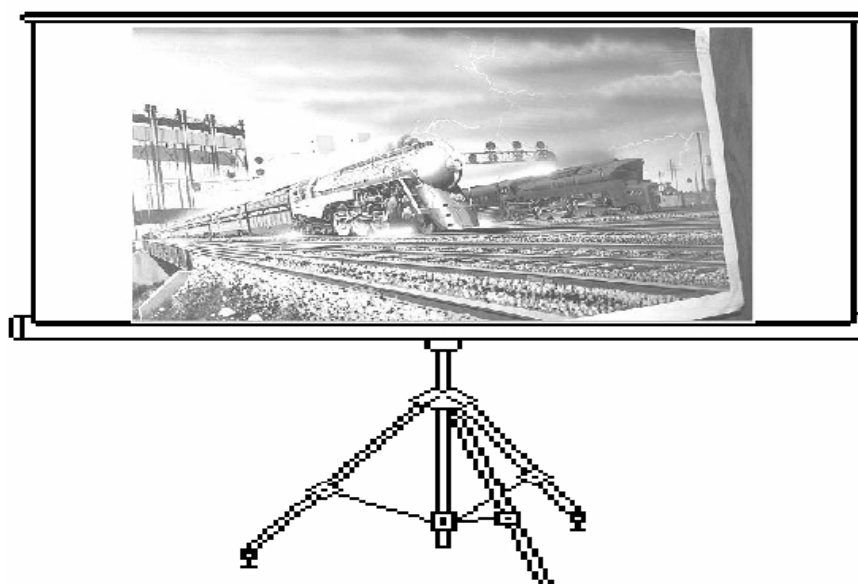


Call Board

Volume 46 Issue 7

March 2007

This Month's Program ... **Bring and Brag SLIDE SHOW**



Got any prototype or model slides you want to share? Bring them along. We'll start off with some surprise shots then you can show and narrate yours.

The more the merrier, so bring them along. It's also the start of our monthly Raffles so you may walk away with a prize or two. Don't forget about the new contest series also starting this month. Freight cars are the first category. Bring one along and **PARTICIPATE!**

Sunday 2PM March 18th Chapel 3

SUPER'S NOTES

Let's get rolling...

The passing of an Icon

We lost the founder of Division Three last month. Lone Eagle Payne started our local group and was active in it on any activity where help was needed. I still remember the four or five page, hand written letter he sent to the dozen or so of us in the NMRA in Dayton. It was the late 1950's and he wondered if there was enough interest to start a Division similar to some of the others in the Mid Central Region. We met in member's homes each month, passed the hat to get a flimsy newsletter around and, by golly, the thing took off. By 1975 we were active enough to win a bid for the National Convention even though we were told we were, "too small a city to pull it off". With Lone Eagle and a lot of diligent model railroaders we not only pulled it off but broke attendance records for a long time to come.

Pioneers like Lone Eagle are hard to find but I'm sure he knows this Division is still in for some great times to come and that the folks who follow him will make sure we keep on RAILROADING.

Do I detect a Trend?

In the past few months we've tried to show you how easy it is to get a model railroad layout going. Our topics have been on operations, modular design and realistic layout design. Maybe it's starting to catch hold. Last month Nick Folger brought his layout plan to the meeting and passed it around for help on selecting structures. Then I received an email from Steve Trout asking for help in the design of his On30 pike. I recommended the local folks who have designed narrow gauge layouts and participate in a group. There's also the NMRA Layout Design Special Interest Group. But the more I thought about it I realized that SIG groups are a long way away and take a lot of time to get answers. We are here at the "point of sale".

So I'll advance another of my wacky ideas and see what you think. Suppose we had a table at each meeting where you could put some copies of your layout specifications, preliminary ideas and your starting design. Other folks could pick up a copy, toss in their ideas and get it back to you at one of the next meetings. Even if you are just "armchairing" you could take it or leave it and you aren't out anything. Maybe there would be some interesting interchange of ideas. I'm not advocating having someone else design a layout for you as that usually doesn't work. But a critique type look at you ideas can save a lot of headaches. Especially if it is by folks who have successfully built operating layouts. I'd like to hear what you think of the idea so please let me know at the next meeting or by phone or email. I'm ready to start it when you are.

Feedback makes us move

We asked for ideas you would like to see at future meetings. Some good ideas have come out of the call. We'll be putting together a "Yard Design" clinic as requested by one member and Mike Mereness will be gathering the people and doing the research to fill in a number of other topics that fit into our "How to build a Realistic Layout" series. You tell us what you need and we'll work it in.

Here comes the RAFFLE

We've always had a tradition of some great raffles at our Div. 3 Regional conventions so why not at our regular meetings? Starting this month Phil Gliebe has volunteered to conduct it for us. For a meager fee you can buy a chance on some great prizes. Helps the treasury and offers another way to have some fun. We have some great prizes so check it out.

Let's try it again

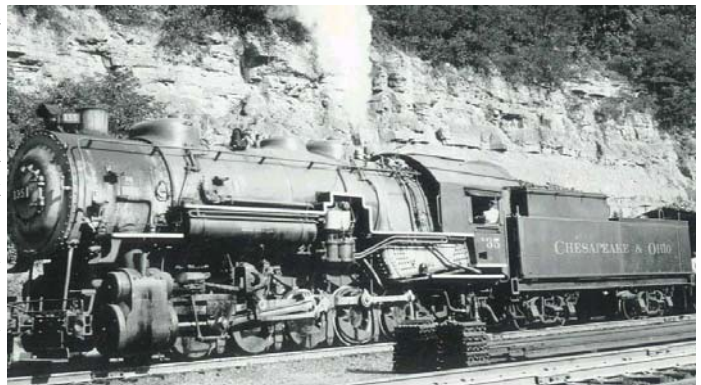
The snow caused many members to miss the great presentation on the V&O by Al McClelland in January. Because that one is too good to miss we are going to offer it again, probably this summer. If you were one of those who missed it or just want to see it again KEEP in TOUCH.

See YOU at the next Meeting.

Bob Fink MMR

SWITCHERS

Whether they were a small or a large railroad there was always a need for switch engines. Today they use a standard diesel road engine to do the switching but in steam days they built special locomotives to do the job. They grew from 0-4-0's to 0-10-0's like this C&O brute. Some roads removed the pilot trucks and made switchers out of road engines right up to the end of steam. If a small railroad had only one engine it was probably a switcher!



Aid To Our Members

Negotiations with NASCAR: I plan to enter into negotiations with NASCAR to move the Daytona 500 date to the 2nd Sunday in Feb so as not to interfere with attendance at our annual auction. It's either that or dip into our mutual fund to finance a wide screen HD TV. Seriously, I was disappointed by the attendance and the number of items up for auction this year in comparison with previous years. Hopefully this means that there will be a big supply of items and \$\$\$ for next year. I've only participated on the buying side in the past. Tell ya what...next year I'll bring some old rusty O-27 track that's in my attic if somebody will agree to bid on it! Whether you sell something for 50 cents or \$50, it beats trashing it. So put a box under one end of your layout marked "auction" and collect stuff that's no longer of use on your railroad. We have a number of members about retirement age who are just getting into or reentering the hobby. The auction is a great place for them to jump start their cache of "stuff", be it tools, models, or books.

New Div 3 member Wayne Zwart
Beavercreek, OH 45434

Wayne joined at the Feb. meeting and is an "HO gauge observer" at this time.

Nick's Streak. Two months in a row Nick Folger has brought in new members...will he make it three in March? The pressure is mounting, Nick!! Can anyone do better?

18th National Trolley Meet—May 4, 5, 6. Sponsored by the East Penn Traction Club, the 18th National Traction Meet will be held at the Pavilion at Villanova University in the Philadelphia area. The price is right...\$18 including spouse and children! And free parking! They have a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Express reserved at \$99/nite.

The meet includes a variety of vendors, clinics, modular layouts, displays, and contests on Friday evening and Saturday and fan trips on Sunday on Philadelphia area traction(fares extra). This year's clinics include building Trolley modules.

I've attended the last two of these biennial events and had a great time. My only complaint was that it was over too soon. They had about a dozen modular layouts each time and N, HO, O, 1/2 inch and 3/4 inch scales were represented. Traction modular layouts differ from modular railroad layouts in that they are more of a spider web configuration. And 3/4 inch scale is huge!! This is not a general public type of event, so the crowd is small but focused and most seem to stay the whole time.

For more info and/or registration forms try the website: www.eastpenn.org ; write Charles Long - Registrar, 17 Lanfair Rd., Cheltenham, PA, 19012-1810; or contact me.

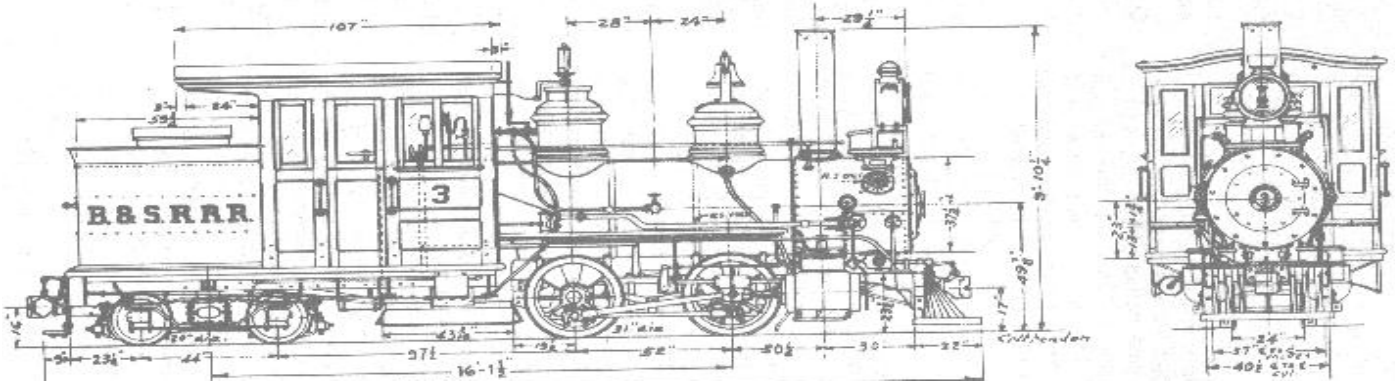
Bruce Albright Membership Chairman 937-426-3091 Albright42@peoplepc.com

Division Committees

The Division is looking for people interested in helping in several areas. We need people to help in the following areas:

- Train Show - Publicity, Layout Room Management Contact Ray Persing
- Finances - Investment Planning Contact Rich Lach
- Achievement Program - Contact Bob Fink

Sharpening Your SKILLS



AP Program News...

Contests are back and the AP program has come back to life. The whole concept of the Achievement Program is based on improving your skills and getting recognition for it. To make the program work we have to offer you a chance to show your work and you have to come forward and participate. We'll start our part this month by offering the contests again.

If you have a model that you want judged for AP awards after the popular vote contests we can do it "on the spot". What are you waiting for? It's more fun when you participate.

New contest setup starts this month ...

We're going to have three categories each month. You can enter Scratchbuilt, KitBashed, or just plain Kit built. This should allow anyone to enter anything they are proud of and at any skill level.

We will keep track of points scored as the months go by and at year's end the total point winner will receive a plaque. Judging is by popular vote but if you wish to have your model judged by NMRA rules for the Achievement Program we will make arrangements for you.

Here's our schedule:

- March Freight Cars
- April Passenger Cars
- May Diesel Locomotives

Bill Spinks, Fred Schneider and Tom Sorauf, our contest gurus will be ready to enter your model(s). It's easy, fun and worth your effort to share your skills so why not show off a little?

If You have a model that won in the past, bring it along to "show it off" on the Show and Tell Table at the March meeting to get things started.

Help Wanted

The Dalmatian Switching District will be walking the "Dog" at the Great Train Expo in the Cincinnati Convention Center on March 31 and April 1. We can use operators. We will train and provide FREE show admission. Contact J. Hedge (937) 878-2391 or Dave Decker (937) 890-0611.



Date	Location	Program
18 March	Chapel 3, Family Life Center	Show and Tell (Slides, Models and Photos)
12-15 April	Louisville, Kentucky	MCR Convention
15 April	Chapel 3, Family Life Center	Fixing and Improving
20 May	Chapel 3, Family Life Center	
17 June		Joint Meeting with Division 7
15 July	Chapel 3, Family Life Center	
22-28 July	Detroit, Michigan	NMRA National Convention
August		Bus Tour to Indianapolis