



# The Dispatcher

Northeast Hoosier  
Division 3 NCR

National Model Railroad Association

Notes from Monthly NMRA Meeting held on February 10, 2009

## Introductions / Attendance

Dan Metzger, Dan Brown, Rich Swihart, Chuck White, Dick Moessner, Gary Evans, Chris Lord, Alan Bell, Fergus Moore, Sharon Moore, Michael Sperry, Brian Judt, Brad Kinsey, Eddie Allen, Walter Griffin, Dave Miller

## Bring and Brag – What you got for Christmas

Dick Moessner – Two Magazines – Light Iron Digest, Maine 2 Foot Quarterly; Book – Two Feet to Tidewater  
Chuck White – The Great Railroad Game

## Spring Meet:

Gary Evans – Dragline  
Dan Metzger – Scenery/Rock Castings or Static Grass  
Bill Wemhoff – Rail Op  
Chris Lord – SimSig  
Jim Six - ?  
Chuck White – Air Tool  
If you are presenting, please have a one page outline for the March meeting.

Brian Judt – Timesaver layout  
Gary Evans – Home Layout  
Alan Bell – Home Layout

## Meeting Reports

**Notes From Last Time** - Dan Metzger.

**Treasures Report** – Dick Moessner  
We are solvent. CD is now in regular

savings. The website domain name is now in our name, instead of first place hobbies. Because of this, Dick is looking into having a debit card for the NMRA. We donated \$25 to Alzheimers Research in memory of Art Soloman.

**Hobby Shop Liaison** – Don Rhodenbaugh No news.

**Achievment** – Rich Swihart Golden Spike Awarded! Gary Evans, Rich Swihart. Chuck White received a certificate for 25 years of membership in the NMRA

**Newsletter / Web Site** – Rich Mohr

**T-Trak** – Dan Metzger No news. If you want to scenic a module, let Dan know.

**Supers Report** – Chuck White Hotbox needs an article for the next issue. We need layout articles!

**2009 Regional Convention** – Next Meeting: 7:00 pm January 27, at the Marriott

**Dream Plan Build DVD's** – Dick Moessner - New DVDs – UP over Sherman Hill. 30 total. Bill Percy still has DVD #1.

## Old Business

Annual Meet Planning – We will discuss this at the next meeting.  
Layout Tour Coordinator? E-mail from Indy – Chuck.

Possible coordinator for assisting modelers that have technical problems.

## New Business

Add a “questions” time in the meeting agenda for anyone to ask. Also add this feature to our yahoo group.

## Calendar of Events

Op Sessions

Gary Evans Friday, Feb 27, 7 pm - every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday

Rich Swihart Friday, Feb 13, 7pm – every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday.

John Reitz – every Thursday. Feb 21-Saturday Special!

Joe Berger – Last Saturday

Continental – First Saturday.

Rails on Wheels – Sunday March 15.

Round Robins

Layout Work Sessions

**Swaps & Train Shows** –Maumee swap Feb 28; TRRHC Feb 28-Mar 1; Muncie Feb 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Announcements

Door Prize Drawing: Sharon Moore (Alan Bell was drawn, but not present!)

Other events pertaining to our group  
Train Festival in Owosso Michigan July 24-26

TV shows:

Extreme Trains – Tuesdays 10:00 PM - The History Channel

RFDTV – various railroad videos 9 AM Saturdays, and repeated at other times.

PBS – Tracks Ahead 11:30 Fridays

Next Meeting: Mar 10, 2009

Show & Tell/ bring & Brag: Women in Railroading

Clinic: DVD

Adjourn

**National Model  
Railroad  
Association**

*Have you visited  
www.nmra.org lately?*



**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



**CFC 12286**

**Federal Employees!** For the first time, the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) will be included in your annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) to be conducted at your workplace. To offer the NMRA your support please designate #12286 on your CFC contribution form.

**Operating session**

Title: Operating session  
- Wabash Railroad

Time: 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Repeats: This event repeats every month on the second Friday until Friday May 8, 2009.

Location: Rich Swihart's home

- ◆ R/C Cars, trucks, planes, boats, (gas and electric
- ◆ Plastic model kits
- ◆ Model trains
- ◆ Rockets
- ◆ Paints & adhesives
- ◆ Kites

117 E. Market St  
Bluffton, IN 46714

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

[www.1stplacehobbies.com](http://www.1stplacehobbies.com)

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companies for  
their supporting  
the hobby.*

**PHIL'S  
HOBBY SHOP**

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**Get Your Hands On Railroading**



**The  
Countdown  
Continues**

**7  
months  
remaining**

**Help Wanted:**  
Volunteers are still needed!

**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.

Editors Note: This is the second in a series of emails I received from Alan. They are from a gentleman who was a tower operator in our area. They are copied from an email and have extra 'returns' from the email format. I appologize for this, it would have take too long to remove them.

From: DJ Hake  
 Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:28 AM  
 To: Alan Toy  
 Subject: Re: Town Hall Meeting  
 Hi, Al,  
 I never worked at Vandale. I might have been up in the tower once in my life, only to look around. The tower was closed about 3 years after I hired on, and was completely gone once I was out of school and working full time. Vandale had two sidings, one eastbound, one westbound. They were two of the longest sidings on the West End, with almost no road crossings. Before the tower was taken out, both ends of both sidings were power switches and interlocked. Although the line ran through, once upon a time, between Butler and Logansport, I have never talked to anyone who remembered when there were diamonds at Vandale. Apparently, the diamonds were removed before WW II. Up until the early '60's, there were a daily pair of trains that operated between Fort Wayne and Logansport via Vandale. They were regular, assigned runs. Once upon a time, I even knew their symbols. They were FW-xx something or other. The line between Vandale and Van, which was the tower at the other end, in Logansport, was referred to during most of the middle 20th-Century as "The Vandalia". The Vandalia RR was PRR's component Company that operated the line

before the major consolidations. Prior to the line being consolidated into the Vandalia company, it was called the "Eel River" railroad. That goes back into the 19-Century. If you check a map of Indiana, you see that the railroad follow the Eel River for much of its length, hence the name. That piece of the Vandalia between Vandale (Columbia City) and Butler was known for most of the 20-Century as the Butler Branch. During the heyday of the line, PRR-affiliated tower operators were located at La Otto, where it crossed the GR&I, and Newton, where it crossed the Erie. There was the B&O tower at Auburn Jct., that was a B&O employee. If you go back into the 1920's, there was a tower south of Garrett called, of all things, "Vandalia", where the Butler branch crossed the Fort Wayne & Auburn interurban. I imagine that was a PRR operator, but I have no way of checking that. Its lost in the mists of time. I'm also not sure about the name "Fort Wayne & Auburn". That doesn't seem like the right name for the interurban, but I'm sure that somebody in the Fort can remember. There was also a tower of some kind closer to Logansport, called "Hoover". I seem to remember that the C&O crossed there. It was a PRR operator, because I remember the really old heads talking about working there. Getting back to Vandale tower, I

seem to remember that the operators controlled another remote interlocking other than West Vandale. It seems to me that they controlled "Arcola" and "Berlin". Oddly enough, Arcola was a set of remote control power crossovers, an interlocking. No siding that I can remember. Berlin was interesting, in that there were an eastbound and west bound siding, the entry to each being located at the same spot. There were power switches on both No.1 and No.2 tracks, spaced in such a way that there was a hand-operated crossover in between the two interlockings. An odd arrangement. The exit points of both sidings were hand-operated. Not a problem in the days of cabooses. Breaking news: I just remembered an old Fort Wayne Division timetable that a retired operator gave me: it DOES show Berlin controlled by Vandale, but shows Arcola controlled by Junction. Nothing like going right to the source, eh? The timetable is dated 1953. Anyway, there's a thumbnail history of Vandale, as best as I can recall. More later, eh ? . . .  
 Denny