

Call Board

Volume 47 Issue 11

July 2008

This Month's Program ... BRING & BRAG slide show



"Their father is a model railroader. He named them O, HO and N."

We'll start off with the slides of a mystery guest as we did last year, then you can toss in yours. The more the merrier. Slides, digital photo's on a CD or however you want to project your prototype or model railroad pictures, bring them along.

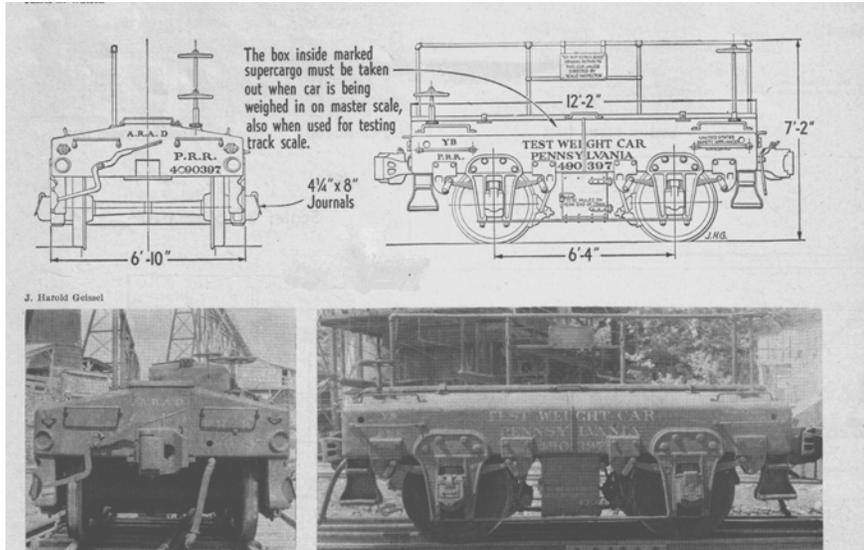
BUS TOUR tickets will be available at this meeting for the August trip to Indianapolis! Mike Mereness will fill us in on details and you can get your share of the limited number of seats available.

If you missed the Member survey in May's Call Board please return the one inside. We need to hear from you on what kind of programs you want and how the NMRA can be of help to you. Don't just watch, share your ideas and... **PARTICIPATE!**

Sunday July 20th, 2 PM Chapel 3

SUPER'S NOTES

Let's get rolling...



Seen one of these lately???... As rare as they were unusual, the scale test car or “test weight car” was an important “non-revenue” car on the railroads. They served to calibrate the railway scales used in the billing of car shipments. Shipping charges are by the “ton-mile” and out of whack scales could mean a lot of wrong charges either way. Just as the scales in a grocery must be certified periodically by a local authority the ICC certified the scale test cars. There were two types as far as I can determine. One, as in the plans above, carried an additional smaller “supercargo” chunk of weight which was used to test the accuracy or resolution of the scales. Another type was filled with concrete when built and then had a small circular compartment which was filled with lead shot until the car was brought to the exact “scale test” weight. In either case the cars had to be kept from rough treatment or any action that would alter their weights as they worked scales across the line. It was for that reason that they were run in front of the caboose at the rear of the train. Placards on them noted this and were about the only lettering other than the reporting marks. All of the larger roads had some.

If you are interested in modeling this neat prototype car I found these plans and photos in a 1960's Model Railroader. I have one old kit by Red Ball (I think). It is cast of lead with brass wheels and adds about 6 regular free rolling cars to a train's load! We had a beautiful brass model of one in our last raffle. The brass imports were finely detailed but a good material of equal workability would be styrene if you want to try a scratchbuilt job. If you build one let us see what you came up with for the show and tell table or monthly contest and especially where you found your research materials.

Don't miss the upcoming programs!

Dave Decker's great presentation on trees in May sure got people building. Wil Davis says he's ordered the parts to make one of those static electricity “flock machines”. Maybe he will fill us in on putting one together after he finishes it. What a difference it made to cause the pine needles to stand out and look so authentic. If you are using a technique to build or add realism to your models how about passing it along or give us all a chance to see how you do it with a simple demonstration. The “hands on” type clinic Dave gave fits right in with what member's say they want and it could help everyone if you're willing to share your ideas with all of us. That's what Division 3 is all about.

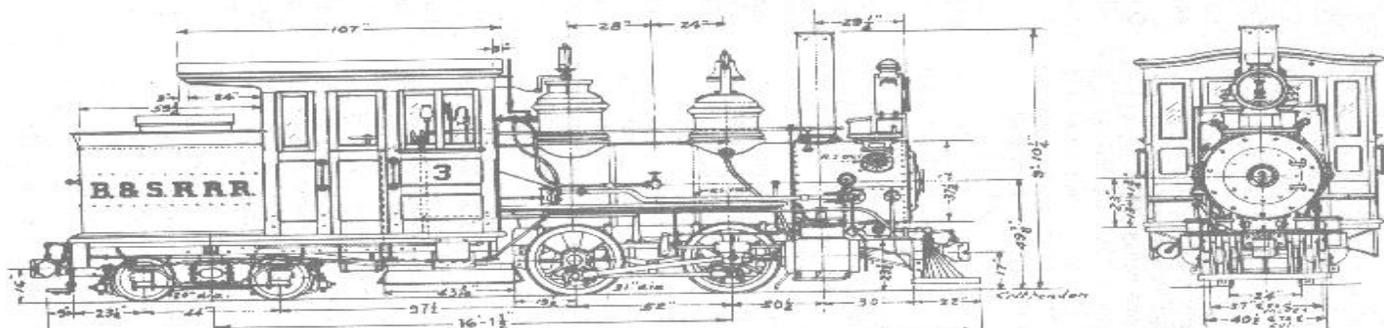
What's up with the bus trip?

Mike Mereness is going to try to have some pictures of the layouts we will visit on our August tour and especially some idea of what we will see at the Indiana Transportation Museum. Final bus tickets will be available if you haven't gotten yours. \$25 for the trip and lunch is a deal!

See YOU at the next Meeting.

Bob Fink MMR

Sharpening Your SKILLS



AP Program News...

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 do our part each month by offering a popularity contest and even a "show and tell" table to get you started. As your skills advance you can join us in the Achievement Program (AP).

The monthly contest setup ...

We have three categories each month. You can enter Scratchbuilt, KitBashed, or just plain Kit built. This allows anyone to enter anything they are proud of and at any skill level. 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 "on the spot".

The coming contest schedule ...

July Non-Revenue Cars **August** no contest **Sept.** Make it cheap \$1, \$3, 5\$ categories

June 2008 - Steam Locomotives				
	KIT	KIT BASHED	SCRATCH BUILT	PHOTO
First	George Ardwin	Jim Foster Phil Gliebe	No Entries	J. Hedge
Second	Jim Foster	Phil Gliebe Richard Davoust		Phil Gliebe
Third	Dick Kehl	Jim Foster		George Ardwin J. Hedge

Overall Standings					
	KIT	KIT BASHED	SCRATCH BUILT	PHOTO	OVERALL
First	Jim Foster (11)	Phil Gliebe (18)	Terry McTaggart (4)	J Hedge (17)	Phil Gliebe (26)
Second	Phil Gliebe (4) George Ardwin	Jim Foster (9)		George Ardwin (6)	Jim Foster (20)
Third	Dick Kehl (2)	George Ardwin (4)		Phil Gliebe (4)	J Hedge (17)



A Limited number of seats are available for our annual tour

Destination: Indianapolis layouts and the
Indiana Transportation Museum

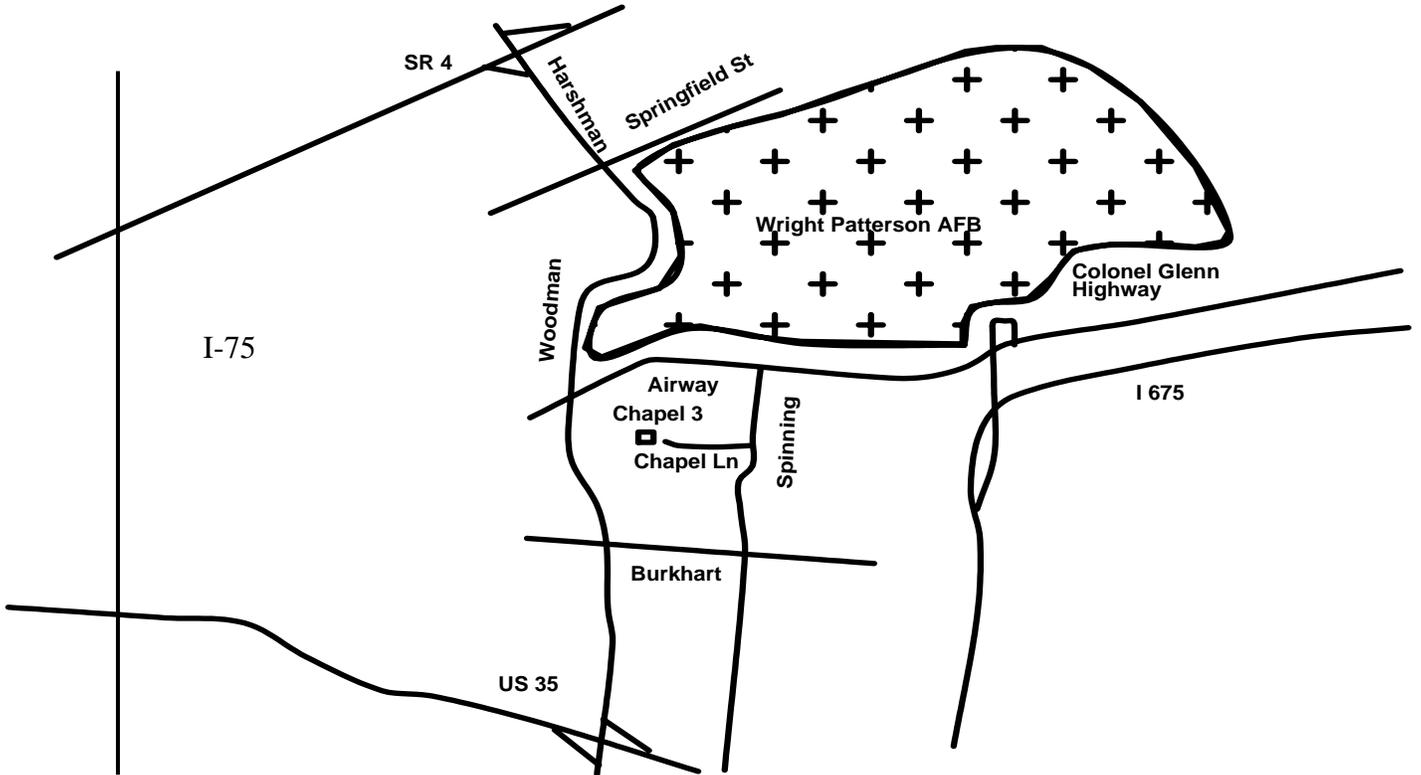
Saturday, August 16, 2008
7:30 AM (Bus leaves at 8 AM sharp)

Departs from:
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church 9100 N. Main St (Route 48)
Between the Samaritan North Hospital and
the Englewood Meijer (At Englewood/Rte 48 exit of I70)

Tickets must be purchased in advance:
\$25 dollars each (Includes box lunch)
Purchase tickets at this meeting or send check to:
“Div. 3 Bus tour” 6493 Anvil Dr. Waynesville, OH 45068

Division 3 Website: www.modelraildayton.com

You are invited to attend the next meeting of Division 3. It will be held at the Family Life Center, Chapel 3 Chapel Lane, Riverside Ohio at 2 pm, 20 July 2008. Visitors and guests are always welcome.



First Place June Photo Contest by J. Hedge

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 6, 2008
**NMRA Patent Challenge Update: Real Rail Effects fails to respond
to NMRA DCC-sound patent challenge**

The deadline for Real Rail Effects, Ltd. (RRE) to respond to an NMRA patent challenge has passed, with no response from RRE.

RRE was granted a patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) based upon a claim that the technology for using sound with DCC was invented by RRE. The NMRA, with the technical and financial support of a number of DCC manufacturers and hobbyists around the world, filed a challenge to the RRE patent.

The NMRA filed the challenge because we believe that the claims in the RRE patent application were not supported by the facts. The NMRA was aware that prior art and other evidence existed which negated RRE's patent.

The NMRA felt that, should it remain in force, the RRE patent posed a threat to modelers and manufacturers of DCC equipment because it would both increase the costs to modelers and unfairly restrict manufacturers who provide decoders with sound. Therefore, the NMRA coordinated an industry- and hobby-wide effort to have the patent overturned. The NMRA submitted evidence from a number of sources raising substantial questions about the validity of the patent.

On February 11, 2008, the USPTO issued a ruling granting the NMRA's patent re-examination request. The examiner stated in the ruling that there was a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider the prior art important in determining the patentability of the application of RRE.

After the examiner at the USPTO determined that the position of the NMRA had merit and compelled a new analysis of the patent, RRE had two months to respond to the re-examination request. The deadline for a response has come and gone, and RRE made no reply. The NMRA is now very hopeful that a favorable decision will be announced and that the position of the NMRA and its supporters will be vindicated.

The NMRA considers this a clear triumph for the modeler and the model railroad industry. We are proud to have led the challenge team that has made this victory possible.

www.NMRA.org

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