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# ❖ Call Board ❖

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## Super Saying

In a recent editorial in *Mainline Modeler*, publisher Bob Hundman questions whether or not the NMRA will survive. To quote, "If privately organized shows are collectively providing the same or better ... service as the NMRA, at lower cost, then where will that leave the NMRA?"

It's a valid point. The NMRA, long the only game in town, has to deal with the fact that there are now alternatives. Locally, there is the Mini-Bunch narrow gauge group, where I presented a clinic last fall. The National Narrow Gauge Convention is held every year, and had more and better models than at most NMRA nationals I've attended. The event that precipitated Bob Hundman's editorial was apparently of extremely high quality.

So, where does that leave the NMRA? It presents the same problem as any other competitive marketplace - offer a better, or at least competitive, product, or become a part of history.

What is the NMRA's product - what does the NMRA actually do? For one, it

produces the standards that we all rely upon. But every modeler benefits from that, regardless of whether or not you are a member or not. It's not a selling point, except by appealing to the intellect: "By being a member, you're helping to keep modeling products interoperable."

Well, what else? There's the fellowship of spending a few hours a month with the local Division folks at the meeting, or the Regional Convention, or the National Convention. But, if you don't go to the conventions, you're just as well off with a local modeling club. If the local Division isn't active, then there's nothing to offer there. Fortunately, we have a very active Division, in a very active Region. That's a big reason that the Mid-Central Region often leads the nation in number of Merit Awards and Achievement Certificates awarded each year.

There's the modeling information that you can get through the conventions and meetings - modelers that are nationally known, and who are willing to share their tech-

niques or talk shop. Some clubs have a regular clinic program, though - the NMRA is not unique in that, either. And as mentioned earlier, there are alternatives to the NMRA conventions.

There are lots of options out there. If you get this newsletter, you're probably a member of the NMRA. You're also likely to be involved in at least one club. So, what I'm interested in is this:

Why are you a member of the NMRA?  
What do you enjoy most about it?  
What do you like least about it?  
What could be done to make it a better value to you?

Please write or email me the answers to these questions. I truly want to know. We'll put the answers into a future issue of the *Call Board*, and I'll also pass them on to the Region and to National. After all, this is \*your\* NMRA.

Happy Modeling!  
Ray

Points of Contact			
Company Store Brian Petroziello Bpetroz@aol.com	Contests Bill Spinks	R. D. C. of the Gr. Co. Historical Society Dick Strous Rstrous@AOL.com	Miami Valley Railfans Steve Fuchs Steve Hood
HO Modular Layout Ken Allen	Miami Valley S-Gaugers Rick Smith	Carillon Park Rail & Steam Society Robert Schwenke	Miami Valley Garden Railway Society Frank Klatt
Achievement Program LeRoy Clouser	DaytoN-Track Bill Carey	Dalmatian Switching District J. Hedge hedgejn@hotmail.com	Crossroads Railroad Club David Thomas dbthomas@mac.com

Contests	
<b>March</b>	<b>Non Revenue Cars</b>
April	Thumbz and NMRA Merit Judging
May	Most Ugly Caboose
July	Scene
<p>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.</p>	

Election 2002
<p>Its time for everyone to consider how they want to contribute to the operation of the Division. Next April is election time again. The offices of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Chief Clerk must be filled. If you want to be considered for one of these offices please contact the BOG.</p>

Date	Location	Contest	Program
17 March	Wright Memorial Library Oakwood, Ohio	Non Revenue Cars	Bridges By Ray Persing
21 April	Wright Memorial Library Oakwood, Ohio	Thunbz Merit Judging	Tony Koester
19 May	Wright Memorial Library Oakwood, Ohio	Most Ugly Caboose	Operations, Modeling and Simulation By J. Hedge
16 June	Wright Memorial Library Oakwood, Ohio		Layout Tours
21 July	Wright Memorial Library Oakwood, Ohio	Scene	

- March 16-17 Railfest 2002 MCR Division 5, Lakeland Community College, Kirtland, OH  
10 am – 4 pm
- April 7 Springfield Area Model Railroaders Flea Market and Model Train Show, Clark County Fairgrounds, Springfield, OH  
11 am – 4 pm
- April 25-28 MCR Region Convention, Holiday Inn, Fairborn, OH

### Convention Contest Judges Needed

We are in need of judges for the model and photo contests at the Regional convention in Dayton. Anyone interested Please contact Dick Briggs at [RBRIGGS261A@aol.com](mailto:RBRIGGS261A@aol.com) If you have not judged a contest and want to learn about NMRA contest judging there will be a 3 hour workshop offered at the convention on Friday evening by Marty Vaughn MMR, Howard Smith MMR and myself, which will offer hands on practice on contest models. This workshop will also benefit modelers who want to enter NMRA contests or who are working on AP certificates.

**We also need Contest room clerks to help enter stuff, place awards, etc. "If Fred can do it anyone can." Contact Fred Schneider.**

<b>Board of Governors</b>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Membership Chairman</p> <p>Kirk Perkins</p>

### Next Meeting

<b>When:</b>	<b>2 PM 17 March 2002</b>
<b>Where:</b>	<b>Wright Memorial Library 1776 Far Hills Dayton, Ohio</b>
<b>Program:</b>	<b>Bridges By Ray Persing</b>
<b>Contest:</b>	<b>Non Revenue Cars</b>

**Visitors and Guests Always Welcome**