



CENTRAL CROSSINGS

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CENTRAL RAILWAY MUSEUM



SERVES THE UPSTATE

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Central, SC 29627

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FROM THE EDITORS:

Why do I not make resolutions at the beginning of the year? Because I never seem to follow them. Case in point - the January issue of Central Crossings. I had stated and planned to get it out January 1st. Today is the 14th... Hmmmm, missed that deadline. Sadly, when I started typing 'the January issue' I actually typed 'the July' at first. Maybe that is telling me something. Dreaming of Summer and warmer thoughts I guess.

Well, it really is January, we have a new President - Dan Marett was elected at the Annual meeting, and within minutes, threats of impeachment started. The rest of the Officer corps is still in place - whether they wanted to or not.

Sage has asked me to pass on that he is looking for someone that would like to become the Manager of the American Flyer layout, since he cannot be running and working on both Heritage layouts at the same time. Seems like a reasonable request to me. Although, cloning Sage might be easier.

Sandy and John keep mumbling words like Train show and Easley. I guess it is that time of the year again that we host the Largest Model Train Expo in the Upstate in Easley. For those that would like more information, check page 3 or just give Sandy a holler. He would welcome help from anyone (heck - he is even gonna let me help).

**Due to the Train Expo occurring on the first
Thursday, there will be no business meeting in February.**

NEXT MEETINGS

1/2, 3/5

@ 7:00 PM

**AT THE
CENTRAL
RAILWAY
MUSEUM
ANNEX**



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



Upcoming Events for the Central Railway Museum as well as regional shows and events.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The Modeling Skills Workshop series will resume after the 2020 Easley Model Train Expo next February.

🌀 SCHEDULED EVENTS & SHOWS 🌀

CRMHA CALENDAR

Give it a [click!](#)

When the calendar opens click on an event to get more details and click on the arrows at the top left to move to another month.

If you would like to have your event added to our calendar, give us a shout at centralcrossings_crmha.org.

OPERATING SESSIONS SECOND THURSDAY @ 7PM

JANUARY 9TH

FEBRUARY 13TH

MARCH 12TH

The Central Railway Museum holds regular operating sessions on our museum HO layout from 7-9pm(ish) on the second Thursday evening of most months. This is when we use our unique "scenario card" system to assemble and run trains around the layout, setting out or picking up loads at industries, clearing the main for a crack passenger train to roll by, etc. etc. So if you're interested in realistic railroad operations, or if you just want to learn how to run trains on the museum layout, you're encouraged to attend these sessions. No experience is necessary; rookie engineers are routinely paired with experienced ones.

MUSEUM OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

THURSDAYS - WORK DAY

9AM(ISH) - ??

(LUNCH IN THERE AT SOME POINT)

SATURDAYS - TRAIN OPERATIONS

9AM TO 2 PM

THE COST IS ALWAYS FREE!!



SERVES THE UPSTATE

Central Railway Model and Historical Association, Inc.

2020 Model Train Expo

Rock Springs Church - Impact Center

207 Rock Springs Road

Easley, South Carolina 29642

Friday February 7th 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Saturday February 8th 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

ADMISSION: \$8.00 ADULTS

Children under 10 free
with adult admission.

Admission good for both days.

Hands-On Thomas the Tank &
Junior Railroader Activities.

7 Operating Model Railroads.

Over 160 Dealer Tables.

Live Steam Trains.



Funded in part by the Pickens County Accommodations Tax.
All funds raised by the train show are used to support the operations of the Central Railway Museum.

COMPLETE INFO AT: WWW.CRMHA.ORG

Show Information: Sandy Eustis (513) 325-8850 or trainshow@crmha.org

Rev. 7/8/2019



The Liberty Paper Mill:

While still planning our HO layout, we pondered what to do with the fairly large area on the kitchen side of the rear peninsula. Double-decking that roughly 4"x'8' area would hide most of the lower level, so running the upper level mainline close to the backdrop and opening up the entire lower level to a wider view from a loftier angle seemed a pretty obvious track planning decision. Someone came up with the idea of putting a virtually self-contained 4x8 layout there, which could include a continuous running loop through an industrial area – another train running for visitors. We considered several possibilities, but a paper mill complex seemed like a perfect choice. Modeling even a modestly sized complete paper mill complex requires a fair amount of HO acreage; there once were numerous paper mills in our area; and paper making requires moving lots of different kinds of freight cars around, which can create some pretty interesting railroad operations. There are loaded pulpwood racks and sawdust hoppers and tank cars with chemicals and dyes to deliver to various places, and lots and lots of box cars needed to ship out finished paper products. In fact, many of the industries we included on the layout either ship something to, or receive something from, our paper mill. Our entire operating scheme was initially developed around the idea of including those trains and freight car types needed to simulate paper making in the 1950s. If there's such a thing as a “signature” industry on our CRM layout; it's the Liberty Paper Mill.

Once we decided to devote most of the back side of the rear peninsula to paper making, CRM President Jim Reece volunteered to design the track plan for the mill, to include a loop in that plan, and to build the whole darn thing at home by himself as a free-standing layout, which could then be brought to the museum for final installation. Jim was a bit secretive about his progress over the next year, but he eventually surprised us with almost the entire Liberty Paper Mill scene we have today; we added only the scenery outside of the paper mill loop itself, to tie Jim's masterpiece into the rest of the layout.

I've always been greatly impressed at how Jim was able to include all the necessary components of a real paper mill in what really is a minimal footprint for such an industry, and at how he fit everything together inside a loop, with a fairly difficult switching puzzle to challenge the paper mill switcher during monthly operating sessions. If you study the track plan a bit, you'll see that the loop includes a small dedicated yard along the near side, with just a single track connecting it to the rest of our layout along the front aisle. You have to move cars in both directions out of that yard, and even to switch back in a couple of places, to access the various parts of the mill complex. There are receiving tracks for pulpwood, sawdust, chemicals, dyes, and coal packed in together, plus multiple tracks for boxcars to be loaded up and shipped out. I particularly like to trace the routes that incoming pulpwood and chemicals follow, as those inputs are unloaded, sorted, stored, ground and blended, delivered to the production floor, and finally moved to the warehouse. It all works together beautifully, and there's a real education about the real paper making process here!

By the way, we often get asked where the paper mill was in real-world Liberty, South Carolina. Well, there was never a paper mill in Liberty, but there easily coulda/woulda/shoulda been one, and the very question we get about its exact location proves that. The origin of the name is much more prosaic – to help us remember where scenes are on the CRM layout, we decided to name our lower level modeled towns after real world towns, placed in the order that the Southern Railway passes through them between Atlanta and Greenville. So in our version of reality, there just happens to be a paper mill in Liberty, and that works just fine for us.

CLOSING THOUGHTS...

Well, today is the 22nd... Still in January so that is a plus.

The train Expo is just a couple weeks out, so we are gearing up for that. With us looking at the Train show, that means that college and pro football are done (almost) for the year, Joanne is loving her hockey and baseball will be starting soon. Of course, model trains are always in season, so hopefully you pick up something fun at the train show and you can have new things to work on.

I am hoping that I will be better in March getting the next issue out. If I start on it next week, I should make it on time.

Any who, hope to see all your smiling faces at the train show.

Keep running those trains,

Wayne