



# Train Order

Division One NCR

Volume 35, Issue 5 December 2009



## **Cab Signals**

**Fred Lux, Superintendent**

It doesn't seem possible that Christmas is only a couple of weeks away. If you haven't been dropping hints yet about things you would like to find under the tree, there is not much time left to do so. I can think of many things that would look very nice under my tree.

This is a good time of the year to reflect on what we have accomplished (or not accomplished) with our model railroads and to start thinking about what you would like to accomplish in 2010. If I brought a stack of index cards to the meeting and asked each of us to write down one New Year's resolution regarding our model railroads, and then revisited those cards a year from now, I wonder how many resolutions would be achieved. Of course, putting something in writing might be the impetus needed to get something done. (Note to self.)

The Celebration of Trains weekend in Blissfield appeared to be a great success. I know several members of Division went over Saturday to view both Doug Tagsold's layout and the Blissfield Model Railroad Club layout. Others were planning to go on Sunday. I wonder if this will become an annual event.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is information about the Christmas party and the layout of the month. Do please note the this month's layout is open on Sunday afternoon, not Saturday

I hope to see all of you at the Club meeting and Christmas party. May you and your families have a happy and safe holiday season.

## **Kellogg's Korner**

**Steve Kellogg**

Thanks to Gale Saxton For his operations clinic. From all the different operations methods we have seen, there must be one form or another that any of us can use. From the very simple to the "Train can not leave until the paperwork equals or exceeds the train weight." form of operation.

Thanks also to Jerry Sahagian for hosting the November Layout of the month. Once again I missed it due to work.

The December layout of the month is being hosted by Don Bigney. Details are elsewhere in the Train Order.

December is also time for our annual Christmas Party pot luck and Chinese Auction. Division will be providing a meat and cheese tray and beverages. Everyone is encouraged to bring something to share at the pot luck .

As usual, we will have our Chinese Auction. Everyone participating brings a new wrapped gift valued at between \$10.00 and \$25.00 . They then are given a numbered ticket, just like with the door prizes. The first person's ticket drawn gets to pick one gift and open it in front of everyone. The next person drawn has a choice. They can either open a new gift or take an open one from someone. The person losing a gift then can either open a new one or take someone else gift. This goes on until all gifts have been opened. At this time , the person who went first gets to choice to keep what they have or trade it with anyone else. The only rule is that you can't take back a gift you already lost.

Tina and I hope every division member will participate in the auction. Note to our S and Z members, one of Santa's helpers said that there will be something in your scales there.

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## Minutes

### Division One

November 20, 2009

Collingwood Presbyterian Church - Attendance: 36

Superintendent Lux called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Announcements: The town on Blissfield is having a railroad days celebration on December 12 and 13. Both the Blissfield Model Railroad Club layout and Doug Tagsold's HO layout will be open for visitors from 1-4.

Dave McMullian announced that the shirts and hats ordered at a previous meeting were here to be distributed. Payment was to go the Agent, Phil Kaufman.

Dave McMullian introduced Gale Saxton from Division 8 who presented a very fine clinic on model railroad operations, centered on the methods and materials he used to set up operations on his own home layout.

Following the clinic, we broke for refreshments.

The business meeting began about 8:15 with the approval of the October minutes distributed in the Train Order.

Steve Kellogg reported on the upcoming Christmas party at the December meeting. Each person wanting to participate in the "Chinese" auction is to bring a wrapped gift (maximum value \$25). The Division will provide a snack tray and members are invited to bring items to eat to complement the snack tray.

Super. Lux announced that a phone list will be distributed at the next meeting. It will NOT be available on line or by mail.

Mike Anteau from the AV committee reported on his research into a sound system. A motion to approve expenditure up to \$250 was approved.

Super. Lux called for Two Minute Clinics. Dave McMullian responded with one on railroad produced cinders.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

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December featured layout

December's layout is the Big Knee Valley owned by Donald Bigney. The layout, which represents areas in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Northern Wisconsin was started in the mid fifties. Now, some fifty years later, it is nearing completion. Like a real railroad, the BKV has evolved over time. Originally, all of the mainline motive power were Prairies. As parts wore out and became harder and harder to replace, the road was gradually converted to diesel. Today, the only prairie still on the road sits in a railroad museum in Iron River. Don prides himself on his attention to detail and his scratch building. The layout will be open from 2 PM – 5 PM on SUNDAY, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Enter through the front door.



