

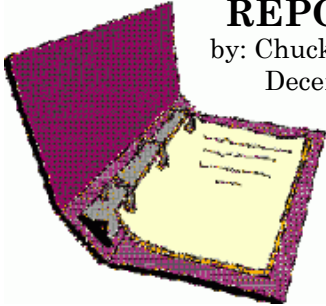
# The Dispatcher

Northeast Hoosier  
Division 3 NCR

National Model Railroad Association

## SUPER'S REPORT

by: Chuck White  
December, 2009



We accomplished an amazing feat. The North Central Region's 2009 Fort Wayne Shops convention was, in a word, excellent. As NCR President Jack Watson said at the Awards Brunch on Sunday, "We raised the bar in 2001, and we did it again in 2009." I want to thank everyone who chaired a committee, volunteered, or simply helped out. If I try to name everyone, I'll certainly miss someone, but I'm going to try. However, I do need to single out three individuals. Without their personal dedication, commitment, and hard work, we would have failed. They were not going to let that happen. The members we're all indebted to are: Alan Bell, Gary Evans and Dick Moessner. Let me tell you a little bit about what they each did, knowing I'm going to leave something out.

Alan chaired our clinics, obtained the door prizes, coordinated the "bag of stuff," and garnered sponsorship from several local eateries. Talking to the clinicians we brought in from out of town, they all had a great time. Several said they would come back anytime. The restaurant sponsorship is what amazed me. He did this without being asked. I had tried this in 20001 with little success. Alan secured dozens of

coupons for free meals. Many of these he gave to our clinicians to save them the expense of eating out. He had enough to put several in the "bag of stuff." I found one in my bag.

Dick was our registrar, treasurer, and hotel liaison. As registrar, he set up a spread sheet for all the convention registrants, having very little prior experience with Excel. From this he created the name pages and an individual print out of each attendee's registration. He kept an expert accounting of all our incomes & expenditures. Yes, in the end we lost money, but without Dick's diligent efforts as treasurer, the loss could have been far greater. Finally, Dick handled the convention registration desk virtually continuously from when we first opened it on Thursday night until we shut it down late Saturday.

Gary was our web master (of sorts), coordinated the layout tours, and helped scheduling the Op Sessions. He made sure our web site was continuously updated, spending countless hours on this task. From what I heard of the Op Sessions, all who attended them had a grand time. The layout tours were very well organized. It was a simple matter to cut & paste his spread sheet into the program.

Moving onto other convention activities, the "hands on" theme of the convention was a big winner. I've received several emails and comments from attendees who raved about this aspect. Several of our clinicians have been asked to participate in other regional conventions, and the upcoming NMRA national conventions

in Milwaukee and Grand Rapids. Alan Bell was able to bring in several national "names." As we also did in 2001, this is something you rarely see at a regional convention.

We hit a home run with the Prototype Tours. One veteran of several NCR conventions told me the Triple Crown tour was probably the best one he'd ever been on. I heard similar accolades about the other tours. Our guests were wowed at Steel Dynamics and the NS Dispatching Center tours were very well received. Those who attended the engineer at the throttle, with our friends at the home of the 765, told me they had a great experience. In short, we blew these folks away. Brad Kinsey was the coordinator for these, and handled the driving chores for one of the vans too.

Thanks to the efforts of Chris Lord and Rich Mohr, our convention program (aka Time Table) was a beautiful creation. I don't believe any program, from any other NCR convention, that I have attended, has been as good looking, as well organized, or expertly put together as ours have been.

Another unbelievable accomplishment was the door prizes. We had one for every attendee. Some went home with more than one prize. To the best of my knowledge, this has never been accomplished by any other NCR convention. We gave away some great stuff. Kudos to Alan Bell for his efforts here.

Don Rhodenbaugh handled our shirts & mugs. Both were well done and professional looking. Once attendees saw how good they looked, I think a

number wished they had pre-ordered.

One unsung hero was Rich Swihart. He was our volunteer coordinator. He took on this unglamorous role, after getting the 765 stuff nailed down. Much of his work was unknown, as his people helped make sure things ran smoothly. In particular, he made sure the company store was manned at all times.

Bill Wemhoff was our coordinator for the Op Sessions. He made sure we had a variety of layouts, that were open throughout the convention, and were appropriately publicized ahead of time.

Our convention car was very well done. Hats off to Accurail for the fine work they did and to Kit Anderson for coordinating.


Finally, thanks to Dan Brown for coordinating the modular layouts at the hotel. We had a great variety for our out of town guests to view.

One other thought. The folks at the Marriott, particularly Todd Taylor, were marvelous. We had a great venue. Again, it was one of the best hotels to have hosted a NCR convention.

We did have some problems. Some things didn't go well, and we took a hit financially. Still, these all pale in comparison to the successes we achieved. Thanks again for making me look good. I have been proud to be your spokesperson and representative to the North Central Region of the NMRA.

Take care.

Chuck

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**



## NMRA Notes 8-Sept-09

## Introductions / Attendance

Dan Metzger, Dan Brown, Chuck White, Dick Moessner, Gary Evans, Eddie Allen, Rich Swihart, Don Rhodenbaugh, Bob Young, Rick Van Laar, Chris Wehman, Michael Sperry, Dave Miller

**Bring and Brag -**

Dan Metzger - AAPROCO Playing Cards, Santa Fe ash tray, CSX sewing kit, CSX first ait kit, NS pencil, Don - VIA necktie, VIA neck scarf, VIA tie clasp, Amtrak tie clasp. Eddie Allen - Clinchfield ashtray Chuck - NS Lake Division mug

Clinic - Chris Wehman's DVD of NS trains.

**Meeting**

## Reports

Notes From Last Time - Chuck White and Mike Sperry.

Treasures Report - Dick Moessner We are solvent. 27 registrations for the convention.

Hobby Shop Liaison - Don Rhodenbaugh

Starting in September, First Place Hobbies will be open on the first Thursday of the month until 8pm. You can call or email your order in advance, and pick it up at the store.

www.myatomic.com is another hobby shop in Fort Wayne.

Achievment - Rich Swihart

Newsletter / Web Site - Rich Mohr

T-Trak - Dan Metzger - Next show is the Regional Convention at the Marriott. If you are interested in adopting a module with a turnout, let

Dan know.

Operations SIG/DCC/Layout Design SIG/Industrial SIG

Supers Report - Chuck White

2009 Regional Convention - Next Meeting: 6:30 pm September 29, at the Marriott

Get your shirt orders in by the end of August, if you are volunteering for the convention.

Dan showed a sample of a static grass applicator that could be a clinic at the convention.

Dream Plan Build DVD's - Dick Moessner - New DVD - 39 total.

Other Reports

Old Business

Questions:

New Business

A motion by Gary Evans, second by Michael Sperry, to reimburse Chuck White for copying and printing. Approved.

A motion by Gary Evans, second by Dick Moessner, to suspend purchasing DVDs and gift certificates until the end of the year, and let the next group of officers to determine if we will continue these purchases. Approved.

We are looking for a comittee for nominating a slate of officers for 2010-2012.

Picnic at Alan Toy's on Sunday, Sept 13 from 12 to 5. Please let Alan or Chuck know if you are coming for a head count.

The group has agreed to ask for the smaller room that has the large TV. Watch for more news on this.

Rich Swihart mentioned that we need 23 volunteers for 4 hours each on the Saturday of the clinic.

**Calendar of Events**

## Op Sessions

Fort Wayne group - 3rd Friday. See the Division 3 Yahoo group for the locations. (Gary Evans on 9/21)

John Reitz - every Thursday. 7:00 P.M. Broad Top Mountain Yahoo Group.

Continental - First Saturday of the month.

Round Robins

Layout Work Sessions

Swaps & Train Shows

Great Train Show, Indianapolis, September 26, 27.

Maumee Valley Show and Swap, October 31.

**Announcements**

Door Prize Drawing: Chris Wehman (Gary Evans used a random number generator to pull the door prize number.)

Other events pertaining to our group: TV shows:

RFDTV - various railroad videos 7 PM Mondays, and repeated at other times.

PBS - Tracks Ahead 11:30 AM Fridays

Next Meeting: October 13, 2009

Show & Tell/ bring & Brag: Repeat of Railroad Marketing items.

Clinic: No clinic due to convention.

Adjourn



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