



Call Board

Volume 51 Issue 8

April 2012

This Month's Program ...

Soldering

Convention Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the 2013 Convention committee will be MAY 12 (not in April) at 12:30pm at TJ Chumps Restaurant in Fairborn. Lunch is no-host (pay your own bill), and as is usual these days, there is 18% tip added to the bills (even when they are split) when they serve a large group.

The web site is www.tjchumps.com (how creative), if you click on the Fairborn reference on the right side of the home page it will take you to a link to the menu.

It is very easy to find off 675 , just past the BP gas station east of the Dayton - Yellow Springs Rd. (exit 20) ramps. It is a right turn off either NB or SB ramps. Turn into the driveway by Arby's and drive to the TJ Chumps parking lot.

Coming from the east / southeast (Xenia, Yellow Springs, Spring Valley, etc) it is a bit trickier. There is no entrance off WB D-YS road, you have to come in off Commerce Center Blvd. turn west (the only direction the road goes) on Market Court ,the first road south of D-YS road on Commerce Center Blvd. TJ Chumps is at the cul-de-sac at the end of Market Ct.

Andy Wilson
Silent Auction Chair

Division 3 Website: www.modelraildayton.com

Super's Notes for April 2012

Meeting Notes

As many of you know I didn't make the meeting since I am in California visiting Family. I hated to miss Pat's presentation as I enjoy taking photos and I have seen some of his work and was impressed. His photos of our HO modules revealed scenes I didn't recognize at first due to his creative angles. I did get the contest results and it looks like the participation is still good. Thanks to Jim for taking over in my absence, see you at the April meeting.

Model TRAINing Day

I can't say enough about this event, from the response of the public as well as for the support from division members and others. I did not get an exact account as I was busy answering questions. However, I estimate we have over 40 participants. I am pleased with the turnout as I really didn't know what to expect since we really hadn't done anything like this, and our publicity was limited. I did hand out about 15 or 16 surveys to participants and of the nine returned the response was very positive. I hope we can do something similar in the future and I have some ideas how we can make it even better. I prepared a more detailed summary for the BOG meeting and sent it to J. to publish if he has space.

April Meeting

Mike has promised us another go at the soldering presentation that was cancelled a few months ago.



Special Project: The V&O cars are finished. Cars will be made available to Division 3 members first, then taken to the MCR Convention in Pittsburgh, and then advertised in the NMRA Magazine. There are 3 Numbers available. Sale price for the kits will be: \$14 for 1 kit, \$27 for 2 kits, and \$40 for 3 kits. Assembled car sale price will be: \$20 for 1 car, \$39 for 2 cars, and \$58 for 3 cars. We will have to determine what our price will be if shipping is included. Shipping will run about \$5.50 for a 1 pound priority box that will hold 2 cars.

Div 3 Model Railroad TRAINing, Mar 3, 2012

I am declaring our first Model railroad TRAINing session a success. It was something new for us and we probably made some mistakes, but we learned a lot and the people who attended seemed to enjoy it also. This was an unstructured session scheduled to run from 10 am to 4 pm. We asked people to come and talk about some aspect of modeling that they were knowledgeable in and show people how to accomplish aspects of model railroading.

We had an operating layout set up in one end of the room to show people how to operate in a prototypical fashion. The rest of the room consisted of a number of tables around the room with people manning them. We had people showing three different approaches to scenery construction; building structures; soldering; ballasting track; building car kits; repair of tinplate trains; and a variety of small layouts, some in suitcases.

We did not get a good count of attendees, but I estimate we had 40+ people attend. Some were just curious about what was going on, but over half were genuinely interested and spent a lot of time going from table to table listening to the presenters and asking questions.

The division donated \$200 to the church for food and one of the ladies set up a railroad themed “Depot Café” in one corner of the room. She prepared sloppy joe’s, potato chips, cookies and drinks for free. Donations were accepted which went to the church’s mission program.

The night before, I decided it would be a good idea to get some feedback from the participants. I typed up a list of questions asking what they liked and a listing a number of topics that they would like to learn more about. I was busy doing presentations, but when there was a break in the action I walked around and handed out about 15 to the people who were there at the time. Nine of these were returned and the feedback was all positive. Almost all of them expressed an interest in a session on layout planning. One question was “would you be interested in a multisession presentation on various aspects of model railroading and would you like to receive information about such a session.” All but one said “yes”, but all of them provided contact information.

We did not have an organized presentation on NMRA membership, but we did have materials handy and a number of people expressed an interest and at least one joined on the spot. All of the presenters were also pleased with the response and all I talked to said they would do it again. Now we have to step back and take a look and what we want to do next and when. Wil Davis



Model Railroad TRAINing Day



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	Gordon Carlson	Ric Zimmerman	Terry McTaggart	Ric Zimmerman
Second	Gordon Carlson	Jim Foster	Jim Foster	Ric Zimmerman
Third				Ric Zimmerman



First Place Kit



First Place Kit Bashed



First Place Scratchbuilt

National News

Board of Directors meeting, held February 8 & 9, 2012, in Las Vegas.

News from the Board meeting:

- The NMRA has a new **Development Department Manager**, charged with seeking out new donation sources and methods, and coming up with ways to expand our fundraising potential. Alan Anderson of Salt Lake City, UT, volunteered to fill the slot, which had been vacant for several years. In his full-time job, Alan works with a Salt Lake City area chamber of commerce.
- The "**Cruise Convention**" idea was officially declared "not popular enough to pursue." Initial estimates, indicated that the idea received approximately 800 firm commitments from NMRA members, and only about

300 were received via the survey, which was printed several times in *NMRA Magazine* and also sent to Sacramento convention attendees.

- The NMRA is in the final stages of selecting a **volunteer Marketing Department Manager**. To date, several professional candidates have responded to a "help wanted" ad in *NMRA Magazine*. The Marketing Director will help the NMRA identify ways to retain and re-rail members, as well as recruit new ones.
- Jenny Hendricks, NMRA Administration Director, reports that the number of **RailPass members who convert** to Regular members has reached the 80% mark. Congratulations to all of you whose hard work has made this goal a reality! Maybe we should try for 90- 100%?

The Celebration of Models in Grand Rapids will introduce a **new contest award** in memory of Dean Freytag, the "Dean of Styrene" and former national Contest Chair. The award is funded by a donation given to the NMRA in memory of Freytag and is named "The Dean Freytag Industrial Structure Award." The winning structure will be selected by the Contest Chairman.

In other news:

- **White River Productions**, the company that prints *NMRA Magazine*, announced that it has purchased the assets of the now-defunct magazine, *Model Railroad News*.

NMRA Secretary Bob Gangwish reports that the **updated version of the Executive Handbook** is now posted on www.nmra.org and can be downloaded.

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 the NMRA Magazine.

-Gerry Leone, MMR

NMRA Communications Director

