

THE ORDER BOARD

Publication Of The

Tennessee Central Railway Museum & Model Railroad Club

Nashville Chapter NRHS

December 2020 Year End (No Apr, July nor Oct 2020 Issue)

Vol. 40 Issue 9

This month we have an expanded Order Board News Notice with some new sections, a little humor, some member recognition, railroad memories and stories, and lots of input from members – so be sure to read the whole thing..... You might just be surprised!

This URL <https://www.tcry.org/volunteer> takes you to the Get Involved Web page, or you can scroll to the bottom of the TCRM Web Home page & click on the Get Involved choice. Once there, the left side is for new members to join, while the right side is for current members to renew their membership.

Donations

The Breeze Family- \$100 Cash

John Kennedy- \$150 Cash

Larry Paxton- \$25 cash

2021 TCRM Schedule

- Feb 6 2nd Annual Bellevue Model Train Show at Bellevue Baptist Church 9 am – 3 pm
- Feb 13 Valentines Excursion Train to Watertown – Adults Only
- Feb 20 Valentines Murder Mystery Excursion Train to Watertown
- Mar 13 St Patrick's Day Excursion Train to Lebanon
- Apr 3 Easter Bunny Excursion Train to Watertown
- Apr 10 TCRM Spring 2021 Model Train Show
- Apr 17 Mile-Long Yard Sale Excursion Train to Watertown
- May 1 Maypole Festival Day Excursion Train to Carthage Jct
- May 15 Spring Festival Excursion Train to Watertown
- May 22 Train Robbery Excursion Train to Watertown

Monthly Thursday Meetings On Hold

Until the COVID-19 pandemic is under better control TCRM will not hold monthly meetings.

Anyone wanting to present a program at a future Thursday night meeting, please contact **Bob Hultman** landline 615-833-5158 or cell 615-513-7187 or E-mail hultman@bellsouth.net

Activity Fee for 2021 - Renewal

TCRM annual membership renewal is now due. Mail your activity fee renewals (**\$35 individual, \$40 family membership**), made payable to TCRM to TC Ry Museum at 220 Willow St in Nashville TN 37210-2159 Attn – **Admin Staff**. TCRM office is not being staffed for the immediate future.

New TCRM Members

Aleksandr, Daria Dmitrieva, Pavel & Petr Dmitriev

Lewisburg TN (Family)

Please welcome our new members as they take part in our activities & events.

Membership Feature Now on Website

By **Bob Hultman**

TCRM now has on its Website a Get Involved page where new members can join TCRM and where current members can renew their membership. This is a service provided by Etix, our current ticket-selling service provider who has absorbed WhistleTix.

A Year-End Summary and Thanks to So Many of our Faithful Volunteers

By **Randal Brooks & Susan Thomas**

The year 2020 has been a disaster for our state with the March 3 tornados, and the derecho a few weeks later, and if that wasn't enough, the COVID-19 pandemic, and for Nashville our 2020 Christmas gift was a bombing destroying multiple buildings and taking out cell or internet service in 9 states! However, there were some good things happening at TCRM in 2020.

In February we started our excursions again for the year, and with a new relationship with the Capitol Theatre in Lebanon. The price of the ticket included the live theatrical performance *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Passengers made the short walk from the Lebanon TC Ry station area to the theatre. Young performers singing in the aisles of the cars provided wonderful musical entertainment on our train ride out to Lebanon. It was a great success. We hope to be able to coordinate theatre and entertainment programs in the future.

In March we had to discontinue excursions and close TCRM to the public because of Metro Nashville gov't shutdown in response to COVID-19. However, that did not prevent several volunteers and Board members from carrying on with continued maintenance of our rolling stock and our facilities, receiving donations, developing the Library, and preserving TCRM history. Although the Museum was closed to the public, it was open to the faithful volunteers.

A lot of work was performed by TCRM members behind the scenes in many different areas. Prior to COVID-19 shutdown, **Randal Brooks, Fred Enters, Ken Fagan, Bob Hultman** and others had been participating in weekly workdays, working on the carriages, replacing windows and worn seat upholstery. Several other people assumed other responsibilities. See our new separate section on the ongoing work and accomplishments of our Maintenance and Restoration team.

Tanner Peterson has completed his training and received certification as Train Conductor. Congratulations, **Tanner!**

Eric Henry has now begun his training towards certification as a brakeman. Go **Eric!**

Fred Enters, a long-time Board member and Hobby Shop manager, resigned from the Board and moved south (Baton Rouge LA) to be closer to family. **Fred** had been the Hobby Shop manager for several years in addition to heading up the Day Out With Thomas Gift Shop. Replacing **Fred** as Hobby Shop manager is **Hank Sweetman**. See our Hobby Shop Update in a separate section. Later on in the year **Tim Bebout** was elected by the BoD to replace **Fred** on the Board of Directors. **Fred** is greatly missed already.

The spring TCRM Open House & Model Train Show, usually held in April, was cancelled & then moved to Nov 14 in the Fall. We lost some dealers in the fall but the Company Store did really well selling off a lot of donated items that had been stored for the past 30 years. \$1,500 was raised for the Company Store.

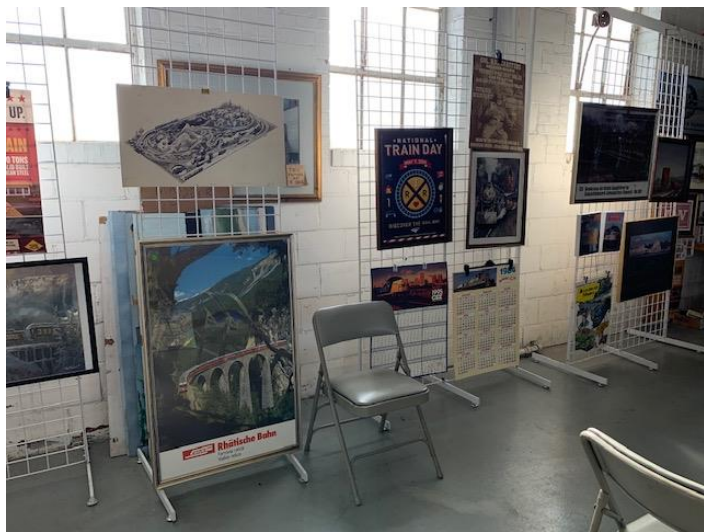
Tanner Peterson developed a new web site, with additional help from **Eric Henry, Brenton Jones, Brian McDonnell, Alex Mullins & Jason Whipp**. Several members offered photos for the various pages, but particularly the historical section.

TCRM migrated from WhistleTix online ticketing system to a new ticketing system known as Etix. Etix had bought out WhistleTix. One of the Etix benefits is that members can renew their TCRM membership online & potential new members can join online.

TCRM resumed excursion train trips in September. In order to best effect social distancing, passengers could select their carriage but not a particular seat selection at the time of ticket purchase. The car hosts were tasked with designating seats for each party based on a first-come first-serve basis and the number of passengers in the party. So far this new system has worked very well.

Bill Howard took on the responsibility of developing COVID-19 protocols to be implemented in the carriages. He also was the COVID-19 Temperature Check Master, checking each and every passenger before they boarded the train. **Randal Brooks** assumed the responsibility of Station Master and Passenger Greeter. This was done previously by **Bob Hultman**. Boarding now begins 1 hour prior to departure to allow for 1) passenger temperature checks, 2) seat selection once boarded in their assigned carriages & 3) early visits to dining cars & 1266 souvenir car to minimize crowding.

In the waiting room we have also been selling Company Store and other merchandise on the Saturdays that we were doing excursions. **Susan Thomas** has been instrumental in that effort.



3 TCRM Company Store photos by **Susan Thomas**.

Rick White has taken on the role of Excursion Train Chief, a responsibility previously held by **Bill Stewart**.

We appreciate our car hosts who have been volunteering on the train excursions, sometimes hosting in two cars at the same time. We look forward to having a full roster of our car hosts back on the rails, once the virus is under control and our car hosts feel comfortable and doctors have given permission.

Maintenance and Restoration News

By **Brenton Jones & Susan Thomas**

Some of our operating crew, Eric Henry, Brenton Jones, Tanner Peterson, & Jason Whipp, took on the responsibility of rebuilding or replacing more than 47 windows in the passenger cars. All of the vestibule upper Dutch door windows were replaced.

The team have also fixed roof leaks in the passenger cars. Roof leaks are very difficult to locate and repair. Budd passenger cars 4711 and 4719 have both been leaking for years and defied several previous efforts to repair. Car hosts who have worked those two cars are particularly grateful. Now that those two are fixed, there are still other roof leaks to be addressed (Can you say, "9400"?).



Photos above & below by **Brenton Jones**



A lot of work has been done in the bathrooms and lounges in the passenger cars. **Brenton** has been repainted one whole bathroom and one wall in another. A restroom holding tank was installed in the **4717** car. Of course, it's not historically accurate, but it does address an issue that we face in terms of passenger comfort and satisfaction.

In our Museum rolling stock collection is Electro-Motive Corp (EMC) **SW1 #4800**, a very early yard switcher locomotive model. The SW1 was originally built in Dec 1939 for IC RR as their #9014. The last previous owner, West VA Pulp & Paper Co (Westvaco), donated the loco to TCRM. **Jason Whipp** has done extensive work on removing old paint and stabilizing the rust on the 4800. He plans to repaint it into the original Illinois Central paint scheme. His goal is to have it set up as a static display piece so that we can give cab tours to school groups and other interested visitors.



Photo by **Brenton Jones**

Also in our Museum rolling stock collection is an EMD **F7A #819 locomotive**. It's been undergoing restoration for several years and is nearing completion. A lot of work has been completed on the restoration of 819 this year. The cab has been repainted and new floors installed. The diesel engine is now running well and a lot of rewiring of the electrical components have been completed. **Eric Henry & Tanner Peterson** have taken on much of this work under the guidance of **Mark Matthews & Brent Thompson**. The team hopes to see #819 operational & in an excursion train locomotive consist in 2021.



Photo by **Eric Henry**

The original **TC Wooden Caboose** has been cleaned out and the added flooring was stripped down to the original wood so that it could be evaluated for restoration. The determination is that all of the wood will need to be replaced but the steel center sill-underframe is in great shape. Our work crew hopes to start on this project in 2021.



Photo by **Brenton Jones**

The old **Music City Star Pullman** commuter cars were sold to the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay WI, to help with one of their restorations. The work crew team salvaged parts off them.

Most of the salvaged parts will go back into Museum equipment but they did find some old Pullman bathroom sinks in the cars.

Excursion Train News

By **Terry Bebout**

We ended up doing quite well on our North Pole Express Excursions. We averaged around 330 passengers per trip selling at the reduced number of tickets. Sales in food service and souvenirs did quite well, in fact we had a record in food sales on the two December 19 trips of over \$1,600.00 for the day.

See the 2021 TCRM Schedule for planned trips for the first half of next year. We may be able to add a couple of more trips that I am working on. Still no Baxter trips planned yet, the railroad has done no track work east of Carthage Jct. A change from the last half of 2020's trips is that passengers will once again be able to select specific seats on the Etix Web page, meaning car hosts will no longer have to assign seats to passenger parties.

The Beer Permit is still in the works and has drug out since **Don Strong** & I went to the beer board last March. Part of the problem is Metro has been working from home and everything moves even slower than normal. We will probably have to resort to expert legal help to complete the process.

I hope you all had a good Christmas in this very trying time.

We are always looking for TCRM members to help work these trips. To do so, contact **Bob Hultman** landline 615-833-5158 or cell 615-513-7187, E-mail hultman@bellsouth.net

Caboose Rides Proposed for Active TCRM Members

By **Randal Brooks**

It was observed on Saturday Nov 28 that TCRX 1155, TCRM's Operation Lifesaver (OLS) Caboose was in the excursion train consist to Watertown; and some of the operating crew members were riding in it. I'm sure there are many long-time excursion train volunteers who would like the opportunity to take a ride in the OLS caboose. Is a ride in the caboose only available to the operating crew? Not all volunteers can be part of the operating crew.

I think that it would be well-received with positive results if a chance to ride in the caboose was offered to the other volunteers who work the front line. By front line, I mean those who handle passenger greeting, complaints, ticket issues, car hosting, souvenir sales and food concessions.

TCRM has been losing volunteers to work the excursion trains. We were losing volunteers before the pandemic hit because of death, sickness, family situations, personality conflicts, inappropriate behavior, etc. We are now losing more volunteers to work the trips than we are gaining. Offering a ride in the caboose based on # of volunteer hours worked might entice some of the newer members to work the excursions and draw new members. Would members enjoy an opportunity to ride in the caboose? Let Bob or Terry know that you think it would be a great benefit for those volunteers who give up their Saturdays, work long hours to support the excursions trips and to ensure the passengers have a memorable experience.

Watertown 2020 N Pole Express Trip Photo Report

By **Susan Thomas**

Hot off the Press..... New this year for TCRM's Watertown North Pole Express was the Grinch Express! The

Grinch was masquerading as Santa Claus, while the real “Santa” was visiting with the kids!



Photos both above & below by **Susan Thomas**



TCRM Library Update

By **Don Strong**

Please place anything addressed to me or the Library in the Don Strong folder on the admin desk or under the library door.

Broadway Dinner Train Flashbacks

By **Susan Thomas**

TCRM began their excursions in the spring of 1989 using some of the equipment from the Broadway Dinner Train in Nashville. Guests boarded at Riverfront Station, and the train went out to “scenic” Old Hickory and Rayon City and returned, passing through Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage property, but sadly not within view of the mansion!

Many of our members have fond memories of working the Broadway Dinner Train. Here’s a link to a 1989 news article <https://www.nashvillescene.com/food-drink/article/13054357/hopping-the-broadway-dinner-train>

The Dinner Train stopped operating July 19, 1999 – here’s a link to an article giving much of the background to the demise of the service- <https://www.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/1999/08/02/story4.html>

Bryan Turner shared a humorous memory from riding on the Broadway Dinner Train. “The meal was served in subdued lighting, and the prime rib was delicious. It seems like when I rode there was always someone who took a big bite of the small serving of mashed potatoes, only to discover it was horseradish sauce for the beef.”

Do you have a memory of the Broadway Dinner Train? Please share your memories or photos with the Order Board editor.

HO Scale Model Railroad Club

By **Randal Brooks**

The HO RR was enlarged this summer. Two 6’ modules were put in place adding 12’ to the length of the railroad. Responsible for this was **Randal Brooks, Moose Guzman & Bob Hultman**. **Randal Brooks** built some structures to put on the layout.



Photo by **Moose Guzman**

Nashville Ntrak – CY 2020 in Review

By **Steve Wright**

Tuesday Night Meetings 3 pm to 7 pm - Jan 7th to March 17th (stopped due to Museum closure).

2 Layout Setups and-or Train Shows:

1st Annual Bellevue Train Show, Feb 6th

Division Meet (TCRM Open House), Nov 14th

(7 others planned, but cancelled due to the Pandemic).

8 Sat AM Excursions- Feb 8th & 15th, Mar 7th, Nov 21st & 28th, Dec 5th, 12th and 19th.

0 New Members, but **Mike Gers & Gary Walters** renewed their memberships with TCRM & Nashville NTrak after long absences.

Projects Accomplished

In February all 7 Yard modules were repainted. They were all black, and now they are now a more realistic desert tan. In addition, all 7 Yard modules have had their legs adjusted for easier transport and stacking. The legs used to not stack well on top of each other, and sometimes would not stay in the collapsed position while stacking.

In February all 7 Yard modules had their stacking tabs rearranged for packing and layout accessibility.

In February 5 Yard modules that go to most layout setups were redone. These 5 modules are stacked on a wheeled cart for easy mobility. The two ends of the yard were on the top and bottom of the stack. This caused problems when we were not using all 5 modules at a setup, the new arrangement has the two

ends of the yard being the first two modules on the stack for easier operations.

In February the Nashville N-Trak Website was updated.

In October and November three weekends were spent cleaning out the shed. We cleaned out, organized, and then reorganized the shed giving our Club more room for Nashville NTrak equipment.

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1210543609120218>

Website: <http://www.nashvillentrak.org>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAfw5a8YVISHQFaNBPuD34g>

TCRM Hobby Shop Update

by Hank Sweetman

2020 has been a challenging year for the Hobby Shop, as it has for everyone in the world. We had to close suddenly on March 17 and remained closed until September except for one Saturday a month starting over the summer. On September 12 we started opening every Saturday to service the needs of our members. We have not been open on weekdays, since the Museum remains closed to the public. Thanks to our volunteers for staffing the Hobby Shop: **Ed Davies, Mark Henry, Theresa Moore, Gary Willoughby** and **Rachell Wooten**. We could not do it without them.

Our major accomplishment in 2020 was the project led by **Allen Hicks** to obtain TC Ry-lettered open hopper cars and box cars from Accurail. We have hopper cars in 4 different road numbers and 2 road numbers for the box cars. We also have from Accurail some decal sheets with additional road numbers if you want to add to your fleet of TC cars. Thanks to **Allen** for making this possible.

We are always available to special order any items needed by our members, and also to add new items to our normal stock. Please let us know if there is anything that you think we should be carrying.

The Hobby Shop continues to be open every Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm to assist our members with their modeling needs. The Hobby Shop was open on December 26, but will be closed on January 2 for physical inventory, back open on Jan 9.

We can always use new volunteers to staff the Hobby Shop. The system that we use is not complicated, and training is provided so that new staff feels comfortable with the shop and its processes. It is a great way to meet other modelers and to learn from them. If you are interested, please contact Hobby Shop manager **Hank Sweetman** at hanksweetman@gmail.com

Carthage Jct Depot Opened Dec 20

By Bob Hultman

TCRM member Eric Henry sent in some photos of the renovated Carthage Jct depot, which had a "soft opening" on Dec 20. At the upper right are a couple photos.....



Both photos by **Eric Henry**



Patrons Say The Darndest Things

By Susan Thomas

Car hosts and volunteers, we know you have some great stories and memories to share. Please share your stories with the Order Board editor. This should be a fun section of the Order Board that we can all enjoy!

Mike Volle recounted a recent exchange with a patron: "On November 14 I'm working parking, the train would leave in about 15 minutes, this guy comes out of the waiting room, calls out to me and asks - have you seen a blue car go by? I shouted back, "Yeah, about 20 of them!"

Do you recall a humorous exchange with a patron? Please share your stories with the Order Board editor.

Railroad Store & Flea Market

By Susan Thomas

In order to give railroad fans and their kids a taste of railway history, and passion for steam, we have opened the Railroad Store and Flea Market. This is an opportunity to sell model railroad items, pictures, and brick-a-brack that have been donated by members and others to TCRM. The money raised will go to a Member Initiative Fund where members will decide how to use the money.

We have run the railroad store each Saturday that we have had excursions. Each week our sales have been less as we are "selling out". If you have model railroad equipment and components that need a new home, pictures, books or anything else that you would think would sell, please consider donating to our railroad store. Assuming that our excursions run in February and March, we could really use your donations. We welcome volunteers who are not comfortable working on the train excursions, but would still like to stay involved. We hope you will come out on an excursion morning, work our flea market for 90 minutes, meet our railfanning passengers and help and encourage them in their interest of model railroading and railroad history!

So, members, please, to donate your RR items to the flea market, contact **Bob Hultman** or **Randal Brooks** or **Susan Thomas**.

TCRM Member Spotlight

This is a new feature of the Order Board, to spotlight long-term members, the foundation of our Museum, and our new members who bring fresh energy and ideas to the group. We reached out to many members over the previous weeks and look forward to your participation for future Order Boards.

Randal Brooks – Membership # 10

When did you join the Organization?

Randal joined the organization in the last part of the '80's. (That's the 20th century for you young lads). Then it was The Cumberland Valley Model Railroaders. (That's what the shirt said).

What was your primary interest or reason for joining?

Model Railroading. I think it was at 100 Oaks Shopping Mall where I first saw the modular RR set up.

Do you have a home layout?

I do have a model RR in my house and some Lionel O-scale trains from the early '60s. I also set up a small G-scale outdoor garden railway at the front of my house.

What has been a highlight of your membership experience over the years?

Taking the HO modular model RR out to shows. After a year or so in the group, myself and another member, (Larry McClure, now deceased), built a 12' yard that we called Volunteer yard. We set the modules up at the local shopping malls, 100 Oaks Shopping, Hickory Hollow, Harding, Rivergate, also at shows and fairs such as The Tennessee Threshermens show in Adams TN, The Adventure Science Center and The Tennessee State Fair. The Great American Train Show traveled the country.

When it was held in Nashville we set up at the Municipal Auditorium (basement dungeon), We also made road trips with the modules to Knoxville and Birmingham for the SouthEastern Region Conventions of NMRA, in addition to setting up for our own division meets.

Any special memories with members?

One time during those years **Quincy Styke**, **Jack Sircy**, myself, and one other, decided to "chase" an excursion train leaving out of Harriman on its way to Chattanooga. At that time I had access to broadcast quality cameras and tripods. We drove to Harriman Junction to meet the train expecting to see a steam engine pulling the train, but, we were disappointed, it was a plain old diesel engine. We chased the train for several miles. Someone had a scanner. We were at the front of the caravan of other railfans chasing the train. **Jack Sircy** was our intrepid driver. We had both the tailgate and window down. I was running the camera for the whole time.

Out of Town Model Railroading and Excursions?

In 1996, I started traveling, doing camera work for concerts and other live events and was unable to participate in the setups. But this did not keep me from enjoying railroading. I kept up with the activities at TCRM. During my off hours out of town, I would always seek out the local hobby shops, RR museums and excursion trains, if they had one: San Diego, LA, Sacramento, Portland OR, Seattle, Spokane, Billings, Las Vegas, Houston, Dallas, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Oklahoma City, Atlanta, New Orleans, Tampa, Jacksonville, Roanoke, Chicago, Springfield, , Portland, Toronto Canada, just to name a few.

This also included The Durango Silverton RR, The Georgetown Loop, The Grand Canyon RR, The Pikes Peak Cog Railroad, Cass, WV RR, The B&O museum, The Colorado RR museum and the National Transportation Museum close to St. Louis. I visited the Circus World Train Museum in Baraboo WI. Baraboo WI was home for the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus at one time. In 1996 I rode Amtrak from LA back to Memphis. In 2019, I was in New Zealand and rode The Tranzalpine from Christchurch to Greymouth and back. That was amazing!

Closer to home, I have enjoyed the Smoky Mountain RR in NC, the TVRM in Chattanooga, the Hiawassee Loop RR in East Tennessee, and in 2020, **Robert Bartley**, **Hugh Lowe**, **Susan Thomas** and I took a day trip to the Big South Fork Railway in Stearns KY. On that trip, **Hugh Lowe** shared so many childhood railway memories in Harriman, TN.

How has your participation changed over the years?

When traveling for work slowed down, I started car hosting for the TCRM excursions and working the Thomas The Train events. I was always at the information desk with **Bob Hultman** and was given the nickname "Popcorn" (Ask **Don Strong** TCRM Librarian about that). My favorite trips were always the wine trips. Even though they were a grueling 12 hour plus day I still enjoyed the activities and sharing railway stories and history with the passengers.

What I love most about this hobby and the Museum is the friendships I make, the ability to not only create a model RR, operate, enjoy, and share the RR hobby with others, and help make the train excursion a really memorable experience for our passengers. Many of our guests are here on their vacation or

celebrating an anniversary or special event in their lives. As a car host, if I've made one person happy then I have achieved what I set out to do!

TCRM Members In Memoriam 2020

Frank Holt
Jerry Jones
Mark Womack

Upcoming Conventions & Shows

Feb 6 2021 2nd Annual Bellevue Model Train Show 9 am to 3 pm @ Bellevue Baptist Church

Nathan Baker, Chairman

2nd Annual Bellevue Model Train Show

12th Annual Madison Model Train Show

Cell: 615-612-3324 nathanbaker@comcast.net

If you enjoyed reading this expanded newsletter, reply to the newsletter editor with 3 thumbs up. ☐☐☐.

It took a much work and time to put it together, with many members contributing stories and pictures.

If you have stories and pictures, Broadway Dinner Train memories, humorous interactions with our passengers, share them with all our members!

Contact the newsletter editor at hultman@bellsouth.net or call his cell phone 615-513-7187