



PEDDLER FREIGHT

Division 1 - MCR - NMRA



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The Akron - Canton - Youngstown Division

MAY 2009

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



Superintendents Message

This article was written before the Regional Convention, so news of the convention will have to wait until next month. However, I just received the first of a monthly publication (via email) from NMRA called the NMRA Information Network News Bulletin. I thought you might like to hear about the things NMRA is doing. Remember, NMRA is a volunteer organization and volunteers do the work.

A major change to NMRA's financial management structure will be announced at the Hartford Convention. I wasn't told what the changes are, so we will all have to wait.

The National Contest Judges will be trained and certified in the future. In addition to that, the model contest will now include model displays where modelers can discuss their finished or unfinished projects with attendees. Judging will be at the option of the person entering the model.

New and updated NMRA Data Sheets are being prepared for publication in Scale Rails and will then be available on the NMRA web site, nmra.org.

Remember the news about moving the Kalmbach Memorial Library and the Howell Day Museum to California? Negotiations are still underway with the California State Railroad Museum.

In an effort to reduce the cost of attending national conventions, two smaller cities (Sacramento, CA and Grand Rapids, MI) have been selected to host in 2011 and 2012, respectively. Attendance costs for those conventions will be analyzed.

The Technical Department, under the direction of Di Voss, is producing hard-hitting conformance reports for Scale Rails, and working with the DCC manufacturers to re-focus the DCC Manufacturers' Working Group.

NMRA is working to improve the hobby. It always has. Most of what we take for granted today in model railroading is due, in part, to NMRA. I'm impressed that new Data Sheets will be arriving. I think mine are from 1973. Yes, I still have them . . . somewhere. The conformance reports will be useful to all of us, especially due to the advancing DCC technologies. Change in the financial structure which may lead to stable dues and the effort to reduce costs for national conventions show that NMRA is thinking about our individual finances, too. The change in the contest entries looks promising. However, I have my reservations about the move of parts of NMRA to California. Of course, I didn't like it when NMRA left Canton, either. Can't win them all.

A quick change. It was great to see so many people at the April meeting. I thank Jim Bacher for hosting (and all those who helped him) and Dennis Sautters for his clinic.

See you at the next meeting or track side.

David

2009 Meeting Schedule - June 14 - Don Bonk - Louisville

THE CONTEST

Each month The Contest will have three categories for the type of model. The categories are SCRATCH-BUILT, KIT-BASHED and KIT-BUILT.. To participate in The Contest you must be a Division 1 - MCR - NMRA member. Judging will be by popular vote at the meetings.

CONTEST WINNERS FOR APRIL 2009:

Scratch-Built

Frank Williamson - 1

Kit-Built

NONE

Kit-Bashed

Don Deakins 1st - 3 pts

Don Deakins 2nd - 2 pts

Chuck Boyer 3rd - 1 pt

May - Steam locomotives

CONTEST STANDINGS as of APRIL 2009:

Scratch-Built:

Frank Williamson - 2

Kit-Bashed

Don Deakins - 5

Bill Bigler - 4 ½

Chuck Boyer - 4 ½

Bob Ashely, Sr. - 3

Dennis Sautters - 3

Jim Williams - 2

Dennis Sautters - 1

Kit-Built:

Bob Ashley, Jr. - 2

Larry Olsen - 1 ½

Dennis Sautters - 1 ½

Rob Ashley - 1

Jim Williams - 1

ENLARGE THE SWAP MEET?

At the last meeting we lightly discussed enlarging the October Swap Meet. Please be prepared to put in your two cents worth at the May meeting. At the convention I will have talked to others who put on shows and will hopefully have some insight into the pitfalls, etc. of such a venture. So be prepared to discuss this topic. Think about up front costs for the building and concession stand; parking availability; table costs for dealers; admission; open to public; open and advertised to Divisions 4 & 5; open to dealers who have a store or just to individuals or both; NMRA members only or members and friends; insurance; volunteers to help set up and take down tables and chairs; time open and closed; date; anything else.

DAVID



10 % discount to NMRA members, not valid with any other offers.

"parking in the rear" open 7 days

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May Destinations Division 1 - May 17 - 2 PM

Randy Dettmer at 290 West Prospect Street in Hudson, OH 44236-2240 will host our MAY 17th meeting at 2 PM. Randy indicated he would provide beverages and cookies.

From I-80 take exit #180, Route 8. Go north on Route 8 to Hines Hill Rd. Follow the directions below:

From Route 8, go **EAST on Hines Hill Road** and cross the railroad tracks. **West Prospect is on the right.** Follow West Prospect to the first house on the right, immediately past the electrical sub station.

PARKING IS LIMITED SO CAR POOLING IS NECESSARY.

DIVISION 1, MCR, NMRA MEETING MINUTES April 19, 2009

The meeting started at 2 PM with 27 in attendance. The minutes for March 29 meeting were accepted as printed in the Peddler Freight. The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted, subject to audit.

The Superintendent reported that NMRA Membership is officially at 91 members. There were some problems for our local webmaster, Alex Fleet, accessing the web site, so the Peddler Freight was late in being posted. The problems should be cleared up soon. The Superintendent

reminded us that each member is allowed to bring two items for sale or trade to any of our meetings. Further, you are entitled to a small "For Sale" ad in the Peddler Freight.

The Assistant Superintendent, Bob Ashley, Sr., reported on changes to the Roster. A copy of the Roster was circulated for members to make additions and corrections. Bob noted that a Z-scale module was brought to the meeting and suggested we take a look. Member Jeffrey Jansen also brought an HO scale module. Shirts, hats and patches are still for sale. The web site lists all of these with color pictures and an order form. You may also call Bob Ashley, Sr. to order any of these.

The next meeting will be hosted by Randy Dettmer in Hudson on May 17th.

An offer has been made by Division 4 for us to join them in a trip to Cass. Information was presented on the trip which will be on October 16, 17 & 18. The Superintendent said that information will be printed in the May Peddler Freight.

Meeting dates for September 2009 through June 2010 are open. October will be the Swap Meet, December is the Holiday Dinner, January will be at Sebring and May or June has been requested by a member. All other dates are currently open.

Discussion was held concerning the Swap Meet. We have the possibility to move the meet to the Akron Yacht Club for a cost of \$150. There we could have a concession stand. We could invite Divisions 4 & 5 to participate and possibly open the meet to dealers such as The Whistle Stop. More discussion will be held at the May meeting after the Superintendent has had the chance to discuss meets with individuals who have held them and may have

useful information. This would be a chance for the Division to make some money.

The meeting adjourned at 2:43 pm.

After adjournment host, Jim Bacher, provided food for the meeting. There was a tour of the layout built by Jim's group. Dennis Sautters provided a clinic on fish cars. There were 8 entries in the contest.

Respectfully Submitted,
Randy Dettmer and David Hazlett

Division Four, Mid Central Region, NMRA
Educational Trip
To
CASS, WEST VIRGINIA

Friday October 16 to Sunday October 18, 2009

Enjoy the fall colors and a ride behind the Shay locomotives to Bald Knob, railway museum and other items of interest at Cass, West Virginia.

We will be traveling to Cass by tour bus and will have a special car on the train for our group. Two meals will be included on Saturday. We will be staying at the Econo Lodge in Beckley, West Virginia on Friday and Saturday nights.

Cost: \$160.00 which includes the bus transportation, railcar, train ticket, box lunch and supper at the Last Run Restaurant in Cass.

Not Included: Hotel, Friday dinner and Sunday lunch and souvenirs. There are restaurants within walking distance of the Econo Lodge.

Continental breakfast will be served at the Econo Lodge Saturday and Sunday mornings. Each person or group which will be staying together will have to make their own reservations with Econo Lodge. We have a group rate of \$99.99 plus tax for each room. Call Econo Lodge to make your reservations at 1-888-259-8542. You must ask for the Mid Central Region NMRA, Division 4 to get the group rate. We have 25 rooms available and reservations must be made by August 15, 2009.

The box lunch will consist of a lunch meat sandwich, chips, fruit, drink and desert. Saturday supper will be a buffet style meal with two entrees, vegetable, baked potato, salad, desert and drink.

We will leave from the Quality Inn in Richfield Friday afternoon at 1:00 PM and return Sunday about the same time. Parking will be available for the weekend.

The \$160.00 will be due as follows: \$100.00 by July 1, 2009 and the balance by September 11, 2009 (at the regular Division meeting for September).

Cancellation Policy: Current Division 4 cancellation policy will apply. Policy will be given to participants when they pay the initial deposit.

The costs for the trip are based on a breakeven number of 30 participants. The Bus Capacity is 50. If we have over 30 participants excess money will be refunded on a pro rata basis to each participant.

Contact Tom Beutler at (419) 231-1038 with any questions. Make checks out to Division 4, MCR, NMRA and mail to Tom Beutler 196 Marina Point Dr., Sandusky, Ohio 44870.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

In last month's report, I stated "The Division Needs You". The Superintendent and I requested help at the March and May meetings. We are still looking for help. Please step up to the bar and offer your services. Most functions within the NMRA are not time consuming and we do have fun at what we do. We need help monitoring Model Contest, writing an article for the Peddler Freight and presenting a Clinic at the meetings. We are also open to whatever ideas you have that might benefit the membership.

Dennis Sautters presented another wonderful Clinic about Fish Cars and the history going back to the turn of the last Century. I had never heard of Fish Cars before this clinic. I just read about the restoration of Badger 2, a Fish Car. I'm sure he will be presenting another Clinic, soon. Many of us have skills which are of interest to the membership. Please offer to share what you can by having a Clinic at a meeting. Clinics do not have to last long. Again, "The Division Needs You".

I am sitting in my room in Columbus getting ready to go to today's Clinic's at the Mid-Central Region convention along with over 200 other attendees. We have the "best of the best" presenting these Clinics and the Operating sessions we attended were magnificent. The Model Contest have some really good entries, however, I feel our Division One members have produced models worthy of the competition. Last year, our Chuck Boyer won the "Blue Lantern Award" for the best model. Next Years convention will be in Charleston, WV. Try to attend a convention. I'm sure you will benefit from the experience.

Bob Ashley, Sr., Asst, Super.

Module Report

I laid the track on my Z scale module to test the design, subject to change, and brought it to the April meeting at Jim Bacher's meeting residence for viewing. There was the 2' x 4' main module and one of the two 2' x 2' end modules. It was not operational, but, gave everyone a look see at the progress we have made.

We have six HO, three N and one Z scale modules. The material for the wiring harnesses have finally arrived. There is a change in the type of connector use on the hand controller. I am waiting for the new information from Division 4 so I can order the proper sockets. The wiring is the same in HO and N scales. Z scale requires a different wiring harness and cost three times as much as HO and N wiring. All the wiring components comply with the standards.

Several of the module groups in the area have offered for us to "hookup and operate" with them. For those of you who do not have a home layout, module railroading may be for you. See me at the meeting or call me for more info.

As soon as possible, I would like to show the HO and N modules at a meeting. Those of you, who have received their modules, please call or e-mail me with an update as to your progress. We will schedule a wiring session as soon as I have the connectors.

Bob Ashley, Sr., Module Chairman

JMRI - WHAT IS THAT??

By Chuck Boyer

Java **M**odel **R**ailroading **I**nterface is a project of building tools for computer control of a model Railroad which is independent of any specific hardware system. It provides a jumping off point for model railroaders who wish to control their layouts from a computer without having to create an entire system from scratch.

And the best news - it's FREE. Not only that, but it is computer software that is constantly being worked on. The latest production version of 2.4 was released 12-21-08. On 3-27-09 a new test version designated 2.5.2 was released with the hope that a new production version of 2.6 will be ready next summer.

So do you want help configuring your DCC decoders without worrying about CV's, Hex, etc., and/or you desire to create control panels and perhaps have signaling on your layout? Maybe you felt that this was just a dream - someday. Well, it is a reality. Now, thanks to a lot of dedicated people who formed an informal open-source group who do this for the joy of model railroading and do not produce anything for a profit.

For software there are 2 large JMRI programs, DecoderPro and PanelPro which are not used together at the same time. To reconfigure your locomotive decoder and keep a roster of your DCC equipped locomotive fleet, use DecoderPro. To run locomotives, throw turnouts, control signals and create control panels, use PanelPro. Do not expect it to be as powerful as commercial layout management programs such as WinLok or Railroad & Co.

You can also use the JMRI interface to write your own programs for your layout using the scripting language of JMRI or by adding new JAVA code to the program. The capability is there to write general purpose tools for your own layout that others can use a very satisfying endeavor. You will need the very large computer programming language called JAVA in your computer system which like other aspects is FREE from Sun Systems. Also FREE is XML Marker from Symbolclick. You cannot use the Microsoft XML Editor which you may already have since it saves the files with a format error that prevents any further use by JMRI.

For hardware requirements JMRI supports a wide range of DCC "command station" - style products from a very wide range of model railroad automation vendors. They also support non-DCC layouts. I counted 27 different types of equipment with which JMRI is known to allow communication and there may be more. If there is a way to make a computer communicate with a given piece of model railroad equipment, it is possible to connect it to JMRI.

Are you interested now? We could form a local support group to work on this, if you are interested. Call me at 330-882-3709 or see me at a meeting.

2009-2010 MEETING DATES

September 20 -

October 18 - Bob Ashley, Jr. Swap meet

November 15

December 19 - Holiday Dinner at Erie Station

January 17 - Sebring Model Railroad Club

February 21 -

March 21 -

April 18 -

May 16 - Jim Dipaolo

June 14 -

Contact David Hazlett at dhazlett1@neo.rr.com
to sign up to host.