

Call Board

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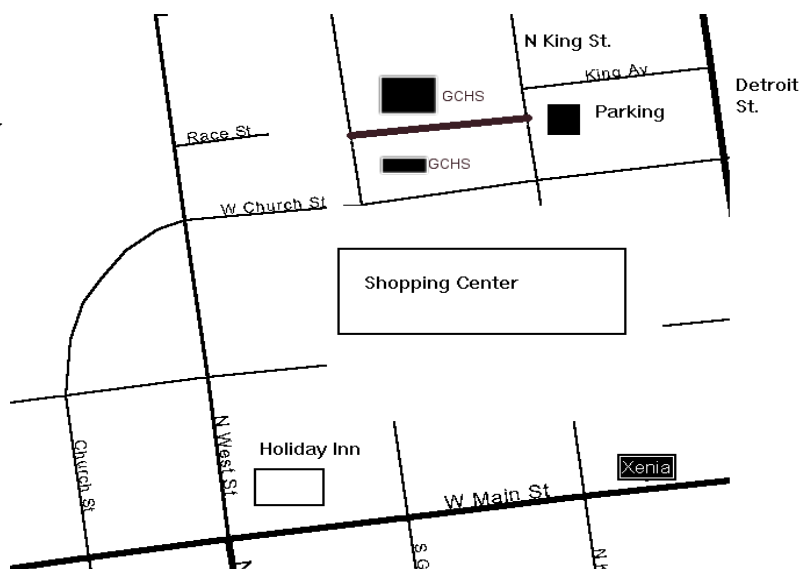
Going, Going
... GONE



Annual Auction! It's that time again! Get out all of that neat stuff that's been hiding under the layout and in your closet since last year. Turn the things you no longer want or need into some cash. (No. We won't accept your ne'r-do-well brother-in-law. This auction is for rail items only.) Sale begins promptly at 2 PM, so get your things there early, tagged and ready to go. Please note: you must be an NMRA member to participate.

The meeting will be at 2pm on Sunday, February 15, 2015 at the Greene County Historical Society in Xenia

Division 3, MCR, NMRA meets the third Sunday of each month except August. Meetings are open to all members of the NMRA and any one interested in railroads or railroad modeling.



Division 3 Website: www.modelraildayton.com

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2015

As we definitely say goodbye to the holiday season and prepare to endure at least two more months of cold weather, we anticipate some exciting times and look forward to some great events within the division.

First off, many thanks to Eric Zimmerman for conducting the January General Meeting in my absence and to Mike York of Division 7 for his excellent presentation on 3-D Printing. Judging from the extensive questions and discussions after his clinic, he certainly captured the interest of our audience and provided tremendous insight into this budding technology. Thanks again Mike for a job well done.

The theme for the General Meeting in February is our popular annual auction. Division members still have time to collect their treasures to auction off and for the division membership to acquire new items at a great price. It will certainly speed things up if division members come prepared with your auction paperwork already filled out. Tables will already be set up for you to display your items. And after a brief business part of the meeting, we will take a break to look over all the items before the actual auction begins. Bob Fink has again agreed to be our auctioneer. We remind everyone that you must be a current division member to participate in the auction. Hopefully this will be a fun event for everyone.

Looking ahead to March, we continue to be in the preparation stages for our Third Annual Model Railroad TRAINing Day on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at the Sulphur Grove United Methodist Church in Huber Heights. We ask your assistance by volunteering for some aspect of the event and to bring your friends. This FREE event will focus on all aspects of the hobby, will feature the Dalmatian Switching District, will include several smaller standing layouts, and will involve the public constructing an actual layout with track, train, and scenery, to be given away at the end of the day to a lucky drawing winner. Please contact Ray Baldwin if you have questions or wish to volunteer.

We further plan to have our March General Meeting the next day, March 15, at the Sulphur Grove United Methodist Church in Huber Heights, to take advantage of seeing the layout built by attendees of the Model Railroad TRAINing Day and perhaps running the Dalmatian Switching District.

Finally, I am very pleased that our effort to make the NMRA Achievement Program more available to our members is slowly gaining momentum. We now have a small group of volunteers to be trained as judges, and we also have our first small "focus group" who will approach the AP requirements as a team to discuss requirements interpretation, methods of approach, modeling skills, and documentation before they begin their independent work on the certificates. Take a look at my other article in this issue of the Call Board. Hopefully it will help generate further interest in the AP Program.

Miscellaneous:

The next BOG Meeting is scheduled for February 2 at the home of Phil Gliebe in Waynesville. Please forward any comments or ideas you wish discussed to me before that date. Also, also we remind everyone of on-line registration for the Annual MCR Convention, this year to be held in Lexington, KY. The convention is 14-17 May, 2015.

There will be a formal 2014 Train Show Summary and Critique at the home of Rick Lach at 7 PM on Wednesday, February 4, in Beavercreek. This session is open to all members who worked the last train show, and it will be your opportunity to present suggestions to make the train show better.

INSTRUCTIONS

Only NMRA Members may enter items to be sold.

1. To be eligible, seller must have auction items and completed forms on the designated tables by 2 PM.
 2. Each item entered in the auction must be tagged with a code number formed by the owners initials and the item number from this sheet.
 3. Items will be sold in the order that they are listed.
 4. Each item that is to be sold as a separate item will be listed on a separate line and be assigned its own item number.
 5. A brief but accurate description must be given. This description must include the operating condition if the item is powered or has moving parts. If any modifications have been done they should be noted if they are not readily apparent.
 6. If there is a minimum acceptable selling price, it must be entered in the Reserve column.
 7. At the conclusion of the auction, the sellers will collect their proceeds from the auction clerk.
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- The “Chief Runner” will manage the rotation cycles to ensure that each seller is included in each cycle.
 - **Only NMRA members may bid on items.**

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And finally, we hope to see everyone at the February General Meeting at the Greene County Historical Society building at 2 PM on Sunday February 15 for our Annual Auction. You don't want to miss this one – see you on February 15!

Rick Lach
Superintendent

2015 – Emphasis on the AP Program

As everyone is aware, within the division we are trying to instill and renew interest in the NMRA AP program with the goal of earning the Golden Spike Award and AP certificates for those members who wish to pursue these awards to document their achievement. We have highlighted the AP Program in the past with somewhat limited success. Therefore, we have decided to take a different approach by creating a director of training position on the BOG to help with the AP program. Our momentum appears to be gaining. As part of the BOG meeting last month, we agreed that we would enlist the help of NMRA and Regional Officials in an effort to better explain the program. We discussed the need to better understand the requirements, documentation, and judging. In addition to our 2 division MMRs, and potential judges in the surrounding divisions, we circulated a sign-up list at the January General Meeting to ask for volunteers to be trained as judges for the AP certificates. We plan to ask MCR officials to train them and to enlist the help of NMRA leadership to encourage everyone. We also thought it would be a good idea to determine who in the division has which AP certificates in an effort to determine who had the expertise in certain areas and who appeared to be interested in the program. That list will be published next month.

Independently, in January, Phil Gliebe and John Smith decided to spend a portion of John Smith's work session in discussing an approach by teaming together to see if a small team focus group would be of some help in working on certificates. Rick Lach was invited. The content of this discussion proved to be very interesting: John Smith has 5 certificates and Phil Gliebe has 2 certificates. However, each had thought about and had actually completed partial work on several other certificates. The discussion further focused on interpretation of the different requirements; a discussion on how to present the documentation proof of work done; and an interesting discussion on judging based on personal observation and verbal reports from individuals who already had their work judged. The results of this discussion really proved interesting and actually helped demystify some perceptions of the program.

Here are some of the discussion points:

1. Four of the AP certificates do not require judging: Volunteer, Official, Author, and Dispatcher. They involve completing a matrix with required completion certification.
2. Regarding Volunteer: most division members who have volunteered on committees earn credit for this certificate. Train Shows, Training Days, and Rail Fests all involve committees. Therefore, we are in the process of getting a formal interpretation of how to apply potential points for these events. If we could get our members to list their specific volunteer activities, we would be willing to assist in the calculation of points and getting the proper certification by the appropriate officials once these determinations are made. The matrix serves as the documentation. Once completed, it simply needs to get certified from the division to the MCR to NMRA.
3. Regarding Official: This one has tougher, more specific requirements, and completion involves from one to 3 years because it asks for members to serve as an official on either the national NMRA Board for one year, the Regional Board for 2 years, or as division superintendent for 3 years and act as a voting member of the regional board. So, a division superintendent who served 2 two year terms satisfies the division and regional voting member requirements. Furthermore, with this in mind, we should place greater emphasis on division members being on either the regional or national boards. The matrix also serves as the justification, and the application must also go from division, to the region, to national for approval.
4. Regarding Author: This one also involves completed work over time to amass a certain number of points according to a prescribed formula. Points are awarded for division newsletter participation, writing for na-

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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 ...

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 Dollar)

October - Caboose

November - Weathering

December - Structure

January - Open Loads

Results for January 2015	
Open Loads	
LEVEL 1	Kit
LEVEL 2	Kitbash
LEVEL 3	Scratchbuilt
First Place	Gordon Carlson
PHOTO	
First Place	Paul Jenkins
Second Place	Paul Jenkins
Third Place	Paul Jenkins

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tional and regional events (like conventions) and articles. Points can also be earned by conducting clinics. This is also an area that we can research and encourage our members to place greater emphasis on accomplishing some of these goals. The matrix serves as the justification, and the application also makes the appropriate rounds from division, to region, to national.

5. The remaining 7 certificates involve individual work including all the potential skills used in model railroading: scratch building 3 engines; building 8 cars; constructing certain types of structures and scenery; and scratch building certain types of electrical projects. The certificates that involve building something must earn a merit award by achieving 87.5 points out of 125 as a result of being judged by trained judges. Judging can be done at conventions or at general meetings or even by specific appointment. While each division member must do his/her own work, collectively we may be able to help each other by discussing what has been successful in the past, what has not worked in the past; shared information on techniques used in accomplishing successful results; shared information on judges' recommendations for improvement; etc. These projects are extensive and somewhat difficult, particularly as a result of judging. But with extensive and detailed documentation and explanation, higher scores should come with practice. Those areas that members may not be familiar with, such as scratch building engines or switches, can be taught by conducting hands on classes to help with those certificates.

6. We now have a list of all Division 3 members who have received AP certificates and the Golden Spike

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Award. I would also like to establish a division honor roll and publish our Golden Spike Award winners and AP Certificate winners by category, both in the Call Board and on the Division Website. This combination might provide the emphasis and motivation needed to get greater division participation in the AP program.

7. It has been brought up: "I am getting on in years. Why should I waste my time in completing documentation, judging score sheets, and applications when I can spend that precious time in building and running my layout?" This is a valid point of view, and in addition to an unwillingness to complete paperwork requirements, it is a major reason why members are not participating in the program. Our division approach will be that within the division we have a lot of great talent as reflected in some fantastic models, layouts, and work. We would like to see our members get credit and recognition for their achievement. And if the paperwork is too confusing, time consuming, and intimidating, collectively perhaps we can make some of this work easier by our new approach.

8. The division currently has about a dozen Golden Spike Award winners, 2 long standing MMRs, and many members with varying numbers of AP Certificates. We will look to these individuals to help provide the nucleus we need for what information, experience, and instruction they are willing to share and offer. Construction tools, items of equipment, and supplies can be arranged for sharing as well -- for example: presses, saws, drills, paint booths, etc. Initially, Rick Lach will get answers on questions regarding interpretation of requirements, documentation, etc from region and national AP officials. And we plan to make more extensive use of the regional and national AP representatives.

9. Perhaps with this approach, we will get some participation as documented by the awarding of many certificates. The AP Program is one further element of the hobby that we would like to make available for those members who have such an inclination to participate. You qualify to work on it by virtue of your NMRA membership. Take advantage of it. Hope it works. Based on the above discussion, it is my opinion that the small focus groups will work. They will give explanation, discussion, advice, guidance, understanding, and motivation to get our members going. We encourage all division members to give working the AP Program some thought. Who knows? You might enjoy the challenge!

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors usually meets the first Monday of the month to conduct the business of the Division. Any member may attend and participate in the meeting. Please contact a board member to verify place and time.

BOG Schedule			
Date	Host		
2 Feb	Phil Gliebe		
2 Mar	Gordon Carlson	6 Apr	
4 May		1 Jun	
6 Jul			

Open Operating Sessions

The Darke County Model Railroad Club is inviting anyone who is interested in operating their layout to join them. They meet on the second Sunday of the month, starting at 1:00 pm. There is plenty of parking and lots of fun. They are located at:

405 1/2 S. Broadway
Greenville, Ohio
(Second Floor)