

The Dispatcher

Northeast Hoosier
Division 3 NCR

National Model Railroad Association



SUPER'S REPORT

by: Chuck White



Super's Report –December 2007

It's a while since I've written one of these columns. I need to do some catching up.

ELECTIONS

First and foremost is that it is time for election of new officers for our division. We will have nominations at our monthly meeting this Tuesday evening, December 11, with voting for the nominees at our January meeting. Additional nominations will be accepted at the January meeting. Our newly elected officers will take over immediately upon conclusion of the elections. If you are interested in being an officer of our division, or you want to defend yourself to not be an officer, you should show up at either, or both, of these meetings.

ANNUAL MEET

The date for our Annual Meet has been set for March 15. Dan Metzger and Alan Bell are co-chairing this event. It has been decided that we will go back to our format of focusing on

our members. We will not be doing the "Make and Take" clinics. Rather we will be focusing on clinics for our members. We're looking at bringing in some outside experts. We will still have the home layout tours. Gary Evans is chairing this. This year we will probably see if we can go with a South tour.

OP SIG

Another weekend of "Op til You Drop" will be happening. It will be in Indy next year. The dates are April 4-6. Presently there are several of us of us going, including Alan Bell, Gary Evans, Bill Wemhoff, Tony Williamson, and myself. If you are interested in going please let one of us know. For more information please go to their website at www.cirrops.org

Speaking of Op Sessions, I recently attended a good one near Muncie at the home of Matt Lappin. His railroad is the Central Indiana and Ohio. He has a very good website at www.trainweb.org/cior I understand these sessions have also been attended by John Reitz, Kevin Barweiler and Carl Dirig. Matt's Op Sessions are usually on the first Saturday of the month. He can be contacted through his website or let John, Kevin or myself know that you would be interested in attending.

GREAL LAKES EXPRESS

One of the interesting happenings (for me) at the NMRA's national convention in Detroit this past summer was the selection of the 2012 convention location. The competition was between Grand Rapids and Indianapolis. I am well acquainted with model railroaders from both communities, having made a number of friends in each. You would think because of the larger sized that Indianapolis would have been the winner. However it was decided to award the convention to Grand Rapids. One of the key considerations was the cost of the facility for the National Train Show. I understand there was a huge difference between the costs for Indianapolis versus Grand Rapids. It makes me wonder a bit if it would not be possible for Ft. Wayne to host a national convention. However, one issue is being able to have enough layouts for tours. A minimum of 100 would be necessary

For me, the Detroit convention was a very memorable experience. I had a great time as a volunteer and was proud to been part of the organizing team and host committee. In case you're interested in going to future NMRA national conventions they will be in the following cities:

- 2008 Anaheim
- 2009 Hartford
- 2010 Milwaukee
- 2011 Sacramento

It is my intention to attend the

SUPER'S REPORT Continued

Hartford convention and probably Milwaukee's too.

One other note about the Detroit convention was that our Dick Moessner was presented with a plaque recognizing his participation and efforts with putting together the GLE's convention program. The presentation was made by Dave Thornton (chairman of Great Lakes Express and member of the Board of Directors for the NMRA) during a visit he recently made to Fort Wayne.

I should also mention that Dick's article, from this newsletter, on sign making, was profiled in Jim Zinser's Division Business Car column in the December 2007 issue of Scale Rails. Our division has been mentioned more than a few times in our national publication.

MEETING LOCATION/DATE

It has been brought to our attention that our meetings on the second Tuesday conflict with another model railroad club, that being the TRAIN group. At our November meeting we discussed changing our meeting dates and possibly our location. Fergus Moore will be investigating as to the possibility of alternative dates for us to meet at the church. At the same time I received a call from Gene Cowan. He has made arrangements for us to use a meeting room at Ft. Wayne's Fire Department's Station Number 4. It is located near Landwehr & Stellhorn Rds. There

would be no charge for this room, and it would be available on the first Monday's. This item will be on our agenda for this Tuesday's meeting.

CLINICS at our Monthly Meetings

At our last few meetings, we've had the opportunity to watch portions of videos from the Dream Plan Build series produced by Kalmbach Publishing. They are very entertaining. In them we've seen a number of different clinics (including one on painting backdrops), layout tours, and even a piece about motor cars. These videos have been purchased by Division III and have been in the hobby shop of one of our sponsors: Cowan's Creations. They are available for division members to borrow and to view in their homes. Please contact Gene if you would like to borrow one or more of the videos.

2009 REGIONAL CONVENTION

Planning for our hosting of the NCR's 2009 convention progresses. I hope to have a report for our meeting Tuesday night. We have a meeting with the management of the Fort Wayne Marriott Tuesday afternoon.

Speaking of regional conventions, the 2008 NCR convention will be held in Toledo next fall. It is called Fast Freight 08 and is scheduled for

September 18-21. The conventions website is at <http://www.divisiononencr.org/conv2008.htm> Again, it is my intention to attend this convention. Anyone who would like to go with me, or simply would like to attend the convention, please let me know.

TONY'S COLLECTION

The process of cataloging Tony Romero's collection has reached the

Meeting Location:

Every month on the
second Tuesday
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Church of the Covenant
10010 N Coldwater Rd
Just south of Dupont



Please use the South-East Drive & Entrance



North Central Region NMRA Northeast Hoosier Division 3

Superintendent: Chuck White
Dispatcher: Dan Metzger
Treasurer: Gene Cowan
AP Chairman:

Board of Directors:
Gary Evans
Division Scribe: Dan Brown
Newsletter Editor: Rich Mohr



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point where we will begin putting items on eBay. We recently took a quantity of his miscellaneous items to the Maumee Valley Swap. Fergus and Sharon Moore handled the very successful sale of a good portion of these. For the efforts of all involved, I received a thank you card from Tony's wife Ann. I would like to thank Gary Evans, Dick Moessner, Fergus and Sharon, Rich Schwab, and several others for their time and effort.

MEMBER'S PRIVACY AND NMRA MEMBERSHIP

As many of you know, in the past, we have produced/published a listing of member's phone numbers, e-mail addresses, mailing addresses, and for some, the name of their spouse was also included. Given the issues raised by the federal laws regarding privacy, we will no longer publish this list unless we have the individual permission of each person listed. It would help me a ton, if each of you would contact me and advise whether or not you want your information included in this list. If I don't hear from you within the next month or so, I will attempt to contact each of you individually, to determine your status. I should add that if your information is not to be included in this listing, that should you query as to another member's info, that it will not be available to you.

In the November issue of Scale Rails, NMRA President Mike Bretsel's column was devoted to the topic of NMRA membership and insurance. If you haven't read his column, please do so. He advises that we need to certify that each of our division's members is also a member of the NMRA. As part of the process of updating the above listing, only those individuals who are NMRA members will be listed.

Further, only those persons who are members of the NMRA will be eligible to vote in our elections and hold office in our division. If you have any questions or concerns as to why these actions are necessary, you first need to read Mike's column.

THE LAST WORD

I have not been happy with my stewardship as superintendent of our division. I don't feel that I have lived up to my expectations. However, in discussing this with several of you, it doesn't sound like anyone is as concerned as I am. It's also probable that nobody else wants this job. One issue I have is the lack of these columns. I had wanted to make them a monthly/regular process. With the thought that I plan to run for reelection as superintendent, I have purchased speech recognition software called Dragon NaturallySpeaking. It changes your words into text and is about 95% effective in doing so. This entire column was dictated with this software. I accomplished in a relatively short period of time what would've taken me a good part of the day. I'm hoping it will allow me to be more productive and do a better job as the leader of our group. Now if I can just get these dictated, and to our newsletter editor Rich Mohr, so that he has enough lead time to publish The Dispatcher at least a week before our meetings. That's my goal for the next two years.

Take care

Chuck




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