

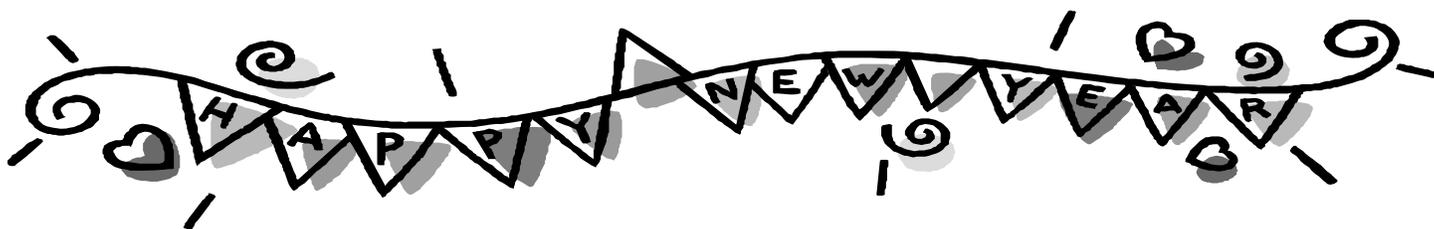


# Call Board

Volume 52 Issue 5

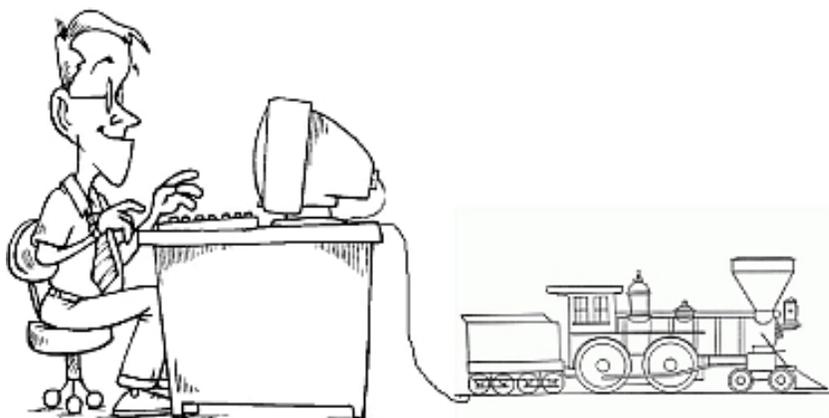
January 2013

## This Month's Program ...



### January Meeting

Larry Miller will do a presentation on programming your engine decoders using "Decoder Pro," another of the JMRI free tools. Unlike Panel Pro, this one requires DCC, but makes programming a much simpler task. Also you have the benefit of being able to save the CV settings to a file which you can reload in the engine in the event you have to reset it to factory default for some reason. You can also load the file in a similar engine and fine tune it rather than start from scratch.



### Model Railroad TRAINING Day

This year's event will be held January 26, 2013 at the same location as last year, Sulphur Grove UMC, 7505 Taylorsville Road, Huber Heights, OH. There will be sessions covering the fundamentals of getting started in model railroading as well as more in-depth coverage on selected topics. Learn how to turn that train set into a model empire where you are the master. Learn how to operate model trains in a realistic setting simulating "moving the freight" for fun and profit. We will have a large operating model train layout where you can try your hand at being a model railroad engineer. Kids of all ages are welcome. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. There is no admission charge for this event. There will also be free lunch available. The hours are 10am - 4 pm.

**Division 3 Website: [www.modelraildayton.com](http://www.modelraildayton.com)**

**2013 MCR Convention Website: [www.mcr2013convention.com](http://www.mcr2013convention.com)**

## Super's Notes for January 2013

I can't believe it's almost the end of another year. I had a hard time remembering to change the year at the top of my column to 2013. As I write this it is only a couple of days before Christmas and it will be history when you read this. I hope "Santa" was good to you. Now is a good time to remind everyone that the MCR convention is less than five months away and to get your registration in soon to take advantage of the early registration reduced rate. The end of January will come before you know it and the price will go up. You can find the registration on our web site, or if you don't have access to the web the King Pin will be in your mail box early in January with all of the necessary information and forms.

### Meeting Notes

The December meeting was another great one. We had a dozen or so entries in the structures contest. That seems to be a popular category, as I recall we have had a lot of entries in that category several times lately. Congrats to the first place winners: Scratch built – Jim Russinger; Kit bashed – Pat Taylor; and Ken Rackliff – Kit built. A special mention is due Richard Todd for his scratch built station, even though he did not place with it, it was the most creative and I might add edible! If you missed the meeting you can find the pictures on our web site. There were a lot of quality entries and it was difficult deciding which one to vote for.

John Smith and Ron Sturgis did a great job with their presentation on Panel Pro. John took us through the steps necessary to develop an on screen panel and even included a working eight foot test layout that he and Ron used for development of their respective panels. They use different operating systems and took a different approach to their panel design which demonstrated the terrific flexibility in the software. If you missed the presentation we should have the slides from the presentation on our web site in the near future.

### Model Railroad TRAINING

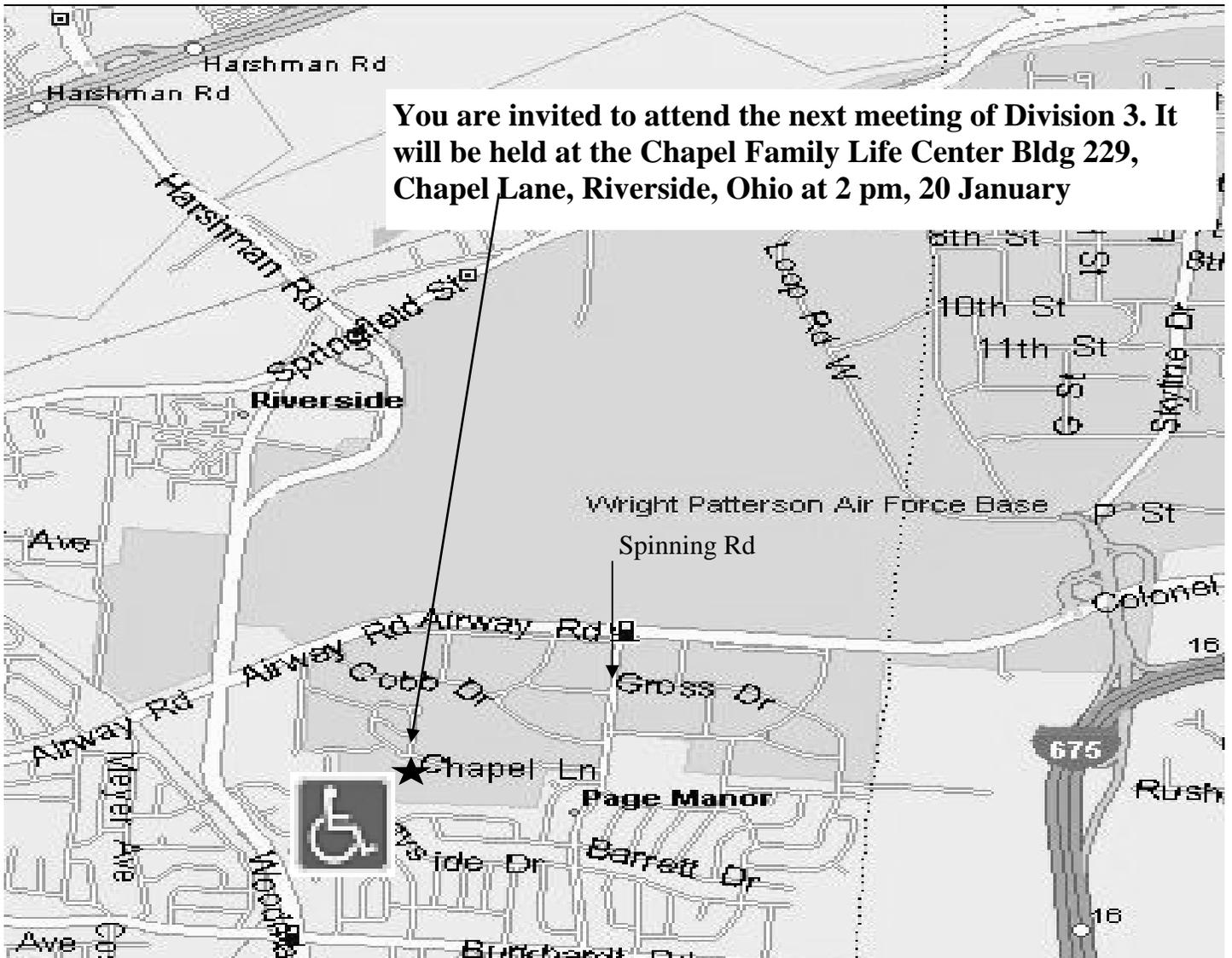
Our second annual Model Railroad TRAINING event is only a month away and I have lined up several new presentations. Several more people signed up at the meeting to help out in some way, but it's still not too late if you would like to help out let me know at the December meeting. If you signed up I will be in touch with you shortly after the first of the year. We have had more publicity this year and I expect a good turnout.

### January Program

Larry Miller will do a presentation on programming your engine decoders using "Decoder Pro," another of the JMRI free tools. Unlike Panel Pro, this one requires DCC, but makes programming a much simpler task. Also you have the benefit of being able to save the CV settings to a file which you can reload in the engine in the event you have to reset it to factory default for some reason. You can also load the file in a similar engine and fine tune it rather than start from scratch.

### Free Stuff

I recently received an e-mail from Dan Mack who has a quantity of long corrugated boxes free for the taking. These measure 72" x 16" x 2" they are left over from his business and are used to ship back boards. Dan says they are great to cut cardboard strips for making a lattice for scenery base. You may reach Dan at dan-mack2@yahoo.com to arrange for pickup. They are located at his warehouse which is just off I-275 on the east side of Cincinnati. He also suggested that if enough division members wanted some they could combine their wants and make one trip down there to get them. I will make an announcement at the next meeting and if anyone is interested they can get together at the break.



### 7 Model Railroad Mistakes to Avoid

Now that the holidays are over and the dull days of winter are setting in, you may be pondering building your dream railroad. You may also know someone who received a train for Christmas and wants some advice on what to do next. The first step is to attend the Model Railroad TRAINING Day on January 26th. You may also want to ponder and pass on these 7 mistakes to avoid.

1. **Too much eagerness and too little patience.** Remember that the V&O and other great model railroads were not built overnight.
2. **Trying to grow a model train starter set into your dream layout.** The quality of toy store train sets is a little better than it used to be but in the long run you will find the reliability leaves something to be desired. it is ok to set up the train and watch it run but don't expect it to be a permanent part of your dream railroad.
3. **Confusing Scale and Gauge.** This is a minor point but it can be confusing. Gauge is the distance between the rails and Scale is the relationship between the prototype and the model.
4. **Choosing the wrong scale.** Everyone has their favorite scale. Look at all the scales and imagine how they fit your health and physical abilities.
5. **Steep gradients and tight curves.** This has a lot to do with the type of equipment and era of modeling. Long cars do not like sharp curves and steep grades only work on logging railroads.
6. **Going too big too quickly.** Start with something simple and try running it while you plan for your dream railroad. Many people burn out on construction before they ever run a train.
7. **Electrically underrating your layout.** Talk to the experts and don't try to overload your wiring.

## Contests

We have three categories each month. You can enter Scratch Built, Kit Bashed, 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 ...

**January - Open Loads**  
 February - No Contest  
 March - Freight Cars  
 April - Passenger Cars  
 May - Diesel Locomotives  
 June - Steam Locomotives  
 July - Non-Revenue Cars  
 August - No Contest  
 September - Make it cheap (1-3-5 Dol-  
 lar)  
 October - Caboose  
 November - Weathering  
 December - Structure

### December Winners

First	
Kit	Jim Rackliff
Kit Bash	Pat Taylor
Scratch Built	Jim Rusinger
Second	
Kit	Andy Slyh
Kit Bash	Andy Slyh
	Mark Stiver
Scratch Built	Jim Rusinger
Third	
Kit	Andy Slyh
Kit Bash	Richard Todd
Scratch Built	Wil Davis



First Place Scratch Built - Jim Rusinger



Third Place Scratch Built - Wil Davis



Second Place Scratch Built - Jim Rusinger

## National News

- **Donations for “The Magic of Scale Model Railroading” Exhibit** at the California State Railroad Museum are continuing to pour in. Among the more noteworthy are:
  - The **World’s Greatest Hobby campaign** has pledged \$50,000 toward the Exhibit.
  - **Cincinnati Division 7, in the Mid-Central Region**, has pledged \$15,000 toward the Exhibit.
  - Current pledge and donation totals are now over \$200,000, but the NMRA still needs to raise an additional \$50,000 to meet the \$250,000 “matching challenge pledge” by an anonymous donor. If you, your Division or Region, have any questions about the exhibit, please contact Howell Day Museum Committee Chairman Allen Pollock at 573-619-8532. You can contribute via the web by visiting [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) and clicking on the donation link near the top of the homepage.
- The **Winter Board of Directors Meeting** will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Sheraton Suites Galleria-Atlanta, on February 8-10. Although the Board meets in a closed caucus the evening of February 8, the general meeting is open to all NMRA members on February 9 and 10.
- Hasea.com, the model railroad association located in China which has aligned itself with the NMRA, has invited the NMRA President and a few other NMRA officials to **tour the new, highly restricted Chinese High Speed Rail factory and facilities** in February. No foreign visitors have ever had the opportunity to view these facilities before. As you may recall from *NMRA Magazine* articles and blurbs here, Hasea is a network of 100,000 Chinese railfans and modelers. The NMRA Board has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Hasea to share our standards and organizational knowledge.
- The **Peachtree Express 2013 website has been updated**, and now lists all the planned prototype and general interest tours, along with all layout tours. There are photos of each layout, and, in some cases, videos. Visit [www.nmra2013.org](http://www.nmra2013.org) to view the updates, and watch *NMRA Magazine* for Peachtree Express 2013 layout features.
- Bill Kaufman, Vice President of Special Projects, is spearheading a **new eBulletin concept** – an electronic communication sent by email to interested NMRA members on a regular basis. The project is still in the planning stages, and will be presented to the Board of Directors at the Winter Meeting in February.
- I’d like to repeat this important news again this month: John Stevens, the NMRA Secretary, has announced the **slate of candidates for the 2013 National elections**. Ballots will be in NMRA members’ hands early next year. Candidates are:
  - At-Large Worldwide Director: - Stan Ames - Mike Brestel - Larry Smith, MMR - Leslie Eaton, MMR
  - Atlantic District Director: - Alain Kap - Kathy Millatt
  - Western District Director - Larry Alfred, MMR - Jack Hamilton, MMR
- Another item that bears repeating: Western Director Jack Hamilton and his committee are working on a new **Long Range Plan for the NMRA**. Jack is still looking for input from members, and writes, “The October edition of *NMRA Magazine* put out a general call (“NMRA – Where do the tracks lead?”) to members for input for NMRA strategic planning. There have been a number of excellent responses to the call

but not nearly in the numbers that might be suggested by the normal level of grouching and gripes about the organization. This is your opportunity to make a difference and have some direct say in the direction the NMRA takes into our future. This is your organization and your ideas and input will be treated with equal value and respect. Please read the October article and make your desires known to Western District Director Jack Hamilton at westdir@hq.nmra.org or mail them directly to Jack at 10731 Warren Road NW, Silverdale, WA 98383.”

Lastly, on a personal note, I’ve turned in my **resignation as Communications Director**, as of the Winter Board meeting next February. It’s been a fun run and I’ve enjoyed it. I don’t exactly know what the fate of these InfoNet News eblasts will be beyond January – that will be up to my successor. So if you or anyone you know would like to apply for the position, please contact President Charlie Getz at charliegetz@yahoo.com. *If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You’ll find those addresses at www.nmra.org or in NMRA Magazine.*

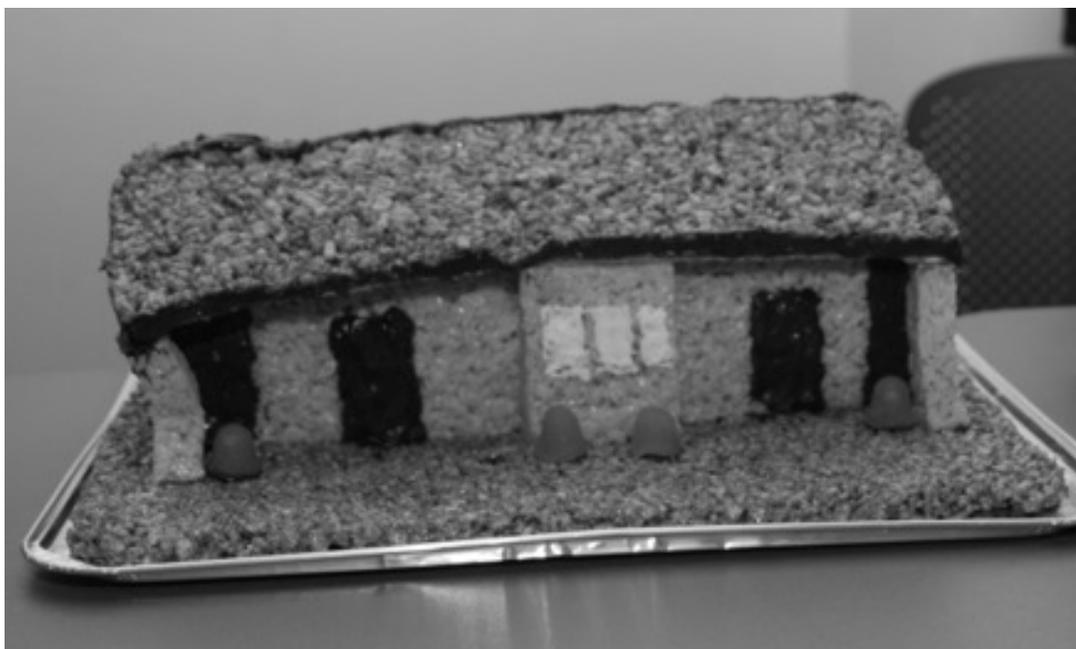
Gerry Leone, MMR

### Dalmatian Switching District 2013 Schedule

This is a tentative schedule subject to change.

Sat Jan 26th	Sulphur Grove United Methodist Church, Huber Heights, Ohio	10AM/4PM
Wed/Sat May 15-18	Mid Central Region Convention, Miamisburg, Ohio	
Sat/Sun June 22-23	Carillon Park, Dayton, Ohio	9:30am/5pm Sat Sun 12pm/4pm
Sat/Sun July 13-14	Van Wert County Fairgrounds, Van Wert Ohio.	Sat 10am/4pm Sun 11am/2pm
Sat/Sun Nov 2-3	Division 3 Train Show, Hara Arena, Dayton, Ohio	
Sat/Sun Nov ?	National Trail School, New Paris, Ohio	
Sat Dec 7	Marion County Fairgrounds, Marion Oh	

Contact Jack Honeycutt for more information.



Richard Todd’s Rice Krispies® Treats Station