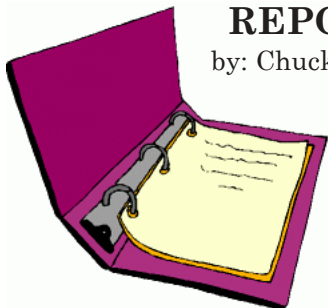


## SUPER'S REPORT

by: Chuck White  
April 2008



### Supers Report

#### 2008 NMRA BOD Election

Have you voted yet? The ballot for our Central District Director was in the middle of the Anaheim convention registration materials in the February issue of Scale Rails. More importantly this ballot also includes changes to how members can switch from one region to another. **THIS ISSUE AFFECTS MANY OF OUR MEMBERS IN THE COUNTIES NEAR FT. WAYNE.** To change region affiliations, the current required number of local members is currently at 3/4. This change would lower that ratio to 2/3. This should make our proposed changes much easier. Please vote to support this change.

#### 2009 NCR Convention

Plans are "steaming" along. We're beginning to assign leadership positions. If you would like to defend yourself from getting drafted for a particular chair, you might want to attend our next planning meeting. Or, if you think you would like to manage/coordinate a particular area, you

might attend for that reason as well. That date is Wednesday, April 30, at the Marriott, in their BOD room, at 7 PM. I'm hoping the notes from our last meeting will have been typed up, and will appear elsewhere in this issue. We'll be finalizing our logo – we have some neat ideas.

#### NCR BOD Meeting

This semi annual get together is scheduled for April 26 at 10:00 AM in Livonia, MI. As your superintendent, I will of course be attending, leaving Ft. Wayne in my krautmobile at zero dark thirty (about 6:30), as it's about a 3 hour drive there. The meeting is scheduled to last until noon. The agenda includes a "restart" of Region activities, now that the 2008 convention is complete. If any of you would like to go with me, let me know ASAP.

#### 2009 Northeast Hoosier Division 3 Meet

Our annual festival of Model Railroading is slated for Saturday, May 3. It'll again be at the Church of the Covenant. The theme will be hands on with most every clinic featuring individual involvement. See Dan Metzger's meeting notes elsewhere in this newsletter. To publicize this event we're going to send out about 600 flyers to prospective attendees. We'll be folding, stuffing (into envelopes), sealing (the envelopes) and stamping these at next week's business meeting. This may sound like a lot of work, but with many hands, it should go quickly.

Your assistance in this project is much appreciated.

#### Yahoo Groups

I belong to over a dozen different groups, including two for my railcar and one for my Robotic Lawn Mower. Recently, I learned of software that allows you to monitor mainline operations of the most any railroad using the similar software for their signals/dispatching. It's called ATCS Monitor. The software puts up a display on your PC much like a Dispatcher's Panel, or like that software game that was popular a few years ago. Anyway, we're hoping to have a live clinic at the Annual Meet, including how to get started with this program. The Yahoo Group has detailed instructions for getting started...

Another good group is know as [Railphotos@yahoo.com](mailto:Railphotos@yahoo.com) Here you will find emails/postings of pictures of current prototype engines, cars, wrecks, etc. I'm a sometime contributor, forwarding stuff I received from my friends. If you're into seeing pix of the prototype, this is one group to which you must belong.

#### CIRROPS

##### Op Til You Drop Weekend

Is next weekend. It sounds like they're going to have a large crowd with folks coming from as far away as from California. Several members of our division will be attending, including yours truly. I'll give you a full report

## Supers Report

(Continued)

next month. Our Northeast Hoosier Division (via the Three Rivers Op Sig) is being given credit for helping the Indy guys with their event. We've also inspired similar events in other locales. Nice to see how what we've accomplished has influenced others.



March 11, 2008

Meeting began at 7:00 PM

### Attendance

Dan Metzger, Stan Roth, Don Rhodenbaugh, Dick Moessner, Gary Evans, Chuck White, Bill Percy, Art Soloman, Rich Swihart, Eddie Allan, Walt Griffin, Bob Young, Richard Berger, Alan Bell.

### Reports

Gary Evans has the "Fast Freight 08" DVD & info.

- Notes from the previous meeting were approved.

- Treasures report was approved.

- Supers Report

There is a change in the regional officers, see the last dispatcher for more information.

- T-Track Report

Dan provided an explanation of the basics.

## Annual Meet

We will send a letter to all potential attendees in the area.

Rich Swihart is the new AP Chairman  
The clinic for the April meeting is on Judging Models for AP points.

Clinics for the spring meet include:

- Richard Zimmerman, ACTS monitoring software

- Craig Berndt, Jet train presentation

- ???, Judging clinic

- Gary Evans, Cardstock buildings

- Walt Griffin, Signals

- Art Soloman, Trees

- Bill Percy, Car weighting

- Rich Swihart, Skyboards

- Dan Metzger, Scenery

Possible alternate clinics:

- Gary Evans, Dragline presentation

- Chuck White and Dave Miller, Air tools

- Bill Percy, Weathering

Layout Tours

- Lon Hawkins

- Dan Metzger

- Bill Wemhoff

Approval for 500 stamps, envelopes, and copies of invitation letter

Food, Dan will get with Fergus

Admission will be \$4, with \$1 off with invite letter

Dick Moessner will get the flier going

### Regional / National Info

Sept 19-21, Toledo Regional Convention "Fast Freight 08"

- 2009 Regional convention meeting, March 25, 2008 at the Marriott, 6:30 PM

Old Business

- Hobbyland recognition - Dan will dig up and send around.

- Hobby Shop article - watch for it in the Dispatcher

- Jimmy Trotter is selling model railroad items, contact him at [jltrotterjr@msn.com](mailto:jltrotterjr@msn.com)

- Discussion about a swap table at the spring meet. This will be for NMRA members only, 10 item limit.

### Bring & Brag

Dick Moessner brought 2 outhouses  
Eddie Allen brought an outstanding company store building

Rich Swihart brought a Wabash caboose

### Gift Certificates

Phils Hobby Shop - Gary Evans

1st Place Hobbies - Walt Griffin

### Op Sessions

Jeff Hall, March 30th

John Reitz, 1401 Kenwood, Thursday evenings

Gary Sturm

### Shows and Swaps

The former Lantern show was March 8th at Frecker auction arena, there will be a fall show.

Swap at Napanee on March 15th, same show in Elkhart on the 16th

Clinic for next time: Judging for AP points

Rich Swihart is looking for old Walthers catalogs.



## North Central Region NMRA Northeast Hoosier Division 3



Superintendent: Chuck White

Dispatcher: Gary Evans

Treasurer: Dick Moessner

AP Chairman:

Board of Directors:  
Dave Miller

Division Scribe: Daniel Metzger

Newsletter Editor: Rich Mohr



## Hobbyland has Closed... Now where do we go?

by Dan Metzger

Fellow NMRA Members:

With the recent closure of Hobbyland, there is a void in the hobby shop supply for this area. You can still go to the Hobbyland location in Mishawaka. The store is in a shopping center on old state road 20. They also still have a web site at [www.hobbylandinc.com](http://www.hobbylandinc.com). They should be able to redeem gift certificates, if you still have any.

Here is my personal experience with other hobby shops in the area.

1. Phils Hobby Shop 2 Fort Wayne locations, 1722 Lake Ave, and 3112 Clinton St. There is also a location in Defiance, OH. Skip the Defiance store, unless you are near by. It is smaller, and basically stocked the same as the Fort Wayne locations. Phils is now the primary hobby shop in Fort Wayne. They have a good selection of locomotives and rolling stock, but other supplies and stock is sometimes not well stocked. Especially for scales other than HO. They can order from all major suppliers. At times service is poor due to no "train" people on duty, "radio control" associates usually don't know much about model train stuff. Talk to the clerks, the train people are usually very helpful, and willing to order anything not in stock. If you learn the working hours of the "train" people, your shopping experience should be pretty good. Overall, Phils is now your best bet for local face to face service.

2. Whistle Stop Toy Trains 9212 Ernst Rd. This is located close to Airport Expressway and I-69, exit 99. Hours are listed as 4:30 to 7 weekdays, and 10 to 5 Sat. I have had considerable trouble finding it open during the posted hours. Saturday seems to be the best day to find it open. The store is small, but well stocked. It is only trains, of all scales. The store stock is older, but mostly new (not used). Think 1995 and older, including original prices.

Sometimes the original prices are about half of what they are today. There are some amazing finds for everyone. I don't know if new items can be ordered.

3. First Place Hobbies. Bluffton, <http://www.1stplacehobbies.com/> Storefront is open 10 to 2 M-F. They have a nice selection, and re-order often. I have ordered by phone, and picked up in the store. But that was before they changed their hours, and gas was \$1.20 per gallon. You may want to just pay the shipping rate. The prices are usually discounted, so it can be a good place to shop. If you order enough, the shipping charges are negligible. They also host the our web site, so give them a look.

4. Hobbytown USA, 82nd St, Indianapolis. Next to Castleton Mall. This is worth the drive, or a required stop if you are nearby. The store is huge, with a massive selection. There is a clearance area with up to 50% off retail. They have mostly HO and N scale, but stock some O and G. Definitely go there.

5. Heuberger's Hobby Shop. 308 N Bowen Ave, Bremen, IN. This is a good place to take your better half. It is a general hobby shop and craft store in the same building. The owners are a married couple, and each has part of the store for their interests. It has a decent selection, and some prices are discounted. Most of the stock is up to date. Usually worth the drive.

6. JV Railroad Bridgeport MI <http://www.jvrailroad.com/> It is a long drive, but worth it. The hobby shop is crammed full of mostly new stock. Actually "crammed" is an understatement. They seem to order every road name and variation of every new item. The stock is sometimes 2 or 3 deep on the shelves, and hanging from the ceiling, and everywhere else.

Almost all prices are discounted, about 20% off retail. They have a ride on size train that is about 2 miles long, and is 1/2 hour ride.

7. Hawkins Rail Service. Lafayette, IN. This is almost exclusively HO. He has a massive stock of HO stuff. I heard a story about when Horizon Hobby Distributors was checking up on shops after they bought Athearn. The reps said that they had never seen so much Athearn stock in one place before. Hawkins' stock was rumored to be even more than Horizon kept on hand as a distributor! There is also a 100 car train on a test track that runs occasionally. I stop in when I am in the area, but I'm not into HO, so it is not a "must go" for me.

8. Train Exchange 701 N Webster St, Kokomo, IN. <http://www.thetrainexchange.net/> They are associated with Cooper & Oshtemo, a supplier of special run kits. They have a very good selection of HO. The owner also has a booth at the Maumee Swap. Worth the drive, if you are looking for HO. They also host various clinics in the store.

9. St Marys Trading Center, St Marys OH. They have a decent selection of N, HO, and O, and will special order. The hobby part is decent size, but the entire business is mostly a booth style flea market. There is also a large HO layout in the basement.

10. K & K Tolin 403 Arnold Ct, Kokomo, IN. They have a lot of N, but a good stock of other scales too. They have a unique philosophy on selling, use caution with their pricing system. But the stock ranges from current to many years old. If you are looking for something old, they may have it.

11. Hobby Swap shows. The Maumee swap is great, and the Marine

## Hobbyland has Closed...

*(Continued)*

Corps (formerly Lantern) show is ok. I recently attended the swap in Nappanee, it was well worth the drive. There are others in Indy and Toledo that are good also.

12. Mail order and ebay. I have used both extensively, but I always prefer to keep the profits locally. However, these may be the only way to go for some items.

### Possibilities

I have no recent, first hand experience with the following hobby shops, but hope to soon.

1. Hobbyland 2564 Miracle Ln.  
Mishawaka IN.  
[www.hobbylandinc.com](http://www.hobbylandinc.com)

2. Mishawaka Rail Yard 410 S Spring St. Mishawaka IN.  
[www.mishawakarailyard.com](http://www.mishawakarailyard.com) This shop seems to be almost exclusively 3-rail O scale.

3. Rupel Toy Trains 23632 US Highway 33 Elkhart, IN

4. D & S Trains 620 N Wayne St, Angola, IN. This is located in the back room of the BP gas station. The proprietor was not there when I stopped by, the gas station clerk said that he is usually there.

If you are visiting another area, do a google maps search with the word "hobby". You can easily locate everything in that area that has a phone number of business listing. Some of the listings have a link to the shop's web site. I travel a few times a year for work, and sometimes have time for hobby shopping. I always search with google, and have had good luck with it. If you have first hand experience at hobby shops not listed here, please let me know. I am always interested in finding something new.

## 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*



117 E. Market St  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
[www.1stplacehobbies.com](http://www.1stplacehobbies.com)

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Phone: (260) 827-0765  
Fax: (260) 824-5509  
Mon-Fri: 10:00am-5:00pm  
Saturday: 12:00-5:00pm

*We thank these companies for  
their supporting the hobby.*



3112 N. Clinton  
Fl. Wayne, IN 46805  
219-471-1340

422 Clinton Street  
Defiance, OH 43512  
419-782-8020

1722 Lake Avenue  
Fl. Wayne, IN 46805  
219-428-5056

## The Muddler's Corner

The following article was contributed by member Thomas Phulery. Tom is remembered for his earlier pieces "Decaling and Weathering Your 0-5-0 Switcher" and "Modeling A Ventilated Box Car- The 12 Gauge Method"

### Module Fitting Problem Solved

My modular club had a problem. Every time we set up, we had trouble fitting in the last module. Something always was wrong and didn't fit.

We finally came up with a solution. We now have a module that always fits perfectly in the last space. We went to a furniture supply house and obtained a piece of foam rubber, 24"x48"x4". We drew our module track plan on the foam. We then glued down Woodland Scenics foam roadbed to fit the plan, using rubber cement. Then we attached Atlas Superflex track to the foam, again using rubber cement. All wiring on the module was done using flexible stranded wire. Scenery was done using ground foam, attached with rubber cement. To each end of the module, we glued on a piece of rubber gasket, cut to fit. We also obtained two coil springs, each capable of stretching to 48".

Now we just put up all the other modules, stretch the springs between the bottoms of the two adjacent modules, and set our new module in place. Once the gaskets are bolted down, everything fits fine. We heartily recommend this construction to all other clubs!