



Call Board

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January 2024

Superintendent's Report for January 2024

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday season and is now ready to get back into their hobby efforts. Our Christmas on Campus event was a big success at the University of Dayton. The division had plenty of representation in running trains for underprivileged kids from Dayton, children of UD faculty, and the overall Dayton population. We ran loops of Christmas trains in 5 different scales and introduced our T-Trak configuration to Christmas on Campus for the first time. Kids were able to pick candy canes from the G Scale gondola cars. Rick Lach and his team did a great job.

Operating our general meetings on Zoom has become a challenge for Gail and her team. As a result we are going to make some changes in how we operate the general meeting on Zoom. As a result, we have an immediate need for a new Zoom operator to run the general meetings on-line. Training, if required, will be provided. This person is to be the operator for the general membership meetings only. Gail will continue to operate the small Zoom meetings, i.e. BOG and event committee meetings, but she is no longer able to manage and operate the General Membership Meetings. Thus, starting in January, until we can find a new operator, we will only be providing modified General Meetings to our members who are unable to attend in-person due to illness or long distance travel. If you are able to help in this capacity, please let me know as soon as possible.

On the topic of the General Membership Meetings, our in-person attendance has dropped from our pre-pandemic attendance of approximately 40 people at each per meeting to an average of less than 20 since we restarted. It's time that we get back to coming to the meetings. Please come and enjoy the fellowship of you friends and fellow model railroaders.

The December meeting was an enjoyable meeting.

We received an interesting presentation by Rick Stern on "European Prototype Railroads." He showed us pictures predominately of the railroads that run through the southern Balkan countries, and southern France. This month Sam Swanson, MMR, will be the presenter. Sam has a surprise for this presentation, but his clinics are always good. The January contest is "Open Loads," so bring in your latest model, or photograph for the contest.

Once again please remember, we have an election in April to pick elect members for our BOG. Nominations must be made during the March meeting. Our charter with the state requires that we fill the three elected positions, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Chief Clerk. Please consider running for one of these positions. Contact Wil Davis or Rick Lach, if you are interested.

Our membership recruiting effort continues to be less than I would have liked. While I feel like I am constantly reminding you that membership recruiting is a task for every member, not just for the Membership Chairperson. We need your help! Remember, you are the "Ambassadors" for Model Railroading. It's your hobby. If you know a person that shows some interest in the hobby, keep him/her involved in some discussion about what a great hobby we have and, if possible bring him to the next meeting and introduce him/her to others. Emphasize, the importance of having a truly enjoyable hobby, especially in retirement.

See you at the meeting on January 21, 2024.

Division 3 Website: www.modelraildayton.com

General Comments

Due to scheduling conflicts, I was unable to meet the Call Board editor's deadline for article submission last month. Regarding volunteers for the train show, we had 35 division members volunteer to work the train show. This is an increase from 28 last year, and it is the most we have had for the last 4 years. It certainly makes conducting the train show smoother when we have great division participation like this. Many thanks to all the division members who volunteered their precious time to make the train show happen. We had a few members volunteer 8 days in a row and probably used an entire tank of gas getting back and forth. We appreciate that. Thanks again to all.

Regarding Christmas on Campus at U-D. The division had plenty of representation in running trains for underprivileged kids from Dayton, children of U-D faculty, and the overall Dayton population. We ran loops of Christmas trains in 5 different scales and introduced our T-Trak configuration to Christmas on Campus for the first time. Kids were able to pick candy canes from the G Scale gondola cars. Thanks to Peter Guise, Ed Durkin, Jim Foster, Ashley Morrison, Phil Gliebe, Judy Gliebe, J Hedge, and Rick Lach for

making this happen. In addition, Kirk Perkins and his wife Mary were there operating several N and Z scale trains, and John Santel impressed everyone with his coffee table drawer layouts. This was the 60th anniversary of Christmas on Campus, and we have run trains for a good portion of that. So, again we appreciate our volunteers who made this happen.

Then on the following Saturday, J. Hedge took the Christmas G scale train to the USO at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and ran the train and gave out candy canes to roughly 130 children of local military personnel. What a wonderful experience for those kids that must have been! We thank J for giving up a valuable Saturday to provide Christmas cheer to children at the base. This was the final event of 2023 and gave our division a total of 5 events in which we supported the public with model railroading instructional activities. Again, thanks to all for your outreach to the public.

Regarding the AP program, there is no report as the holidays and other division activities have prevented members from working on AP projects. We will gear up after the new year.

Thanks. Happy New Year to everyone. Rick Lach



Photos by Rick Lach



Christmas Train at Wright Patterson USO

Contests

We have a category with three classes each month. They are: Scratch Built, Kit Bashed or just plain Kit Built. You may enter anything you are proud of and at any skill level. Judging is by popular vote. If you want to have your model judged to NMRA standards for the Achievement Program please contact Rick Lach.

The coming contest schedule ...

January - Open Loads

January - Open Loads
 February - Non-Revenue Cars
 March - Freight Cars
 April - Motive Power (Diesel, Steam, Electric)
 May - Passenger Equipment
 June - Railroad Owned Structures
 July - No Contest
 August - No Contest
 September - Freight Cars
 October - Caboose
 November - Weathering
 December - Non Railroad Structures

Results

December - Non Railroad Structures

Kit Built

1st Mark Stiver
 2nd Mark Stiver

Kit Bashed

1st Wil Davis

Photo

1st Gordon Carlson

Live Contest

Deadline for entries is 2 pm Sunday, 21 January 2024 at the Greene County Historical Society, Xenia, Ohio.

Photos by Ed Durkin



First Place Kit—Mark Stiver



Second Place Kit — Mark Stiver



First Place Kitbashed—Wil Davis

Don't Just Belong, Participate

Several years ago the NMRA used the above phrase to promote member participation. We need to revisit the participation aspect of NMRA membership, particularly at the Division level. Division 3 has approximately 100 members. Of that number only 20 attend the monthly meetings. One of the benefits of NMRA membership is the opportunity to meet and talk to other modelers.

Division 3 started as a very social group. It was founded at a picnic and continued to hold social gatherings several times a year. In the 1990's a change in the ages and interests of the members caused a drop in attendance and interest in social gatherings. The COVID problem led to even less physical social interaction. The Division has been trying to maintain a quality social program through in person and on line.

The following is from the NMRA Magazine Membership Open section:

Ohio, Dayton — The Pine creek Railway needs operators for it's monthly evening operating sessions Since 1993) on the third Monday of every month. There are 12 jobs: Super, Dispatcher, 5 road crews, 5 yardmasters. This point-to-point peninsulastyle, N-scale model railroad with off line storage tracks, occupies a 20x30-foot area. It is a freelaqnce model of an Ohio railroad during the 1970s, with 5 yards, 12 towns, 2 with passing sidings, 5 off-line storage areas, a 6.60

The majority of our members have email and other social media accounts. We also use the Division webpage, Facebook and email to communicate with the membership.

We feel that it is time to return to our social roots and emphasize the in person aspects of the Division. We will not be presenting the monthly meetings on ZOOM. It has turned into a technological mess that we do not have the time to spend for the few members that we reach. We are looking into putting the program onto YouTube but not necessarily live.

We appreciate the 30 or so members that participate at the Train Show and TRAINing Day. We would like to hear from the other 70 members.

Feel free to let the BOG members know if you want to help or feel that the Division is not addressing your expectations.

mile (218 feet) main line, ans a mile and a quarter scale mile branch line that serves a coal mine, lumber mill, and several other industries. There are 65 industries. We use car cards and waybills to route freight cars during our monthly operation sessions. If interested, contact Bill Reese, 937-470-3128, or w.reese@earthlink.net

(This is a good opportunity to gain operating skill and hours for the Achievement Program. I was part of the operating crew for many enjoyable years, and am sorry that I am not physically able to continue. Editor)

Maintenance And Operating Help Needed for the Dalmatian Switching District

Following the passing in 2011 of its' creator David Decker, Division 3 inherited the Dalmatian Switching District (DSD). In 2012, several members of Division 3 added the new city of Dalmatian and helped operate the layout at several area train shows and the MCR Convention in 2013. In 2023 the DSD city of Argyle was part of TRAINing Day.

Argyle has been stored at the Montgomery County Fairground office facility along with other Division 3 assets. There have been several water leaks in the storage areas and Argyle has suffered damage. The

Fairgrounds recently allowed the Division to move into a room that is large enough to accommodate working sessions on Argyle.

The Division is looking for anyone who would ne interested in helping with restoration of Argyle. The hope is to have Argyle available for TRAINing Day in April 2024. Work and operating sessions can be scheduled at the convenience of the helpers.

Contact:
J. Hedge,
937-878-2391, or
hedgejn@hotmail.com



Argyle at TRAINing Day

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors usually meets the first Monday of the month to conduct the business of the Division. Meetings will be conducted online until further notice. Any member may attend and participate in the meeting. Please contact a board member to verify date and time.

Board of Governors
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January 2024

Next Crew Call	
When:	January 21, 2pm
Where:	Greene County Historical Society 74 Church St Xenia, Ohio
Program:	Sam Swanson
Contest:	January - Open Loads
Visitors and Guests Always Welcome	