



The Dispatcher



Officers for 2004-2006

Superintendent:
Jeff Ashby

Dispatcher:
John Reitz

Treasurer:
Gene Cowan

AP Chairman:
Daniel Metzger

Board of Directors:
Glenn Roon

North Central Region
NMRA

Northeast Hoosier Division 3

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

Meeting Notes

North East Hoosier Division 3 - February 9, 2004

Attending (This is from memory): Mel Wise, Chuck White, Don Rhodenbaugh, Max Metzger, Alleyne Metzger, Dan Metzger, Gary Evans, Rich Schwab, Mark Gaeth, Rich Mohr, Glenn Roon, Jeff Ashby, Art Solomon, Rich Swihart, Gene Cowan, Alan Bell, and John Cartwright.

Jeff Ashby, Division Superintendent, started things off at about 7pm.

Clinic

Jeff conducted. He cut up several pieces of the thick (2") blue extruded polystyrene insulation foam board, Jeff showed how these pieces can be easily shaped into a landscape scene. He glued several pieces together with wood glue, and then shaped them with the electric cutting tool. Mark also participated putting together a similar creation. Next time, we'll work with these with Plaster of Paris.

Old Business

ANNUAL MEET (3/20/04) Alan Bell :

A. Make & Take Clinic – Alan has 50 cars coming from Athearn \$2.50 each. Atlas is donating 50 Track Side Buildings and 36 straight sections of track. Alan is proposing several stations where each attendee would build the car, the station, etc., and go home with a completed scene. He also still plans to contact Jeff at Hobbyland. Bill Wemhoff will be coordinating. It was suggested we have a card that would be punched as each of these stations. Chuck White volunteered to handle one of the assembly stations. The stations would include:

1. Box Car assembly (Jeff Ashby & helper)
2. Shanty assembly (Volunteer needed)
3. Track & Ballast (Volunteer needed)
4. Ground Foam & Tree (Volunteer needed)

B. Boy Scout Merit Badge event will be located to left of the front table, in front of the sanctuary. Blane Ryan (of T.R.A.I.N.) and John Reitz are to coordinate.

C. Concessions – Mark Gaeth said he would take charge of this.

D. Publicity – Alan has contacted 21 Alive News for some pre meet advertising. A meet flyer was included with the Press Release the MVRRC sent for their swap. This was mailed to over 50 local media contacts. One notice has already appeared in the Decatur Democrat. A notice has also been sent to the Allen County Public Library Channel 57 to run a Public Service Announcement starting March 1st.

E. Home Layout Tour – Chuck White. Two tours planned. A Saturday "Eastside" one with Rich Swihart, Gary Evans, John Reitz and Jeff Ashby from 4:30 to 7:30. Jeff will open at 5:30. Sunday's will be from 1:00 to 5:00 and will feature the "Southside" with Mark Gaeth, Bill Wemhoff and Lon Hawkins of Decatur. Alan Toy in Ossian will be available for inspection. Dan Metzger will also have his garden layout on the tour. Glenn Roon said the Garrett club will be open both days. Chuck is finalizing the maps & descriptions with Fergus. About 150 maps will be printed. Volunteers may still needed to help with the Saturday tours.

F. Timesaver - Gary Evans will bring his.

G. Layouts at the church: T.R.A.I.N., Northern Indiana O Scalers and Northern Indiana N Scale Group. Chuck White motioned (and was seconded) that we donate \$50 to each club that brings their layout to our annual meet. Discussion included helping the clubs with the costs of maintaining their layouts. It was noted that the N Scale guys had two throttles go out at Foellinger, and that these cost about \$130 each. MOTION TABLED.

H. Mel Wise will work on his module.

I. Alan Bell asked those who have a digital camera, if they could bring them to take pictures of our event for our newsletter and our web site.

J. The model contest will be finalized at the end of the day after the meet.

K. The gentlemen from Lansing 2004 NCR Convention will be asked if they could handle the NMRA table. Everyone from our North East

Hoosier Division is asked to stop by to hear their pitch for the fall convention.

L. Dan Moody will be contacted by Chuck to bring his Toy Trains for Tots display.

M. Volunteers are needed to help on the day of the meet. Please call Alan if you can help. His phone number is on the meet flyer.

Treasurer's Report

Gene presented a summary of our monetary assets. If you would like to know the balances, come to a meeting and you'll know! We're in good shape. For example, our CD has accrued over \$250 of interest.

Web Site

Rich is still looking for input. "What do you want?" He said we're getting 65 to 70 hits a week. He also advised notices about the web site have been sent to The Hotbox & NCR.

Foellinger – The NMRA table was largely unmanned.

New Business

Advertising

Don Ahr has opened a new hobby type shop on Goshen road. He has offered \$40 in coupons to advertise in our newsletter. It was then also mentioned that we're getting free web space from First Place Hobbies, and they too should be considered for advertising in The Dispatcher. Further discussion on this issue was TABLED pending information from First Place Hobbies. Mark Gaeth & Rich Mohr will advise.

The Dispatcher

Chuck White proposed snail mailing The Dispatcher to non Web, non Internet "members, including: Carl Dirig, Joe Goebel, Ron Highland, Feed & Ruth Hissong, John Kirchner, Mike Miller & Mel Wise. He requested approval to purchase 100 stamps for this purpose. The envelopes would be donated. MOTION PASSED.

Member Aid

Mel Wise is moving into an apartment and requested a place to store his display module.

BOD Meeting

Jeff, Gene, Glenn & Chuck met. Discussed the proposed change to our by-laws. Approved the change to make the Secretary a member of the BOD, with 5 total members on the BOD.

Announcements:

March 26-28 – Troy, MI Op Weekend – "Op til U Drop" For info see their web site at: <http://www.michops.org> Bill

Wemhoff, Alan Bell, Rich Swihart & Chuck White are planning to go. Contact one of these members if you're interested in attending this event.

GATS will back in Fort Wayne on *November 6 & 7, 2004*.

Hobbyland Gift Certificate – Mel Wise won this month.

Next Meeting's Clinic

Jeff Ashby continued: We'll with working with the blue Styrofoam, working on applying the plaster base for scenery.



Member Article

OPERATIONS?

by Chuck White

A number of Division 3 members are going to the Troy Op Sessions at the end of March. We've made reservations on the web site listed in the Meeting Notes, and now also our hotel reservations. If you have any thoughts of going, you need to act quickly as most of the good available slots for the several layouts are disappearing.

You don't need to go for all three days, as some are planning. You can go for one or two sessions, as others are. Some will drive up on Saturday morning, stay for the day and head home Saturday night, saving the cost of the motel/hotel expense. If you want to join us, let Chuck White, Bill Wemhoff or Alan Bell know, and we'll get you connected.

Why go? You should because it's a totally different environment and aspect of model railroading to experience. Some of you have been over to the Rigg's layout in Continental. Theirs is one form/type of operations. Every layout is different. As with other aspects of model railroading, there is much diversity in this area of our hobby. The Rigg's sessions favor modern CTC operation, prototypical signaling, with a majority of the trains being through freights, and a few locals for switching. Other op sessions are geared towards the use of Time Tables and Train Orders. These sessions are more switching oriented. The difference is huge for some, so great that it's sparked a feud between the two groups in one community. The bottom line is that both formats can be a lot of fun. Our trip to Michigan will include a stop on Sunday afternoon/evening at the Rails On Wheels club in Saline, a TT/TO modular layout. We're not

planning to any operating, just visiting. Anyone who would like to see this layout is welcome to join us, including anyone who wants to drive up on Sunday.

For me, operations have given me a whole new impression of layouts I'd previously visited during a convention layout tour. A good example of this is Jim Botsko's O Scale PRR, Monongahela Division. After my first visit, I thought the layout was dark, and not very interesting, as nothing seemed to move. A couple of years later, when I got into the Op Session, the railroad "came alive." The trains moved with a purpose. You had the sense of accomplishment. How the layout worked, particularly the signals became a lot more interesting. Jim's written his own computer program for generating traffic for his Op Sessions. It really worked well. These things rarely come out during a home layout tour visit.

If you'd like to learn more about Operations, there's a Special Interest Group for it. Dues are \$15/year which covers the cost of 4 issues of the "Dispatcher's Office," a very good newsletter they publish. For more info, see their web site at: <http://www.opsig.org>



2004 ROUND ROBIN LAYOUT TOUR SCHEDULE

by: Sparky

PAST

JAN 17, Gary Sturm showed some of his slide collection to us at the home of the Broad Top Mountain RR.

PAST

FEB 15, Steve Leuenberger and his computer controlled HO scale train layout. For those that would like to visit his layout please contact me at jreizprr@yahoo.com or call 260-471-4190. Steve likes to show off his talent and I know you would enjoy his show.

MAR 28, Bob Kline, address to follow

APR date TBD, Alan Bell

May date TBD, Carl Dirig

JUN date TBD, Mark Gaeth

JUL date TBD, Gary Evans

AUG date TBD, Dan Metzger

SEP date TBD, Bill Welmhoff

OCT date TBD, Rich Swihart

NOV date TBD, Jeff Ashby

DEC date TBD, Art Solomon