

Call Board

Volume 50 Issue 7

April 2011

This Month's Program ...

NMRA Achievement Program with Frank Koch

In simple terms, the Achievement Program (AP) is a travel guide, to help you on your journey through the world of model railroading. The AP also provides incentive to learn and master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading. With the completion of each category, you will be issued a certificate acknowledging your achievement.

The AP requirements are a set of standards, but they can also serve as a set of guideposts for those who are new, near-new, and not-so-new to the hobby. Not because they lead to some sort of official pat-on-the-back, but because they are a source of ideas for projects that can help us learn to become better modelers.

Briefly, the AP is a system of requirements for demonstrating a superior level of skill in various aspects of our hobby. It covers not only building various types of models, but also building other things which are important to the hobby, such as scenery, structures, track work, and wiring. It also recognizes service to the hobby and the NMRA, which are important as well. Use the links on the right to explore the different certificates and requirements.

We hope that you will soon find just how easy it is to participate in the Achievement Program, and if you are not yet involved start you off on the right foot.

2013 MCR Convention Committee

Ray Baldwin has volunteered to be the Chair for the 2013 Mid Central Region Convention. He needs help. A bid package must be presented at the MCR Convention in May 2011. If you are interested in helping Ray in any way please let him know. There is a lot of work to be completed before May.

Contact:

Ray L. Baldwin

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Super's Notes for April 2011

Program Notes

If you missed the March meeting you missed another great program. Jim Shell and Tom Pulsifer, both experts on Xenia area railroads, gave an exceptionally well done presentation. Next month's program will feature Frank Koch, the Mid Central Division's Achievement Program chair. Dust off those AP applications and bring them to the meeting. If you don't have enough points for a specific certificate, bring your application for the Gold Spike Award. We passed out a number of applications for the Gold Spike which have not been returned yet. Bring them next month. If you don't have one, they can be downloaded from the NMRA web site and Bob will have some blanks at the meeting.

We had a great turnout for the March contest which was freight cars. I don't remember when we have had so many entries and quite a few seemed to be from first timers. That's great! Congratulations to all who earned points in the contest and to all who didn't, keep trying. The March contest is passenger cars, so bring something to enter.

Show and Tell

We will have a new segment at the April meeting. In addition to the contest and raffle tables there will be a table to display items you would like to share with the membership. It works this way, bring an item (with any supporting material you wish) and place it on the table for members to view (admire, ask questions, etc.). At the appropriate time you will be asked to give a brief explanation of what you brought. The category is wide open, but it must be related to railroading, model or prototype. The idea is to encourage a sharing of ideas, techniques, or unique discoveries. (An example of the latter would be the locomotive wall plaque that George Ardwin brought in December.) It could be a model in any scale that you don't want to enter, or doesn't fit a contest category. It can be a project in progress, something completed or something purchased, such as a useful tool. It can be a project where you have reached the point that you are stumped and would like some input or ideas. We have a lot of expertise in the division and there is a good chance someone has a suggestion that can you get restarted.

2013 Convention

Ray and his committee are hard at work pulling together the information we need to make a decision on a host venue and put together a presentation to the MCR BOG at the region convention in late April. If our bid is accepted, the work will have just begun.

Dave Decker

Dave Decker passed away Tuesday, 29 March. A memorial service is being planned but no date has been selected.

Division 3 Website: www.modelraildayton.com

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 ...

- **April - Passenger Cars**
- 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

| March Freight Cars | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------------|--------------|-------|
| | Kit | Kit Bashed | Scratchbuilt | Photo |
| First | Andy Wilson Jim Foster | Rick Lach | Wil Davis | |
| Second | Larry Miller | | Jim Foster | |
| Third | | | Bob Fink | |

Photographer Wanted

We would like to have someone with a digital camera take photos of the contest winners for our webpage. Dave Decker and Norm Courtney have been doing this for several months. No great skill is required. To volunteer just bring your camera to the Division meeting.



"BN Ballast Cars"
Mike Desch - Modeler

Dave Decker Photo

July 2010 contest

National News Updates

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 Gerry Leone at NMRA-infonet@earthlink.com. Thanks.

o For some ideas of what others do for National Model Railroad Month, take a look at the Division Business Car column in back-issues of *Scale Rails*.

o **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.

The **Summer Board meeting** will be held prior to the Sacramento x2011 Convention on Thursday, June 30, 2011. 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.

The Board unanimously agreed that in the future **all merchandise sold by the NMRA**, including by Regions and Divisions, must conform to any applicable NMRA standards. Questions about certifying whether products conform to standards should be directed to Standards and Conformance Department Manager Didrik Voss at davoss@pvmtengr.com. In addition, Bob Amsler, the NMRA's legal counsel, says that the following language must be included in your merchandise contracts with your vendors:

All merchandise shall conform to all applicable NMRA Standards and this term is a substantial and material term of the contract requiring strict conformance. The manufacturer may either submit the product to the NMRA for conformance testing or the manufacturer may certify conformance by utilizing the procedures for self-certification pursuant to the process guidelines promulgated by the Conformance and Inspection Department of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Any merchandise not conforming to the applicable standards will be non-conforming and rejected.

The model can be sent to the Standards & Conformance Dept. for certification testing. The final paint scheme of the model is not necessary. NMRA has also established a Self-Certification program in which the manufacturer may complete the appropriate paperwork, signed by a legal representative of the company, and send to the Standards & Conformance Department for issuance of an NMRA Conformance Warrant number. The paperwork will be provided upon request. The NMRA reserves the right to check the model upon delivery to ensure the model, in fact, does pass all applicable Standards. If you have any questions, direct them to Vice President Bill Kaufman at whk58@pacbell.net.

Here are some highlights of the Winter Board meeting, held in Las Vegas last month. For full details, see an upcoming issue of NMRA Magazine, or look in the "What's New" area of the homepage at www.nmra.org right now.

- **Jenny Hendricks was promoted to Chief Administrative Officer**. She's a true gift to the NMRA -- congratulations, Jenny!
- The Board authorized revising NMRA by-laws to make the **election of two vice presidents a permanent change**.
- Although the **Diamond Club** met its initial goal of \$75,000, we're still looking for additional donations so that more of our collection can be scanned and posted. The Online Archives site is up and running, and

accessible via the link on the www.nmra.org homepage.

- The Board is investigating the feasibility of **occasional National conventions that are markedly different** from those currently scheduled.
- In an effort to **maintain contact with all NMRA members**, the Board is investigating various means of sending regular communications to the 4,000 NMRA members who don't subscribe to *NMRA Magazine*.
- The Board adopted one of two versions of **NMRANET standards** which were presented. It also approved two new tables to Standard S-7 to accommodate clearances for model railroads set in the modern era.
- Important announcements of the **scale model railroading exhibit** in the Gallery area of the California State Railroad Museum will be coming shortly. Those attending the National Convention in Sacramento will have a chance to see the Gallery exhibit area and proposal drawings.

Lastly, my apologies to **John Lowrance and Fred Bock**, for screwing up their titles in the last InfoNet News. John is actually the Manager of the Education Department, and Fred is Assistant Manager.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at www.nmra.org or in NMRA Magazine.

-Gerry Leone, MMR
 NMRA Communications Director

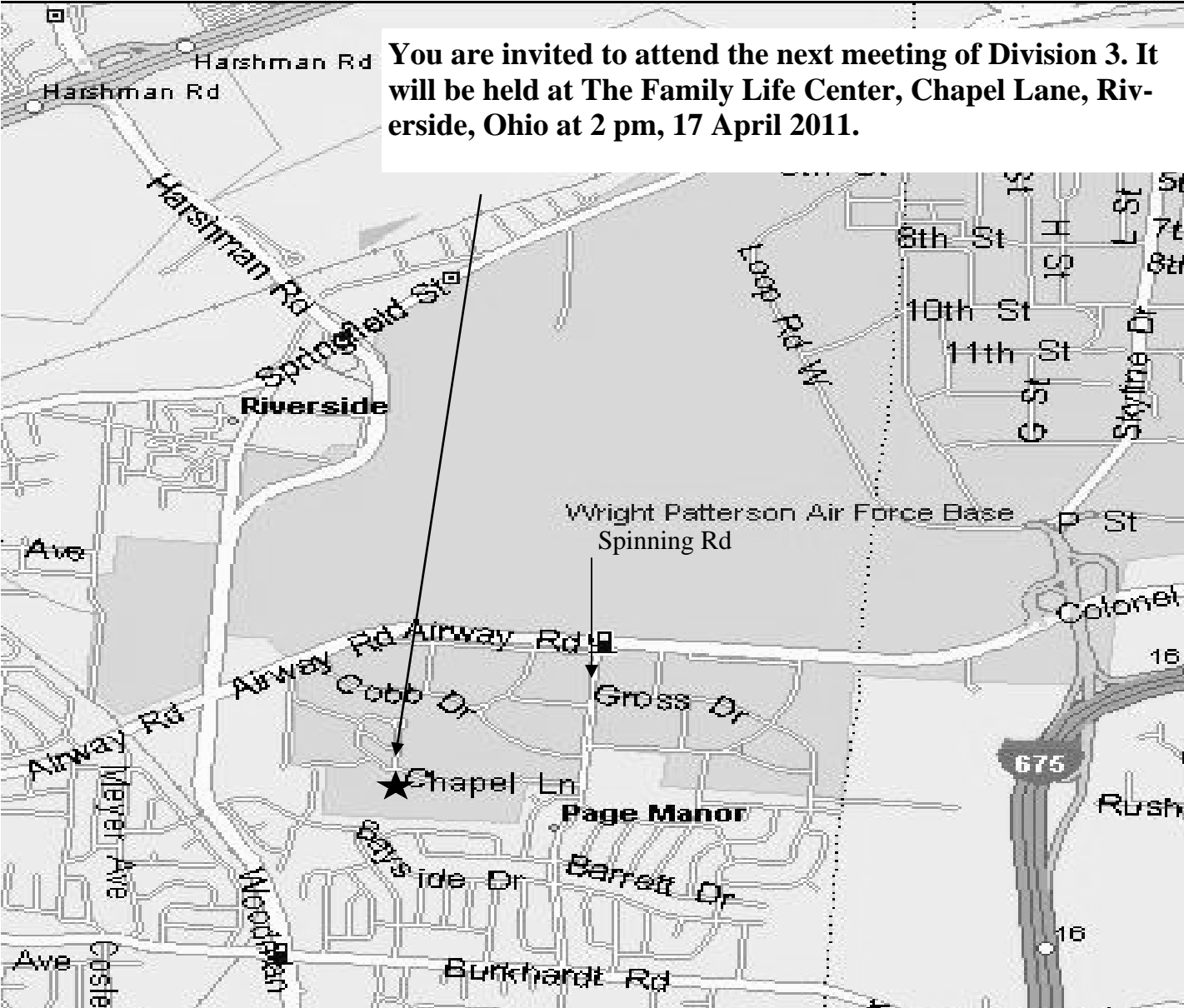
DVD Review: STYRENE -- The ideas, Tips & Techniques of Dean Freytag

In January I attended the WGH show in Columbus. While wandering up and down the aisles, I stopped at the both of Green Frog Productions. They had a bunch of older videos on DVD at sale prices and I spotted one by Dean Freytag. This was only a couple of weeks after Dean had passed away and I decided to purchase a copy for the Division 3 tape library. Mike Mereness, our program chair, had talked to Dean about giving a presentation at a Division 3 meeting last year. However, Dean's health deteriorated to the point where he was not able to do the presentation. The video is not the same as a live presentation, but it seemed a good way to preserve some of his knowledge.

The video was made in 1993, so some of the products are no longer available under the name he mentions, but the techniques and tips are timeless. Dean's presentation is quite informal, it's sort of like you were standing at his workbench and he is explaining how he constructs an item. He likes styrene and Plastruct™ products and makes extensive use of them in his modeling projects. Dean covers the basics of construction, use of adhesives, and many innovative uses of tools and parts from sources you may not think of. The video is broken down in to chapters on adhesives, materials & parts, Construction basics, tools, scratchbuilding, kitbashing and finishing. I have been building models for longer than I want to admit, yet I still learned some techniques from Dean.

Dean is a Master Model Railroader and former national contest chairman for the NMRA. He is also the recipient of two NMRA presidential awards, "Honorary Life Member" and the "Distinguished Service Award." Unless you are also a Master Model Railroader I think you will learn some useful tips and techniques from Dean. Check it out as I found it worthwhile. The video runs 61 minutes, but you can watch a chapter or two at a time. *Wil Davis*

You are invited to attend the next meeting of Division 3. It will be held at The Family Life Center, Chapel Lane, Riverside, Ohio at 2 pm, 17 April 2011.



Caboose still exist. Fostoria, Ohio 10/27/10 J. Hedge