



PEDDLERFREIGHT

Division 1 - MCR - NMRA



Volume No. 13 - Issue No. 7

April 2006

The Akron - Canton - Youngstown Division

Serving Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Mahoning, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas and Wayne (Except Wooster) Counties

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Division 1 Officers

Super. - David Hazlett 330-434-4565

Asst. Super -

Treasurer - Bill Smith 330-644-1434

Division 1 Appointees

Clerk -

Editor - Bill Smith 330-644-1434

Division 1 Volunteer Positions

Comm. Chest - Jack Miller 330-882-4872

Web Page Coordinator -

Christmas Dinner -

Advertising -

Achievement Program -

Historian -

Mid-Central Region

President - Howard Smith

e-mail MCRPREZ@HQ.NMRA.ORG

Trustee - Howard Smith

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National Model Railroad Association

President - John Roberts

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Vice President - Michael Brestel

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The "Peddler Freight" is published each month September through November and January through May. Opinions expressed in this issue may not

I should probably title this message as "SCATTERED THOUGHTS" because that's what it is - a bunch of random thoughts.

The NMRA is mostly run by volunteers. So is Division 1. Most people consider anyone who volunteers for anything to be crazy. Maybe those of us who volunteer are. But where would the NMRA be without volunteers? It wouldn't exist!

Division 1 has been operating since April 2005, without an Assistant Superintendent and since May 2005, without a Clerk. I have repeatedly asked for a volunteer Clerk. I asked twice for an Assistant. I have managed to make each meeting since becoming Superintendent. That is wonderful, but we need a backup for the time I can't make it to a meeting. The upcoming election will take care of that situation, but it will not take care of the need for a Clerk.

We need volunteers to conduct the business of Division 1. Since May 2005, Division 1 has been run by two volunteers - Bill Smith who is both Treasurer and Editor and me. Do you really want only two people running Division 1?

Don't get me wrong. I know the problem with getting volunteers. I am on my condo association board - I'm the Treasurer and have been the President. If I don't like the situation in Division 1 why run again for Superintendent? Maybe I'm crazy.

If you read the election bio in this newsletter you will see two of my goals for Division 1 - more participation and the Achievement Program. With ten counties in Division 1 getting participation from members is hard. Many are older individuals with health problems who can't make a great number of meetings. Some are young with families to care for and time is limited. Some work on Sundays. Some have other reasons for not attending meetings. But the NMRA is about sharing ideas about our hobby. One person alone cannot share. You actually have to get together with someone else. NMRA is also about educating people about our hobby. You can't educate alone. Maybe you need to "volunteer" your time to get to attend two or three meetings a year instead of one or none.

The Achievement Program needs to be functioning. That will take two or more individuals to volunteer a great deal of time. One of the reasons I quit the NMRA in the early 70's is that I could NOT get anyone from the Division to come to my layout to certify it in the Achievement Program. I wonder how many other people have given up?

I know - "Been There, Done That!" I see MMR's (Master Model Railroader) who are no longer active. These are the people who should be volunteering to help in the Achievement Program - volunteers helped them get their MMR. What are we losing in knowledge because of a lack of volunteers?

Come join me - get crazy - volunteer!

David

The following is a tentative meeting list:
April 23 - (Date Change) Youngstown MRRC
May 21 - Donald Bonk - Louisville

Meeting Minutes
Division 1, MCR, NMRA
March 26, 2006

Visit our web site at:
www.trainweb.org/division-1-mcr-nmra/index.html

Bring and Brag

This is NOT a contest. It is a sharing of your attempts and successes. Notice that I said attempts. It would be informative to see what DIDN'T work just as much as what DID!

LINEUP:

April NO "Bring and Brag" due to being at Youngstown's Club
May Homemade Loads for a flat car or gondola

April Destinations
Sunday, April 23, 2:00 PM
Note Date Change

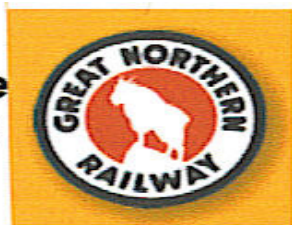
The Youngstown Model Railroad Association will host our meeting. The address is 751 N. Four Mile Run Rd. in Austintown, OH.

No food or drink at this meeting

From the Akron area go east on I-76 till it joins I-80. Continue east on I-80 (not the turnpike) and exit on to I-680. Exit I-680 at North Meridian Rd. Go right (south) on Meridian to Crum Road (about 1/2 mile). Turn right (west) on to Crum Road to Four Mile Run Road (about 1 mile). The Association is in the north-east corner of the intersection.

This issue of the "Peddler Freight" is being mailed to all NMRA members in Division 1 because election information is included.

Stephen Leslie
Wooster, Ohio



Meeting called to order at 2:15 PM by David Hazlett. Motion to accept the minutes as read was approved. David noted there are 96 NMRA members in Division 1. Seven (7) are 30 to 60 days late for renewal.

New members in Division 1 are Kurt Sanders from Vienna and James Williams from Canton.

Treasurers Report was not available.

The April 23 meeting is at the Youngstown Model RR Association at 2 PM. No Bring and Brag at the meeting.

Superintendent indicated candidates must, according to the Bylaws, submit a brief biography for the *Peddler Freight* for the April issue. Nominations will be accepted at the April meeting as Section 5.4 mandates. Current candidates are:

Superintendent - David Hazlett
Asst. Super. - Ron Wigal
Treasurer - Bill Smith

Ballots will be mailed to all NMRA members of Division 1. Ballots will be returned and tallied by Chuck Boyer. We still need a volunteer for Clerk.

David discussed his attendance at the Regional Convention in Morgantown WV on April 27 thru 30. David welcomes others to attend also and get involved in the Division. David will take our ideas or thoughts to the Board of Directors meeting. Email David with your concerns.

A discussion on Fall 2006 and 2007 meeting dates followed. (*See separate article. Ed.*)

Some discussion on a Summer 2006 picnic followed.

The National Convention in Philadelphia on July 2-9 and the National Detroit Convention in 2007 was discussed, David has information on both.

A Division 1 THANK YOU to Jim Pope for the invitation to the YMRRC..

PBS is airing "Tracks Ahead" on Saturdays from 4:30 to 5 PM EST.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.
Ron Wigal - Acting Clerk

ELECTION INFORMATION

According to our Bylaws, those members interested in holding an office in Division 1 must submit a short biography for the April issue of the Peddler Freight. Herewith are three bios.

For Superintendent - David H. Hazlett

I am running for Superintendent. I have been the Superintendent since April 2005, following the death of then superintendent Barney Gaskill.

I have been a model railroader for more than 35 years. In the early 1970's I was a member of NMRA, but left the organization after about three years. I rejoined the NMRA in April 2004.

My goals for the Division are to get better participation from the membership and to reactivate the Achievement Program.

For Asst. Super. - Ron Wigal

Please consider me for your Asst. Super. because I can be helpful to our Super. My interest in this hobby dates back to an old Lionel unit in 1957 purchased for me at Christmas. That interest has never waned even though my hands on participation have had one hiatus or two over time.

These interests include writing and exposing those areas of speciality within our membership which are abundant. None of these interests or abilities take precedence over operation, scenicing or landscaping a layout.

There exists with me a special bend towards making friends with people with whom I share a common interest.

For Treasurer - Bill Smith

I've been Treasurer for the past two years and I will continue to serve as Treasurer for two more years at which time I will be term limited. Then someone will have to step forward.

My interest in being Treasurer and Editor is simply to serve Division 1 in some capacity to assist and promote the Division, MCR, NMRA and the hobby in general.

Meeting Schedule 2006-2007

August 20	End of Summer Picnic? Where?
September 17	Al Klamert
October 15	Coshocton & Live Steam
November 19	Open
December ??	Christmas Party ?
January 21	Sebring
February 18	Open
March 18	Open
April 18	Frank Williamson
May 20	Open

This is a tentative list of open dates for you to volunteer to host a meeting. Please contact the Superintendent or the Editor if you would like to sign up for a meeting date.

Remember . . . Once you get over the hill, you'll pick up speed!

Ron Wigal interviews Cris Diasico

We are talking to a member of NMRA Mid Central Region of Division 1. He is Chris Dimascio of Rittman, Ohio. Chris is a CSX Engineer of 8 years & as I learned, he has some great comments concerning his H.O. layout, its construction and how real life railroading relates to today's modeler.

Q. Chris, we want to have you talk to us a little about your background in the hobby, your family and your career as a CSX Engineer.

A. I was exposed to railroading as a child. We lived in Akron near the tracks and this sparked an interest in me from the beginning. I did not pursue a railroad career initially, rather always thought it would be interesting. From time to time I collected model trains and built a few small layouts. I like family activities & support. That's probably why my family did support me in stock car racing. It has been a passion of mine for years. (Jeff Gordon maybe?-Ron ha)

Q. You are a family man. How does that fit into your life today as a husband, father and an employee?

A. I believe a lot of what I do as hobbies stems directly from things we've done as a family when I was a child.

Now I try to involve my wife & daughter. I've always been supported by my family no matter what! We have always had fun doing things together. We've also been involved with horses for years. This was first my wives passion and then later became my daughters as well.

Q. How long have you been at CSX and what specifically are your duties?

A. We met many nice people in the horse arena. I was at the time between employers. I met a welder for CSXT who had informed me the railroad was hiring and provided me a phone # to call. I called & the rest is history. 2 weeks later I was at Cincinnati University studying to be a conductor. This happened in May of 1998. I did well as a conductor and 2½ years later CSX would send me to engineering training program in Cumberland Maryland. Each time class room training took approx. six weeks followed by field training. This lasted for months while shadowing a conductor or engineer for instruction. The training was intense with much to learn. It was much more intense that I had ever expected. All I had ever seen until then were railroaders going down the track gazing out the window or occasionally stopped reading a news paper. That myth was suddenly changed when I was exposed to what it really took to get a train over the road without a mishap. There is more involved than one can imagine.

Q. How is it that the work schedule of an engineer is so crazy?

A. What schedule!! There is no schedule. It is absolutely nuts out here. We never have a schedule due to changing train schedules. The railroad has a plan but it never seems to hold up,(engines break down, rail malfunctions and the occasional accident). We are on call 24/7. On a day off there exists some circumstances where an individual must report. You must orchestrate your time off when you need it and hope you do not get a call from your supervisor.

Q. Did you become a rail fan because of your work at CSX?

A. No. It was because of being a rail fan that I became a railroad engineer. Sometimes I wonder if I should have remained simply a rail fan. The work is extremely demanding. Don't ever think otherwise.

Q. Tell us about your layout, its size and as well how you determined its shape using the industries you chose.

A. I have for years collected HO scale and have stayed with it. N scale gives you the most space to build the railroad where larger scales allows me to see greater detail. HO gives the best of both worlds for me today. I did a lot of reading and listening to others before I got going on my current layout. WOW ! Did that ever pay off. I built an around the room shelf with a center peninsula connected at one end. Size 17' x 11' and built in my basement. With the advice of others, I tried to pattern the railroad after a location in the real world. I then freelanced my version of a short line in this area. There is a small yard with some industry in this area and a single main connecting a town with some industries requiring rail service. These industries require a fair amount of switching. I did not force a lot into this layout. Conversely, I built the town and yard to facilitate good operation. I sacrificed on the main line run between the towns & industries until this layout can be expanded into a future site. This is my own design. It may be similar to others due to the shape and size of the room. I placed the railroad between the Erie Lackawanna and the B&O which runs from Silver Creek (EL) north end and Roques Hollow (BO) at the south end interchanging with both. Roques Hollow now is empty but in my world flourished with industry such as Rittman, Ohio,(a neighboring town). There is an advantage to freelance. Freelancing in my opinion, is what you want it to be and it can't be wrong. I have been building this railroad from scratch for approx. 2 yrs. It is the Chippewa Valley Railway & is approx. 50% finished. Much remains to be completed. As I said earlier, it may never be completed. I might change it to something I like better. We are changing just like the railroad is ever changing. So are these layouts. The only constant is change.

Q. What was the most enjoyable part of your layouts construction?

A. I'm not into all phases of construction enough to provide a good answer. I did enjoy the planning and construction. I seem to excel at the mechanical aspects of the construction. The wiring, the carpentry, dcc, track laying, scenery, landscaping and finishing with structures. I truly enjoy the end result but don't necessarily like what it takes to get there, that being PATIENCE. I seem to excel more at the mechanical end of things. It's a learning process.

Q. What aided you most in scenery, landscaping and then finishing?

A. Trial and error using ground foam and poly fiber for trees covered in ground foam. I used a riser and runner method with wood and cork roadbed, then filled in the blanks with foam board to be shaped to landscape. Trees were made by spray painting poly fiber black after it was shaped then covered in different colors of ground foam to get the desired look. Very inexpensive and works great. A tape from Dave Frary was a big help. It instructed me to collect a lot of the products for the landscaping so you can be creative and innovate. (Freelance). One can add and subtract products until a desired look you desire begins to take shape. Just do it! Don't try to be so perfect. Once you get flowing you can finish a large area in a quickly. Some things I thought I did not prep properly covered up and looked great at completion.

Q. What will you work on after this is completed?

A. I'm pretty sure this will never be finished. There always seems to be other things that can be added. I can see myself working on, adding, and improving things on this layout for a long time.

Q. Tell us about the dcc system you used, why you chose the one you did and how it works.

A. I'm using a Lenz dcc system and love it. I chose this system after using it on other layouts. I found that it fit my needs and was relatively simple to operate. Some have found the phone radio control to be awkward. I have not. It's what I find myself using most of the time. The only problems I have with this system are those that I myself have created.

Q. Do you see yourself changing scales in the foreseeable future?

A. No I really don't. It is for me the best scale at this time.

I'll see you track side.

Chris Dimascio CSX Engineer

(Part 2 next month. Ed.)

From the Editor

Got some news to share? Contact your Editor at 2786 Mansard Ln. Akron OH, 44312-5393 or call me at 330-644-1434 or email at encore88@aol.com.

Your comments, ideas and suggestions are welcome.

COME TO AN OPERATING SESSION
ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME

OPERATING SESSIONS EVERY THIRD
MONDAY AT 7:30 PM

CONTACT: DAVID H HAZLETT
dhazlett1@neo.rr.com 330-434-4565