



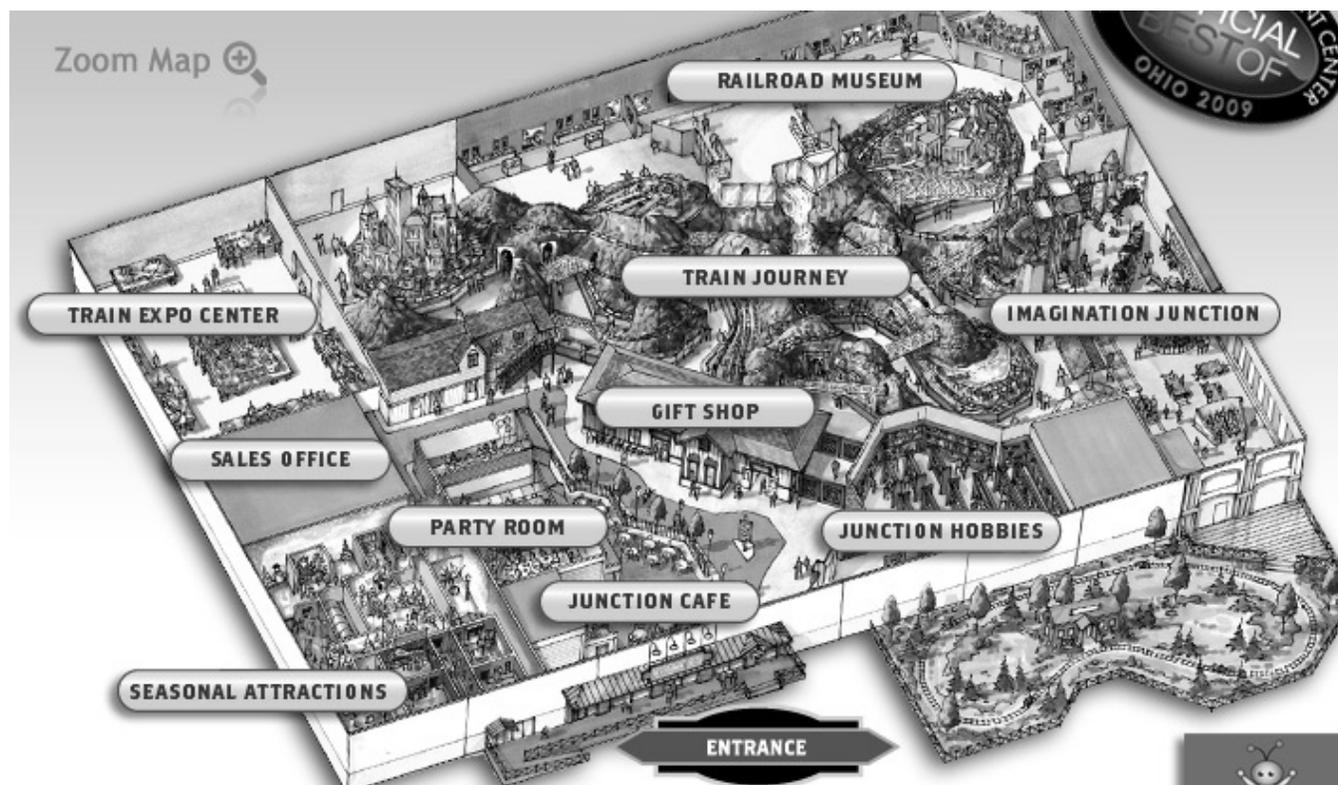
Call Board

Volume 49 Issue 7

March 2010

This Month's Program ...

Let's take a tour of the **BIGGEST** Model Railroad in the world...



If you missed the trip to the EnterTrainment Junction 2 years ago don't miss it this time. It's "member appreciation" month so your admission is on Division 3. They have filled in the missing parts of the facility so it is indeed a great place to spend the day.

Sunday, March 21st 2PM

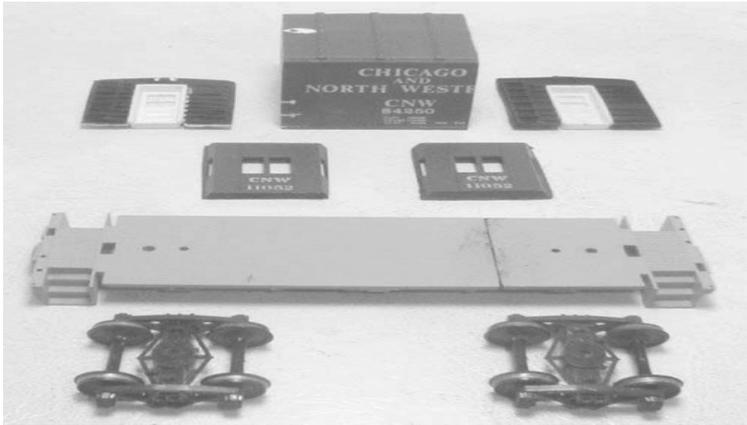
175 at Tylersville Rd. Exit

SUPER'S NOTES

Let's get rolling...

Making Sausage and kit bashing are a lot alike...

What's the old saw about, "if you saw sausage made you would never eat it"? I guess kit bashing is like that in some ways. What you see along the way looks like a mess but the end results can be spectacular. Folks ask me , "Is there a kit of that car, engine or structure around?" I have to usually answer that I don't know but I tell them, "you can kit-bash a real close model using an XY kit with a YZ body. Funny how only a few have taken the plunge and tried it. The neat part is that with trainshows and auctions around you can find the plastic or wood kits at a good price and have some real fun crossing them. Most of the work is research into which components you need and then doing the shopping. For a number of years I've been "bashing" Athearn cabooses into the Transfer type used around big city terminal yards or even on work trains. There haven't been any really good models other than in brass. I've sold a lot of them on Ebay and have people from around the country contact me for custom lettered jobs for their layout or favorite road. Here's one I built recently using two plastic box cars to get the "A" ends without handwheels and a cut down caboose frame and bays. Not much to look at when the cutout components are viewed as below but I think the results justified the means! Bet there's a car you have always wanted so give it a try.



After the components are pre-fabbed



Not bad, in its silver and red CB&Q color scheme...

Don't get rid of that Athearn Rotary Snow Plow yet...

Here's a recent set of photos that tell the story from the western plains on the BNSF. "Big storm stalls train, snow plow to the rescue".



Job done! The stuck train is saved.



The Spring Regional Convention...

The folks down in Charleston, WV have knocked themselves out getting ready for "The Coalfield Express" on May 13-15.

Plenty of neat prototype tours and the usual big batch of informative clinics. Well worth the trip and a good break from this LONG winter. Division 3 folks will be doing the clerical work on running the contests so if you are going to be there we could use a little of your spare time and help. Check it all out at: www.coaldivision.org

See YOU at the next Meeting

Bob Fink MMR



Found on the Web

March 2010

This month I'm offering a mixed bag of sites, both modeling and prototype in focus.

Is anyone in process of designing a layout? There are a couple of free software design programs available for download that can smooth the process.

The first is **Right Track Software** from our friends at Atlas. It can be found at <http://www.atlasrr.com/rightrack.htm>. To quote from the website: "**Right Track Freeware** is a layout planning program for the PC (**Windows only**). The program allows you to design your dream layout using electronic templates of Atlas O's 21st Century Track® System, Atlas N scale and HO scale Snap-Track and Super-Flex Track, HO True-Track, switches, bridges, turntables, buildings and electrical controls. There are even templates for structures from Walther's Cornerstone Series, Railway Design Associates, Design Preservation Models, Life-Like, Lionel and Atlas O, LLC."

"Right Track FreeWare will allow you to design a layout of just about any size (up to 100' x 100') using Atlas N, HO and O scale Super-Flex track, sectional track, switches, bridges and buildings, as well as buildings from other manufacturers. When you are finished designing, you can print out the plan and use it as a blueprint while you build your railroad. The software will keep track of what products you use while designing, and when you're finished you can print a list of required items and use it as a 'shopping list.'"

If you want a true CAD program for layout design, take a look at XTrackCAD at <http://www.xtrackcad.org/>. It is more sophisticated than RTS, and had a much higher learning curve, but is far more flexible in exchange. XTrackCAD is a CAD program for designing model railroad layouts. You can easily create layout of any scale or size. Libraries for many brands of track and turnouts are included. Adding new components is easy with the built-in editor. XTrackCAD is a CAD program for designing model railroad layouts. You can easily create layout of any scale or size. Libraries for many brands of track and turnouts are included. Adding new components is easy with the built-in editor.

I know that there are much fancier design programs out there, but I remind you that these are FREE! I love free!

Now, some help for anyone who bought a kit at the auction that was missing the instructions. Go to <http://www.hoseeker.net/>. You will find within this site many items that may assist you in repairing, identifying and collecting HO Trains. Listed in the "Literature Section" are Assembly Diagrams with Part Numbers for many different HO train engines and rolling stock. This includes Athearn, Bowser, Globe, Penn Line, Kato, Model Power, Model Die Casting, Roundhouse, Mantua, Tyco, AHM, Rivarossi, Bachmann, Varney, and many more. Additionally, Catalogs, Brochures and Product Sales Lists for these trains can be referenced here.

Adam Burns recently alerted me to a site with a goldmine of prototype railroad information. Check out <http://www.american-rails.com/>. It generally covers the American railroad industry but with a particular emphasis on its history. For instance, some of the topics covered on the site include famous "fallen flag" railroads, venerable passenger trains, interurbans, all types of historical and present locomotives, and a historical timeline/overview of the industry.

That's it for this month. Make sure to visit next month when we'll have some information with a local connection.

Division 3 Website: www.modelraildayton.com

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).

Our **REGULAR** 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 ...

March	Freight Cars and Special Cast Stone Arch Bridge
April	Passenger Cars

Division Elections

Division 3 will hold the election of officers in April 2010. The positions are Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Chief Clerk. The incumbent Superintendent and Chief Clerk are ineligible to run for the same positions. Nominations will be held at the March Meeting. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in early April.

CLINICS AT NMRA '75 LOOK FORWARD AND BACK

Would you like to learn how to create a modern CTC panel for your layout using CATS? Or maybe you'd like to find out more about building kits made from brass etched parts, or increase your knowledge about chapel cars. Did you even know there were such things as chapel cars?

You can learn about these topics and many more by attending the clinics at NMRA 75, the National Model Railroad Association convention for 2010. This year the NMRA celebrates its 75th anniversary, so its altogether fitting that our national convention be held in Milwaukee Wisconsin, the city where it all began. The dates are July 11th through the 18th.

While NMRA 75 will take an affectionate look back at our hobby's days of old, it will also be looking ahead to the fresh and new. This year's clinic program reflects that idea very well. Of the 163 clinics scheduled to be presented, 123 are brand new and never before presented at an NMRA national convention. These new clinics will cover everything from scenery to structures to the newest trends in Digital Command

(Continued on page 5)

Click the shutter and win a steam cab ride!

With the single click of a shutter, you could find yourself riding for a full day in the cab of an historic mainline steam locomotive operated by the Union Pacific! It can happen if your photo is the winner of the National Model Railroad Association's 75th Anniversary Photo Contest.

Your day-long cab ride will begin in Cheyenne, WY in May, 2010, behind some mighty big steam power on its first leg of an excursion. And we'll make sure you're there when the conductor yells "All aboard!" because the winner will also receive airfare (up to \$500), two nights in a hotel, plus transportation to and from the excursion.

If you're an NMRA member in good standing, all you have to do is submit a photograph depicting one or more models of UP equipment and/or structures in a realistic scene. Your photo will be judged for prototype fidelity of both the modeling and the scene, as well as for photographic art. You can submit color prints, color slides, or digital files on CD.

To be eligible, your photo must be postmarked by April 15, 2010 (or originated in transit by a third party service such as FedEx or UPS), and received no later than April 20. Only one photograph may be submitted per envelope, but there's no limit to the number of photos you can submit. All photos become the property of the NMRA, which may use the photo in any manner it chooses. In addition, participants agree to provide the NMRA with the original medium of the photo (negative, transparency, or digital file) if requested.

Send your entries to: Robert J. Amsler, Jr., 514 Dover Place, St. Louis, MO 63111. And if you send a print, be sure to protect it from bending!

So get modeling and shooting right away. Because this May you may be behind a few horses in Wyoming!

(Continued from page 4)

Control. So if you're looking for fresh new ideas to enhance your modeling, NMRA 75 is the convention you must not miss!

But not all the new clinics at NMRA 75 are about fresh new ideas. You can look forward to a couple of them that look back. Clinician Paul Hobbs will present Seventy-Five Years Of Development And Achievement In Model Railroading. Paul will review events, processes, inventions, companies and individuals that have made significant contributions to the hobby over the past 75 years. You might also want to see Steve Stewart's new clinic, Seventy-Five Years Of Railroading. Steve examines prototype railroading from what was in 1934 to what will be in 2011. And what could be more appropriate to bring the list of new clinics to an end than one about the history of Milwaukee Road Cabooses?

As an added bonus, many of the new clinics at NMRA 75 will be presented by some of the best-known names in model railroading. Names like Jack Burgess, Bruce Chubb, Chuck Hitchcock, Tony Koester, Sam Swanson, Bill Schaumburg, Andy Sperandeo, Tony Thompson and Wayne Wesolowski.

Of course NMRA 75 is about much more than clinics. To find out everything you need to know, visit our website at www.nmra75.org. You can even register online. Come celebrate 75 years of model railroading this summer in Milwaukee!

Oh and in case you were wondering, no actual cats were harmed in the making of that CTC clinic.

March Meeting Location



DIRECTIONS:

From Dayton, take I-75 south to Exit 22 (Tylersville Road). Turn left and go east on Tylersville to the light at Kingsgate Way. Turn right and the Junction is at the first road on the right.

RPM REVS UP AT NMRA 75.

It started 75 years ago in Milwaukee. A group of model railroaders intent in setting interchangeability standards for motive power, rolling stock, and track formed the National Model Railroad Association or NMRA.

It started 25 years ago at the 50th Anniversary NMRA convention in Milwaukee. A group of model railroaders interested in the contemporary scene formed The Modern Prototype Modelers. Over the years the emphasis changed to prototype modeling from all eras. As a result the name changed too, and the group became known as Railroad Prototype Modelers or RPM.

Over the years both the NMRA and the RPM continued to grow and now 25 years later, both are meeting once again in Milwaukee.

The event is NMRA 75, the National Model Railroad Association's 75th anniversary convention. From July 11 through the 16th, RPM modelers and NMRA members from all over the world will join together to celebrate the accomplishments of two great organizations.

Just as NMRA standards spawned innovations that have changed the hobby, so too has the innovative modeling of RPM members. In fact the level of detail and the technical excellence of today's models owe much of their origins to the NMRA and the RPM. No doubt about it, there is much to celebrate, which is why you should come to this party!

An entire room will be devoted to RPM models from all over the world and you're invited to bring yours to display as well. The room will be open from Wednesday to Friday during convention week.

In addition to the RPM exhibit, NMRA 75 will offer a huge array of tours, clinics programs, and special events designed for model railroaders and their non-modeling family members. That means NMRA 75 makes for an ideal family vacation this summer!

Get all the details by visiting our website at www.nmra75.org. You can even register online. So join the party. Come celebrate 75 years of model railroading this summer at NMRA '75!