



Call Board

Volume 59 Issue 11

July 2020

Superintendent's Report for July, 2020

I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy. With the most recent trends in Covid 19 cases across the nation, I'm not sure what to expect in the coming months. Lots of events are being cancelled or postponed. Our Train Show the first week of November is still a go at this point and I'm hoping we can still hold it. As of now, the National and Regional conventions are in a state of flux. If and when we get more definite info, we will pass it on.

Div. 3 is still trying to provide the best possible activities for our members. The June meeting was again held on Zoom, but this time we had a formal presentation. Sam Swanson gave an excellent clinic on adding effective details and lights to our models. As usual, Sam did a great job and provided many ideas we can all use.

In July, Ed Swain will show how to build a lift bridge, and in August, Rick Stern will talk about the railroads of India. I know we don't usually have a meeting in August, but since we didn't have meetings in March or April, and we are meeting online, we thought we would try it. Speaking of Zoom, since the division has access to Zoom, any member who wants to use it for a meeting can. Talk to Gail and she can explain the guidelines and procedures to you.

Finally, we welcome the return of our monthly contest. This is still having the details worked out, but we plan on the three categories of kit, kit-bashed, and scratch built. The subject will be any model, ie. loco, rolling stock, or structure. Be prepared to briefly discuss your model or submit a picture. Voting will probably be by email during the meeting. More details to follow.

Stay safe and keep modeling.

Mark Stiver, Supt., Div. 3

Division 3 Zoom Account

Div 3 has purchased a Zoom account. This is a month by month billing. Since we only have a couple of formal meetings per month, the BOG has decided to offer use of the account to our members for other groups.

Who can use it? Do you do ops with a group? You can meet and show what you are doing, discuss ideas, make plans, etc. Want to meet with your RR friends? (If you meet for lunch it's BYOBB--Bring your own brown bag). Need some ideas for a modeling or RR setup problem? As long as the rules are followed, you are welcome to meet here.

What is the advantage to using this rather than making my own Zoom meeting? We have a paid account which means you can meet for longer. The free account is limited to 40 minutes. The paid can be up to 24

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All the News That's Fit to Print

Meetings: The June Virtual Div 3 meeting was great fun. Sam Swanson gave a very informative presentation. (Thank you, Sam). The business meeting went well and we had 23-25 people.

Our July 19 meeting will also be virtual on Zoom. The link will be sent out the Friday before the meeting (July 17). If you do not have a computer, you might check with one of our other members to see if you can join them on theirs. Remember to follow Covid Health recommendations and be safe. We plan to restart our monthly contest in July. Several members of the group are working with Tom Sorauf to set up the process. As soon as we know how it will be done, we will send out an email blast and post it on the website.

Dayton Train Show: Note that the Dayton Train Show is still scheduled. In these unconventional times, we have to adapt to the situation so we are watching things carefully and will update you in the future. In the meantime, we ask that people step forward to help with various pre-show jobs. This is something you can do even if you have a job with an exhibitor or seller at the show. Most things can be done at home and any DTS group meetings will be held on Zoom. Also Note that even if you don't have a microphone and camera for your computer, you can still attend Zoom meetings and can interact through the Zoom chat. I'd be happy to help you set it up. NMRA.Div.3@gmail.com.

Div 3 At Home: We have quite a few new, interesting posts on our "At Home" group page. If you are not on Facebook, unfortunately they have closed off the ability to go straight to the group (you can go to our main Facebook pages, though). To get on Facebook, you do not have to have a complicated Facebook page or even use it often to get into the group pages. If you want more information, contact me. NMRA.Div.3@gmail.com If you are a Facebook member, please feel free to post in the group. If you are not a Facebook member but would like to post, you can send your post to NMRA.Div.3@gmail.com and we will post it in the group for you. We are open to interesting information, info on what you are doing and fun posts as well.

NMRA-X: The NMRA-X virtual meetings are still going strong. Go to the NMRA website if you would like to see recordings of the clinics and also for a link to the upcoming live clinics. NMRA-X would like to know if there is a clinic you would like to see on the next NMRA-X virtual convention. You can contact me (NMRA.Div.3@gmail.com) and I will pass it along to the schedulers. Events:

- NMRAx Ask the MMR®, June 20, 2020. If you missed this, you missed something. I understand it was an amazing event. My guess is there will be more in the future.
- NMRAx Virtual Model Railroad Convention, June 27, 2020.
- NMRAx 'GatewayX' Virtual Model Railroad Convention July 12-18. (The new virtual 2020 national convention.) Watch for this 2020 national virtual convention:

To see more information, go to [NMRA.org/tags/nmrax](https://www.nmra.org/tags/nmrax)

Call Board: We are also looking for articles and clinics for the Call Board. Do you have an interesting railroad related story? A written clinic? A how-to? Some hacks for modeling? Something you would like to share with the group? We are trying very hard to give as much information as possible to the group during this time when we cannot meet in person, through Zoom meetings and through the Call Board. We would appreciate your contributions.

Be Well,
Gail Yarnall

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hours (but won't--trust me!).

Why are we doing this? We paid for this account. We want to get the most from it and being able to help people to meet and to see their RRing friends is a good way to increase value.

These groups should be associated with railroading. The following are rules of use:

1. An appointed Div 3 member, preferably from the BOG, serves as moderator of the meeting. This does not mean the moderator would lead the meeting. This person sets up the meeting on Zoom and is there to be sure rules are not broken and nothing inappropriate occurs on our account. The moderator can be visible or can be a black square on the meeting page. Your meeting info will be kept private by the moderator.
2. Meetings will be scheduled as time/date is available
3. A member of Div 3 must be part of the group (sounds repetitive but there it is).
4. No Nastiness
Everyone has his/her own opinions and ideas. You may not agree. You can suggest alternatives but you cannot call names, criticize, bully or otherwise write/say things that put people down. In other words, be adults.
5. No politics.
No matter what, no politics. This is not a political forum. It is a modeler's forum. Historical data as to who did what is OK but no political commentary.
6. No Hate Speech or Bullying
Make sure everyone feels safe. Bullying of any kind isn't allowed, and degrading comments about things like race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender or identity will not be tolerated.
7. No Promotions or Spam
8. The moderators' decisions are final.
You can ask questions about a decision and you can disagree privately but our decision is final. The moderator may expel a person or may close the meeting if rules are not followed, but we would rather not. We want all to have a good time.

The rules are meant to protect everyone. We won't be dictators but we do want members and visitors to feel safe and to have fun. If you want more information or would like to book a meeting, please contact me at NMRA.Div.3@gmail.com.

Gail Yarnall

Division 3 Website: www.modelraildayton.com

History of the Dalmatian Switching District

Shortly after the War Between the States, The Big Boy Conglomerate Railroad (BBC) applied for a charter to build a branch line north from their east/west line in the state of Confusion. The line was planned to follow the Calico valley north to the believium mines near the towns of Infinity and Beyond. The best route started at Calico Junction and passed through the textile producing town of Argyle.

Argyle already had a mule operated rail system to move materiel through the Argyle Mill complex. The BBC negotiated with the owner of the Argyle Mill to build on his right of way and to keep the operations in the town of Argyle under his control. Several other industries then locate in Argyle to take advantage of the new railroad connection.

Originally the BBC planned to bypass the city of Dalmatian since it had no significant industries to generate revenue for the railroad. Following construction of the BBC passenger depot in the worst section of the south end of Dalmatian, the city fathers, lead by David Stanley Decker, successfully petitioned the state legislature to require the BBC to provide freight service to Dalmatian. The BBC built a yard outside the city on land that was considered useless due to its proximity to Boiling Lake. The yard was named Needless by the railroad to show their low opinion of the capability of the city to ever generate enough freight business to make it necessary. The Dalmatian officials were able to attract several profitable businesses to their city and constructed their own switching railroad to serve them from the Needless Yard connection to the BBC.

The believium mines were very profitable for the BBC until after World War II when they were closed. In 1950 the BBC petitioned the state of Confusion to stop service to Infinity and Beyond and to abandon the track from Dalmatian north. In 1952 the BBC offered the Calico Branch for sale claiming that the cities of Dalmatian and Argyle were more trouble than they were worth. The two cities managed to purchase the branch and formed the Dalmatian and Calico Junction Railroad (D&CJ) to operate the main line. Each city continued to service their industries independent of the D&CJ. It is now 1957 and the cities of Argyle and Dalmatian are still strong manufacturing centers and are keeping the D&CJ busy.

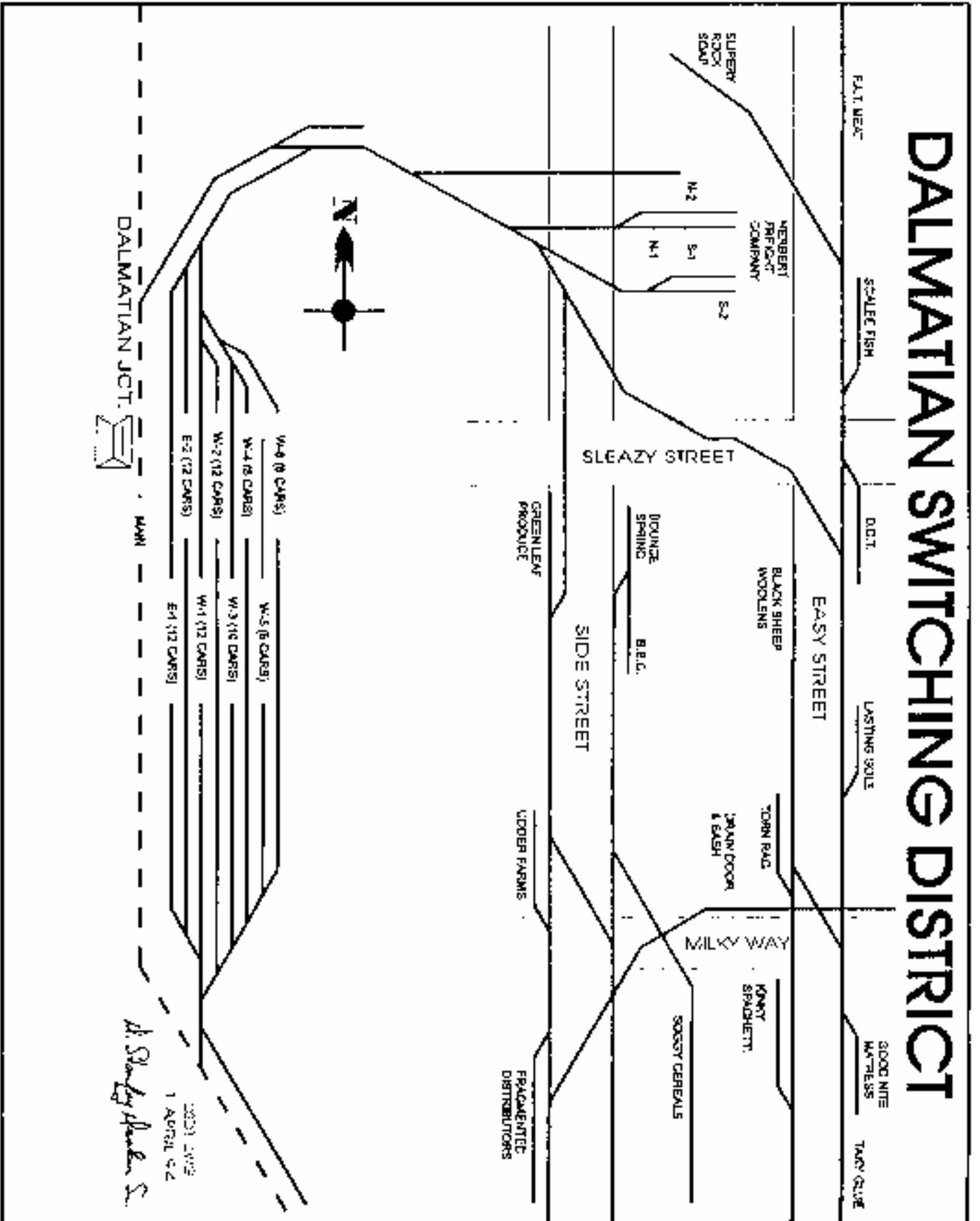
At the time of the formation of the D&CJ, passenger service was discontinued on the branch. The owner of the Argyle Mill was not happy that his employees did not have easy access to Dalmatian and the rest of the country. He had four unique Pullman cars constructed and started passenger service for the Calico valley.

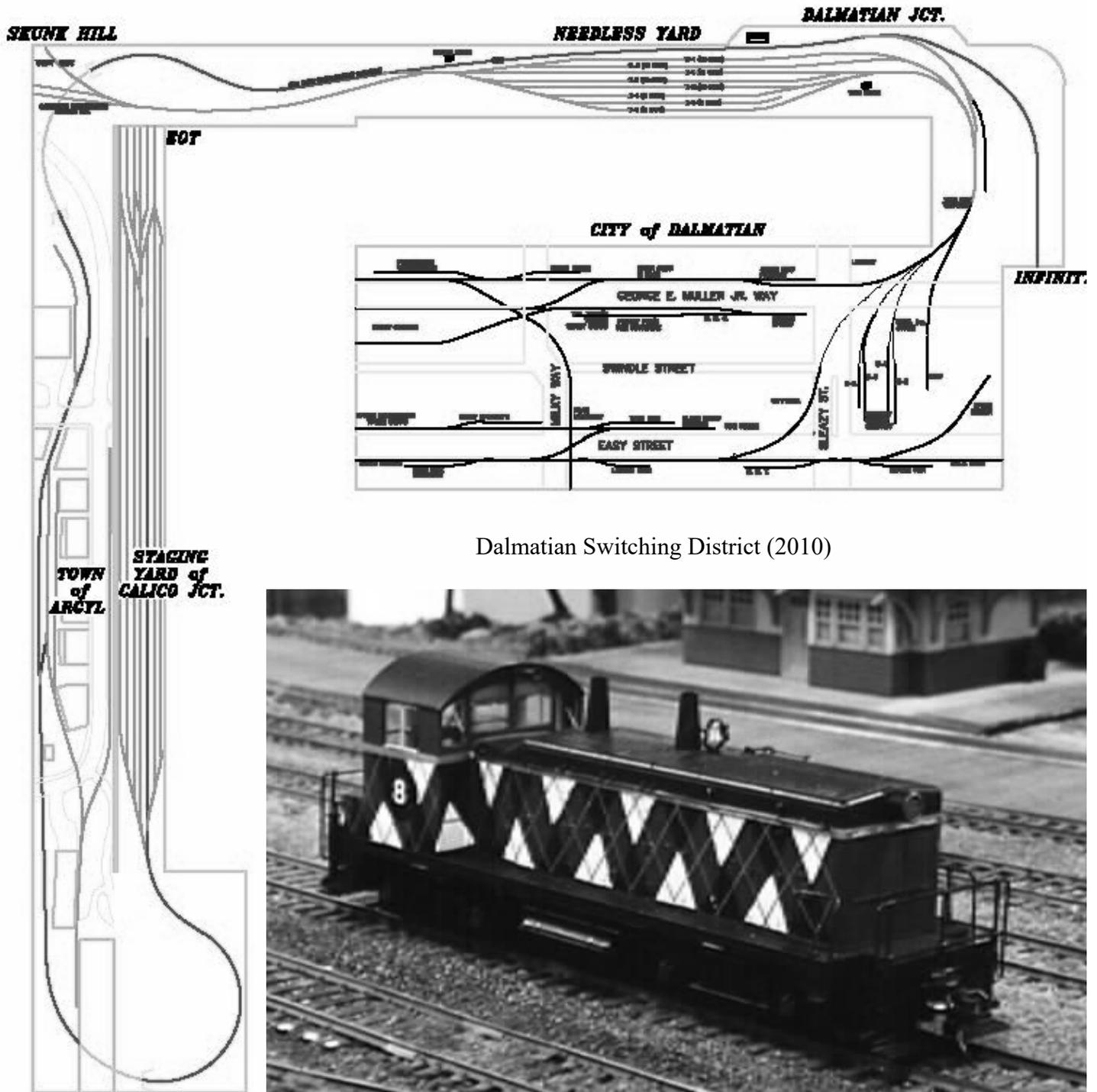
The unique paint schemes of the locomotives reflect the heritage of the owners and their desire to be considered unique and independent operations.

The line from Argyle to Dalmatian was finally abandoned in 1970. The Argyle Mills are still doing business, but may soon be abandoned.



Original Dalmatian Switching District (1992)





Dalmatian Switching District (2010)



The Dalmatian Switching District was constructed in 1992 by David Decker. It was featured at over 70 train shows, 2 NMRA National Conventions and several Regional conventions having traveled over 10,000 miles. In 2010 David destroyed the original City of Dalmatian, sold off Needless Yard and started construction of a new yard, city and mainline extension to Infinity and Beyond. Following the death of David Decker in 2011, the Dalmatian Switching District was left to Division 3. A new City of Dalmatian was constructed with a smaller Needless Yard by Division 3 members. From 2012 until 2017 this was exhibited at several shows and Division 3 events. In 2018 everything except the City of Argyle was sold. The layout is currently in storage at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. Hopefully we will be able to keep it running at the November Train Shows and possibly other events.

<p>Board of Governors</p>	<h1>Points of Contact</h1>		
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<p>Ric Zimmerman 370 Mapletrace Trail Dayton, OH 45458 (937) 438-8582 ezrails@att.net</p>	<p>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.</p>		

Call Board

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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.

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June 2020

Next Crew Call	
When:	July 19, 2pm
Where:	Check the Division web site and/or Facebook pages for more details
Program:	Building a Lift Bridge on the Pennsylvania RR By Ed Swain
Contest:	Open Class
Visitors and Guests Always Welcome	