



Call Board

Volume 63 Issue 7

March 2023

Superintendent's Report for March 2023

The Division meeting was held on 19 February. It was a hybrid meeting, during which the presentation on "Supporting the War: Looking at a Small Piece of the American Railroad's Contribution" was presented by me and highlighted the process and equipment used to move the vast number of troops by the railroads.

This month we will hold our general meeting in conjunction with our annual Model Railroad Training Day at Carillon Park on 18 March. Gail Yarnall and Rick Lach have lined up a number of events/displays similar to last year's event. This is one of the most important events that we do each year and is a tremendous opportunity to find new members. Although a good number of people have volunteered to help, we can still use more, as there is always more to do. Please contact Gail or Rick if you can help.

The Division meeting will be held at Carillon Park on 19 March. As such, this will not be a hybrid meeting, so I encourage every one to come. Our guest speaker will be Jim Charters, a member of the park staff, who will discuss "The Carillon: Now and in the Future." This will include the park's latest efforts, including the latest status of the new steam engine.

The contest for March is Freight Cars, a topic in which virtually every model railroader should have a candidate. Bring your favorite freight cars and get into the contest spirit. Everyone is a winner when you share your enjoyment of modeling. The contest in April will be locomotives, all kinds (Steam, Diesels, Electrics, etc.). We'll cover passenger cars (any cars used in passenger service) in May.

As I stated in last month's report, I think it is time to get back to coming to meetings. Please make an effort to either attend the meetings in-person or via Zoom. If you have something you would like to see as part of the program, please talk to me or another BOG member so that we can make the meetings better.

Lastly, don't forget the convention, "Rails to Pittsburg" in early May. Attending a convention, if you have never done it, is a great experience. Division 2, the host, promises some great tours of the Pittsburg railroad facilities and a number of beautiful layouts. Check it out by clicking their link of our web site.

Don't forget to support Training Day on March 18. Bring a friend and share the fun. We'll see you at the meeting on 19 March at Carillon Park.

Eric Zimmerman

There will be NO Zoom Connection for the March Meeting

Division 3 Website: www.modelraildayton.com

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.

Board of Governors
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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.



March 2023

Next Crew Call	
When:	March 19, 2pm
Where:	IAMS Room Carillon Historical Park 1000 Carillon Boulevard Dayton, Ohio
Program:	The Carillon: Now and in the Future By Jim Charters
Contest:	Freight Cars
Visitors and Guests Always Welcome	

TRAINing Day

We are well on our way to TRAINing Day. The event is on March 18 at 9:30am-4pm at Carillon Historical Park. We have some terrific clinics, thanks to the flexibility of Div 3 members who are supporting TRAINing Day, despite the short notice. Thank you to all. We could still use a couple of floaters, plus we still have some clinics we would like to fill (making trees , modeling tips, for example). Even if you can only stop by for a short time, we'd love to have you visit. This event is the most fun ever!

Hybrid/Zoom Meetings

We need volunteers to help with the Zoom portion of the Hybrid meetings. Those of us who are currently running this aspect do need days off at times, as well as being able to stay home when we are not well, and so on. Some aspects include upgrading computers, setting up for Zoom (both the physical equipment and the programs), and running the equipment. You will be trained and will be able to do some work with us supporting you. The whole hybrid process is very time-consuming when there are only a couple of people doing it. We would appreciate the help.

Contests

We have three categories each month. You can enter Scratch Built, Kit Bashed, 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 ...

March - Freight Cars

- January - Open Loads
- February - Non-Revenue Cars
- March - Freight Cars
- April - Passenger Cars
- May - Steam Locomotives
- June - Diesel Locomotives
- July - No Contest
- August - No Contest
- September - Make it cheap (1-3-5 Dollar)
- October - Caboose
- November - Weathering
- December - Structures

Results

January - Open Loads

Kit built: 1st - Jim Foster
2nd - Mark Stiver

Kit bashed: 1st - Jim Foster
2nd - Will Davis
3rd - Mark Stiver1

No scratch built entries

Photo: 1st - Nate Adams
2nd - Paul Jenkins
3rd Paul Jenkins

Live Contest

Deadline for entries is 2 pm Sunday, 19 February, 2023 at the IAMS Room, Carillon Historical Park, Dayton, Ohio



First Place - Kit

Jim Foster



Second Place - Kit

Mark Stiver



First Place - Kit Bashed

Jim Foster



Second Place Kit Bashed

Wil Davis

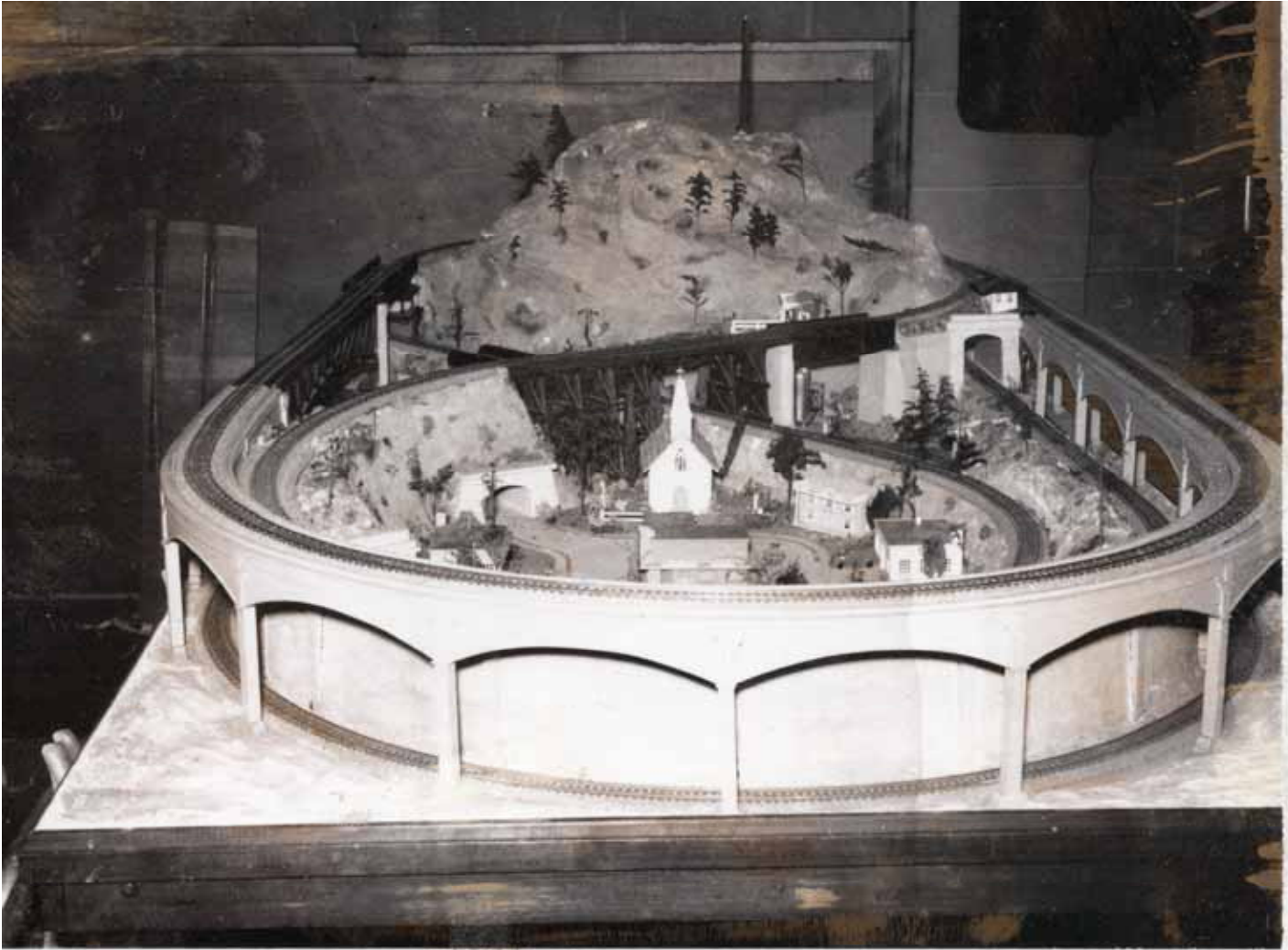


Third Place - Kit Bashed

Mark Stiver

Uncle Ralph's Model Railroad
 J. Hedge

One of the first model railroads that I remember was built by my mother's uncle, Ralph Howell, Alliance, Ohio. Construction was completed in the early 1950's, and occupied the enclosed front porch of his home. The HO scale layout was approximately 4 x 6'. The legs were removable and about 30 inches long so that the lowest level was viewable while sitting in a chair. It was designed to fit into a 1950's era station wagon so that Ralph could take it to train shows in the Alliance area. I remember going to Alliance with my grandparents to visit around the time that I was first tall enough to see the trains. Uncle Ralph would start the layout and then go back to visit with the adults. The only photo that I have is a 3 1/2" x 4 1/2" black and white Polaroid snapshot.



The track design was of the "Spaghetti Bowl" school. I have tried several times to draw the track plan in several design programs without much success. It had a lower oval with a double crossover connection. The inside track entered a tunnel going around the town to the ascending track, across the center of the layout around the mountain to the upper level. The route continued around the table above the lower oval before descending across the center, around the town, through the mountain to the crossover and the lower oval.

The layout base was 1x4 lumber topped with a sheet of homasote. All the track was laid on Tru-scale wood roadbed and with code 100 brass rail. The mountain was plaster over screen wire and was hollow. The retain-

ing wall and support structure for the upper level was balsa and cardboard painted for concrete. The trestle bridge was balsa. The bridge on the left side of the picture was a balsa arch. The tunnel portals were also carved balsa. Most of the structures were Plasticville kits. There was one scratchbuilt freight house on a spur in the center of the layout.

It was designed so that 1 train could take a lap around the layout while another train waited. The starting and stopping of the trains was controlled by a set of magnet activated mechanical switches placed between the rails. The switches activated twin coil switch machines fitted with contacts to control the power to the track sections. There was a magnet under each locomotive and caboose. The polarity of the magnets determined which switch was activated.

Around 1963 Uncle Ralph decided that he was no longer interested in model trains. He offered the layout to my mother's brother Dick who then suggested that it be offered to my family. My brothers and I already had a Lionel layout and a 4 x 8 foot HO layout that Uncle Dick had started. Uncle Dick was confined to a wheelchair and had started a layout on the dining room table until Grandma Cassity decided that she wanted her dining room back.

We purchased the layout and it was moved into our basement. We played with it for a couple of years and then tried to tie it into the other layout. We were never very successful with combining the layouts and by 1969 it was in such bad shape that we tore it apart. I still have the locomotives and some of the cars along with the electrical parts.

DIVISION 3 GETS DVD DONATION:

Division 3 has received a donation of the complete set of the Kalmbach Publications DVDs entitled "Dream, Plan, Build" produced approximately 10 years ago. The approx. 100 DVD set was donated by Barbara Millson, the significant other of Ron Sturgis, in honor of Ron Sturgis. We are in the process of completing the donation paperwork, and by the time this issue of the Call Board is published, this DVD set should be inventoried and incorporated into the Division 3 library for use by our members. The set includes "how to" DVDs, tours of various significant layouts to the hobby, and features of prototype railroads and famous locations. I remember speaking with Ron about this collection, and he was proud to have added it to his collection. We certainly thank Barb for this generous donation, and it will give us an opportunity to remember Ron every time we check-out one of these DVDs. Be looking for an announcement from our librarian, Stan Sartell, regarding their availability and instructions for check-out.

Rick Lach

MORE REFERENCE AVAILABILITY.....

If you are interested in owning a near complete set of Model Railroader Magazine from 1934 until 2021 for FREE, please contact Rick Lach at (937) 426-2015. Rick is also available to deliver this set of excellent reference material.

ONE FINAL CALL TO HELP WITH MODEL RAILROAD TRAINING DAY:

If you were previously unavailable, but are now available to assist with conducting our Model Railroad TRAINing Day, on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at Carillon Park, please call either Gail Yarnall or Rick Lach. We can always use the extra help in conducting this worthwhile project for the public. We look forward to your call. Thanks.

GET WELL WISHES FOR FRANK KOCH:

Frank Koch, NMRA Achievement Program (AP) Manager and Division 7 member, is at home recuperating from recent surgery. Frank is always available to answer our AP questions and assist in explaining the requirements for the various AP certificates. We wish Frank a speedy recovery and a quick return to 100% involvement in the AP program.

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Rick Lach



WW II Troop Kitchen Car



WW II Troop Sleeping Car