



Volume 21, Issue 3

December 2018

### **Superintendent's Column**

Wow! It's hard to believe another year of modeling is almost over. Hope you accomplished everything you wanted to in 2018.

On that note, let's talk about 2019. If you would like to be on a committee, please e-mail or call me by January 14. The committees are Public Relations, Train Shows & Swaps, Audit, Social Activities, Nominations, and 2021 Convention Committee. I am currently looking for members who would be willing to host an Ops Session for one of our meetings in June, September, and December. I am also looking for clinicians for April, May, and August, along with March and September, which will be held on a Saturday from 9 am - 1pm. If interested please contact me ASAP so I can finalize our 2019 Schedule.

We have many events coming up. Please check the calendar for dates and times. On February 23 & 24 we will be at the Botanical Conservatory for a show and would like as many participants as possible. If you have any ideas for clinics or other ways to improve group participation please contact me. If you have any articles or ideas for the newsletter please contact Jim Marquardt.

Bob Jones  
Superintendent

### **Achievement Program Update**

Updates from Jim Macino, AP Coordinator

No AP awards since the last newsletter, however some activity is gaining momentum. I have submitted my paperwork for the Chief Dispatcher AP. This is an AP that quite a few members could easily qualify for based on the experience they have gained at various OP sessions. It just takes a little effort to put the documentation together.

Jim Marquardt scored a 105 on his scratch-built NKP East Wayne Coal Dock. Not only was it a great model, the coup de grace was that he and Steve Rannells presented it to Bill Wemhoff, to be put on Bill's NKP 2nd Subdistrict layout. This was a pretty cool move by Jim and Steve and it proves you can build a merit-winning model, and not even have it land on your own layout. Well done, guys!

Final words to all – get out there and build something!

### **New Members**

The roster for this past quarter shows our division currently has 61 members, up from 57. There are several new members, one member was dropped from the roles and several more were listed that were previous members. We welcome them to NMRA Div 3 and look forward to learning of their interests and sharing with them.

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 members have a wide range of interests and expertise to share with all.

### **Division 3 Member Spotlight**

**Bill Piercy (MMR 560)** – Bill joined the NMRA in April 1987 and since that time has held several positions within Div 3 to include President, Vice President and board member of the North Central Region. **In 2015, Bill became Master Model Railroader No. 560 - only the 2<sup>nd</sup> member within Div 3 to ever earn that award!**

Bill's interest in model trains started at a young age when he was given a train set. Over time, his interest would wane but he would always gravitate back to model trains. He is involved in all aspects of model trains to include constructing modular layouts, operations, collecting and modeling. He is presently a member of the Northeast Indiana N Scale club that has Ntrak, Onetrak, Ttrak and a door layout.

In earning his MMR, Bill perfected many modeling skills. He earned the following AP certificates:

- Master Builder – Cars
- Master Builder – Structures
- Master Builder – Scenery
- Model Railroad Engineer -- Electrical
- Chief Dispatcher
- Association Official
- Association Volunteer

In addition to earning his MMR and a Golden Spike Award, Bill continues to work towards earning Master Builder – Motive Power, Model Railroad Engineer – Civil and Model Railroad Author.

A few tips from Bill .... Earning an AP certificate is not as hard as you may think. If you're building a layout, look at the requirements for Master Model Railroader – Structure and Scenery as well as the Master Railroad Engineer – Civil and Electrical. You're going to use a plan, so you might as well draw one - Master Railroad Engineer – Civil. You're going to need to wire it - Master Railroad Engineer–Electrical. You are going to put scenery on it - Master Builder–Scenery and you're going to put structures on it - Master Builder–Structures. If you follow the requirements, you are well on your way to a number of AP Certificates. Another tip – don't read too much into the requirements. If you have a question, ask our division AP Chairman Jim Macino. If you need help ask an MMR or an AP certificate holder as they are always willing to help.

If you need advice on any aspect of model railroading, Bill is the one to see. His model railroad accomplishments are among the best!

**Chuck White** – Chances are that if you have attended a model railroad swap meet, participated in an Ops session or have attended an NMRA event you have met Chuck. His passion for model railroading drives him to work tirelessly to participate in and promote the "greatest hobby"!

Chuck has been a member of the NMRA since 1984 and is widely known throughout the model train community. He became a member of Div 3 when he moved to Fort Wayne in 1994. Since then, he has held several Div 3 positions to include Superintendent, Treasurer, Chairman/Co-chair of NCR convention and Editor of the Dispatcher.

His interest in model trains began at an early age, as is the case for most NMRA

members. His father built him his first Lionel layout in the basement of their house when he was 7 or 8 years old. A basement fire a year or so later resulted in the layout being packed up until Chuck resurrected it during his high school years. After starting a family and career, Chuck joined the White Pines Model Railroad Club near Chicago where he learned new skills in constructing layouts. As he transferred to new locations throughout his career, he joined the local model railroad club to learn new skills and to help them build or expand their layouts.

When he moved to Fort Wayne in 1994, he joined the Maumee Valley Club and became hooked on "operations" with some of the other members of Div 3. It was that budding interest for him and several other Div 3 members that ultimately led to Div 3 hosting the first Three Rivers Operations Weekend in 2007. Presently, Chuck attends as many ops sessions as he can work into his busy schedule.

His vision is to build a model railroad in the basement that he recently bought (yes, his first priority for buying a house was to find the right basement for the layout). His layout focus is BN/BNSF from 1994 to present in HO scale. To accomplish this, he continues to add to his equipment so when the track is laid, the trains will run.

Chuck is also a member of the North American Rail Car Operators Association (NARCOA) and has his own motorcar. To date, he has participated in over 100 excursions and many times has taken other Div 3 members with him.

### **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.

John Hanske hosted the Div 3 quarterly operating session at his home in Syracuse, Indiana on 10 December. His proto-freelanced Burlington Southern railroad is based on the operations of the Great Northern and Southern Pacific railroads in northern California, Oregon and Washington state.

The three level layout fills most of Joe's basement and offers plenty of trackage to run long, double headed trains. The scenery is comprised of mountains, towns, tunnels and bridges, all based on real scenes in the Northwest. A beautifully done, hand painted backdrop featuring mountains of the region and forests of trees is very realistic and further



enhances the look of the scenes on this railroad.

Since most NMRA members had never operated on his layout, he asked several of his normal operators to help out to ensure everything went along smoothly. Even though the operating session

featured a smaller than normal crew of mostly rookies, there were still about 25 trains run in



addition to all the switching that was done in the large yards. Thanks again to John for providing the opportunity for us to operate on his great layout!

In addition to special operating sessions set up for NMRA meetings, several members host

operating sessions on a monthly basis (listed as follows). Information about these layouts can be found on the 3ROPS web page.

- B&O Lost Div – operates monthly every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday @ 7:00 pm. Contact Bob Hanna for details.
- NoWhere Line – operates monthly (except Nov & Dec) every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday @ 6:30 pm. Contact Gary Evans for details.
- NKP 2<sup>nd</sup> Sub – operates the third Sunday of odd months January – November @ 1:30 pm. Contact Bill Wemhoff for details.
- Great Northern Railway, Cascade Division – operates the last Saturday of each month at 1:00 pm. Contact Joe Berger for details.

### **Mark Your Calendar.....**

- **December 15** Three Rivers Division Train Town Swap Meet (Allen County Fairgrounds, Lima, OH, 9 am – 3 pm)
- **January 14** **Div 3 Monthly Mtg.** Clinic: Scenery (part I)
- **February 11** **Div 3 Monthly Mtg.** Clinic: Scenery (part II)
- **February 23-24** **Great Train Connector show** (Fort Wayne Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, IN 10am-5pm, 12 pm-4pm)
- **March 11** **Div 3 Monthly Mtg.** (Ops session at Bill Wemhoff's)
- **March (TBD)** **Sat. Morning Clinic** (Hands-On Clinic, make your own loads)

- **Fall 2021 North Central Region Convention hosted by Division 3**

### **Quarterly Highlights (Div 3)**

- The October monthly meeting was held at Baker Street Station in Fort Wayne, IN. After the business meeting, Rich Mahaney conducted a clinic titled “Selecting Industries for Your Model Railroad”. (a copy of the presentation is in the Div 3 video library)

Thanks to those Div 3 members that stepped up to the NCR caboose challenge and displayed a Caboose diorama that they constructed at the October meeting. In total, there were 6 dioramas displayed,



three of which were then displayed in Lansing at the NCR convention. Thanks to Max Blank, Eddie Allen, Bob Jones, Joe Painter, Bill Piercy Great Job!

- Annual elections were held at the November monthly meeting for three officers whose terms end at the end of December 2018. The Div 3 officers for 2019 are:
  - Bob Jones – Superintendent

- Jim Marquardt – Dispatcher
- Charlie Wolf – Scribe
- Roger Moses – Paymaster
- Eddie Allen – Trustee at large
- Joe Painter – Ohio Trustee
- Jim Macino – Indiana Trustee

After the election, Bob Jones led an open discussion with the attendees to get ideas on meeting content and clinic topics for the future. One of the new ideas that emerged was to have several of next year's meetings on a Saturday morning so that more time can be allocated to hands-on clinics.

- The NCR annual convention hosted by the Capital City Modelers was held 11 -14 October in Lansing Michigan. Over 250 members attended the event, including a fair sized contingent of Div 3 members. Participants displayed models, attended operations sessions, participated in the prototype tours and submitted models for judging. Many also attended the clinics to learn something new or to further improve their skills. The hands on modeling clinics held in the evenings were a big draw.
- Div 3 setup promotion booths at two recent train shows - the Maumee Valley Railroad Club Model Train Show and Swap Meet and The Great Train Show at the Fort Wayne Memorial Coliseum. The booth at The Great Train show included several activities for kids that proved to be very successful. There was a steady crowd of kids waiting to run trains on the timesavers, build paper buildings and color pictures of Thomas. In addition, there were



a good number of adults asking questions and viewing the display of models. Thanks to those members that helped to make this a memorable event for many kids!



### **NCR Regional Convention 2021**

This convention will be hosted by our own Division 3 and held right here in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The planning has begun, so now is a great time to submit your ideas to our Superintendent . An initial list of ideas for prototype tours and other topics was generated at the November meeting, but much more work is needed to ensure that this convention will be even better than the one that was hosted by Div 3 in 2015. Please send your thoughts, suggestions and any jobs you would like to take on directly to Bob Jones (Div 3Superintendent).

### **Railroad Trivia**

While on a recent rail fan trip, a few of my friends and I stopped at the Whistle Stop Hobby Shop located in Decatur, Indiana. Hanging on the wall was this rail related item (item hanging closest to ceiling). The shop owner stated that it was used at Central Soya when he worked there. Do you know what it is?



**Answer to Trivia in Last Dispatcher Edition**

This item is a rail chisel. It was used to cut rail to length before the railroads had gas powered cut-off saws and other means they have to cut rail today. The chisel was placed on the rail and then struck with a sledge hammer. This was repeated until a nick was made around the rail. Successive blows with the sledge hammer would then separate the rail at that location.



This item is a rail jack, primarily used to lift the track so that a tie could be easily replaced or tamped up to level the rail. The section gang would remove some ballast beside the tie of interest, place a tie plate on the ballast and then set the jack in place with the foot on the front of the jack under the rail. The design of the jack is such that the ram would rise out of the top making it useful for lifting other items as well.



### **Modeling Tips and Resources**

#### **Modeling Technique for Creating Industrial Tanks**

Various sizes and shapes of tanks are used on a model railroad. Many times, the end shape of the tank determines its use. LPG, NH3 and pressure tanks have spherical ends, grain

surge tanks have 60 degree bottoms to enhance flow of grain, grain bins have tops that are sloped either 30 or 45 degrees and fuel tanks generally have flat tops.

Modeling custom tanks is easily done using PVC pipe and common materials such as poster board, chipboard, ping pong balls, or any other material that will provide the required end shape.

Select a piece of PVC pipe (used for plumbing) that is approximately the right diameter that you desire for the tank and cut to the desired length of the tank. Then finish the tank ends using one of the following techniques:

- Flat End Tank (elevator silos, fuel tanks, etc.) –Glue a piece of chipboard or balsa wood to the ends of the pipe (a piece that is larger than the diameter of the pipe is desired) using white glue.



When the glue is dry, trim the excess overhang off using a razor blade and then lightly sand to make sure the end is the same diameter as the pipe and paint.

- Spherical End Tanks (LPG and NH3 tanks, pressurized tanks, etc.) -- Cut a ping-pong ball in half. Apply a liberal amount of medium CA glue around the outside edge of the end of the pipe and then sit the pipe inside 1/2 of the ping-pong ball. When the CA is set, trim the ping-pong ball flush with the diameter of the pipe and repeat for other end.



Lightly sand to ensure the ends are the same diameter as the pipe and paint.

- Sloped Ends (Grain bins, surge tanks, food processing tanks, etc.) – This is a little more complex end to model but is also fairly simple to do. First, determine the degree of slope desired for the end and also measure the diameter of the pipe. Using this data, draw a flat pattern of the end on poster board using sheet metal transition drawing techniques (Instructions can be readily found on internet). Cut out the pattern and fold into the shape of a cone that will provide the desired slope. Once folded, glue a thin piece of poster board inside to the seam to hold the shape of the cone. When dry, apply a liberal amount of white glue to the outside diameter of the end of the pipe and sit inside the cone. When dry, trim the excess overhang. Lightly sand to ensure the cone is the same diameter as the pipe and then paint.



Note: If you have a favorite tip or resource, please send info to Jim Marquardt ([jmmarq4@hotmail.com](mailto:jmmarq4@hotmail.com)) for inclusion in next edition of this newsletter.

### Rail Fan Ideas

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

- Norfolk Southern Yard (New Haven) -- There is a lot of activity in this yard on a daily basis. During the day, there are several container trains and auto carrier unit trains running through this yard or stopping for crew changes. In addition to unit trains, there is generally a host of other loads including steel, scrap, lumber, transformers as well as covered hoppers and tank cars that are moving through the yard. On occasion, you can even see many of the NS Heritage units moving through this yard. At least one day a week, NS originates a local out of this yard that moves carbon in hoppers out to the old B.F. Goodrich tire plant near Woodburn, IN. This involves pushing the cars with a caboose in the lead through New Haven and on towards Woodburn, as there is no turnaround capability between the New Haven yard and the tire plant.

Note: If you have a favorite railfan location, please send info to Jim Marquardt ([jmmarq4@hotmail.com](mailto:jmmarq4@hotmail.com)) for inclusion in next edition of this newsletter.



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**TRAIN TOWN**  
**TRAIN SHOW**  
**AND**  
**SWAP MEET**



**SATURDAY,**  
**DECEMBER 15, 2018**  
**ALLEN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**  
 2750 HARDING HIGHWAY LIMA, OHIO  
 From I-75, take Exit 125 - Go East on St. Rt. 309



**10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

*Admission: Adults \$5.00*  
*Children 12 & under - FREE*



**FEATURING:**

- ◆ All Gauges
- ◆ Over 170 Tables
- ◆ Santa Claus
- ◆ Railfan Items
- ◆ FREE Parking
- ◆ Door Prizes
- ◆ Toy Trains
- ◆ Food Service
- ◆ Children's Play Area
- ◆ Operating Layouts
- ◆ Handicap Accessible
- ◆ Like us on Facebook @3Riversdiv

**Location:** The show will be held in the Merchants Building located at the Fairgrounds—1 mile east of Lima. Building will be heated with easy access.

CHUCK WHITE  
 P.O. Box 944 • Van Wert, OH 45891  
 567-259-3340  
 railcarman@frontier.com

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