



Volume 21, Issue 1

June 2018

Superintendent's Column

Welcome to the new and improved Three Rivers Division Newsletter. I want to thank Jim Marquardt for taking on the assembly of our newsletter, The Dispatcher. Through this newsletter, I hope to keep you informed about the events and things going on within the Three Rivers Division (Division 3). Please let Jim Marquardt (jmmarq4 at hotmail.com) or me (broadwaylimited15 at yahoo.com) know what you think about this new format and any ideas you have for new content. We have numerous events coming up in the next few months, so go to the Division 3 website calendar for the dates and times of these events. We are also working to get more of our membership to participate in the Achievement Program and hope we can get a few more Master Model Railroaders in our Division. If you want more information about the Achievement Program, please contact Jim Macino at jim at icmgt.com. We are also looking for more layouts to have operating sessions for our monthly meetings on December 10, 2018, March 11, 2019, and June 10, 2019. If you interested in hosting one of these sessions, please contact me. We are in the planning stages for our next Regional Convention here in Fort Wayne in 2021. If you would like to volunteer to help in any area or have some ideas to make this convention a time to remember please let me know. I am always looking for ways to improve this organization so if you should have any ideas to making this a better

organization please contact me or any of our Elected Board Members.

Bob Jones
Superintendent

Achievement Program Update

Our new Division 3 AP coordinator, Jim Macino, is encouraging all members to participate in the AP program. Participation in the AP is not just for those who have a goal of becoming an MMR – participation can serve to simply improve one's modeling skills in a specific area. Find an area of interest to you, build some models or structures and then submit for scoring by Division 3 AP judges. The experience will provide you excellent feedback from fellow modelers on your accomplishments as well as ideas on how to improve.

In April, Jim Macino held an AP Judge training clinic as part of our regularly scheduled meeting. Jim explained the purpose of the judging guidelines, went over the necessary documentation and explained how to evaluate a model against the evaluation criteria. He then split the attendees into several groups that critically evaluated and scored several models he provided. As a result, we now have more than 10 members qualified to judge submissions at the Division level.

Jim's plans are to set aside 15 - 20 minutes prior to the start of the regular meetings to evaluate and score AP submissions. If you have a submission that needs evaluation, contact Jim

in advance so that he can make necessary preparations for judges.

According to Jim, "One of the great excuses is that it's too hard to do all the paperwork when it comes to entering a model for evaluation. DON'T let this be an issue! You build and bring a model and we'll get through any paperwork issues together. It can be a lot of fun and a great learning experience for all of us."

New Members

Please welcome the following new members to our division:

- Max Blank
- Mark Thresher

If you know of someone that shares an interest in trains or model railroading, encourage them to join the NMRA and participate in local division meetings. Our division currently has 57 members with a broad range of interests and expertise to share with all.

Division 3 Member Spotlight

If you have attended a recent model train related swap meet or show in the Fort Wayne area you have probably seen these two division members attending the NMRA booth. They welcome perspective new members and share their model railroad expertise with all. They are the members of Division 3 that most show attendees first meet. Next time you see them, stop and thank them for their service!

Eddie Allen – Eddie's interest in trains and in the NMRA has grown over the years. As with most train enthusiasts, his interest was sparked by a Lionel train he had as a child. He first got involved with railroading back in 1962 and has been an NMRA member since

2006. He built an HO scale layout that features "Mountain Railroad through Coal Country" that is representative of railroads in West Virginia in 1954.



PhotoScan by Google Photos

While building scenery is very enjoyable, he does not have a favorite area of expertise and believes that "is what makes model railroading so great!" Eddie also videotapes Division 3 events and operating sessions and is currently working to get more involved in operations.

Charles Wolf – Charlie has been an NMRA member since 2013 and is currently the secretary of Division 3. His interest in trains was also sparked when he received a Lionel train under the Christmas tree in 1945 and his Uncle introduced him to HO scale craftsman kits. Charlie began to build HO craftsman kits in 1949 and continued until the mid 1990's when he switched to N scale. His favorite part of the hobby is building craftsman kits. Over the years, he has built several HO layouts and an N scale layout for under the Christmas tree. He is currently finishing an N scale timesaver and is building a TT scale timesaver based on a design by John Allen that appeared in the November 1972 issue of Model Railroader. Future plans include construction of additional HO and N scale modules.

Operating Sessions

One of the goals of our Superintendent is to have at least one operating session per quarter in lieu of a monthly meeting.

The quarterly operating session was held in May at the home of Joe Painter in Delphos, Ohio. Joe's layout (Nickel Plate ACY) is a freelance version of the Akron, Canton and Youngstown that terminated in Delphos as well as the Nickel Plate that ran through Delphos. The layout features a single mainline with 3



passing sidings and multiple crossovers that provide for continuous running as well as supporting simultaneous switching operations in two yards. Scenery includes open countryside, several towns, an iron bridge and a tunnel. Everyone had an enjoyable evening of operations. Great job, Joe!

In addition to special operating sessions set up for NMRA meetings, several members host operating sessions on a monthly basis (see listing below). Information about these layouts can be found on the 3ROPS web page.

- B&O Lost Div – operates monthly every 3rd Tuesday @ 7:00 pm. Contact Bob Hanna for details.

- NoWhere Line – operates monthly (except Nov & Dec) every 4th Thursday @ 6:30 pm. Contact Gary Evans for details.

Mark Your Calendar.....

- **July 9** CANCELLED -- Division 3 monthly mtg. at Bakerstreet Station
- **July 28-29** Van Wert, OH Railroad Heritage Weekend
- **August 5-12** NMRA Nat'l Convention in Kansas City
- **October 11-14** NCR Convention in Lansing, MI
- **December 15** Three Rivers Division Train Town Swap Meet (Lima, OH)
- **Fall 2021 North Central Region Convention hosted by Division 3**

Quarterly Highlights (Div 3)

- The April monthly meeting was held at Baker Street Station in Fort Wayne, IN. After the business meeting, Jim Macino (AP Coordinator) conducted an AP Judging Clinic to introduce the members to AP judging and to train AP judges for the division.
- The May monthly meeting was an operating session hosted by Joe Painter.
- The June meeting was held at Baker Street Station in Fort Wayne. John Young (member of Capital Division 5 of NCR) presented an overview of the upcoming "Lansing Lashup" which will be held 11 – 14 October (see attached flyer and website for additional details). Chuck White presented a clinic on insurance that members might want to consider for protecting their layouts and model train collections. Contact Chuck

directly if you would like additional information on insurance.

- Chuck White spearheaded an effort to switch group communications from Yahoo to Group.IO. This was done to improve security. All previous information available in Yahoo was transferred to Group.IO and invitations to join were sent out by Chuck. Contact Chuck White if you did not receive an invitation to join the group or have any other questions.

Inputs Requested

- **Division 3 Training Program** – For the last several years, Division 3 hosted a training day to promote the hobby and to answer questions attendees might have relative to getting started in the hobby. Clinics were held, activities for kids included building trees and making paper buildings and multiple layouts were set up for the enjoyment of the public. This past event was not much of a success due to limited attendance. Please contact Steve Rannells with any ideas you have on how to increase attendance, improve the program, etc.
- **NCR Regional Convention 2021 hosted by Div 3** – Initial discussions are under way and the planning will start soon, as everything has to be finalized by October 2019. Bob would like your ideas as to where to have it, what events to include, layouts to visit, suggested tours, etc. Please send your thoughts, suggestions and any jobs you would like to take on directly to Bob Jones (Div 3 Superintendent).

Railroad Trivia

My wife and I recently visited an antique store in Louisville, KY. Tucked under a table, I found this interesting piece of railroad equipment that I have never seen before

It was approximately 18 inches in diameter, 30 inches tall and painted bright yellow. Do you



know what it is and what it was used for? (Answer will be provided in next edition of the Dispatcher)

Modeling Resources

The intent of this section of the newsletter is to share informational resources or sources of modeling supplies that members have found to be most helpful.

- **Trainmasters TV** – excellent selection of professional “How To” and layout videos.

Note: If you have such a favorite resource, please send info to Jim Marquardt (jmmarq4 at hotmail.com) for inclusion in next edition of this newsletter.

Railfan & Modeling ideas

Whether you are looking for the next modeling idea or simply just looking at trains, these places just might be of interest

- Wind Turbine Unloading -- East of Van Wert, OH on the CF&E there is a fertilizer terminal where they also unload wind turbines. I have never stopped to watch them being unloaded, but have seen the wind turbines on semi trucks blocking the road.
- Unit Grain Train Loading -- Between Waterloo, IN and Garrett, IN, there is a grain terminal served by CSX that is adjacent to the highway. The terminal complex has a U shaped track arrangement to support loading unit trains with a switcher. Large silos, storage bins of various shapes and an area for piling corn on the ground are also interesting to see.

Note: If you have favorite sites to share, please send info to J. Marquardt (jmmarq4 at hotmail.com) for inclusion in next edition of the Dispatcher.

FLYERS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS ...

2018 RAILROAD HERITAGE WEEKEND
MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SWAP
 Saturday, July 28 & Sunday, July 29
 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. @ 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
VAN WERT COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
 1055 S. Washington Street
Van Wert, Ohio
 On U.S. Route 127, South Side of Van Wert



VENDORS TABLES
OPERATING LAYOUTS
GOOD FOOD
ADMISSION: Adults \$5.00
 Two Day Admission Available for \$8.00
Children 12 & under FREE
FREE STUFF for the Kids - Handicap Accessible

Sponsored by the
VAN WERT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Show Information Contact

General Info. Jan Duniap 419 - 238 - 4207 swapsbotjan@hotmail.com	Tables Chuck White 567 - 259 - 3340 Railcarman@frontier.com
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LANSING LASHUP



NCR-NMRA CONVENTION
 OCTOBER 11 - 14, 2018
 LANSING RAMADA HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER
Hosted by Capital Division (Division 5)

CONVENTION THEME: "Bringing Your Layout to Life"

CONVENTION FEATURES

- Excellent Convention Facilities
- Modeling with the Masters Special Event
- Over 30 Clinics with Many Featuring Scenery
- Several Operating Sessions
- Reduced Rate for Lodging (see website or call 517-627-3211)
- Saturday Evening Dinner with Speaker, Chuck Geletzke, Jr
- Over 20 Layouts to Visit
- Modular Railroads on Site
- Room for Family Members to Relax or Work on Crafts
- Prototype Tours
- Model Showcase Display Room
- Evaluation of Models Available Upon Request
- And Much More

For More Information: nmranrcdiv5.com