

# Call Board

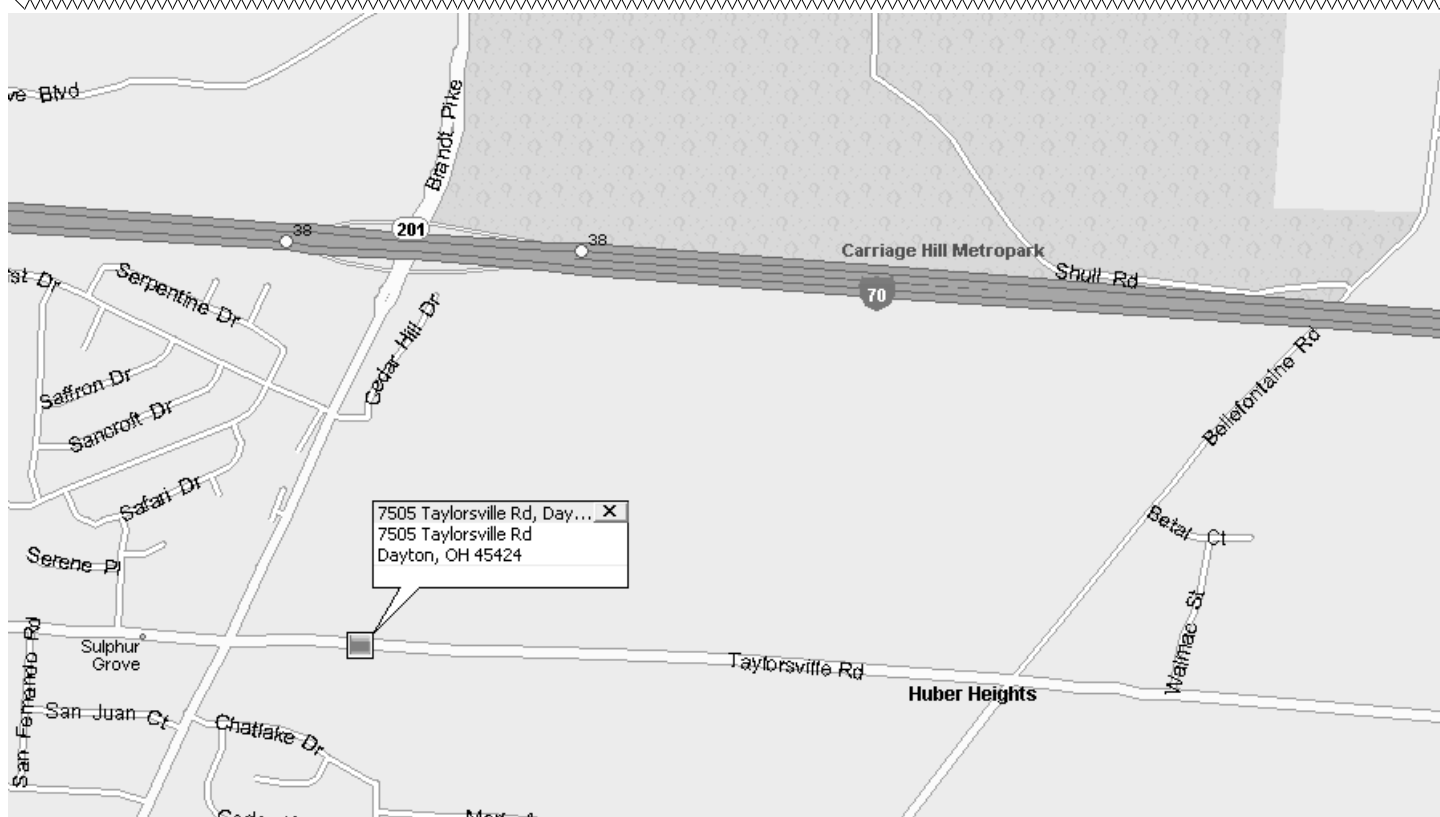
Volume 56 Issue 7

March 2017

**The next Crew Call is 2pm on Sunday, March 19, 2017  
Sulphur Grove UMC  
7505 Taylorsville Rd  
Huber Heights. Ohio**

## **Model Railroad TRAINing Day 18 March, 2017**

By the time you read this we will be only a week away from our sixth Model Railroad TRAINing Day. We have a variety of activities for beginners and experienced model railroaders alike. We have a number of folks signed up to help, but we can always use a couple more. If you are available we would be happy to have you help out on Saturday or just come out and talk to our panel about those problems what have been bugging you, or help build our 4' x 4' HO layout. The time is 9am to 4 pm Saturday March, 18 at Sulphur Grove UMC 7505 Taylorsville Rd. Hope to see you there.



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



## SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS FOR MARCH 2017

We are currently in a busy post-holiday set of model railroad activities with a lot of action for everyone. Our auction is now history, but our Model Railroad TRAINING Day in March offers fun challenges for everyone. There are also a number of local train shows to satisfy that pre-Spring train fix.

Again, I think our February Annual Auction was another great success. Many thanks to our auctioneer, Bob Fink, who continued to use his vast knowledge of the model railroad hobby, to Mark Stiver and Jim Montgomery, our runners, and to Tom Mroczka and Eric Zimmerman for keeping track of the sales and the money tallies. This was our largest auction in many years with 22 members bringing a record number of items to sell. We didn't finish until well after 5:00 PM. So finally, a big thanks to the members who brought in their items so we could have another fine auction. We all had fun.

And the calendar keeps coming..... Division 3 members should receive this issue of the Call Board just in time to serve as a reminder for our big event in March: the Model Railroad TRAINING Day on Saturday, March 18, at the Sulphur Grove United Methodist Church, 7505 Taylorsville Road in Huber Heights from 9 AM to 4 PM. This FREE event will focus on all aspects of our hobby, and it will feature a portion of the Dalmatian Switching District, as well as involving the public in constructing an actual layout which will be given away at the end of the day to a lucky drawing winner. We could still use volunteers for the many information stations we will have throughout the event. We ask all members to come AND BRING A FRIEND.

Then, we will have our March General Meeting the next day, March 19, again 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 part of the Dalmatian Switching District. But the big events that day will be the Engine Tug O' War, the Hill Climb Contest, and the Diorama Contest. Eric Zimmerman and Ron Sturgis have done some considerable planning and construction of special tracks for the Tug O' War, as we did last year. We encourage all members to bring contest entries for some interesting fun. This will be our first Diorama Contest which will test many of our modelling skills. Please refer to previous issues of the Call Board and the division website for rules for the Diorama Contest. We hope many of our members will participate in these events. Again, it sounds like a great time. But, please do not go to the Greene County Historical Society Building for the March General Meeting – you will be at the wrong place.

At the time of the February meeting, we were aware of Ron Sturgis' heart surgery the week before, but we were only informed of Bill Ford's injury and subsequent surgery the day of our meeting. We wish both Ron and Bill all the best with a speedy recovery and a quick return to their normal activities and will provide an update on each at the March meeting.

A word about the survey at the end of this issue of the Call Board. Normally I don't like surveys, and I still do not. But I would like to find out information on our members that we don't normally see at our monthly meetings. I respectfully ask each registered member of the division to complete the survey; separate the survey page from the rest of the Call Board; fold, tape, and mail the survey to the division post office box. I will use the information provided to see if we need to add anything to our programs in order to attract more member participation. Please be honest in your opinions and recommendations. And thanks for helping to make our division even better.

## GET READY FOR THE ENGINE TUG-O-WAR

Following the General Meeting on 19 March (the day after Model Railroad TRAINing Day), we are planning to have an Engine TUG-O-WAR and HILL CLIMB. Everyone has an engine that is a real “Stump Puller,” so get it out, tune it up and be ready.

### Engine Tug-o-War

Here are the requirements for the engine(s):

There will be five categories; Steam Engines (single engine) and Articulated, and Diesel or Electric Engines (Switchers, 4-Axle, and 6-Axle engines)

Scales – N, HO, O (Lionel)

Locomotive specifications:

HO and N scale locomotives must operate on DC current.

Multifunctional DCC-equipped engines may be operated on DC current. (If there is a problem comparing straight DC and DC/DCC engines, as sometimes DC/DCC engines have a higher starting voltage in DC mode than a straight DC engine, we may have a DC and DC/DCC subclasses.)

Lionel locomotives are operated on AC power.

The use of traction tires is prohibited unless they are part of the Manufacturer’s original equipment.

Locomotives must have a body/shell consistent with a typical prototype locomotive.

Repowering, adding weight, and/or re-gearing a locomotive are acceptable, if it is placed within the locomotive shell.

Track will be made up of two sections of track separated by a “dead” section at the center. Locomotives will be attached to one another via a chain/cable spanning the “dead” section of track plus three inches. Power will be applied to each section as to cause the locomotive in that section to operate in the forward direction opposing the competing engine. Power will be gradually supplied by a common power supply.

After locomotives are positioned and centered, power will be applied *by a common power pack operated by a single individual*. This will negate any advantage caused by human intervention. The locomotive that pulls its competitor into the “dead” section and triggers the illumination of an LED at the center is the winner of that heat.

Winner of each heat will compete with the winner of the following heat. The process continues until only one locomotive in each class remains and is declared the winner.

*NOTE: It is recommended that each entered locomotive have the rear coupler-mounting pad drilled and tapped for a 2-56 x 3/4 inch screw. The connecting chain/cable would be attached to the locomotive by placing it over the screw thus reducing potential for damaging a coupler. An alternate method is to install an X2F horn hook coupler on the locomotive. The use of Kadee couplers or equivalent is not recommended since they tend to fail under high loads.*

### Engine Hill Climb

Same classes and Specifications as the Tug-O-War with exception that only HO and N scale will be allowed to participate.

The track will be 6’ long and will be gradually raised. A load will be attached to the locomotive consisting of a boxcar that has received sufficient added weight to equal five 50’ boxcars of that scale based on NMRA recommended practice.

The starting point will be the same for all locomotives within a class. The power will be gradually applied allowing the locomotive to climb the grade. Once it reaches a predetermined point on the track, the locomotive will be returned to the starting point and the grade will be increased. The procedure will start again and continue until the locomotive, with its rolling stock slips or stalls. The final score for each locomotive will be determined by the point at which the front of the weighted boxcar is located when the engine stalls/slips.

*NOTE: The judge has the final say on grade and distance.*

The winner of each class in the events will receive Special Project points.

START GETTING YOUR ENGINE(S) READY NOW!

(Continued from page 2)

Miscellaneous:

The next BOG Meeting is scheduled for March 6 at the home of Rick Lach. Please forward any comments or ideas you wish discussed to me before that date. Also, we remind everyone of on-line and mail-in registration for the Annual Mid-Central Region Convention, this year to be held in Louisville, KY from May 18-21. I am aware of 3 immanent local train shows: March 11 (Div 7 at the Lakota Freshman Campus), April 2 (at the Springfield Fairgrounds), and March 5 (at the Darke County Fairgrounds).

And finally, we hope to see everyone at the March General Meeting at the Sulphur Grove United Methodist Church in Huber Heights at 2 PM on Sunday March 19 and participation in the Model Railroad TRAINing Day on Saturday, March 18.

Rick Lach  
Superintendent

**Set up for TRAINing Day**

Set up will begin at 1pm on Friday March 17 at Sulphur Grove UMC, 7505 Taylorsville Rd. Parking is on the west side and entry is through the handicap door at the northwest corner of the activity center. Push the handicap access button to open the door. All help would be appreciated.

**Diorama Tip #8 (Last One)**

Finish up your diorama and have it ready by 18 March. Bring it to MRR TRAINing Day for display and technical judging. The display of all of these models will enhance the event for our visitors.

**GET BUSY, NOW! (Or we'll tell your mommy;))**

DIVISION 3, MCR, NMRA 2017 SURVEY

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS HAS NOTED FOR SOME TIME THAT THE PARTICIPATION STATISTICS FOR THE DIVISION HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED. IN ORDER TO PRODUCE A BETTER OVERALL PROGRAM WITHIN AND FOR THE DIVISION, IT IS NECESSARY TO DETERMINE CERTAIN MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS AND THEN TAILOR OUR PROGRAMS TO MATCH THE OVERALL MEMBERSHIP NEEDS. IT IS THE DESIRE TO HAVE EVERY DIVISION MEMBER COMPLETE THIS SURVEY AND SUBMIT IT TO THE DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT. THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED ON THIS SURVEY WILL BE USED ONLY WITHIN THE DIVISION.

DIVISION 3 LISTS 170 MEMBERS. OF THOSE 170 MEMBERS, APPROXIMATELY 50 ATTEND THE MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS. AND OF THOSE 50 ATTENDEES, APPROXIMATELY 20 FORM THE LEADERSHIP CORPS WHICH PLANS AND WORKS OUR DIVISION PROGRAMS ON A CONSISTENT BASIS. WE WISH TO INCREASE THOSE PARTICIPATION NUMBERS BY LOOKING AT OUR CURRENT PROGRAMS, THE EXPRESSED NEEDS OF OUR MEMBERS, AND PUT TOGETHER A PROGRAM WHICH WILL MEET THOSE NEEDS AND INCREASE PARTICIPATION.

DIVISION 3, MCR, NMRA 2017 SURVEY

MEETINGS:

APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY OF THE 11 MEETINGS IN 2016 DID YOU ATTEND? \_\_\_\_\_

IF UNABLE TO ATTEND MORE THAN 4 MEETINGS, THE BEST REASON(S) FOR NOT ATTENDING IS:

- \_\_\_\_\_ HEALTH REASONS
- \_\_\_\_\_ DISTANCE TO TRAVEL
- \_\_\_\_\_ WORK OBLIGATIONS
- \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY OBLIGATIONS
- \_\_\_\_\_ MEETING ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH IS NOT CONVENIENT
- \_\_\_\_\_ ATTEND ONLY THE MEETINGS IN WHICH THE SPEAKER FOCUSES ON A TOPIC I LIKE
- \_\_\_\_\_ I AM HAPPY TO BE AN NMRA MEMBER AND DO NOT WISH TO ATTEND MEETINGS
- \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER: PLEASE EXPLAIN.

PARTS OF THE MONTHLY MEETING THAT I ENJOY (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- \_\_\_\_\_ ANNOUNCEMENTS
- \_\_\_\_\_ DIVISION BUSINESS
- \_\_\_\_\_ RAFFLE
- \_\_\_\_\_ CONTEST
- \_\_\_\_\_ FEATURED SPEAKER
- \_\_\_\_\_ FIELD TRIP TO VISIT A LAYOUT
- \_\_\_\_\_ OUR TWO-HOUR MEETINGS (2-4 PM) ARE JUST ABOUT THE RIGHT LENGTH
- \_\_\_\_\_ ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE AT A MONTHLY MEETING:

ACTIVITIES:

- ANNUAL AUCTION: \_\_\_\_\_ I LIKE THE AUCTION \_\_\_\_\_ I DO NOT LIKE THE AUCTION
- MODEL RAILROAD TRAINING DAY: \_\_\_\_\_ I LIKE IT \_\_\_\_\_ I DO NOT LIKE IT
- HILL CLIMB & TUG O'WAR: \_\_\_\_\_ I LIKE THEM \_\_\_\_\_ I DO NOT LIKE THEM
- DIORAMA CONTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ I LIKE THE IDEA \_\_\_\_\_ I DO NOT LIKE THE IDEA
- BUS TRIP: \_\_\_\_\_ I HAVE GONE ON A BUS TRIP \_\_\_\_\_ I HAVE NOT GONE ON A BUS TRIP
- TRAIN SHOW: \_\_\_\_\_ I HAVE ATTENDED OUR TRAIN SHOW \_\_\_\_\_ I HAVE NOT ATTENDED OUR SHOW
- \_\_\_\_\_ I HAVE VOLUNTEERED AT OUR SHOW \_\_\_\_\_ I HAVE NOT VOLUNTEERED AT OUR SHOW
- \_\_\_\_\_ I SUPPORT THE IDEA OF A TRAIN SHOW \_\_\_\_\_ I DO NOT SUPPORT THE IDEA OF A TRAIN SHOW

WHAT CAN YOU SUGGEST TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO IMPROVE THE OVERALL OPERATION OF DIVISION 3?

PLEASE EXPLAIN:

Division 3, MCR, NMRA  
C/O Lach  
420 Twelve Oaks Trail  
Beavercreek, OH 45434

First Class  
Postage  
Required

Division 3 Superintendent  
PO Box 341233  
Beavercreek, OH 45434

FOLD HERE: \_\_\_\_\_

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