



MODEL RAILROAD OPEN HOUSE EVENT

On Saturday, December 5th, three large model railroads will be open for tours between 1:00 and 5:00 pm.

The Knight Bros & Dad Railroad is located at 16631 Glenfurness Drive, Huntersville, in the Norman's Shore subdivision off Sam Furr Road (Exit 25 off I-77). Rick Knight's railroad is modeled on the Norfolk Southern's "S LINE" running from Salisbury, NC to Asheville, NC. This layout is on three levels in a 24 x 24 ft garage. It is set in the "modern era" and features a variety of mixed freight, wood chip and coal unit trains running between Tennessee and the Linwood Yard (both represented in storage yards) over the "S Line." On special occasions, older diesel locomotives pull passenger trains on "railfan excursions."

The Piedmont & Western Railroad is located at 12012 Abernethy Road, Charlotte, just off Mt. Holly – Huntersville Road near the intersection of NC Highway 16. Jack Parker began building this large freelance layout in 1956. It closely follows the Clinchfield Railroad from terminus towns of Huntington, West Virginia to Charlotte, North Carolina. It is set in 1952 with a combination of Steam and Diesel Locomotives and period cars. The P&W runs a full compliment of mixed freight and coal trains, with an active passenger service still in effect. The layout is housed in two buildings with interconnected "tunnels."

The Southern Exchange Railroad is located at 13301 Damson Drive, Huntersville, in the back of the Plum Creek subdivision off NC Highway 115. Jim Allen freelanced this railroad set in the early 1980s. It occupies most of the basement and has five yards supporting the 17 industries along the tracks. These include but are not limited to: gravel, stone, concrete, grain, flour, corn, paper products, furniture, lumber and wood products. Four excursion passenger stations are also fully operational; one has been redone to represent the Bristol Station and supporting train buildings as they were in 1923.

All three of these model railroads are operated on a Digital Command Control system which places a small computer chip in each locomotive, allowing the engineer to walk with the train using a hand-held remote control device. The layouts are in HO scale (where one foot = eighty seven feet) and all are fully scened. All three are operated on a monthly basis by a crew of friends as "real" railroads.

Jim Allen, Jack Parker, and Rick Knight are all members of the Carolina Southern Division of the National Model Railroaders Association. The NMRA began an Achievement Program in the early 1970s whereby members may earn certificates in eleven (11) categories. Upon earning seven (7) certificates, the member is designated a Master Model Railroader. Jim and Rick have each earned five certificates; Jack Parker has earned six certificates. (And last month Master Model Railroader #425 was awarded, indicating just how difficult the MMR distinction is to earn!)

The owners of the railroads invite children of all ages to come and visit the many 1:87 plastic people that inhabit these railroad layouts!