



Call Board

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February 2024

Call Board for February 2024

Superintendent's Report for February 2024

As we start to move toward spring, I hope everyone has had a great time over the past several months, especially giving special thanks for not having to endure the terrible weather that the west and east coast areas have faced this winter.

For those of you who missed it, our January meeting featured Sam Swanson's clinic on building structures out of thin cardboard. Sam is an outstanding modeler and his presentations are always exceptional. This month we will have a presentation by Ray Persing on "3-D Printing." I hope you all can make it. It is time we all get back to coming to the meetings to spend some quality time with your model railroading friends.

The election for division officers is in April, but nomination for the three elected position must be tendered in March. A Division 3 member must make the nomination of an individual for the position of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent or Chief Clerk, with the concurrence of the nominee. Our charter with the state requires that we fill the three elected positions, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Chief Clerk. Please consider running for any of these positions. Contact Wil Davis or any member of the BOG, if you are interested.

As I mentioned last month, we are going to make some changes in how we operate the general meeting on Zoom. Until we find new Zoom operator to operate the Zoom operation at our general meetings. As a result, we have an immediate need for a new Zoom operator to run the general meetings on-line. This month, we can only provide Zoom coverage of the meeting, in an abbreviated form to our members who are unable to attend in-person due to illness or long distance travel. Please come forward to help us get the full Zoom presentations back up to speed. If you

are able to help in this capacity, please let me know as soon as possible. Training, if required, will be provided and you will have the full support of the BOG members and the former Zoom team. You will only be asked to be the operator for the general membership.

Looking ahead, we will host our annual Model Railroad Training Day at Carillon Park on April 6. We can always use interested member to demonstrate their favorite aspect of the hobby. If you wish to contribute to this wonderful experience, please contact Gail Yarnall, the event coordinator. It is a great event and everyone has a good time. Check out our flyer on the web site and on Facebook.

Recently, Rick Lach attended the opening meeting of the annual Carillon Park "Rail Fest" event. This is one of the annual events that we participate in to help us both enhance our membership and emphasize the qualities and capabilities of our great hobby. Rick is the division's event manager and is always seeking additional folks to help out. Our membership recruiting effort continues to be less than I would have liked and this is a great opportunity to recruit. Rail Fest is scheduled for June 22 and 23. Please come and help out, you'll have a great time and you can visit Carillon Park while you are there.

Speaking of Carillon Park, as you have probably heard, they have a 3-ft narrow-gauge steam engine, now operating in the park. The park is now seeking volunteers to be "conductors" on the train. Great opportunity to "work on the railroad." Looking for shifts of about 4 hours. Right now they are running the train only on weekends, but will expand the schedule as weather improves. Anyone interested can contact Rick Lach and I will get with the park and the possible volunteer.

The February's contest is "Non-Revenue Equipment,"

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Division 3 Website: www.modelraildayton.com

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so bring in your latest model, or photograph for the contest.

One last item that I need your thoughts on. Last summer we had proposed a tour of several layouts in the Cincinnati area. Only ten people signed up, maybe because it was in August, but now we have another opportunity. I would like to know if any of you

would like to visit three quality layouts in the Cincinnati area. These will all be layouts that have been featured in Great Model Railroads in past years. Nothing has been scheduled yet, but we need a “head count.” If you are interested please let me know at the next meeting or by email, as soon as possible.

See you at the meeting on February 18, 2024.
Eric Zimmerman

Request From Mid-Central Region President: Members are requested to check your email and other contact information (email and phone) and notify the Membership Chairman (Wil Davis) or the Superintendent (Eric Zimmerman) of any and all changes.

Achievement Program (AP) Update:

Now that the holidays (and hopefully the cold weather) are over, it is time to focus again on the achievement program. I am available to help with any of the certificates, but I would especially like to help out with one certificate in particular: VOLUNTEER. I know there are several members who have been helping with our different events for several years, or have written an article for the Call Board, or even have given a presentation at our monthly meeting. All that stuff counts when calculating points toward the volunteer certificate. If you have been consistently volunteering for around five years, that may get you what you need for this certificate. Please give me a call and we can figure your units out. I know that the printed NMRA certificate for Volunteer will look great, framed, in your train room.

Big Events for 2024:

Here is the schedule for the big events of 2024 that you may wish to consider volunteering: it will also help you complete units for the above mentioned VOLUNTEER AP Certificate:
 Model Railroad Training Day:
 April 6 at Carillon Park
 Carillon Park Railfest:
 June 22-23 at Carillon Park
 Dayton Train Show:
 Nov 2-3 at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds
 Christmas on Campus:
 December 6 at the University of Dayton

Rick Lach

TRAINing Day

Just when you thought you were safe for a while, TRAINing Day is coming up. This year TRAINing Day is on April 6 in the same area of the Carillon as before. We will have the kid’s build, the Scout training, and many exhibits. If you have done the event before, we hope you will do so again. If you have never done it, but you have something to show people about railroading/model railroading, now is the time to start. Note that the booths are ‘walk-by tables’ and vary widely in amount of space. Most people attending are wandering through on their way into the park, but we do put out flyers and advertise at shows and events for railroading enthusiasts.

TRAINing Day is totally free and is just before the entrance to the park in the Kettering Building. Entering the park is still a paid admission. We especially

encourage “How To’s” and instructional displays. Set up is 3:00pm to 4:30pm on Friday April 5, and 7:30am to 9:00am on April 6. The event runs 9am to 4pm on April 6. Food is available on the grounds. If you would like more information, contact me at NMRA.Div.3@gmail.com. You can also text or call me at 937-424-6413. Note that it takes longer to get back to you if you call. We will have flyers at our meetings and they will be at local train shows as well. Or I can email you a copy.

This is a very important event for us. We hope you can help.

Gail Yarnall

General Meeting Zoom (Gail Yarnall)

As you may know, I am stepping back from the General Meeting Zoom production. I stepped up during Co-Vid because I believe we need to serve all of our members (those who can attend in-person and those who cannot attend in-person) and that this is a good way to do so. However, my background is not in this area, and I think someone else with greater expertise is needed now in this position. I will still be doing small group Zooms. I am looking forward to serving the group in other ways, and to bringing in someone who has the expertise we need in Zoom.

There is some great support available for this area.

The Mid-Central Region has a *groups-io* interactive web group that is very supportive and helpful. Zoom also has continuing classes on all aspects of its use as well as a support division.

We need a variety of help with the production. We need someone who has computer expertise and who can do updates and other maintenance on the Zoom computers. We also need backups (ie: assistant/-co) for the Zoom operator as well as the sound/clinic coordinator (since people can become ill or have conflicts). Finally, someone who has the skills to finesse the platform needs would be a big help. Don't let it sound overwhelming. It is very interesting.

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 ...

February - Non-Revenue Cars

- 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

January - Open Loads

Kit Built

1st Jack Honeycutt

Kit Bashed

1st Ric Zimmeman

2nd Gordon Carlson

Scratchbuilt

1st Mark Stiver

2nd Jack Honeycutt

Live Contest

Deadline for entries is 2 pm Sunday, 18 February 2024 at the Greene County Historical Society, Xenia, Ohio.

STATUS—Dayton Train Show 2023/2024

We have just finished reviewing the 2023 Dayton Train Show. Creating the master book is in process and we are discussing how to proceed. We have openings for Vendors available and will soon begin the

process. If you would like to help, please let us know. We need the usual volunteers. At some point we will be calling to see who is available (after TRAINing Day). We hope you can help with this worthy event.

Gail Yarnall



First Place Kit Built — Jack Honeycutt



First Place Kit Bashed — Ric Zimmerman



Second Place Kit Bashed — Gordon Carlson



Third Place Kit Bashed — Gordon Carlson



First Place Scratch Built — Mark Stiver

Photos by Ed Durkin



Second Place Scratch Built — Jack Honeycutt

It All Started Here (my first train)

Prior to Christmas, our Call Board editor, J. Hedge, asked for any possible articles featuring trains at Christmas, including trains as Christmas decorations, or more specifically, trains running around your Christmas tree. Several months ago, I was sifting through some boxes of old photos that got passed down to me from my parents. They included the usual photos of kids activities while growing up, recording memories of the usual things. But for me, three pictures stood out and blasted a flood of memories that remain very special even to this day. They were pictures of Christmas 1952 or possibly 1953 when our family (ME) received our first train set.

I am the oldest of six kids, but at that time, only three of us were around. WWII was over, but the Korean War was ongoing, and there were no discretionary family funds for the extravagance of a Lionel train set. However, my grandmother (dad's mom) shocked all of us with a freight train set that year. The accompanying three photos kind of say it all.

Santa had already come, and my dad was setting up the train, presumably while us kids were all sleeping. My mom documented the event, amazingly in her own handwriting, on the back of the photograph which my dad took. As the story goes, dad had set the train up, was running it, and blowing the whistle. The sound of that whistle must have gotten me up in the wee hours of Christmas morning, The photograph captured the exact moment I received my first train. AND THE REST IS HISTORY!

While it is a little embarrassing to be caught in PJ's, I treasure these pictures because they involve my parents and a lifelong love of trains that continues to this day. It is also special in that my mom documented it on the back of the picture. Sadly, that train set was stolen by movers in one of my military moves overseas. But happily, I was able to replace the set at a train show when I returned from that overseas assignment. What a great time I have had being involved in the hobby of model railroading, and it all goes back to that date and time. That set is a prize possession, but even more special are the photos which are now more than seventy years old, What a great find!!! Rick Lach



This is Ricky, just got out of bed after Santa came. Frank was blowing the train whistle Ricky heard it and got up 1:30AM. You can see the ~~cupboard~~^{dinner} close and drawers in the hall.



BOOK REVIEW (Gail Yarnall)

Recently I was looking for something with which to relax and chill out. It is a very busy time here and I need to disengage from the busyness sometimes. I found one of my old favorite books and decided to share it with you.

A TREASURY OF RAILROAD FOLKLORE:
The stories, tall tales, traditions, ballads and songs of the American railroad. Edited by B. A. Botkin and Alvin F. Harlow

I found this treasure somewhere years and years ago. I don't know what caused me to buy it, but I am so glad I did. This is not a current publication, but it is still for sale on the web, ranging in price from \$5.50 - \$46.00. If you decide to order it, just watch the shipping cost.

The book is fascinating. The editors have collected items on every aspect of railroading history. Some items are as little as a paragraph, others are several pages. Included are items about noted people as Andrew Carnegie, Jay Gould, Nellie Bly, Casey Jones, Stonewall Jackson, Jesse James and many others. There are also items about everyday men and women who give us snapshots of 'just doing a job.' The stories include ghosts, songs, curses, fires, attacks, big deals, little schemes, snow and wrecks. I'm including 3 quotes from the book for a sample of its content.

Prepare to laugh until you fall out of your chair (might be safer to read it in bed or on the floor).

(How the Nickel Plate Got Its Name) II

'The name "Nickel Plate" found its origin in a remark made by Jay Gould. When the road had failed and was placed on sale, Gould entered a bid for it. The bid was considered unsatisfactory, and Gould was urged by the interested parties to increase the amount. Though the road had not proved very profitable, it was a splendid piece of construction and worth much

more than he had bid. Gould tersely replied that his bid was the maximum and that he wouldn't raise it if the old line was "nickel plated." '

(Economy) II

"The Boggs River & Northern Railroad was putting into effect almost rigid practice of economy. Locomotives were patched and repaired with old parts and pieces until O'Leary, the shop foreman, threatened to break down under the strain.

To cap the climax, one day a worn-out looking locomotive was placed in the shops. O'Leary was asked to give it a thorough examination with a view to ascertaining just what would be required to put it in first-class running shape. That same afternoon, O'Leary, having completed his review of the locomotive, dispatched the following laconic note to headquarters:

No. 36—in to-day. To put in complete repair: Jack up her whistle and build a new engine underneath."

'Enough Was Enough

Cyrus H. Jenks was a division superintendent for the Great Northern Railroad at Crookston, Minnesota, in the early days.

En route to St. Cloud one day, he received a message to the effect that a locomotive tender had fallen into the turntable pit at the Crookston roundhouse, and that a hand derrick was being used to extricate it.

A few miles down the line he received another message: "Hand derrick now in pit. Shall we send for steam derrick from Melrose"?

At that, the pressure in the Jenks boiler rose to the danger point. He wired the roundhouse, "Leave the steam derrick where it is. No more room in the pit."

Call for N-Scale T-TRAK Modules!

It's here! The call for N-Scale T-TRAK modules! It is for those N-Scale T-TRAK modelers who will be attending the North Coast Limited convention, hosted by The North Coast Division of the NMRA Mid Central Region. The convention will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Middleburg Heights, Ohio from May 16-19, 2024.

Let Us Know You're Coming! Module Registration form: <https://forms.gle/RkKrdTWxcZetGDUr6>

If you have any questions, please send an email to : Ramhog Shearer ramhog5@aol.com and Frank Trocchia ftrocchi@yahoo.com.

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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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.



February 2024

Next Crew Call	
When:	February 18, 2pm
Where:	Greene County Historical Society 74 Church St Xenia, Ohio
Program:	3-D Printing Ray Persing
Contest:	Non-Revenue Cars
Visitors and Guests Always Welcome	