



# The Dispatcher



## Officers for 2004-2006

Superintendent:  
**John Reitz**

Treasurer:  
**Gene Cowan**

AP Chairman:  
**Daniel Metzger**

Board of Directors:  
**Glenn Roan**

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 - May 2005

Attending: Rich Mohr, Don Rhodenbaugh, Chuck White, Gary Evans, Rich Schwab, Gene Cowan, Gale Jordan, Reid Cowan, Art Solomon, Carl Dirig, John Reitz, Dan Miller, Olivia Miller, Dan Brown, Mel Wise, Walt Griffin, Alan Bell, and guests, John Olry & Bill BuChans

about grade crossing safety. There was much discussion about several local grade crossings, what it takes to be an OLS volunteer, and the possibility of going on an OLS media ride. Given the level of discussion and questions asked, it was obviously an interesting presentation to those present.

### CLINC

OPERATION LIFE SAVER – Presented by John Olry, Norfolk Southern engineer

The purpose of this presentation was to give our group a behind the scenes look at Operation Life Saver and how we might contribute or support this program.

John showed several videos of surveillance cameras at grade crossings where there have been repeated instances of drivers going around downed crossing gates. At one (in Florida?) there are as many as 16 cameras video taping all angles of the crossing. John said the videos are capable of identifying the license plate, make, model, etc of the vehicle, and also give a very good view of the driver. The evidence is irrefutable when shown in court. The videos showed numerous close calls, including one where a driver had made it across, but then decided to back up!!! John also had several of the OLS commercials, several of which many of us had not seen.

John advised that in Indiana, the fine for driving around a gate is \$250 for a private passenger vehicle. If the driver is convicted, he is assessed 4 points on his driving record, which is equivalent to a major moving violation (like reckless driving). For a trucker the fine is \$500, 8 points and 90 days suspension.

John presented the members present with various OLS items including bumper stickers and brochures

Among the many questions John was asked, one was about his locomotive preference. Without going into the specifics, John favors EMD/GM over GE. He candidly expressed these sentiments to someone he later learned was a senior executive with GE. The GE machines are great for the creature comforts, but the EMDs are the workhorses.

John's seniority gives him a regular run each day, on the "313". It runs down to Muncie & back, leaving about 4 PM, with auto parts for the GM plant. John also mentioned he's piloted a number of unusual/special trains, including a Presidential Special (where he wasn't told who was on board, but the Secret Service guys gave it away with "If I told you who it is, I'd have to kill you."), and one of the circus trains.

After a brief break we had a business meeting

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Gene Cowan, division treasurer, advised the current balances of our Savings account, Draft (Checking) account, and CD. We continue to be solvent. We also had a brief discussion of our potential tax liabilities. Gene (and others) advised our situation was still under the minimum levels where the IRS requires a return and taxes be paid. .

Alan Bell submitted additional funds from the Annual Meet. It was thought we'd lost money this year, but with the monies Alan remitted, the Meet was back "in the black."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Reitz said he would be having an Op Session on Saturday, May 28 from noon to 5. It was noted Drake Omstead's is usually on afternoon of the second Saturday of each month, Bruce Carpenter's on the fourth Saturday (evening), and the Rigg's Continental Operating Sessions were on the first Saturday at 9 am (Eastern time).

Gary Evans has a friend at work who is making trees from wire. They're expensive, costing about \$40 each. Contact Gary for a sample if you're interested.

John Reitz advised that Tony Romero is recovering from his stroke. He will advise an address where we can send Tony a card and if possible, visit him too.

## OTHER BUSINESS

A Certificate of Appreciation was discussed for Hobbyland (or giving them an Ad in our newsletter) However, it was also noted that we're getting free web space from 1st Place Hobbies in Bluffton and that we should give them a similar plug. No action was taken at this time.

John Reitz displayed a tool used for hand laying track that he was able to order piece by piece from the manufacturer. It resembles a staple gun. This tool is no longer sold to the public because of product liability issues. However, if you would like to have one, contact John. The cost is about \$150, or about what they've recently sold for on eBay.

## DRAWING

Don Rhodenbaugh was the winner of the \$10 gift certificate from Hobbyland. Please support this retailer who has been a very generous sponsor of our division. John Olry donated an OLS Coffee Mug. This item was won by Gene Cowan.

## NEXT MEETING

will be on 6/13/05 at 7 pm at our usual venue, Sirva/NAVL, on US 30 west of I-69. Enter on the south side of the building, through the eastern most pedestrian entrance, where the sidewalk angles up to the building. Check in/Sign in at the security desk. Our Clinician will be John Reitz and his T Trak modules.

## ADJOURN

The meeting ended at approximately 9:00 pm.

