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# ❖ Call Board ❖

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Volume 43 Issue 3

November 2003

## Super Saying

Preparations for this year's Fall Train Show are almost finished. Ray Persing has done an outstanding job of managing the show publicity; Leroy Clouser has been working hard getting clinics, layouts, and other displays committed for the Ball Arena; Kirk Perkins reports that the merit badge class was filled by noon of the first day of registration; Ron Dietrich and Larry Zeller have worked hard signing up vendors; and the Tour Guide is in publication. We'll have the Division 3 N-Scale Scenic Ridge layout on display and running. Jim Kendig of Monteagle Tennessee has donated a very nice Atlas Geep to replace the SD unit that couldn't negotiate the sharp curves. He also donated some other nice freight cars and structures for Kirk to use in the Scouting program. Thanks much, Jim.

The Board of Directors of the Mid-Central Region met October 12<sup>th</sup> in Reynoldsburg. Brian Petroziello was elected Vice-President, and Ivan Baugh was elected Secretary. The MCR's membership has increased since the last meeting. The Toronto convention is considered a good one by those who attended; financial results are pending. The NMRA completed the 2003 fiscal year in the black! Final figures are pending. The full minutes of

the meeting are at [www.midcentral-region-nmra.org/](http://www.midcentral-region-nmra.org/) click on "Board of Directors," then look at the bottom of the page for a link to the minutes.

At the October meeting Curt LaRue showed us how he applies the stunningly realistic wood finish he achieves on styrene structures. We also discussed the possibility of procuring shirts designed specifically for Division 3, and several members told of their recent layout progress. Dave Holl plans to begin holding formal operating sessions the first Tuesday of each month.

After the meeting we visited Ray Persing's new Cincinnati & Western layout, which occupies its own room in the basement of the home that Ray and Tracy purchased a little over two years ago. The benchwork is complete, much of the track is in, and Ray has started the scenery. One six-foot section is from Allen McClelland's V&O. Except for the benchwork, the structure and scenery are made of construction foam. Ray had a train operating during our visit.

I just installed a DCC starter set, and a couple of decoders, and am enjoying playing around with it. My layout doesn't have a lot of track yet (40-50

feet), and is still only one block, but I wanted to install DCC early for a couple of reasons. First, I wanted to learn to use the DCC system while the layout is still relatively simple. Second, I wanted to avoid having to install the block wiring and switching associated with cab control. The DCC system manual could be refined a tad, but all in all, it's pretty readable. It only took a few minutes to connect the system pieces together and to the layout. It took longer to install the first decoder in a locomotive. The light bulbs in the locomotive were 1.5-volt types, and to use them you must install (solder) resistors in series with the bulbs, because the decoder delivers 14 volts for the bulbs. Installing the decoder in the second locomotive took only a few minutes, because I simply removed the 1.5 volts bulbs, and will install 14-volt bulbs when they arrive in the mail. It's neat being able to run two locomotives independently in the same block. I'm liable to be running helpers on six-car freights!

See you Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>.

# Contest

## November Structures

You are allowed up to 3 entries per contest. You do not have to be a member of the NMRA to participate in the popular vote contest.

December	Freight Cars	April	Thumbz or Whimsy
January	Passenger cars	May	Non Revenue
February	No Contest	June	No Contest
March	Steam Locomotives	July	Scene (Any Size)

### October Ugly Caboose

Models		Photos	
1	Bill Spinks	1	Richard Davoust
2	Richard Davoust	2	Richard Davoust
3	Nick Folger	3	Nick Folger



Date	Location	Contest	Program	Layout
16 November	GCHS Xenia, OH	Structures	From DC to DCC by J. Hedge	GCHS
21 December	GCHS Xenia, OH	Freight Cars	Early Diesel Color Schemes by Bob Fink	Bob Fink
18 January	GCHS Xenia, OH	Passenger Cars		Butch Orr
15 February		No Contest	Auction	
21 March		Steam Locomotives		
18 April		Thumbz or Whimsy		
16 May		Non Revenue		

**You are invited to the November meeting on Sunday the 16th at 2pm at the  
Greene County Historical Society  
Church and King Streets, Xenia, Ohio  
Visitors and Guests Always Welcome**



**Dc to DCC  
Power to the Layout  
by J. Hedge**

The November meeting will feature a presentation on model railroad electronics. To many electricity looks like magic. We will try to break some of the spells and look behind the smoke and mirrors. We can cover anything from basics to advice on individual problems. No question is too simple. Bring your questions and try to stump the experts.

The GCHS layout will be available for viewing and there should be coffee and cookies. Come and see if anyone can beat Bill Spinks in the structures contest.

Crossroads Railroad Club  
Open House  
11 am — 5 pm November 8  
1 pm — 5 pm November 9  
304 N Dixie Dr.  
Vandalia, OH

Darke County  
Model RR Club Inc.  
Flea Market  
March 7, 2004  
10 am to 3pm  
Darke County Fairgrounds  
Greenville, OH

**Cookies and Layouts Needed**  
We have been treated to coffee and cookies the last several meetings. We need volunteers to bring the cookies. Bruce Albright will bring the coffee. Contact Bruce (937) 426-3091 to sign up to bring cookies.

Bruce is also coordinating layouts for after meeting visits. We would like to know which layouts would be available so that we can find meeting locations near them for next year.



Photo by Bill Fearheller

The *Call Board* is the official publication of Division 3, Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association. It is published monthly except in August. All comments and opinions are welcome. Those views expressed in the *Call Board* do not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of the NMRA, the Mid Central Region or Division 3.

### Next Meeting

<b>When:</b>	<b>2pm 16 November 2003</b>
<b>Where:</b>	<b>Greene County Historical Society King and Church Streets Xenia, Ohio</b>
<b>Program:</b>	<b>From DC to DCC Power to the Layout by J. Hedge</b>
<b>Contest:</b>	<b>Structures</b>

**Visitors and Guests Always Welcome**



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