



Volume 22, Issue 2

June 2019

Superintendent's Column

Welcome to another addition of the dispatcher. First, I'd like to give a run down on some of the things being worked on in the Region. If you heard that we were bidding on the National Convention to be held in Detroit in 2023 or 2024, that is not going to happen for reasons I won't go into. We are moving forward with a tri-regional convention between NCR, MWR, and MCR to be held in 2022 with a location to be determined. Regional Board Member Jay Qualman is working on ways to get new members and retain current membership in the NMRA, so if you have any ideas please let me know and I will forward those to Jay. The Railpass reimbursement program is working well and we are getting some new members in the region.

We still need volunteers for our 2021 convention committee. Please contact me if you can assist. The 2021 Convention will be at the Ft Wayne Ramada on W. Washington Ctr. Rd October 14- 17, 2021.

We still need two volunteers to host the Ops Sessions for our September 9 and December 9, 2019 meetings. If you can help out with either of these dates please let me know. We also have multiple dates of events that we need help with so please check the calendar to see if you can assist.

Bob Jones
Superintendent

Achievement Program Update

Updates from Jim Macino, AP Coordinator

AP update... Let's just say the stars didn't line up this time around. We've had zero evaluations done since last time. Our guest speaker from the 2020 Convention in Troy, MI ran a little longer than expected, as he had a good dialog with his presentation on the upcoming NCR 2019 convention. Then one of our key evaluators was involved in a traffic incident, which ended our ability to evaluate several models during the May meeting. Jim Marquardt did pick up an hour of credit in the Author or Volunteer Category depending on where he wants to log it for conducting a clinic titled "How to Enhance Your Layout with Simple LED Lighting". Nice job Jim!

Our game plan is to have an offsite evaluation hopefully in a week or two. If you have a model to be evaluated, let me know at my jim at icmgt dot com address, and we'll see what kind of schedule we can set.

New Members

The latest available roster lists 61 members for Div 3, same as the previous update.

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. For a limited time, we are offering a RailPass (nine month membership) for \$10. Contact our Superintendent, Bob Jones for details.

Division 3 Member Spotlight

This month we highlight two members of our Division that most members know very well – Bob Jones (Superintendent of our Division) and his father Tom Jones. Tom was a member for many years, attended most train shows and was the guy that befriended everyone he met and made them smile! I am sorry to report that Tom passed away in May of this year. He will be missed by all.



Tom Jones - Tom was an NMRA Member since 1999 but had loved trains and model railroading all his life. Since he was two years old he would go down to the Milwaukee Road Everett St. Station in Milwaukee, WI to sit for hours with his Uncle Charlie and watch the trains come and go. When he was 12 he saved enough money from selling newspapers to buy his first Varney Steam Locomotive Kit and some HO scale track. He was hooked! He continued to add Varney car kits to his collection and modeled HO Scale 1930's Milwaukee Rd. as much as he could while money was tight and his family was growing up. He belonged to numerous modular groups and helped others with their layouts as he continued to build his 4x8' HO scale Milwaukee Rd. layout, complete with a 3.5 x 12' replica of the Everett St. Station as he remembered it. He enjoyed collecting and running trains on his and others layouts. He never worked toward any AP Certificates, as he was in model railroading for the love of trains, not for the contests. Tom participated in many NMRA National, enjoying others layouts and getting new tips on how to make his layout better. Tom's other



interests were baseball and football, especially the Milwaukee Brewers & Green Bay Packers. He also loved going on train excursion trips and railroad photography.

Bob Jones - Bob has been an NMRA member since 2009 and is currently the Superintendent for the 3 Rivers Division. He currently holds two AP Certificates (Volunteer and Official) and is working toward others, as he would like to obtain his MMR in the future.

Bob got his start in model railroading at a very young age when he got a Lionel O scale train for his first birthday from his Great Uncle Charlie who, along with his father, was into HO modeling. When he was two he and his dad together started building a small layout in the basement of their home in Milwaukee along with watching trains, especially the daily mail train as it left Milwaukee. These activities planted the seed for many years of modeling together. In 1968 Bob's Great Uncle Charlie brought back some of the first N scale trains from Germany and he was hooked on N scale, selling off his entire HO collection. He collects N scale Pennsylvania RR and built his first layout on a 3x6' board and stored it under his bed, pulling it out regularly running his trains. He is currently working on a new layout modeling the Pennsylvania RR during the 1930's to 1950's.

Bob's modeling interests are collecting, running, just started getting into Operations. He would like to get back into a modular group at some point. Bob's other interests are Wisconsin football & basketball, Ft Wayne Tincaps and Milwaukee Brewers baseball, Green Bay Packers football, Ft. Wayne Komets and Boston Bruins hockey and railroad photography.

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.

Bill Wemhoff hosted the Div 3 quarterly operating session at his home near Decatur, Indiana on 10 June. Bill's NKP 2nd Sub with the Indiana Northern RR models the former NKP trackage from Toledo, Ohio to Frankfort, Indiana.

The layout is 42 feet long, multi-deck and has a staging yard at each end.



Scenery includes a lot of scratch built models that Bill has made over the years and includes some recently modified track to improve train movements during operating sessions. In addition to track



changes, Bill upgraded his turntable to a motorized Atlas model that he modified to handle longer steam engines. Bill documented the turntable upgrade in an article titled "The Old Standard Turntable" which is at the end of this newsletter. Time Table – Train Orders issued by a dispatcher keep the trains moving during operating sessions as NKP was known for its fast freights!

In addition to special operating sessions set up for NMRA meetings, several members host operating sessions on a monthly basis (listed as follows). Additional 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.
- NKP 2nd 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.....

- July 27-28 **Van Wert Model Railroad Show and Swap** – Van Wert County Fairgrounds
- **July – No NMRA Div 3 Mtg**
- **August 12 Div 3 Monthly Mtg.** Baker Street Station Clinic: TBD
- **October 19 Model Train & Toy Show** (Garrett Model Railroad Club and RxR Mania, see attachment for details)
- **November 7-10 NCR Convention** – hosted by Div 9 (North Central Crossing) (see attachment for additional details)
- **November 10 Lansing Model Railroad Club Train Show and Sale 2019** – Michigan State University Pavilion (see attachment for details)
- **December 14 Div 3 Train Town Swap Meet** - - Allen County Fairgrounds, Lima, OH
- **Fall 2021 (Oct 14-17, 2021) North Central Region Convention hosted by Division 3** – Ramada Inn on the north side of Fort Wayne, Indiana

Quarterly Highlights (Div 3)

- **Montpelier Trackside Modelers RR Club Show and Swap** – The show was well attended and the vendors had a very large selection of models and supplies of all scales. Our Division manned the NMRA Information booth and several of our members supported Time Savers during the event. In addition, Chuck White, Margaret Van Waning and Terry Campbell brought and set up the Locomotive Race Track. With the help of Margaret and Terry, many youngsters had a very good time beating their parents and grandparents, something they will probably always remember. Thanks goes to the Montpelier Trackside Modelers RR Club for inviting us to be part of this event and to our NMRA members who helped make this a most successful event!

One more note about this event. We often talk about ways to get a new generation involved in model railroading, but it turns out to be just that – TALK. With that said, I did see one vendor at the show that “walked the talk”. On at least two occasions, I saw young kids look at his offerings and pick out a car they liked only to find out that it cost more than the amount they had to spend. His solution? Talk with the kid, find out what they could afford and then to everyone’s amazement, he discovered that the car or locomotive in question was mispriced. He then proceeded to sell it to them for what they could afford. That is a great way to get someone interested in the hobby for the future!

- The Montpelier Trackside Modelers RR Club held an open house for their new permanent layout during the swap meet. Their new location is in a renovated building on the south side of the main street running thorough Montpelier. The club has been building this new layout for the last year and has come a long way in a very short time. Their progress to date is very impressive and the design and workmanship is top notch. I would encourage

everyone to stop by and take a look at what they have accomplished (and be sure to take those next generation model railroad enthusiasts with you.) Their regular meetings are held Thursday evenings. Contact their president Russell Luke for more info.

- **New Promotional Materials** – One of Bob Jones’s priorities since becoming Superintendent is to invest in new ways to capture the attention of the public during events. Once you capture someone’s attention, it is much easier to engage them in conversation and hopefully sign them up as a new member or perhaps just answer some question they have about model trains or the hobby in general. We recently completed two new displays that will be used at future events.

Model Boxcar Display –

This is a portable display case that contains six boxcars, ranging in scale from G to Z gauge.



Diorama Display – This display consists of five small modules and is designed to show how

anyone can build a simple model railroad with



scenery (actually designed to show parents and grandparents how to take the 4 x 8 plywood layout to the next level). One module shows simple construction for a frame and the other four-module set shows the construction progression from a simple plan through completion. There will also be a tri-fold handout published to highlight the key aspects of each step in the build process.

- The April monthly meeting was held at Baker Street station in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The main topic of discussion was review of the venues available for the 2021 convention. It was decided that the Ramada Inn offered the best fit solution and that a site visit would be conducted later in the month. After the business meeting portion of our program, attendees participated in a “Timesaver Challenge” orchestrated by Gary Evans.
- The May monthly meeting was held at Baker Street station in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Various Division topics were discussed as were emerging plans for the 2021 NCR convention to be hosted by Div 3. Bob Jones discussed the results of the Ramada Inn site visit and announced that a contract had been reviewed by NCR for the venue. It was also decided that the name for the 2021 NCR convention will be “Fort Wayne Rails 2021” and that the shirt color would be navy blue. Other discussion topics included the development of a Welcome Package that would be sent to new members and the setup of several NMRA displays around town at libraries or other venues to help promote the NMRA. Bob Jones also provided a brief overview of a Junior Engineer program that is used during Trainfest in Milwaukee. He suggests something like this be adopted by our Division to help introduce kids to the hobby. After the business meeting portion of our program, Phil Doolittle (Div 9 Troy, MI) gave a presentation on the plans for the NCR 2019 Convention that will be held on Nov 7-10, 2019 at the Troy Michigan Community Center. Jim Marquardt presented a clinic on “How to Enhance Your Layout with Simple LED Lighting”.
- The June monthly meeting was an Ops session hosted by Bill Wemhoff (long time NMRA member of Div 3).

Fort Wayne Rails 2021 (NCR Regional Convention)

WE HAVE A DATE -- mark your calendars and tell your friends! The 2021 NCR Regional Convention hosted by Division 3 will be held on October 14-17, 2021 at the Ramada Inn and Convention Center on the north side of Fort Wayne. We have signed the contract and are looking forward to filling the facility with a variety of informative clinics, displays, layouts and most importantly – Train Enthusiasts!

Preliminary plans include:

- Prototype tours
- Layout tours
- Door prizes
- Modular layouts
- Multiple clinics
- Ladies program

Although we are still in the early stages, plans are being locked down so there is ample time to work out the details. NOW is the time to submit your ideas to our Superintendent. Please send your suggestions and any jobs you would like to take on directly to Bob Jones (Div 3 Superintendent).

2021 Convention Committees

Chairman - Bob Jones
 Registrations - Roger Moses
 Website -
 Operating Sessions - Bill Wemhoff
 Contest Room - Jim Macino
 Convention Cars - Chuck White
 Apparel -
 Modules / Modular Layouts -
 Audiovisual -
 Clinicians / Clinics -
 Prototype Tours -
 Door Prizes -
 Layout Tours -
 Transportation -
 Spousal Events -

Railroad Trivia

Do You Know...

Alternate Names for a Caboose? -- Caboose were used on trains from the 1830's until the mid 1980's when the laws were changed, thereby allowing railroads to use an electronic device at the end of the train in lieu of a caboose. Over the years, cabooses were referred to by many names – do you know what some of them were?

Card Board – Do you know what this is and what it was used for?

Grounded or Grounding – Do you know what this term means ?

Relay Train – We most often hear someone referring to a train as a Way Freight or a Through Train. Do you know what a Relay Train is?

Rail Fan Ideas

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

When one thinks of Railfan locations, you usually think of places to go to watch prototype trains. This month I would like to suggest you try something different – Railfan a permanent layout at one of the Model Railroad Clubs in our region.

Montpelier, Ohio -- About a year ago, the Montpelier Trackside Modelers RR Club moved into a new building located in downtown Montpelier, Ohio. Since then, they have made tremendous progress towards



constructing a new multi-level layout. The work to date is very nicely done. I encourage you to stop by and see this great new layout and watch it evolve in the future.

Lansing, Michigan – I recently did a tour of the Lansing Model Railroad Club layout while attending the spring NCR BOD meeting with Bob Jones. The club added an addition onto the depot where they are located and are expanding their multi-level layout to make use of this additional space. They are in the process of finishing the additions to the layout, as well as upgrading some of the older portions. This is another great layout that all should see.



Note: If you have a favorite Railfan location, please send info to Jim Marquardt (jimmarq4@hotmail.com) for inclusion in next edition of this newsletter.

From the Modeling Bench

- **Using masking tape for glue or paint tray** – Many times you just need a drop of glue or paint for the next step in construction of the model or for touchup. Tear off a short piece of masking tape, stick it to your bench and then squeeze a little glue or paint directly onto the tape. When you have used what you need, simply peel up the tape and put in the trash – quick way to clean up the mess and avoid using a large amount of glue or paint when only a little is needed.

- **Handling of small materials** – We often cut styrene or other materials into small-sized parts and then struggle with positioning them while gluing on the model. Instead of cutting the piece to size first, try gluing a larger sized piece in place and then trimming or sanding to size after the glue dries. You may find this reduces your frustration handling small parts and also improves the neatness of the finished model.

Note: If you have a favorite tip or resource, please send info to Jim Marquardt (jimmarq4@hotmail.com) for inclusion in next edition of this newsletter.

A Special Note

John Reitz is looking to downsize his Broad Top Mountain inventory. Please contact John directly if interested.

Please consider this as a general public announcement; this publication does not support direct advertising.

The Dispatcher is a quarterly publication of NMRA Division 3. Members are encouraged to contribute content to share with others. Email content for inclusion to the current editor Jim Marquardt (jimmarq4@hotmail.com).

Div 3 officers for 2019 are:

- | | |
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| • Bob Jones – Superintendent
(broadwaylimited15@yahoo.com) | • Eddie Allen – Trustee at large |
| • Jim Marquardt – Dispatcher (jimmarq4@hotmail.com) | • Joe Painter – Ohio Trustee |
| • Charlie Wolf – Scribe | • Jim Macino – Indiana Trustee (also AP Coordinator) |
| • Roger Moses – Paymaster | |

The Old Standard Turntable (Atlas)

By Bill Wemhoff

As some of you know, I proto/freelance the NKP 2nd Sub and the Indiana Northern. One of the big items in the operational part of my railroad is the engine facility at Delphos, Ohio on the NKP 2nd sub. Delphos is a division point and it's where we switch out engines going west and service all steam engines on their journey across the flat lands. With that being said, I needed a turntable. I scratch built a turntable based on the plans in the NMRA magazine, March 2014. This turntable worked well; it was an Armstrong turntable (no motor to turn the table.) I had to physically line up the roundhouse stall tracks and the arrival and departure track that led off of the turntable. I noticed during the op-session, (I have an op-session every other month) that some of my operators were having trouble doing this. Why would this be? It's not because that they do not know how to do it; it was because the average age of my operators is about 60 years young and our vision, including mine, is not what it once was. Lining up the rails, even when you can feel and see them, can be a real chore. I needed a solution, what would it be?

Well, there are a lot of great turntables out there in the retail marketplace that are motorized. Along with the indexing for the tracks, they are all fantastic. There is one thing that I had to remember. I had to keep it simple for my operators. When I have op sessions I want all of my operators to be able to turn an engine and line the tracks up. Our youngest operator is my grandson, age 7, and he operates with us, too. He is generally my tower operator. (We want to get them started young!)

I made a "to do list" for the turntable.

1. It has to be simple.
2. It has to be able to handle my 2-8-0 consolidations with the short haul tender.

3. It has to be within budget.
4. It has to be easy to maintain and install.

Number 4 above is a big deal. I am the chief maintenance man on this railroad and I still work for a living. (Not to make an excuse, just a fact of life.) I generally work on my layout late at night - 9-10 pm. That is when I start to wind down and get ready for bed and working on the railroad is relaxing for me. (I know my wife says that is strange too)

Going through the list above, Number 3 is the next important one. The Chief Financial Officer, (the Wife) needs to know about any big purchase on the railroad. I am lucky to have a wonderful wife that has no problems with my hobby. The reason is "Because it is a hobby", it is the main reason she is such a big supporter of my railroad. She knows were I am and she says all the guys that come over to operate are gentlemen and they respect her house. (Yes, the house is hers. I just have the basement.) She is also my biggest critic. When she ventures down into the "man cave", she always takes a peek at what I have been doing. She has a very good eye for scenery and what the right colors should be. So, with that being said, spending \$200 to \$300 dollars for a turntable was out of the question, so what to do? (Yes, I did run it pass her and she said "Do you really have to spend that much?" - which is a nice way of saying no.)

I went on the Internet and found where guys have converted an atlas turntable into one that would take a long steam engine. (It needed one more inch in length on the Atlas turntable so I could turn my 2-8-0). The price was right. I was able to purchase a new atlas turntable (the new ones have the stall tracks for the roundhouse at an angle of 15 degrees, more realistic) with the motor for under \$60. Also, the motor is set up to use a belt to turn the table - very quiet, not noisy like the older models were. The Chief Financial Officer said, "What are you waiting for, buy it! With your mechanical and engineering skills you can lengthen the table." So, with the OK from her I bought the new turntable and motor from Amazon.



The most critical part of the whole revamping was to make sure the longer new track, which was laid on top of the old track on the turntable, was perfect. I superglued this down after using rubber cement to locate the new track on top of the old. Then I soldered the new wires to the new track and soldered the wire to the top of the rail on the turntable. I operate with DCC and the Atlas Turntable is DCC friendly. I took a set of dividers and laid out the stall tracks to make sure that the new turntable track would perfectly line up with

the stall tracks. (I will explain how I did this in another article). As you can see from the pictures, I put a new wood deck on the Turntable and I installed some Atlas girders to show support of the new bridge. This is not an open pit design, which is very common in this area. This is a covered turntable pit typical of narrow gauge western railroad. I can live with this. The indexing is flawless. There is one draw back, in that it stops at every stall, but that is OK. The engines get turned! And the project came in on budget, well under the original estimate of \$200-\$300 for a turntable. The main thing is that ALL my operators will no longer have a problem in lining up the tracks to the turntable. So, before you rule out the "Old Reliable Atlas Turntable", take another look at it. I am glad I did.

2019 RAILROAD HERITAGE WEEKEND MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SWAP

Saturday, July 27 & Sunday, July 28

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
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Two Day Admission Available for \$8.00

Children 12 & under FREE

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Show Information Contact

General Info.

Jan Dunlap

419 - 238 - 4207

snapshotjan@hotmail.com

Tables

Chuck White

260 - 760 - 1666

Railcarman@frontier.com



SAT. OCT. 19, 2019 MODEL TRAIN & TOY SHOW AND SALE

Garrett Model Railroad Club and RxR Mania are excited to host a Model Train & Toy Show and Sale, which will be held on Saturday, October 19, at 2000 N. Wells Street, Fort Wayne, IN, at the old YWCA. There are several parking lots on the campus and all parking is free. The show is being held in the main building with the entrance door at the southeast corner off Putnam Street (follow our signs.) Show hours are 9 am-3 pm.

Vendor spaces are still available on a first come/first serve basis. Don't miss out! \$20 per table (\$15 per table for quantities of 5 or more.)

\$5.00 Adult admission, children under 12 - free

Vendor Tables

Model Train items & collectibles for sale

Good Food & Great FUN!

Like us on Facebook!
RxR Mania

FOR INFO CONTACT:
RXRMANIA.COM

P.O. Box 300, Garrett, IN 46726





**NATIONAL MODEL
RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
North Central Region Convention
November 7-10, 2019**

**TROY, MICHIGAN
COMMUNITY CENTER**

SCHEDULES

PRE-CONVENTION TOUR TO PORT HURON - Thursday

CLINICS - Thursday Evening, Friday & Saturday Mornings

MODEL SHOWCASE DISPLAY ROOM

Thursday, Friday & Saturday

LAYOUT TOURS & OP SESSIONS

Friday & Saturday Afternoons & Evenings and Sunday

DETROIT TOURS - Friday

Ford Piquette Ave Model T Factory;

Detroit News & Free Press Printing Plant

LUNCHEON BANQUET - Saturday with Brook Qualman, Speaker

OPERATING MODULAR LAYOUTS

at the Community Center - Thursday, Friday & Saturday

AND MORE!

Registration: <http://div8.ncr-nmra.org/ncx-2019>



Lansing Model Railroad Club



Train Show & Sale 2019

Michigan State University Pavilion
4301 Farm Lane
East Lansing, MI 48910

Sunday, November 10, 2019
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Map on Back!

FREE PARKING
See Running Trains - Expert Demonstrations
Michigan's largest with over 500 tables!

Admission: \$6 General
Free children under 12 years
Free scouts in uniform

Tables: \$25 paid in advance
\$30 after Oct. 1, 2019

Information:
Ron St. Laurent (517) 256-3588
E-mail: r.stlaurent@sbcglobal.net

Dennis Morley (810) 714-5782
E-mail: DJMorley0604@hotmail.com



Table Reservations:
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TRAIN TOWN



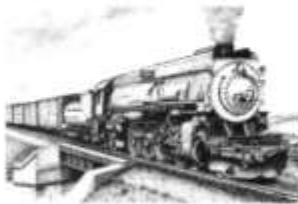
TRAIN SHOW AND SWAP MEET



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019

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 \$7.00
Children 12 & under - FREE*



FEATURING:

- ◆ All Gauges
- ◆ Railfan Items
- ◆ Toy Trains
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- ◆ Door Prizes
- ◆ Children's Play Area
- ◆ Locomotive Races Layouts

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
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