

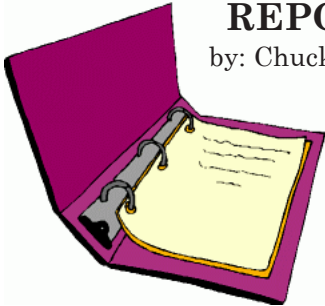
The Dispatcher

Northeast Hoosier
Division 3 NCR

National Model Railroad Association

SUPER'S REPORT

by: Chuck White
June 2008



ANNUAL MEET

To say that this year's event was a disappointment is probably an understatement. Including participants, we had only about 60 attendees. At last month's regular meeting, the post mortem discussed several issues that were probable factors in the poor attendance. They key one of these is the late date we had for this event. We've always had it in March. Cold, miserable weather is probably the key ingredient for a successful annual meet. Getting the meet publicized requires efforts that need to be accomplished before Christmas. In my case, there just was too much going on at year-end. It sounded like a number of us had similar conflicts.

Another issue is determining just exactly who our targeted audience is. This year we eschewed our "Make and Take" program in favor of clinics targeted to model railroaders. We felt the "Make and Take" had become stale in that we were using basically the same kits and cars from years past. With that in mind, instead of sending

out press releases advertising this event to the general public, we sent a direct mailing to about 500 individuals known to be interested in model railroading. This was very expensive, costing nearly \$300, when the postage, printing, and other costs were added up. So, it would seem our target audience is the general public and we should focus our efforts in that direction.

It might have helped if we had some pre-publicity that provided descriptions of the clinics. However we weren't sure as to which ones were going to be presented until just days before the event. Some felt that the clinics were too specific requiring a higher level of knowledge and were not brought or basic enough for the average attendee. It was suggested in the future that we offer a grading as to the level of complexity.

During the postmortem it was suggested that we allowed dealers to participate. While this was sharply criticized, it still might be something we could entertain for the future.

The dearth of operating layouts at the meet is another concern. For several local clubs the task of setting up for a brief one-day show is just too much of an undertaking.

On the bright side, we had an excellent home layout tour. My thanks to Alan Toy, Lon Hawkins, Bill Wemhoff, Walt Griffin, and Dan Metzger for opening up their homes to our members, our friends, and our

guests. For me, this has always been the highlight of the annual meet. We have a number of wonderful model railroads in the area. If you didn't have the chance to visit any of the open houses, you missed a fun time.

Another positive was the phenomenal gathering of door prizes. We have Alan Bell to thank for this. Once again, we had a lot of really nice stuff. And also once again, Bill Piercy outbid me for an engine that was put up for silent auction. That's okay; I probably didn't need it anyway if

We also discussed whether we should have the meet in 2009 given that we're also hosting the regional convention in the same year. Sentiment was pretty evenly divided between having one and not having one. In my view, with the transition of the chairmanship for this event, to a new person, until we have someone step forward to take things over, we're in no position to go forward with this event. This doesn't need to be decided today but the sooner we can get someone in place, the better organized and planned this event will be.

NEXT MEETING – June 10

For our Show and Tell/Bring and Brag you are welcome to bring anything in PRINT from related to our hobby, or the railroad industry. Our clinic is going to be a hands-on experience. Please bring scissors, Elmer's glue, and other miscellaneous

Get Your Hands On Railroading



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2009**




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We thank these companies for their supporting the hobby.



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Supers Report

(Continued)

tools as we will be assembling a card stock building from the clinic Gary Evans' presented at the annual meet. At this time there are no plans to show any of the segments from the Dream Plan Build DVDs we own at this meeting.

accomplished. Rich is available to help you with this process. He also has the support of our own Master Model Railroader, John Reitz, and soon to be MMR, Bill Piercy. Let us know if there is anything we can do to help individual members get going or moving along with achieving the merit certificates.

2009 CONVENTION

Our next regular monthly meeting will be June 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Directors room at the Marriott, located at Washington Center at Coldwater roads. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a listing of the various convention activities we have planned with a request for volunteers. If you have an interest in any one of these areas, please let myself, Gary Evans, or Dick Moessner aware of this.



NEW DIVISION BROCHURE

These have been printed and have been delivered to Phil's Hobby Shops for display and distribution. They are printed on red paper. Please keep your eyes peeled to see if they are available.

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

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Rich Swihart has taken over as chairman of this program. At the last two monthly meetings he has given us excellent information about the AP. Last month his presentation was on how to get the paperwork



Please use the South-East Drive & Entrance

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



Fort Wayne to host Regional Convention

The Fort Wayne area will be hosting the NMRA North Central Region 2009 Annual Convention on October 15 – 18, 2009.

The Countdown Has Started

16
months
remaining



Get Your Hands On
Railroading

Help Wanted: Volunteers are needed for the following activities:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Audio Visual | DVD (producing) | Prototype tours |
| Banquet (awards) | FWRHS #765 liaison | Publicity (media) |
| Budget (finances) | Graphic design | Railfan guide |
| Bus (transportation) | Historian | Registration |
| Clinics (organizing) | Hobby shop liaison | Slide night |
| Contest room | Hotel coordination | Supplier liaison |
| Convention follow up | Layout tours (planning) | T Trak |
| Convention patch / shirt | Modular Layouts | Timetable (Program) |
| Convention store | Operating sessions | Volunteer coordinator |
| Door Prizes (obtaining) | Photographer | Web site |

Tentative Convention Schedule

This schedule is subject to change and is shown for planning consideration only at this time.

Thursday (evening)	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Operating sessions	Operating sessions Layout tours Prototype tours Clinics	Operating sessions Layout tours Clinics	Operating sessions ? Layout tours ? Awards banquet

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

- Jun 08, 7:00 PM, NMRA monthly meeting, Church of the Covenant
- Jun 25, 7:00 PM, Convention planning meeting, Marriott Hotel
- Sep 19 – 21, Fast Freight '08, NMRA NCR Convention, Toledo, OH
 - * Public introduction of Fort Wayne Shops 2009 Registration information and DVD.
- Sep 22, Official opening of Fort Wayne Shops 2009 web site.