



Call Board

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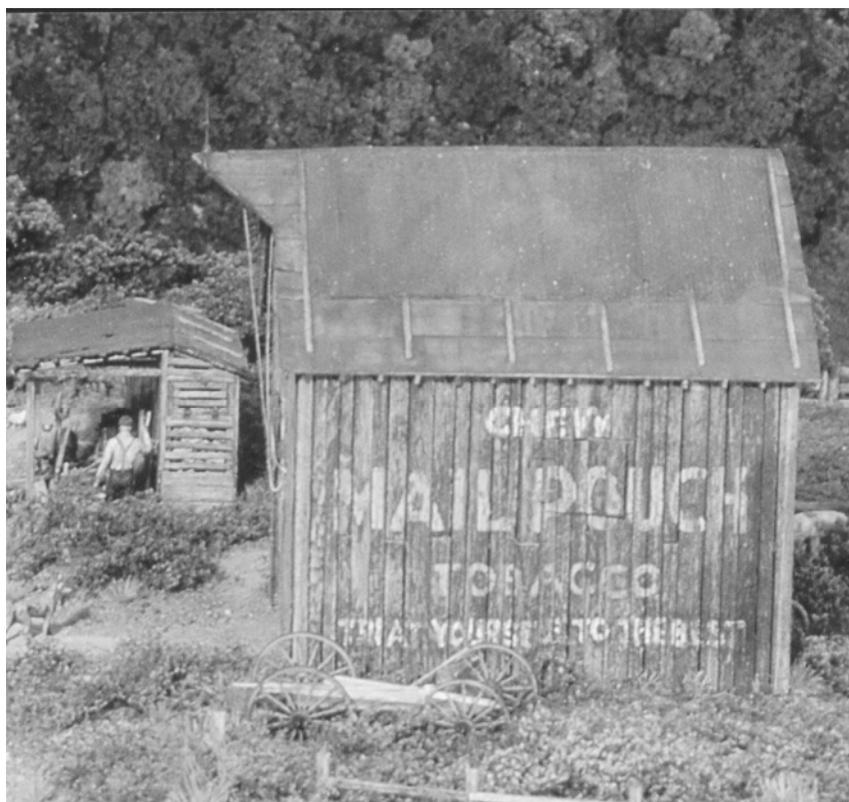
May 2010

This Month's Program ...

Timetable Change: Due to the Date conflict with the MCR Spring Convention, the May Division 3 Meeting will be held one week later. Mark you calendar for Sunday May 23.

Sam Swanson, noted modeler and author will present our program for May. Sam has written many articles for the railroad press and specializes in rural buildings. Many of his models are of Appalachian prototypes which may best be described as past their prime. Many of his articles describe techniques he has developed for producing these structures. One of his most ambitious projects, the subject of a six part article in the Feb – July 2003 issues of *Model Railroading*, was “Scratchbuilding Ward’s Sawmill”. The project was a complex of buildings that made up the sawmill built in Appalachia by Ben Ward in the 1940’s in Watauga Co, North Carolina. Sam said in the article that it took him four years to complete the project.

The “Mail Pouch” barn in the photo is typical of his board by board scratchbuilt structures that are appropriately weathered to reflect the ravages of the elements and the passage of time.



SUPER'S NOTES

I hear the conductor calling “all aboard” and I guess I better hang on as we embark on a new journey. I must admit it is with some trepidation that I undertake the role of Superintendent. However, I feel that after being a member for over 40 years it’s time to step up and give something back to the NMRA. I also know that I have the support of a great team on the BOG.

Some of you may have heard this before, but I will repeat it here for the last time. I arrived in Dayton just after the 1975 convention. I was in the Air Force and was transferred here from North Dakota in November 1975. At that time the NMRA show was Thanksgiving weekend. Somehow I heard about it and attended. While there I picked up one of the open house brochures. I don’t remember any of them except one. I spent a lot of time talking to the owner of the Grafton & Cumberland, Gordon Carlson. By the time I left I had been invited to come back the following week for the weekly “work session”. Sometimes I wonder if that was just an excuse to get rid of me and he didn’t really expect me to come back. If that was the case it didn’t work. Nearly 35 years later I am still part of the group that I first attended in December 1975.

It has been a fun trip and some of my closest friends have grown out of that group. Over the years we have built a number of layouts (even one that I have never finished) including the third incarnation of the G&C. We have now morphed into an operating group, but I am still getting hints that I should complete my long unfinished HO railroad. That may happen, but right now my basement is over run with new HO modules that the members of the MVMR are constructing. You may remember a couple of years ago, Russ Morison, Randy Hinkle and I gave a presentation on constructing lightweight modules. If you were at any of the recent train shows you have seen some of them on display. A move to a new house a couple of years ago resulted in the partial demolition of my 15 year old Garden Railway, I also hope to rebuild a portion of it at the new place.

I do not know what this new journey will bring, but I am pleased to have all of you along and I am looking forward to working with all of you over the next two years. So don’t miss the train as we embark on this new adventure.

Wil Davis
Superintendent

R E P O R T

State of Division Three, MCR, NMRA

Period Covered: October 2009 to May 2010
Prepared for: **Mid Central Region, NMRA** May 12th, 2010

Division Three continues to prosper with 161 on the Member Roster and a mailing list of 250. Monthly meetings have shown a steady attendance of about 35 to 40 members. A three month schedule of meetings is published in the newsletter. Meeting presentations have been centered around the topics of Lay-

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Found on the Web

We all love the modeling magazines, I'm sure. How many of us are like me, and just can't stand to get rid of one because "I'm gonna build that one of these days." As a result I have boxes and boxes of magazines I haven't looked at for years. I have a friend whose layout doesn't have legs, just boxes of magazines underneath.

Let me suggest a magazine that eliminates the problem. The only space it takes up is in your computer. *Model Railroad Hobbyist* (<http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/>) is available on-line and can be downloaded as a .pdf file. Best of all, it's FREE! MRH, published by long-time modeler and innovator Joe Fugate, features many of the same names that you're used to seeing in *Model Railroader* and *Model Railroad Craftsman*. It features full-length articles on all phases of the hobby, plus product reviews and interactive ads. The most recent issue had 147 pages! Give it a look.



In a recent *Call Board* column, Bob Fink talked about setting up his workbench. This would be a good time to point out some of the companies on-line that supply all your workbench needs.



We're all familiar with Micro-Mark (<http://www.micromark.com/>). They've become a

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benchmark in the hobby business. A great source for small and precision hand tools of all kinds.

Precision Scale Model Engineering (<http://www.psmescale.com/>) carries, in addition to the tools, an amazing array of modeling materials, drive and lighting components and electronics.

eHobbyTools.com (<http://www.ehobbytools.com/index.html>) is another supplier of hand and small power tools. You may have seen them at train shows as Laster Hobby Tools.

Need a special bit for your Dremel? I'll bet P J Tool and Supply (<http://www.pjtool.com/>) will have it if anyone does. Also, Utopia Tools (<http://www.utopiatools.com/Hobby-Tool-Kits/>) carries jewelers and beading tools in addition to modeling tools. You never know what you might be able to adapt to a new use.

Happy surfing!

Norm Courtney
Division 3 Webmaster

Division 3 Website: www.modelraildayton.com

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out design and building, Layout operation, and Prototype history. A number of "hands on" building projects have met with enthusiasm and real participation. We had a "make and take" clinic in November where members purchased an MCR laser structure and President Dick Briggs demonstrated its construction.. It was very well attended and helped our division as well as Regional sales. Last August a 4th annual bus tour was run to Columbus to view six Division 6 layouts. It has proved, once again, to be highly successful as a motivational tool at only a few hundred dollars net cost to the Division and will probably be included in the future.

All in all, the Division seems to conduct activities that please members and keeps them active. Mr. Mike Mereness, the program chairman, continues to find out what topics the members are interested in and then finds presenters to give fine presentations. "Round robin" or participation clinics have been highly effective. These consist of several "stations" where members can circulate and view presenters in action doing their own variation of an overall theme. Ballasting, Trees, and Weathering have been tried with Soldering on the future list. These hands on clinics have formed the part of our series of clinics entitled "you can do it".

The Division is in very good financial shape having moved the majority of our assets from mutual funds to insured bank deposits well before the stock market crisis occurred. We have sold the only run of V&O Gondolas authorized by Mr. Allen McClelland MMR as a fund raiser. The project was one of the most successful so far having returned our initial investment in the first 6 weeks. Our Return on Investment was 50%.

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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).

Norm Courtney has finished his "Volunteer" requirements and should have his first AP award in June. The volunteer award can be obtained for any committee work such as the trainshow or special projects or, in Norm's case, for the great work he does in heading up the web page. If you have held a chair or done work in these areas at the Division, Region or National level, let us know and we'll help you get the paperwork together for your award.

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 ...

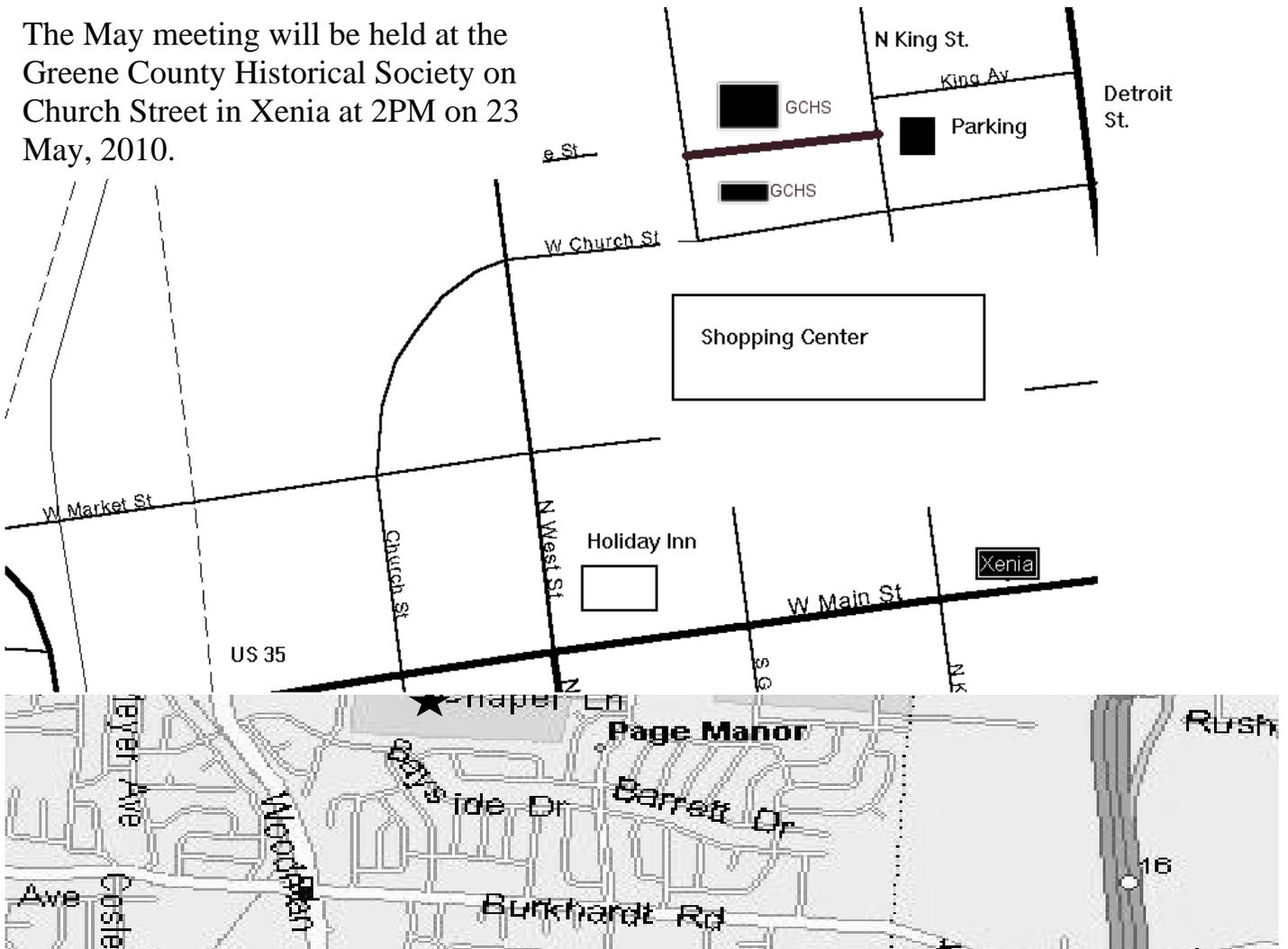
May - Diesel Locomotives

- June - Steam Locomotive
- July - Non- Revenue Cars
- August - NO CONTEST (trip)
- September - Make IT Cheap (1-3-5 Dollar)
- October - Caboose
- November - Weathering
- December - Structure

There was only one entry for the Passenger Car contest at the April meeting.

MAY MEETING DATE AND LOCATION CHANGE

The May meeting will be held at the Greene County Historical Society on Church Street in Xenia at 2PM on 23 May, 2010.



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The Call Board, our monthly newsletter, continues to be useful with regular pages and columns. Excellent work continues to be done by Mr. J. Hedge as Editor. A contest idea by Mr. Bruce Albright is to provide members with copies of the old Model Railroader articles on "Dollar Cars" and use these as the common contest topic for two month in advance. We are also publishing training material on the Achievement Program and hope to increase participation in that program. We supplement our hardcopy Callboard publication with an excellent division web page under the expert guidance of Mr. Norm Courtney. The web page has become a timely asset in keeping our members informed.

Our biggest activity has been the November Trainshow. Now billed as "the biggest trainshow in Ohio" we continue to try for our record crowd of 5000 two years ago. At these shows we subsidize NMRA memberships at 50%. Each year we enroll about 7 or 8 new members for the National NMRA. The program is now under the excellent leadership of Mr. Nick Folger and Mr. Rick Lach.

Respectfully submitted: Bob Fink MMR (outgoing) Superintendent