



Call Board

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May 2011

This Month's Program ...

This month will be a repeat of the popular mini-clinics. We will meet this month at the **Greene County Historical Society** in Xenia. There will be three clinics. 1) Weathering with chalk. Bring a car to weather. You'll be shown all the fine points of this weathering technique. The result should be something to enter in an appropriate upcoming contest. 2) Distortion for Damage. Instruction on how to simulate damage to rolling stock from wrecks, load shifts, etc. And 3) Ballasting. Here's a subject every layout boulder needs to get a handle on. So, wear your scruffies and be prepared to get your hands dirty! You'll have a chance to learn from the experts.



Super's Notes for May 2011

I would like to thank Frank Koch for his presentation on the Achievement Program at the April meeting. He went through the requirements and gave specific examples of what qualified and what didn't. Some requirements may seem daunting, but others, such as Volunteer, mainly require a log of the qualifying activities that you have completed. He also talked about what is required for the Gold Spike award. If you have built a layout or a few modules, you will probably qualify for this one, yes it does require scenery. I know some of you are "scenery phobic" but the requirement is not that hard. I know a couple of folks are working on the Gold Spike award so I hope to award their certificates soon. Frank encouraged anyone who has questions to contact him or Bob Fink, our division AP chair. Frank can be reached at 513-732-6208 or achievement@midcentral-region-nmra.org. You can find Bob in the Call Board or at every meeting.

The turnout for the April contest was not as good as for March. The subject was passenger cars and with only three entries it would not be hard to at least place on one of the three categories. The subject of the May contest is diesel engines. You may not have scratch built a diesel, but if you have assembled an Athearn "kit" you qualify for level one. If you have made changes to the basic kit (added detail, painting, lettering, weathering) you can move up to level two, kit bashed. So dust off those engines and pick one or two to bring to the May meeting.

Speaking of contests, we have been lacking recently in our ability to capture photos of the contest winners. Dave Decker had performed this duty in the past, but we have not had someone to consistently take photos. I asked for a show of hands at the April meeting and several of you indicated you would be interested. Unfortunately, I didn't take names! In any event Eric Zimmerman stepped up to the task last month and his efforts are appreciated. Norm had them posted to the web site shortly after the meeting.

Show and Tell

I was pleased at the four or five items that showed up on the show and tell table. This was a good start as I am sure many of you weren't sure what qualified. Trust me, if you can bring it and tell us about it, it will qualify. John Smith brought several neat tools that he has created. If you missed them check out the web site as Norm has added a new section featuring show and tell items. So let's see how we can grow this into an even bigger showing.

2013 Convention

By the time you read this Ray and a couple of his committee members should have presented our bid for the 2013 convention to the MCR board of governors. If they accept (I am optimistic that they will), we will have another opportunity to show the rest of the region what a terrific convention Div 3 can put on. A venue has been selected, the Holiday Inn South, soon to be a Wyndham Garden. The theme of the convention will be operations. So raise your hand if you can help out in any way. In addition to convention planners and workers we need your operating layouts that you can make available for a session during the convention, or if not an operating session, an open house. The date has been set for May 23-26, 2013. Stay tuned for more in the coming months.

Contests

We have three categories each month. You can enter Scratchbuilt, KitBashed, 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 ...

- **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
- February - No Contest
- March - Freight Cars
- April - Passenger Cars

April Passenger Cars				
	Kit	Kit Bashed	Scratchbuilt	Photo
First	Rick Lach	Wil Davis		
Second		Bob Fink		
Third				



With the retirement of the space shuttles, I wonder what NASA will do with these cars that were used to move solid rocket booster sections. Maybe some lucky railroad museums will be able to add them to their collections.



You are invited to the May meeting of Division 3. It will occur on 15 May at 2pm. It will be located at the Greene County Historical Society on Church St in Xenia, Ohio. Members are expected, guests and visitors are always welcome.

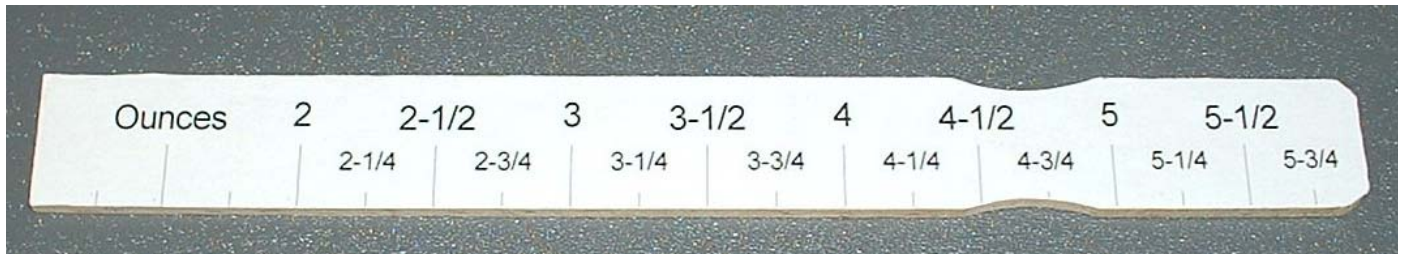
Tower at Dunkirk, Ohio. Might make a good modeling project someday.



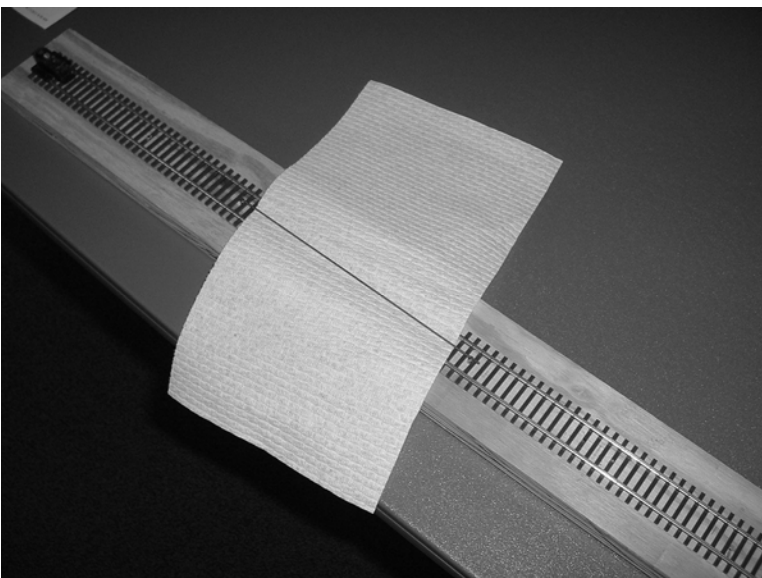
John Smith's Useful Gadgets

John Smith brought 3 useful gadgets to the April meeting for show and tell.

When weighting cars for better operation the NMRA has established Recommended Practice RP-20.1. It requires that you measure the car length and then look at a table and do some math to find the recommended optimum weight. John's gadget simplifies the task. He started with a piece of wooden paint stirrer. After painting it white he marked it with several common car lengths and then did all the calculations and added the recommended car weight to the stick. Now all he has to do is place the stick next to a car and he has the recommended weight without having to do any math. He still has to do the weighing and add the weight but he has reduced the amount of math that has to be done. His stick is for HO scale but the idea is easily translated to other scales.



The next gadget is a modification to his test track. He had a length of track mounted on a piece of plywood with a Kadee coupler height gauge on each end. This allows him to test the rolling characteristics and coupler heights at the same time. He also likes to clean the wheels of his cars at the same time. His method is to take a piece of paper towel soaked with wheel cleaner and lay it across the test track and roll the cars over it. The problem he had was that the coupler pins tended to catch on the paper towel. John solved this by drilling two holes on the center line of the test track spaced the width of the paper towel apart.. He glued small strong magnets in the holes and laid a piece of piano wire across the magnets. The wire pulls down the center of the towel and keeps the paper towel steady.



The last gadget is a small LED flashlight with a length of Piano wire glued into a hole drilled next to the LED. This allows the operator to shed a little light in just the right spot when trying to uncouple cars by picking at the coupler pins.

Now we need a gadget to make N scale reporting marks easier to read from a distance.



National News Updates

- Plans for **The Gallery Exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum** are moving into high gear. To date, organizing and fund raising actions have raised two pledges of matching funds from anonymous NMRA member donors. One donation is for \$50,000 and the other is for \$250,000. Current plans call for the exhibit to be opened by the end of 2012. You'll find out all the details of the exhibit in the May issue of *NMRA Magazine*.
- A special **"Carpet Cutting Ceremony"** (the indoor equivalent of a Ground Breaking Ceremony) for the Gallery Exhibit will be held on Thursday evening during the x2011 Convention. All are invited.
- Speaking of x2011, if you haven't yet registered for the X2011 West NMRA Convention to be held in Sacramento in July, you should register now! If you have already registered, it is time to sign up for tours and operating sessions before they fill up! For more information and/or to register or sign up for tours, go to www.x2011west.org.
- The "Members-Only" area of www.nmra.org is currently open to all members. Although content is still being added, right now the area houses copies of all Region and Division newsletter articles cited within the last year by Jim Zinser in his bi-monthly "Division Business Car / NMRA@Home" column in *NMRA Magazine*. In addition the "NMRA magazine classics" section of the Members-Only area will contain classic articles from past issues of *Scale Rails* magazine and *The Bulletin*. We'll be adding new material all the time so check back often.
- The NMRA remains active with the two model railroad podcasts mentioned in a previous edition of the InfoNet News. The NMRA is now sponsoring "The Model Railway Show" podcast, produced by well known modelers Trevor Marshall and Jim Martin. Their website is www.themodelrailwayshow.com. And Board Member Clark Kooning, along with other NMRA members, continues to appear as a regular guest on the "Model Rail Radio" podcast. Their website is at www.modelrailradio. Both of these podcasts can be downloaded directly from their websites, or via iTunes.
- We're still looking for stories of what your Division or Region does for **National Model Railroad Month**. Write a 200-word summary and send it to me at this email address. Thanks.
- **Notice of 2012 elections**. The following NMRA Officers and Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2012: President, Vice President-Administration, Vice President-Special Projects, Eastern District Director, Pacific District Director, and At-Large North America Director. Please check the NMRA Executive Handbook located at http://www.nmra.org/national/organization/nmra_organization.html for the extent of the districts affected and qualifications. All candidate names for consideration by the Nominations Committee shall be submitted to Didrik Voss, davoss@pvmtengr.com, no later than June 15, 2011.

An error crept into last month's InfoNet News: The **Summer Board meeting** will be held prior to the Sacramento x2011 Convention on Friday, July 1, 2011 (not Thursday, June 30 as previously reported). The meeting is usually held at the Convention hotel, but the exact start time and room number will be announced when available. Remember, it's the responsibility of Region and Division officials to pass along this information to members.

The NMRA is looking to identify and recognize any **model railroad clubs that were formed in 1935 or earlier** that are still in existence. We would like the name of the club and when it was founded. A picture from the early years would be appreciated. Send the information to Dave Thornton - NMRA Vice President of Administration, Email DThorn5552@aol.com or mail to 2027 Jeffrey Drive, Troy, MI 48085-3816.