



The Dispatcher



Officers for 2004-2006

Superintendent:
Jeff Ashby

Dispatcher:
John Reitz

Treasurer:
Gene Cowan

AP Chairman:
Daniel Metzger

Board of Directors:
Glenn Roon

Division Scribe:
Chuck White

Dispatcher Editor:
Rich Mohr

North Central Region
NMRA

Northeast Hoosier
Division 3

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

Meeting Notes

North East Hoosier Division 3 - April 12, 2004

Attending: Bill Wemhoff, Dan Brown, John Reitz, John Phenicie, Chuck White, Don Rhodenbaugh, Max Metzger, Alleyne Metzger, Dan Metzger, Gary Evans, Rich Mohr (and son), Glenn Roon, Jr., Mel Wise, Jeff Ashby, Art Solomon, Rich Swihart, Gene Cowan, and Richard G. Berger. (18 total)

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

Clinic

Jeff continued his scenery clinic, this month giving a demonstration on how to mold rock castings using either Hydrocal or regular plaster. Several comments were made about how the chemical reaction from the Hydrocal could be so hot as it could cause burns to the skin. Don't use it to make body castings! Jeff made several rock castings, using the Woodland Scenics rubber molds. Jeff mixed his plaster with a 50/50 mix of the dry powder & water. After allowing about 20 to 30 minutes for the castings to harden, Jeff started to apply the casting to his previously constructed modules. One shattered as he tried to pull it out of the mold, but later, when he was finished working his magic, you could not have guessed what had happened. Jeff also showed how you don't need fine brushes to color/paint your rocks, using a 1" brush for most of his dabbing. Another fine job. Thanks Jeff!

Old Business

Dan Metzger advised the Model Contest had a fair turnout, with 13 models submitted, but that the time (after the meet) was a near disaster. They didn't get out until after 4 with much of the documentation and judge's comments omitted. They simply did not have enough time, even with non NMRA members as judges. Dan said they needed more judges and more time, like at least 3 hours. Suggested models be brought to judge sometime before the Meet. It was discussed that

we don't have the manpower to run the contest and (at the same time) also handle everything else going on with the Meet. This is why we need to get the judging accomplished beforehand. For consistency, we need the same judges involved in the pre meet judging and the judging (for the walk ins) at the Meet.

Alan Bell wasn't present. It was suggested that further discussion be held off so he could hear what was being said and to present the many ideas he has for next year.

Glenn noted that 44 Boy Scouts got their Railroad Merit Badge, that more planned to come, but were told there wasn't enough room. Chuck White said almost none of them were involved in the home layout tours. It seems they weren't told there would be an admission charge to participate in the Make & Take clinic. However, once it was realized what a deal/experience/fun time this was, the funds were found for them to participate. Alleyne said something needs to be done to get these Scouts involved in the NMRA. Jeff advised that we could give more presentations to local troops as he had done for his son's Cub Scout pack.. Gene suggested we have specific Open Houses of the Home layouts just for the Scouts. As for how this got organized John Reitz said Blane Ryan (of the T.R.A.I.N. club) had put an announcement in the local Scout's organization newsletter. It was noted that we had 4 troops (with about 50 scouts) present, about the maximum we could accommodate. It was also noted that we made a huge amount of positive PR with the Scouts. Our visitors from the Lansing Convention Committee were also very impressed. Alan has plans for revising for next year, setting up separate stations for each part of the Make & Take Clinic, giving participants the flexibility of skipping ones they're not interested. Glenn (per Alleyne's comments) said we need to get names, addresses, etc of each participant. Don Rhodenbaugh said we could make arrangements with a pack or troop for an outing, mentioning a

visit he'd made with his troop at Baer Field many years ago. Except for a few complaints by hardcore modelers about a lack of regular clinics (per Glenn), it was agreed that overall we had another very good meet. From what Gene's heard we more than broke even. Glenn suggested we look to move to a large facility, that we've out grown the church. He said the Coliseum Bingo facility would be available, and not to worry about the cost, that this was probably very negotiable. It was also said we needed better Press coverage.

Treasurer's Report

Gene advised our CD had been rolled over with over \$280 of interest accrued. The new rate is 2.227%. Receipts/Bills were presented by Chuck White (\$7.40 for postage to mail The Dispatcher), Bill Wemhoff (\$21.83 for Meet supplies) and Jeff Ashby (\$11.64 for clinic supplies). Motion made by Glenn Roon to approve payment of these bills. Motion passed.

Achievement Program

Jeff said we all qualified for points with our participation at the Annual Meet, for the Volunteer Certificate. Several of us have probably got this award completed, but just need to complete the documentation. Jeff proposed that EVERYONE bring an Achievement Program application to next month's meeting where we'll take about half of the clinic time to complete. We'll help each other with completing and documenting this.

Announcements

Round Robin Sat. April 17th at Alan Bell's. 4 to 10 pm. Mini Op Session planned.

Operating Session Sat April 17th at Drake Omstead's 1pm to about 6pm.

Historical Presentation on the Ft Wayne & Jackson RR Sun April 18th at Baker St. Station by Victor Baird. See earlier email. Part of the Three Rivers Historical...

Operating Session Sun April 18th at the Rails of Wheels layout in Saline, MI. Chuck White is driving up, leaving about 8:30 am, returning about 5:30 pm. Call Chuck if you are interested in Time Table Train Order operations

Op Session Sun April 18th at John Reitz's starting at about 1pm

Operating Session Friday April 23rd Duneland Model Railroad Club at 6:30 pm. Michigan City. Using the Rail Op software program. Contact Chuck White for info and email about this.

Work Session Sat April 24th at Gary Sturm's starting at

about 10 am.

Operating Session – Sat May 1st 9 am at Continental. Contact Bill Wemhoff for specifics and to get on the email list if you haven't been receiving any notices.

NMRA 2007 Convention Planning Meeting Sat May 8th in Flint, MI Chuck White plans to attend. Contact him if you are interested in also attending this meeting.

Other items

A film from the Windsong Film Festival about two women locomotive engineers with the CSX out of Garrett may be available for showing at a future meeting. Gary Evans was asked to check into this

Joseph Lawrence, a local videographer is working on a film about Train Chasing. Spent a recent Saturday with Glenn & Chuck over in Fostoria. He's looking for other Rail Fans to get their insights about this hobby. Please contact Gary Evans, Alan Bell, or Fergus Moore (co workers of Joseph) if you are interested in helping with this.

LCD Projector will be needed if we're going to host any of Victor Baird's presentations (or any others) It was requested for anyone who might have one available to advise.

Door Prizes

Max Metzger won the \$10 gift certificate donated by Hobbyland. Please remember to support this local retailer and give Jeff a "Thanks You" for his generous contributions to our group.

Rich Swihart won a CSX calendar donated by Chuck White

Next Meeting's Clinic

Jeff Ashby continued: We'll be working with the blue Styrofoam, working on applying the Paint and scenery.

Richard Berger asked about what had been presented since he hadn't been attending for about a year. It was stated this isn't critical, that we were always looking for new methods, even if we've already seen how to make trees 25 different ways.

Meeting Adjourned at about 9:10 PM.

