



# The Dispatcher

November 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**

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

North Central Region

Northeast Hoosier  
Division 3



### MEMBERS PRESENT

Alan Bell	Don Rhondenbaugh	Jeff Ashby	Allesyne Metzger	John Phenicie
Chuck White	Victor Baird	Glenn Roon	Art Solomon	Mark Gaeth
Rich Swihart	Dan Metzger	Mel Wise	Gale Jordan	
Carl Drig	John Rietz	Max Metzger	Lou Bailey	

### NEW BUSINESS

LCD Projector discussed. One may be needed for potential Power Point clinician presentations we may host in the future. They are no longer available from either Alan's or Chuck's employers. Renting one is still pretty steep. Purchasing one is out of the question. Victor Baird's video system that patches his laptop to a TV was discussed. Victor said he'd make it available whenever we needed it. However, due to a class he'll be taking on Monday nights, Victor will be missing our meetings for awhile. It was suggested that anyone with access to one of these devices, to let the division know. It was mentioned, one was available for organizations like ours, but I did not make a note of this. With Craig Berndt moving to Indy, the presentation on the NYC Jet Train isn't likely. The presenter, Don Wetzel lives over near Cleveland and isn't able to travel.

Grand Rapids '03 NCR convention. As expected, Dr. Bruce Chubb's layout was the center of everything. Like the '01 convention we hosted in Ft. Wayne, there were Op Sessions on Thursday night (Bill Wemhoff, Bruce Carpenter & Chuck White were at Bruce's), Proto Tours on Friday, a bunch of layout tours on Friday, and a swap on Saturday. Also Attending from NE Indiana were Tony Romero and Blaine Heinfeld (& his son). National names attending included Andy Sperandeo and Lionel Strang of Model Railroader magazine. Bruce Carpenter won the Best of Show award for his model railroad photography. He also one two other photo awards. The convention chair, Skip Luyk had triple by pass surgery just two weeks before the convention – yes these things will give you a coronary. He was ably assisted by Jeremy Jordan, Co-Chair / Registrar / Webmaster / Program, who handled things at the 11th hour. Skip was present for most of the convention activities, including the Awards Buffet. For Bill & Chuck, unlike past conventions where an attempt was made to visit every layout, this time we focused on making quality visits. For example, at Dirk Start's home (across the street from Bruce Chubb's) we learned about his experiences with railroads during his 1 ½ year stay with his family in Japan. He told us of how his children rode the train about one hour to school every day, even though they were in the First & Third grade at the time. Dirk said everyone sleeps on the trains over there, and that his third grader once missed her stop because she was asleep. Somehow she managed to have the presence of mind to call home for instructions, and was able to get home safe & sound. Besides his HO room sized layout under construction, Dirk had a small N Scale figure 8 layout featuring all the trains they rode when they lived in Japan.

Op Sessions in Ft. Wayne? We've now got a number of layouts capable of hosting a session much like we've seen in Detroit and Chicago. Alan Bell agreed to chair putting together one of these events, probably 18 months to two years from now.

Chuck passed around a copy of the latest Model Rail-roader Phone List. He also emailed it the day before. As usual, as soon as you put something in print, it needs to be revised. There are at least a half dozen corrections & updates we need to make.

Introductions – We had two new faces: John Phenicie (also of the N Scale group) and Gale Jordan (formerly of the Summit City Club, but now with the Maumee Valley.

No Treasurers Report- Treasurer not present.

No Secretaries Report – No meeting since July.

Picnic was another nice event, but sparsely attended. Discussion held on obtaining a suitable gift for our host. Glenn & Chuck said they'd handle.

Achievement Program – Dan Metzger, AP Chair, presented Art Solomon his Merit Award for Scenery.

Elections – Per the note in The Dispatcher, we need to begin this process with nominations in November and elections in December. The new officers will take effect at our January 2004 meeting. Mark Gaeth announced he would not be running for reelection as Superintendent due to work constraints. Chuck White said he was giving up Dispatcher (VP) so someone with fresh ideas for clinics could take on this job. It was decided to formally separate the Secretary-Treasurer into two positions, but keep the number of board members the same.

A nominating committee of John Reitz and Jeff Ashby was appointed. They'll handle soliciting prospective candidates for the various positions and present the slate of candidates next month. Anyone interested in a specific position should contact one of the committee members.

Council of Train Clubs – Meeting held on 9/29. Next meeting will be before the Train Fest at Science Central, to discuss the layout arrangements in the exhibition room.

## **GATS NEWS**

John Reitz advised we're in this show with several tables and 10 passes. He's in need of volunteers to help out. So far, he & Alan Bell are hosting clinics.

## ***Round Robin Time Schedule for finishing out the year.***

The November layout open house is at Jeff Ashby's home at 7:00 PM Friday the 14th. His address is 7608 Antebellum Blvd. Ft. Wayne. And his phone number is 749-1036 if you need to contact him for directions to his house.

The December layout open house is at Art Solomon's home at 7:00 PM Friday the 12th. His address is 1120 Lake Point Cove Ft. Wayne. And his phone number is 637-6396 if you need to contact him for directions to his house.

## ***OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST***

On November 8th Saturday afternoon at 1:00 PM Gary Strum will be having a slide show of train related pictures at the home of John Reitz. His address is 1401 Kenwood Avenue Ft. Wayne. And his phone number is 471-4190 if you need to contact him for directions to his house.

On December 6th & 7th, Science Central will be hosting it's annual Train Fest.

**Annual Spring Meet** Alan Bell suggested we change the date, but after a brief discussion, it was clear the current date is the most appropriate one. Alan will call the church. Alan would like more of the Make & Take. It was decided to use some of our hoard of convention cars. These need to be obtained from Bill Piercy. Alan also proposed that we begin working on our own stuff at our monthly meetings for the next several months, so we have something to present for the square foot contest. He will bring Styrofoam. This year the size will be 9". Starting next month, bring your own tool box & model to work on, which you can then enter in the annual meet contest.

**2007 Convention** The NCR is looking for help (from a division outside of Detroit) with at least two committees: the convention car, and the convention shirt. A rough guesstimate of the number of attendees is upwards of 2000, with shirt sales easily exceeding 1000 shirts. With this amount, Don Rhodenbaugh advised his firm, Newton Mfg., would be able to handle. Don will chair the division committee to handle this. It was passed that the division would support this endeavor for the convention. A note advising of this was later sent to Dave Thornton, 2007 Convention Chair. Dave advised he'll put us on the list.

**Door Prize** Max Metzger won the \$10 gift certificate from Hobbyland. Mark encouraged everyone to patronize this store given the support Jeff Ridge is giving to our group.

# The Dispatcher

November 2003 Issue

The Maumee Swap for Saturday was announced.

Video – Alan Bell brought a copy of “Extreme Basements,” a HGTV program he recorded featuring Mike Ritchdorf’s N&W layout in Chicago, a layout we’ve had the privilege of attending an operating session on.

Clinic – Nothing was preplanned, so Chuck White gave his “Inexpensive Air Tank,” a clinic he previously presented when we were still meeting at the Mitzpah. He used a 10 gallon tire inflator tank from Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Target, etc., adding a Pressure Regulator and Moisture Trap. Total cost is less than 50 bucks. It’s a good starter system for someone new to air brushing, doesn’t like the pulsations of the small tank-less compressors, or can’t afford to spend \$200 to \$300 for a complete package. Chuck brought an example of the tank with him, including his air brush. An outline of the clinic was also handed out.



The meeting adjourned early so we could go home to see the Cubs playoff game.

## November Show and Tell: Get Tanked!

Bring in your favorite “Liquid-Holding” railcar.

**Next Clinic:** Bring your own tool box & model to work on, which you can then enter in the annual meet contest this Spring 2004.



## ***Superintendents Notes & Thoughts:***

I am sure most everyone has been made aware of my recent announcement not to run for office during the next term of 2004 – 2006. My decision not to run was one that I have given much thought to in the past 6 months. Due to my hectic and sometimes unplanned trips I must make around the good old USA for my company, I believe that I cannot be properly prepared to maintain a full commitment to any office at the present time. I do however, plan to stay active within the Division and attend all meetings when I am in town.

I would like to thank everyone in the Division for their support over the last 2 years. Our Division 3 is a very active, progressive and diverse group of modelers and I am very proud to have served as your Superintendent. Sometime in the future, when my business travels slow down, I hope to seek your trust again as an officer of this Division.

I wish to solicit your help, by asking all of you to search your souls to find a way for you to participate in the election process. As with each new election of the governing board we have pushed our Division to the next level with new ideas and formats. I would hope that you find it within yourself to step up to the challenge and have your name presented for the next election. I too was nervous at first, until I realized that we all the same and share a common interest in model railroading. This made it quite easy.

Mark Gaeth