



The Dispatcher



SUPER'S REPORT

**North
Central
Region
NMRA**

**Northeast
Hoosier
Division 3**

Superintendent:
John Reitz

Treasurer:
Gene Cowan

AP Chairman:
Daniel Metzger

**Board of
Directors:**
Glenn Roon

Division Scribe:
Chuck White

**Dispatcher
Editor:**
Rich Mohr

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

Here's what I hope will become a semi regular column for our newsletter. My objective is to pass along information, insights and other items to help enhance the model railroading hobby for our group. As your new superintendent for the North East Hoosier Division 3, first I must thank our past Superintendents for all they've done for us. I hope to do as well as our immediate past president, John Reitz, MMR. His efforts were tireless on our behalf. I'll be mentioning one of his projects later in this column. Additionally, we are all in debt to John's immediate predecessor, Jeff Ashby. During his tenure, Jeff gave us a continuous scenery clinic at our monthly meetings. I wish we had recorded them. They were excellent. Prior to Jeff, Mark Gaeth was our leader. Mark made a nifty twist to our meetings, by having the fun stuff first. Gone but not forgotten, Jim Baker handled us through our 2001 convention. I don't think we would have succeeded without his steady hand "at the throttle."

Some things that I will put into this column will be issues discussed at our monthly meetings. I don't want to take anything away from Dan Brown's efforts as our new division Scribe. I simply hope to give another slant than what may have been conveyed in our minutes. The first of these is John Reitz's efforts to provide us with a new division shirt. They come in white or gray, with or without your name, and either as a T shirt or a Golf/collared shirt. The shirt I requested was spoiled because my name was printed upside down. John took a picture of this at our meeting last month. I'm assuming he'll forward to Rich Mohr to be reprinted in this publication. The cost on these vary, depending on the size, style and whether you want your name printed. My golf shirt, with my name printed the right way, will be about \$31. Please contact John if you'd like to have one of these.

Our division's Annual Meet, is scheduled for March 18, 2006. It again will be at the Church of the Covenant United Methodist, 10001 N. Coldwater Rd. Dan Metzger is heading things up. He's got a plethora of activities planned. Once again, we'll have "Hands-on" and "How To" Clinics for the public. For ourselves, we'll have NMRA Contests and local layout tours. For everyone, we'll have refreshments, modular layouts and door prizes. Several of us have things we need to complete for this. Please get going with your assignment ASAP.

Model Railroader has reintroduced their column: "Schedule of Events." There now is a \$25 fee per issue to place a listing of your event. For our Annual Meet in March, should we pay the expense for a listing in MR? I think not. Our event is a local one. We don't need the national publicity. Secondly, the \$25 fee is pretty substantial when you consider our entire budget for this event isn't much more than a couple of hundred dollars. Rich Mohr advises he has sent notices to the other magazines, and has also posted our meet on-line.

One of my passions in our hobby is operations. I'm a member of the Operations Special Interest Group, and also a club in Saline, MI, "Rails On Wheels," that is devoted to promoting operations. The Op Sig puts out an excellent newsletter with a name similar to ours: "The Dispatchers Office." For the \$15 it costs for membership, the newsletter is a bargain. Last year we hosted our first Op Sig Weekend ("Op Til you Drop") in the area. By almost every measure it was a success. This year, the Michigan Prototypical Operators will be hosting this event. I'm hearing it will be held the weekend of April 20 - 23. Located in the Detroit area, you'll have the opportunity to visit

multiple layouts, each with its own unique scheme, scale and style. I would encourage every member of our division to attend this event. Let me know if you're interested in going.

Another event in our area is the annual convention for the North Central Region. It will be held in Grand Rapids, MI this October 13-15. I received a Power Point Presentation on a CD from them at this year's convention in Pontiac. I'd like to try to show to as many members of our division as possible. I hope to have it for our January meeting. This is another wonderful Model Railroad event that you should not miss. Besides having the opportunity to visit and operate on the fabled layout of Dr. Bruce Chubb, you'll have innumerable other model railroading experiences over the course of a three day weekend.

The NMRA's national convention in Philadelphia is from July 2 to July 8. One of our division's members, Blaine Heinfeld, has been a regular attendee of this annual event as long as I've known him. If you have any questions about going, or why you should go, you might contact Blaine. The registration info will be published in Scale Rails shortly. A number of the tours fill up very quickly, so if you have any interest in going to Philly this year, you should decide within the next 30 to 60 days. I have plans to attend.

I've also been involved in the plans for our region to host the NMRA's annual national convention in 2007 in Detroit. I've attended several planning meetings in Grand Rapids, Lansing & Toledo. Recently, I learned they'll have hotel rooms for volunteers who go to Detroit to help out. Another function I'm doing, is helping promote this convention. Last spring, I traveled with the convention display to Madison, WI, for the Midwestern Region's convention. Next November, I've volunteered to handle the booth for Train Fest in Milwaukee. Finally, I'm working on having a layout tour come to Fort Wayne for the '07 convention. I don't know if we'll pull this off, but I'm going to try. Let me know if you want to be a volunteer in Detroit, assist with the '07 layout tour, or help me out at Train Fest.

In 2009, the NCR convention will once again be held in Fort Wayne. As we did last time, we're going to set up separate committees for each of the various convention functions. These will include: Registration, Clinics, Contest, Layout Tours, Hotel, Door Prizes, Banquet, Prototype Tours, and the Convention Program. There are several more groups, but you get the idea. Several people have verbalized their desire to head up the same committee they handled last time. Still, we'll be looking for every member of our division to be involved in some way. Thus, if you have an interest in a particular activity,

please let me know. Our first concern is to establish dates and get the hotel contracted. Anyone interested in serving on the hotel committee?

For our monthly meetings, I'm asking everyone attending to plan to give us a "five minute clinic." **For January, no particular topic is planned, but I'm thinking it would be interesting to see what everyone got for Christmas.** Then, instead of the usual hour long presentation/clinic, I've asked several members to give us a brief 20 to 30 minute talk/discussion. January's will be the viewing of the Grand Rapids disk. For our February meeting, Glenn Roon says he's got a "Railroad Test" for us. In March, Dave Miller will give us some insights on "Layout Planning." Then, in April, we'll have Walt Griffin tell us what he's done for "Programming Signals" on his layout. For May, I've asked Mel Wise discuss "Scenery Details." I'll try to line up presenters for future meetings. If you have something you'd like to share with us, please let me know.

One last item is that I've been contacted by several (currently 3) different persons wishing to sell or dispose of model railroad collections, or related items. One involves an architect's HO (approximately) scale model for a real estate development in Bluffton. As this is written, I haven't connected with any of these parties. As soon as I have more info, I'll pass it along. In the meantime, if anyone would like to help out with this process, or would like to take it over, please let me know.

If you have anything you think would benefit our group, please send it to me. Or, better yet, send it to Rich Mohr for him to include in this newsletter. We've got a great looking publication, something we all can be proud of. Let's see what we can do to make it even better!

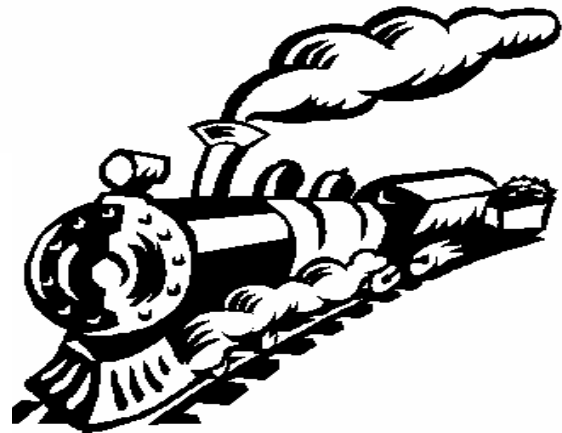
Chuck

Model Railroad Show & Swap

*sponsored by:
the Maumee Valley Rail Road Club, Inc
A not for profit organization*

**Saturday,
February 11, 2006
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Coliseum Bingo**

**911 W. Washington Center Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46825
(260) 490-9999**



From I69, Exit at Lima Road, #111 northbound. About one block from the interstate, turn right/east onto Washington Center Rd. Proceed about 1/2 mile. Bingo Hall is on the south side of the street, across from Texas Road House restaurant.

Information/contact:
Maumee Valley Rail Road Club
P.O. Box 162
Leo, IN 46765

Chuck White
260-760-1666
cwhite13@comcast.net

Adults \$3.00, 12 and under free

- ↓# **Many large tables of model railroad and railroadiana bargains!**
- ↓# **Operating train layouts including new Maumee Valley Layout**
- ↓# **Good food and plenty of free parking available**
- ↓# **Toy Trains for Tots display and play area**
- ↓# **Handicap Accessible**



G-Trac & NIOG
Swap Meet & Open House
Prime Outlets South, Fremont, IN.



What: The G-Trac and Northern Indiana "O" Gauger's model railroad clubs will be holding a swap meet, open house, and membership drive. Nine operating model railroads will be displayed. Lionel, O, G, On30, N, and HO Scale trains will be operated along with a swap meet to buy, sell, & trade. Bring your trains to run on the layout with assistance from our members.

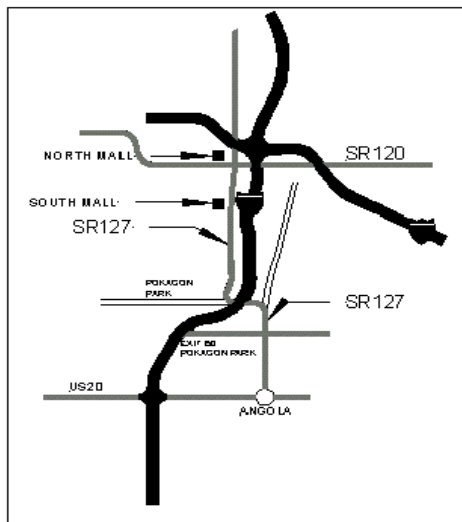
Where: Prime Outlets South in Fremont, Indiana

When: President's Day Weekend, February 18, 2006
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Admission: \$2.00/person

Table price: \$10.00/table before January 9, 2006. \$15.00/table on or after January 10, 2006

Location: Located off of Interstate 69 at exit 156 (Southbound) or exit 154 (Northbound). One hour South of Lansing, MI, 1 hour East of South Bend, IN. 1 1/2 hours West of Toledo, OH. And 45 minutes North of Fort Wayne, IN.



For more information please contact:

Michael Meisener Nick Nordmann Ron Taylor
(260) 868-1362 (260) 316-3256 (260) 488-3986

For table reservation mail check/money order and form to:

G-trac - 355 Lane 148 Hamilton Lake, Hamilton, IN 46742

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Tables _____ Electricity (\$5/ space) _____

We reserve the right to sell your table after 8:30 am if you fail to show.