



Train Order

Division One NCR

Volume 34, Issue 9

May 2009



The Extra Board

By Fred Lux, Assistant Superintendent

As I started putting this issue of the newsletter together, I thought it was going to be a relatively short issue. As many of you know, I have been traveling back and forth to Illinois this month, three trips so far in four weeks, to deal with the death and estate of an elderly aunt. In fact as I write this column at 4:47 AM CDT, I am sitting in my motel room in Monticello, Illinois. I have not had time this month to write the final column on ops that I promised in the last newsletter. However, we do have a "how to" article written by Chuck Williams. I hope you will find it of interest.

As mentioned elsewhere, our final meeting of the year will be on Friday, May 29, at Collingwood Presbyterian Church. Chuck Williams is bringing a video called Running Trains: Anatomy of an Operating Session by Paul Scoles. The video lasts for about an hour. There will be a short time set aside for discussion afterwards, should anyone have questions about what was seen in the video.

The back page of the newsletter shows the list of officers for the 2009 – 2010 year, along with their email addresses.

Chuck has made the necessary reservations at the church for our meetings next year. Sometime shortly after our May meeting, the meeting dates for next year will be put up on the web site. The board will be meeting this summer to do our planning for next year. If you have any suggestions of topics for programs, or would like to present a program, please contact one of the board members. We will be looking for your input.

I hope to see you all on May 29th at the meeting.

DIVISION 1

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOC.

Membership Meeting, April 24, 2009

Collingwood Presbyterian Church, Toledo, OH

The meeting was called to order and all were welcomed by *Supt. Williams* at 7:43 PM.

There were no visitors.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as posted in the Train Order online.

Supt. Williams announced that there were substantial Rip Track offerings on display.

OFFICER REPORTS

Dave McMullian announced that the Spring edition of the North Central Region's Hotbox publication would be available online in a few days. Future issues of the Hotbox will be 28 pages long and can be downloaded by anyone interested, including non-NMRA members, at the NCR website (<http://www.ncr-nmra.org/>). The Hotbox is also available in direct-mail printed form for \$10 per year. Dave announced that the majority of NMRA members in a county in north central Indiana had petitioned to move from the Midwest Region to the North Central Region and affiliate with Division 3 in Ft. Wayne. This request was approved by both region's boards and is now in effect.

Supt. Williams asked *Steve Glass* to inform the members regarding the recent theft of division property from Steve's house. In addition to Steve's personal losses, we lost our new laptop computer,

projector, and digital camera. Steve submitted receipts to his insurance provider and full recovery is expected. At that time, we will review what's available and make new purchases.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

At this point, *Dean Pyers* from Division 8 took the floor for a presentation about Train Festival 2009, to take place July 23-26 in Owosso, MI. Full details on this steam spectacular are available online at <http://www.trainfestival2009.com/>

OLD BUSINESS

There was a discussion about what to do at our May meeting, which was rescheduled to May 29 to avoid the Memorial Day weekend. A straw vote chose a meeting vs. an outing, so the officers will work with *Steve Kellogg* to prepare an activity.

NEW BUSINESS

Agent *John Strunc* had not yet determined the average and total donations received at meetings since September, when we no longer charged dues. John expects to have that information at the May meeting, and the officers will determine during the Summer what, if any, donation amount will be recommended for next year.

Jerry Sahagian, chairman of nominations, submitted the following slate to serve as Division 1 officers for the next two years:

Superintendent - *Fred Lux*
Asst. Superintendent - *Dave McMullian*
Agent - *Phil Kauffman*
Chief Clerk - *Chuck Williams*
Asst. Superintendent for Programs - *Steve Kellogg*

Lou Glatzer moved that the slate be approved by acclamation, which it was by voice vote.

Regarding the Train Order, *Fred Lux* will continue as editor. Fred requests that members submit articles for the T.O., and he encouraged broader participation.

2 - Minute Clinics

Dave McMullian reported on his tests using Bull Frog Snot, a new traction compound for locomotive tires.

Jerry Sahagian reported on *Don Bigney's* lack of reporting on diesel lighting. Obviously, Don was not present to defend himself, saving Mr. Sahagian from extensive scooter tire burns up his hind end.

MISCELLANEOUS

Terry Smith announced the upcoming Train Day 2009 to be held May 2 at Union Terminal. There will be prototype and modeling displays and activities. The event is sponsored by TMACOG. It was announced that a train show was scheduled for April 26 from 11-4 at the Rec Center.

Supt. Williams adjourned the business meeting, followed by a break for refreshments. Thanks to *Steve and Tina* again for all their efforts, including a taco bar on this occasion. The remainder of the evening was spent observing and discussing all sorts of projects members had brought in for the "Big Show'n'Tell". Rather than hold a model contest with limited participation, this event encourages members to share anything they've been working on.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave McMullian
Chief Clerk

Kellogg's Korner

By Steve Kellogg

A big thanks to everyone who brought something to show at our last meeting. This month's meeting will be a video on operations. Since a video could also be considered a "movie", the "menu" will consist of movie type snacks. Hot popcorn, candy, as well as the usual chips, cookies, pop and coffee will be served

This month's Show and Tell will be Passenger cars.

I sold one Division car at the April train show. I also finally received advertising rates from Scale Rails, Model Railroader, and Railroad Model Craftsman. I will discuss these this summer at one of the Officers planning meetings and will then report to the members at the September meeting. Also keep in mind that I will be looking for help this fall as to planning for a Division One Train swap meet.

See everyone at the meeting.

"Model Railroad Author" AP Summary

By Ron Gilbert

This is the third summary article in a series for the NMRA Achievement program (AP). This article summarizes "Model Railroad Author", which has the following requirements.

1. Prepare and submit material on any of the following subjects:
 - a. Model Railroading
 - b. Prototype Railroading – then modeled
 - c. Applicable written articles to modeling.
2. Prepare and give a live clinic at least 30 minutes in length with written and printed hand-outs
 - a. National Event
 - b. Regional Event
 - c. Divisional Event
3. Develop instructional videotapes, DVD and Multi-media.
4. Develop / produce material published on a Public Electronic Form, such as the Internet.

All written articles with or without drawings/photos need to be published and a matter of public record such as in a general publication, NMRA national, NMRA Regions, NMRA Division or 100% NMRA club book, magazine, newsletter, etc.

An accumulation of forty-eight (48) points in any combination of material is required for this certificate, with no more than twenty-four (24) points being obtained from Division or NMRA club publications. For a breakdown of publication points, refer to the NMRA web site schedule of value points.

Submit a completed "Statement of Qualifications" (SOQ) Form with a complete Back-up of all publications, videos, DVD's, etc. Again refer to the NMRA web site for detailed requirements.

This is the last article of the three (3) parts for the AP category of "Service to the Hobby". These are only a summary of each AP award and additional in-depth information on each category can be obtained from the NMRA web site, or, if you are serious, I will gladly meet with you to discuss your interest and questions.

Benefits from Scratch Building

Chuck Williams

About a year ago, Scale Rails carried an article on constructing from scratch a freight car as part of the series on the various A.P.'s in the NMRA Master Model Railroader program. About 35 years, I built from scratch several freight cars, working from the "Dollar Model" articles in Model Railroader. While they were satisfactory models for me at the time, they would not pass muster in today's world. Today, like most of us, I either buy "ready-to-run" models or possibly one of the kits available which make you apply a few details but provide most of the model already built. I then stumbled on the La Belle Woodworking site on the internet and ordered a caboose kit. This was not a "ready-to-run" project, but it was very instructive. After finishing it, I returned to the article in Scale Rails and decided that I needed to sharpen my model building skills, although I have no present intention of trying for a contest quality model. I decided to build a scratch built reefer using the article as a guide.

First decision to make was material: wood or styrene. I decided on wood since that is what the author of the article has used. Problem: no one in Toledo stocks Northeastern Scale Lumber materials-everything had to be ordered from Walther's. That was also true for other items such as grab irons, stirrups, ladders, door latches and hinges, etc. Once everything had come in, I commenced work. As one would suspect, as a first effort, I was not completely happy with the result, but I learned a lot in the process. (See photo). I used Cloverhouse dry transfers for the lettering and that

was also a learning experience. If you don't look too close, it's a pretty nice model.

About two months later, I had gotten my courage up enough to make a second try. I worked much more slowly and wrote up my process as I went along (I have a laptop computer next to my workbench). I dug up some plans and photos from my files and referred to them regularly as I proceeded. Again, I learned a lot in the process and noted the things I will change when I get enough courage to try a third time. The result is a better looking model than the first, able to withstand closer inspection. It is still not contest quality but that was not my goal anyway. My skills have been improved. I even scratch built some ladders! (See second photo).

What have I learned from this effort? And where do I go from here. I still have materials from my order from Walther's. I know some of the mistakes I made and I would like to see if I can make a better model that is a more accurate model. My major problem is impatience. I am still not hankering after a contest quality model but who knows? Maybe I will be able to do one before I cash in my chips. I do know that I have learned a lot from these two efforts and it was time, money and effort well spent.

I encourage everyone to give scratchbuilding a try. It's fun and your modeling skills will benefit.

The Detail Station

Images for this month's Detail Station come from Steve Kellogg's layout.



Thanks for the pictures, Steve.

Don Bigney's operating session for May has been postponed until July due to track work.

