

Train Order

Division One NCR

Volume 35, Issue 1 Summer 2009



CAB SIGNALS

By Fred Lux

Once again we have a special summer issue of the Train Order to prepare us for the upcoming year. This issue will not have all of the special articles you are used to seeing. Detailed information about September programs and Show and Tell, as well as the minutes of the May 2009 meeting will be in the September issue as they usually are.

The board of directors has been hard at work planning the 2009 -2010 year for the Division. You will find a mix of old and new in the board's attempt to plan a meaningful and interesting year. There will also be some changes in the regular columns found in the Train Order.

One of the biggest problems the board has had to tackle is that of the annual budget. Due to revised bylaws enacted by National a couple of years ago, divisions are not allowed to charge dues. For all practical purposes, divisions have been put in a position of being unable to recoup normal meeting expenses. Our division is fortunate in that we have a comfortable nest egg. It is tempting to simply forego recovering our expenses and spend down our cash reserves. But doing this only delays the inevitable, and puts the division in a position of being short of funds for planning our next convention (it is our turn again in another 5 or 6 years), or for funding any special projects we might undertake, or providing seed money for another fund raiser. We are in the process of trimming all of our excess expenses and will have a new budget, along with suggestions for funding it, to present at the September meeting.

The meeting schedule for the upcoming year has been posted on the division web site. You will note

that programs that have been finalized are also listed. The show and tell topics for each meeting will be added to the calendar soon. Steve has that list complete.

We have worked hard to present a very balanced selection of programs, hopefully finding something for everyone. We have two speakers coming in from out of town to present this fall. Their topics will be listed as soon as we have definitive titles. The TBA programs in the spring are both local field trips. One of the meetings will be held up in Lambertville at Jim White's outdoor G-scale layout. Weather permitting, we will have a grill or two set up and will be serving brats, dogs, burgers, etc. Details will be coming later, but plan on this as a meeting to bring family members or friends.

At the request of several members who were unable to participate in the Car Repair Facility tour to the Andersons during the convention last fall, we are attempting to arrange another tour just for division members. If we are successful, this tour will be the other TBA on the calendar. Again, more information will be forthcoming.

It has been a couple of years since we had tours of private layouts for division members in the spring. The problem with the spring open house is that there are always several layouts open at the same time that you really want to visit, plus, if you are holding you layout open, you can't visit others that are open at the same time. The board has decided to try something different this year. Instead of designating a month as layout tour month, we are hoping to spotlight a specific layout each month. In order for a layout to be featured, two things have to happen. First, several photos need to be taken of the layout so that pictures can be inserted into the train order. The featured

layout column would take the place of the Detail Station column that ran last year. Secondly, the layout owner would have to agree to have his layout open for viewing the weekend of the Division meeting the month he was featured. The owner would set a time of two or three hours for an open house. This open house could be held on either Saturday or Sunday to fit the owner's schedule. By holding only one layout open each month there are no scheduling conflicts. All we need are *NINE* brave souls willing to open their layouts up to division members. I will take photos for the newsletter if you need me to. Are there any volunteers for September?

The stolen audio visual equipment was replaced over the summer. We will have our new camera and projector up and running for the September meeting. Everything was covered by an insurance policy.

Articles for Newsletter

This is a call for articles for the Train Order this year. Last year I wrote several of the regular columns, including a series on Ops. This year it is your turn.

It was suggested at a meeting last spring that articles documenting a project on your layout would be appropriate. These could be text, a combination of text and photos, or mostly photos. If you are ready to tackle a new building project, no matter how big or small, simple or complex, records your steps with a digital camera and then write about it.

If you are using a digital camera and know how to change the picture resolution, set it to lowest setting. You can then email the photos to me, or download them onto a flash drive. I will even bring my flash drive to your house to get the download. I will size the pictures and crop them as necessary to fit the article space.

I think we can have some fun with this and get some good articles in the process. I am willing to give as much assistance as necessary to help any of you who would like to submit an article.

2009 NCR Regional Convention October 15 – 18 Fort Wayne, Indiana

The article title says it all. The 2009 NCR convention is just around the corner. Word is that registrations are coming in very slowly this year. The convention committee has already had to cancel some of the prototype tours for lack of participants. According to the latest update, the deadline for early registration has been extended, as has the deadline for making reservations at the convention hotel. The Fort Wayne committee has put in a lot of work planning a top notch event. We here in Toledo are close enough that we could even drive over for a day trip and take in one day of the convention without staying over night if money is a consideration. If you are planning to attend Fort Wayne this year and have not sent in your reservation, please do so. Don and I are planning on spending the full four days over there enjoying the festivities.

And How Did You Spend Your Summer?

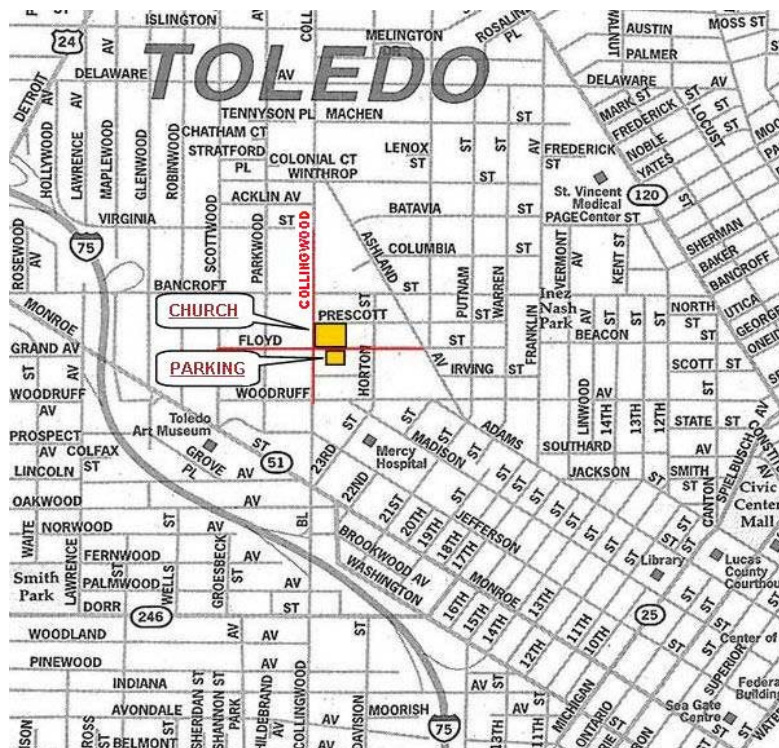
This is the question that Steve Kellogg is asking of everyone this fall, and is the focus of our show and tell for the September meeting. Everyone is going to be asked to talk about something railroad related that they did this summer. Better yet, if you have artifacts that you made, pictures that you took, or items that you purchased, bring them with you to show everyone else. Since everyone is expected to participate and will have several minutes to speak or show, this will spill over into the time we usually use for programs. We have a short video to use as a filler if necessary. Steve will have more detailed information in his column in the September newsletter.



What I should have done this summer...

Next Meeting – Friday, Sept. 25, 2009

Collingwood Presbyterian Church



CURRENT OFFICERS (2009 - 2011)

- Superintendent -Fred Lux. fred@fredlux.com
- Assistant Superintendent -Dave McMullian ... davemcmullian@earthlink.net
- Chief Clerk -Chuck Williams..... cwillia4@verizon.net
- Agent -Phil Kauffman..... pennsy6401@bex.net
- News Editor -Fred Lux –
- Program Chair -Steve Kellogg atsfmktrock@yahoo.com
- Service Chair -Steve Kellogg