Ship, out of a Steam Locomotive. Barring any Hurdles, we may be Running this Year, in the ABQ Yards. Lots of Hoops to Jump thru, with BNSF. Rail Runner. DOT & the FRA. PTC



## Railroad Lingo

ASHCAT: Locomotive fireman

BACK TO THE FARM: Laid off on account of slack business. When a man is discharged he is given *six months twice a year*.

BATTING 'EM OUT: Used generally by switchmen when a *yard engine* is switching a *string* of cars.



**LOOK SOUTH IN 2020**

# **MID-EASTERN REGION 2020 CONVENTION CAROLINA SPECIAL**

**OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup> 2020**

**Crowne Plaza Charlotte, Executive Park  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA**

**Carolina Southern Division is proud to be hosting the  
MER 2020 Convention**

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

Convention activities will include:

- A wide selection of model railroading clinics, including by some nationally recognized names in the hobby
- Tour of the North Carolina Transportation Museum Back Shop and other non-public areas
- Tour of the Southeastern Narrow Gauge and Shortline Museum
- Tour of Wade's Train World in Brookford, a layout maintained by the CSD
- HO, S and N scale operating layouts in the Convention Hotel
- Home layout tours in the area, to include The Piedmont & Western and NYC Piney Fork Branch, which were both cover stories in *Model Railroader*
- Operating Sessions
- 

**START THE REGISTRATION PROCESS AT THIS LINK:**

<http://carolinasouthern.org>

where the event will take place and what will be provided). Otherwise, we'll skip the July 2020 meeting and straight to Sep, Nov and Jan 2021 meeting at St Matthews Catholic Church.

Project Endeavor has held two meetings to date and the next meeting is at 10AM, 28 March 2020 at the Suffolk Seaboard Train Station and Museum to begin the initial steps to formally launch the Hampton Roads Council of Model Railroaders. Several decisions will be necessary during the meeting to determine how best to move forward. Additionally, several committees are required to reach specific topics to support moving forward with Project Endeavor. First topic will be to formally establish the governing body and launch the committees with specific objectives and timelines. The second topic requires square footage input from the various local clubs which have lost their display facilities or will lose their location within the next two years. This information is required to support the marketing plan and develop floor plan designs of proposed layout arrangements. We must think into the future to ensure layout grow is available. This would include inactive spots displayed in the design plan. Square footage information is necessary prior to discussion with any private or city government official on obtaining a facility. Third topic will be a discussion how many meeting level are necessary to keep everyone informed about Project Endeavor progress. Have separate meetings for the BOD level and membership level to have an opportunity to provide guidance, ask questions and provide input. Last topic would include the identification of individuals to contact local city park and recreational managers to gain their support and indicate whether or not facilities are available.

**Fred**

## Clinicians Needed

October 2021



To the Tidewater Division,

We've got the place, the date and the logo, but we need you and your Division. The 2021 Local Convention Committee is charging forward with planning of the Mount Clare Junction model railroader convention, to be held 21 through 24 October, 2021. Hosting this event will be at the Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley in scenic Hunt Valley, Maryland.

We are looking for clinicians, with a preference towards attendee participation hands-on projects, and those willing to offer "on the way home" layout tours. In the interest of providing ease of access and greater likelihood of visitors, we encourage those within a reasonable distance of the major interstates (I95, I70, I83) participate in the layout tour.

An online form has been created to indicate your interest in participating, and it's easy to use; just click on the word "JotForm" to be taken there. Should you prefer a more traditional form, we can provide a fillable PDF upon email request.

Regards,

Rick Uskert  
2021 Local Convention Committee Chair  
2021 Mid-Eastern Region Convention  
2021lcc.chair@chesdiv-nmra.org

## Mad Run on a Wild Engine

**THE JEFFERSON BEE, Jefferson, Iowa, January 24, 1901]**

**A** Rock Island engine escaped from its moorings in the yards here yesterday and started on a rampage that ended disastrously. One man was killed and three persons injured as the result of the engines' wild run. The engine was standing on a side track undergoing a cleaning. Suddenly it darted away with neither engineer or fireman aboard. Reaching the main line the engine crashed into the rear of a Wabash passenger train. The coach was thrown from the track. The only passengers in the coach were a Mrs. Hostler and two children of Omaha. They suffered painful bruises. They were rescued from the damaged coach, which was left behind when the train pulled out.

Jesse Bell, the Rock Island porter had board the back platform of the Wabash coach. He was hurled underneath the passenger coach and his entire body was crushed into an unrecognizable mass. Death was instantaneous. The engine, after colliding with the passenger train, left the rails and ran for some distance on the ties. It struck a passing Union Pacific switch engine amidships, disabling it. At this juncture an engineer climbed aboard the runaway engine, but before he could get it under control it crashed into the engine of the Rock Island passenger train, which was following the ill-fated Wabash train. The collision was of sufficient velocity to damage both engines considerably and a new locomotive had to be secured to enable the Rock Island train to continue its journey.

## Division Member Railroad Updates

### Mark Neiting's "Port of Milwaukee on Jones Island RR"

What's not to be envious when a friend and fellow railroader sends you pictures regarding the latest changes to his "updated" layout. Mark Neiting's "previous" layout is featured on the division's web site...but not to be outdone, he's in the midst of a complete makeover. The "Port of Milwaukee on Jones Island" is Mark's latest endeavor. Featuring the Milwaukee and Chicago Northwestern railroads, Mark's newest project centers on the winter months of 1969-70.

"The signature structure in the inner Harbor basin of Jones Island is what used to be called Continental grain. It's scales out at 124 feet tall, and is far more silos wide and I have room for" states Mark as he described what is keeping him busy now days.

(Photos by Mark Neiting)



## Dubuque, Iowa Depot Robbed

**CEDAR RAPIDS EVENING GAZETTE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, April 20, 1911**

Sheriff Luftus has arrived home from a business trip to Chicago, and it now appears that the particular business of the trip was to locate Charles Madden, who several months ago robbed the Chicago Great Western depot at Dubuque.

Madden was employed by the Great Western company as an operator and worked long enough the first night to open the safe and get away with a good bunch of money. The railway company's Special Officers and several detectives have been on the lookout for him since, but Sheriff Luftus learned of his whereabouts and started out on a little detective trip of his own and brought him back to Dubuque yesterday.

Madden is said to have a past history, which is rather shady and is wanted in other states. But Sheriff "Bill" deserves due credit for having landed him.

(Editor's Note: the CR Gazette was my hometown newspaper while in high school)

## This Month in Railroad History

Mar 1, 1872: John Adams Dix succeeds Jay Gould as president of the Erie Railroad.

Mar 5, 1872: George Westinghouse receives a patent for the Westinghouse air brake.

March 15, 1932: the last passenger service run of the Pontchartrain Railroad, in operations for over a century.

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Mar 16, 1957: The Milwaukee Railroad suspends steam locomotive operations.

March 24, 1932: the first radio broadcast from a moving train occurs when New York City station WABC broadcasts from a B&O Railroad train operating in Maryland.

Mar 19, 1920: the U.S. Government privatizes all railroads after WWI.

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Mar 25, 1908: Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis Electric RR opens between Washington & Annapolis. Service opens to Baltimore Park Ave. terminal at 10: 15 AM.

Mar 27, 1976: First 4.6 miles of Washington Metro subway opens. Brentwood Shops of Metro largely took over former Eckington coach yards of B&O at Ivy City.

## Division Mtg/Contest Schedule 2020

Mar 21: **HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

May 9: "National Train Day" Denbigh Community Center, 15198 Warwick Blvd, Newport News, VA 23608. Contest: Structures (off-line)

July 25: Site TBD. Contest: Favorite Photo

Sept 19: St. Matthew's Catholic Church, 3314 Sandra Lane, Virginia Beach, VA. 23464. Contest: Steam vs Diesel.

Nov 21: St. Matthew's Catholic Church, 3314 Sandra Lane, Virginia Beach, VA. 23464. Contest: Favorite Car

Jan 16, 2021: Annual business meeting and White Elephant Table. Site: TBD.

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 11 March 2020

**Call To Order:** The Meeting was called to order at 1832 at John Roby's home.

**BOD Members Attending:** John Fallon, John Cryderman, Roger Bir, Fred Humphrey, John Roby, Norm Gardner, Jim Keiper

### Reports:

Membership: 148.

Finance: Read without issue.

### Division Business:

1. Roger Bir discussed an E-mail he received from NMRA Rep Dave Chance. The subject centered around Dave's inability to find AP information on our Webpage. Roger responded to Dave with the proper directions to find the information.
2. Norm Gardner announced that four of our Division have successfully submitted criteria to be "NMRA Officials." These Members are Gary Brown, Jim Curth, Charlie Brown, and Jim Keiper.
3. The May Division Meeting has been changed from 16 to 9 May. It will be held at the Newport News Recreation Center in Denbigh. This coincides with National Train Day.
4. Discussion ensued concerning the possibility of conducting the Division Show and Sale for 2020. It was agreed that it is too late to organize for this year. Fred asked John Fallon to investigate and report at our next BOD Meeting the possibility of conducting it in 2021.
5. Fred provided a brief on the formation of the Hampton Roads Council of Model Railroaders. Two meetings have taken place. Efforts are continuing to take place.
6. Consideration will be given concerning the effect of the Coronavirus in regards to cancelling future events. We will wait and see if we may have to cancel or postpone any events.

**Next BOD Meeting:** 8 April 2020, at Roger Bir's home at 1728 Springs Edge Ct., Virginia Beach 23456

The Meeting was adjourned at 2008.

**Keep the wheels turning with no  
burning hotboxes** 