



The Dispatcher

February 2003 Issue

Officers for 2002-2004

Superintendent:
Mark Gaeth

Dispatcher:
Chuck White

Treasurer:
Gene Cowan

Board of Directors:
Alan Bell
Bill Wemhoff

AP Chairman:
Daniel Metzger

Membership Chair:
Dan Brown

Media/Web Director:
Rich Mohr

Meetings:
2nd Monday of
each month
7:00 pm

North Central Region

Northeast Hoosier
Division 3



MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Wemhoff	Art Solomon	Don Rhodenbaugh	Rick Schwab
Alan Bell	Rich Swihart	Chuck White	Jeff Ashby
Mel Wise	Victor Baird	Rich Mohr	Mark Gaeth
Dan Metzger	John Cartright	Carl Dirig	
Dan Brown	Bill Piercy	Lou Bailey	

NMRA Minutes 01-13-2003

Before the meeting started, we viewed a video of Dan Metzger's new G-Scale Snow Plow in action. Two engines powered the unit as it gracefully rammed its way down the tracks.

CLINIC

Bruce Carpenter was unable to make the meeting. Mark Gaeth brought in two of his recent structures for a judging run-through. The first model was a 4 story pallet factory. The second model was an unweathered powerplant. Items considered for judging were: weather and interior & exterior detailing. Another item considered was the amount of scratch built detailing. After verbally tearing apart the structures, we went through what items should be put on the spec sheets. We discussed where points would be awarded or deducted.

SHOW AND TELL Your Christmas railroad item.

Don Rhodenbaugh - 40' AAR Box Car. (HO)
Dan Metzger - ER&L Lifelike PA1. (N)
Mel Wise - Book, "The Cyclopedia of Industrial Modelling", by Dean Freytag
Rick Schwab - CSX Proto2000 SD60M (HO)
Mark Gaeth - CNW 50' Gon (HO)
Victor Baird - Collectors Lionel Crossing Flashers
Chuck White - Proto2000 SD60M (HO) (*The railroad was not worth noting.*)
Bill Piercy - His new Tootoo Twain Night Light!

OLD BUSINESS

Science Central: The sign-up sheet was passed around. We discussed whether or not we should actively participate in 2004. The options of placing an unmanned table with information or having members in other groups already at the show, pull double duty with the NMRA table being in the room with them.

We definitely need at least 2 members with the table when we are presenting a "Time Saver."

SPRING MEET OVERVIEW

Division 3 Annual Meet Jan. 13th, 2003
March 15th 2003 10AM to 3:30PM

- Church reservation confirmed
(per J. Hedge and F. Moore)
- Lunch bar service confirmed
(being confirmed by F. Moore)

Front Desk Registration – D. Rhodenbaugh, J. Arens
Fees: Adults \$2, children under 12 free, any Scout in uniform free

One admission ticket good for door prize or one (1) make-n-take box car (if ticket is use for box car it will be out of circulation for the raffle)

An additional tickets will not be required for building weather clinic "Raffle" Ticket (depends on door prizes donated by vendors)

NMRA table – D. Brown
Layout Tour Map –F. Moore
Hobbyland Discount coupons -A. Bell
Convention cars – B. Piercy

Room Configuration Main hall will house layouts (layout coordinated by Dan Metzger)
Nscale (N.E.I.N.S) p.o.c. J. Ashby/G. Roon
HO (T.R.A.I.N) p.o.c. Kit Anderson
HO (Maumee) p.o.c. G. Cowan
G (GTRAK) p.o.c. D. Metzger

Contest Room - adjacent to parking lot (coordinated by Dan Metzger)

1 Foot Module Contest (see rules below)

Walk-in models for judging

Clinic Rooms - adjacent to back of church
Room #1: Make-n-take Clinic "Build a boxcar"
10:00 – 2:00? Build and weather Athearn boxcar (conducted by J. Ashby and Bill Piercy, volunteers needed to help)
Room #2: Make-n-take Clinic "Weather a building"
10:00 – 2:00? Weathering a brick building (conducted by MRR J. Reitz, volunteers needed to help)
Library: Modeling
10:00 – 3:00 General model making (conducted by J. Hedge)

Bookshelf module – B. Wemhoff, M. Wise, F. Moore

Insurance NMRA covered per 12/11/02 e-mail from Dave Thorton

Contest 1 foot x 1 foot foam modules

Must have at least:

1 piece of track, 1 structure, 1 tree or bush, 1 rail road car, 1 road (dirt, gravel, or pavement) As required ground cover.

Judging coordinated by D. Metzger

Donor Prizes In process (per G. Roon, mailings went out Jan 1st 2003)

MC – announcer (G. Roon; confirmed via phone 1/12/03)

Publicity In process (R. Mohr)

Contact JG newspaper (A. Bell)

Church Sign (J. Hedge/F. Moore)

Flyers for the Maumee Swap

Layout Tour Use maps from Convention (hand out being prepared by F. Moore)

Need to identify layouts on tour (be coordinated by C. White)

Misc.

Need sign for modeling demo room "Ask me question" (tbd)

Name badges (R. Mohr)

No door prize will be given to model contest entries.

NOTICE: Volunteers are need to aid the two make-n-take clinics (run by Jeff Ashby, Bill Piercy, and John Reitz). We also need several people to bring in a one of their own modeling project an work in the Library during the Meet (Jeff Hedge is coordinating this clinic). If a person wishes to host an open house please contact Chuck White.

Next Month's Fun Stuff:

Show and Tell - Bring in a railroad related surprise.

Clinic - Layouts 101- Layout design and construction methods. Bring ideas, pencils and paper!

Rick Schwab won the Hobbyland gift certificate drawing.

Announcements:

1. The Next Maumee Valley Railroad Swap is February 8, 2003 at the Lincoln Elementary School from 10am to 3 pm.
2. Here is the Layout Tour Schedule as of 5 January 2003.

"TBD" means "To Be Determined at a later time". These will be updated as soon as possible.

January 10, 2003, Friday 7:00 PM
Host, Jim Arens, 4222 Norarrow Drive, Ft. Wayne, IN

February 21, 2003, Friday 7:00 PM
Host, Gary Evans, 6425 Durango Drive, Ft. Wayne, IN

March 22, 2003, Saturday 3:00 PM
Host, Mark Gaeth, 3802 N Salem Road, Decatur, IN

April 25, 2003, Friday 7:00 PM
Host, Bill Piercy, 5026 Vance Avenue, Ft. Wayne, IN

May 4, 2003, Sunday 12:00 Noon
Host, Carl, 1321 Furguson Avenue, Ft. Wayne, IN

June 21, 2003, Friday 7:00 PM
Host, Alan Bell, 5822 Kruse Drive, Ft. Wayne, IN

July 18, 2003, Friday 7:00 PM
Host, John Reitz, 1401 Kenwood Avenue, Ft. Wayne

August date and time T.B.D. 2003
Host, Dan Metzger, 4322 Arlington Avenue, Ft. Wayne, IN

September 19, 2003, Friday 7:00 PM
Host, Mark Wilson, 11523 Green Holly Cove, Ft. Wayne, IN

October 17, 2003, Friday 7:00 PM
Host, Rich Swihart, 2519 East State Blvd, Ft. Wayne, IN

November date and time T.B.D. 2003
Host, Jeff Ashby, 7608 Antebellum Blvd, Ft. Wayne, IN

December 12, 2003, Friday 7:00 PM:
Host, Art Solomon, 1120 Lake Point Cove, Ft. Wayne

Model Railroading Southern California Style

by: Mark Gaeth

I have the pleasure of traveling to many parts of the country for my company. It would be all business if were not for the fact that I have a passion for model railroading to pass the extra time away. While on past trips I would usually find a local hobby shop and acquire some accessory, detail part or rolling stock to add to my layout. This recent trip would be an exception to past trips and would be the foundation for future trips.

I had prepped a little more for this trip by seeking to contact any local club members in the Central & Southern California areas. I received a reply from Robb Judkins in Corona CA. We conversed back and forth prior to my leaving for California exchanging schedules and thoughts on where to visit while in the area. When all was done, Robb had put together a selection of hobby shops to visit and to my surprise a guided tour of several members' home layouts.

I arrived in Southern CA on Thursday, December 12 with nothing planned other than getting settled in for one more week away from home. On Friday, I went to a shop in Moreno Valley CA called "Train Quest". Most of their business is done on the web but also have a storefront. It must have been my lucky day as he was having an additional 20 % of in-stock items on top of his regular discount. I could not leave without picking up 4 cars to add to my roster. I then went over to Longs Drugs to see what they had to offer. While they may have had a larger selection and somewhat of a discount, the atmosphere of the place did not excite me. Maybe I will give them another try at some future date.

Saturday started off with the first home of the tour at Robb's layout "The Hibbing and Pacific Lines". Robb describes his



layout as a "Diamond in the Rough". This 12' X 16' layout is an island "J" shape that was built by a local builder over 40 years ago. It had been placed in storage for the last 30 years until Robb

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acquired it in November of 2002. With the help of some fellow members of the Corona Model Railroad Society (CMRS), it was relocated and reassembled in his garage. The layout is about 75% operational after all these years of inactivity. There are several "Before the Times" feature such as the fiber optic street lights. What is truly amazing is the plaster hard-shell survived the storage and relocation. Robb is busy restoring the steam and diesel locomotives with plans in the near future for operations with 3 engineers.



The next stop on the tour was the home of Hugo Solano. His layouts include an N scale 3' X 14 1/2" Pacific Valley Lines that is a double tracked mainline with some buildings and a backdrop in place. The HO layout is a "L" shaped 17' X 12' of the Southwest modern era with Santa Fe GP40's providing the motive power. It is a point-to-point operation, which includes a container service yard. The backdrop is nicely done with clouds and an overlay of scenic trees and settings. Hugo has a family background with the prototype railroads where his father worked for a railroad in Argentina when he was a young boy.



My final stop on the tour was at the home of Gene Walder. The layout is a large one indeed. It contained lots of buildings and live trees. To my surprise it also had a live steam Shay. Gene also has a radio-controlled steam but it needed some maintenance and was not running that day. Oh did I forget to mention that this is an outdoor garden railroad? Now, this is a layout that Dan Metzger would really enjoy.

