
❖ Call Board ❖

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Super Saying

We now have a signed contract with Hara Arena for this year's Fall Train Show. As usual, we'll have the East Hall for vendors, the Ball Arena for layouts and clinics, and the room for the Scout Merit Badge class. In the East Hall we'll also have the Scenic Ridge layout we're building for the raffle.

At a special Board of Governors meeting on August 4th we aired concerns that the train show attendance and vendor participation might be reduced because of three other train shows near ours this fall. We discussed whether to reduce the amount of Hara Arena we rent, to save money. The board decided to maintain the current size, believing that one purpose of our show is to promote the hobby. There was also some concern that reducing the size of the show this year might reduce attendance in future years.

The Scenic Ridge layout for the show raffle is almost finished. We'll leave some details for the new owners to install, but the layout will be essentially complete well before show time. Dick Strous has been emailing photos he's taken. I'll bring prints to the September meeting.

A year ago this column listed a few Yahoo discussion groups specializing in railroads and railroad modeling. Here are two more that look interesting: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Railway-Signaling/> <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/repowerandregear/>

Most Yahoo groups are monitored for rudeness and profanity, so you seldom see the acrimony that the internet *news-groups* often display. The tone is usually helpful. It's easy to try these. Just go to one of the sites listed, and Yahoo will guide you through joining the group. You'll need to invent an ID and password (and remember them).

The Chesapeake & Ohio Historical Society held its annual conference and Modeler's Weekend July 23-26, in Charlottesville, VA. These are a bit like a small NMRA regional convention, but focused on the C&O. There were slightly over a hundred people there. The days and evenings were filled with modeling clinics, slide shows about C&O equipment, and a tour along what used to be the C&O Mountain Subdivision, now operated by CSX. If you're modeling a specific railroad that has an active Historical

Society, you might want to consider becoming participating. It can be a lot of fun.

In the model railroad press there has been mention from time to time about model airplane accessories that are useful in model railroad layouts. One such device that appears to have some potential is the *servo*, used to control the elevator and other moving parts of a model airplane. Some servos cost about the same as a stall-motor switch machine, and may be more versatile. For example, a servo could ponderously move a semaphore blade to any position, provided one can find a simple way to control the servo. A few months ago I bought a Futaba S3004 servo for experimentation, and last week finally got around to building a control circuit for it. The circuit has a knob you turn to set the servo shaft angle wherever you like. That's OK for experimentation, but what we need to control a semaphore or a crossing gate, or the like, is a servo driver that responds to track detector signals, not a knob. A \$1.98 microprocessor could do the job, and I've ordered a couple. Stay tuned. If you'd like to help, call me.

Contest

September Diesel Locomotives

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.

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

July Results Scene			
Models		Photos	
1	Not Enough Entries	1	Nick Folger
2		2	Brian Petroziello
3		3	J. Hedge Tom Sorauf

**2005 National Convention
Layouts Wanted**
Dave Holl is coordinating a bus tour of Dayton layouts for the 2005 NMRA National Convention in Cincinnati. He would like to have layouts that can accommodate 30-40 people at one time. Dates and times would be determined based on response. More information will be published as it becomes available.

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.

Date	Location	Contest	Program	Layout
21 September	Englewood Gov't Center	Diesel Locomotives		Bill Reese
19 October	Englewood Gov't Center	Ugly Cabooses		Ray Persing
16 November		Structures		
21 December		Freight Cars		
18 January		Passenger Cars		
15 February	Auction	No Contest		
21 March		Steam Locomotives		



Train Show help Needed

Ask not what your Division can do for you. Ask what you can do for your Division. It is time to start planning on what you will be doing on November 1 and 2. We can use all the help we can get. The area that seems to have been the thinnest the last couple of years has been the demonstration and clinic area. The Crossroads Railroad Club has volunteered to put on a series of clinics, but we can always use more demonstrations. All you have to do is bring something to work on. You don't even have to talk if you don't want to.

We will also need volunteers to sell raffle tickets for the Scenic Ridge layout. The other positions of ticket sellers, crowd counters and membership sales will probably end up being covered by the BOG and several other hardy souls. Any and all help would be appreciated.

Elections 2004

The Division Elections are coming up in April. We need a nominating committee and candidates. The elected positions are: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Chief Clerk. None of these positions is very time consuming, and they all earn points toward the Association Volunteer AP Certificate.

Meeting Locations

We are having trouble coming up with acceptable meeting locations. The Wright library has been reserved through the end of the year. We will be in Englewood for the next two months. After that we are still planning. We would like to here from the membership on where they would be willing to meet. We would like to find locations that are convenient, and capable of being darkened for slide shows. We are willing to pay rent if necessary.

Call Board Articles

As always, we need words to put on the paper. Everyone has something interesting to say, but most are afraid to say it. Contact the Editor to arrange an interview. We would also like to have someone put together a list of area train shows.

Hobby Shop Discount

The Hobby Shop is offering a 10% discount on a railroad materials to NMRA members. The Hobby Shop is located at the Corners At The Mall shopping center on the corner of Springboro Pike and State Route 725.

