

Call Board

Volume 64 Issue 1

September 2023

Superintendent's Report for September 2023

Here we are again at the end of summer, and a hot one at that. Wild fires in Canada, Hawaii and Washington, but we were fortunate that the heat dome missed us for most of the summer. Hopefully, the weather will be a little easier on us this fall and winter.

The July auction was a success and Wil Davis managed to get almost every item through the process. We all had a good time and some of picked up some real "treasures" while other got rid of some of their excess items. This month we will start a new contest, replacing the Make-It-Cheap contest with the opportunity to model some new rolling stock. That is another chance to show your best models of anything that rolls on rails. Get into the spirit and bring a model – scratch-built, kitbashed or kit.

This month's program is going to be "A Tribute to Bob Fink and His Dayton Western Railroad," a review of Bob's achievements and how the presenters, Rick Lach and John Burchnall, prepared the article that appeared in the NMRA Magazine earlier this year. Bob was an avid model railroder, an MMR and a charter member of the division. I think you will really enjoy this presentation.

On August 12, three of us participated in the first Model Expo (Wheels, Rail, and Wings) at the National Museum of the US Air Force. Gordon Carlson, Rick Lach and I represented the division. The museum felt that the effort was a success and plans to do it again next year

Once again, I need to remind every member of the Division 3 that one of our most important tasks is to improve our membership. Everyone needs to be an "ambassador" for the NMRA and Division 3. Over the summer, we have lost several members and our membership roles are diminishing. Several of our Rail Pass members have dropped out, but more importantly, several of our members have succumbed to the ravages of old age.

Lastly, I want to remind members that we have an election next spring to pick new members for our BOG. Our charter with the state requires that we fill the three elected positions, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Chief Clerk. If we cannot elect member for the next two years, the division ceases to exist. Please consider running for one of these positions. They are not time consuming and they are enjoyable – take my word for it.

Have a great Labor Day weekend, stay safe and well hydrated, and I'll see you in Xenia on September 17.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (AP):

We plan to present the AP Certificate for Scenery to Wil Davis at the September General Meeting. Wil's package was approved before the August break, and his certificate has arrived for presentation. Wil also has completed all the requirements for the AP Electrical Certificate. As of this writing, we are awaiting the final draft of his submission before sending it in for

approval. The next project Wil intends to tackle is Civil Engineer. I mention this because these 3 certificates (Scenery, Electrical, and Civil Engineer) are all interrelated on the same layout, and with a little effort, can be accomplished together. If you have a layout and would like to compete against a standard, let's see if we can further reward your efforts. See or give Rick Lach a call.

Division 3 Website: www.modelraildayton.com

Contests

We have a category with three classes each month. They are: Scratch Built, Kit Bashed or just plain Kit Built. You may enter anything you are proud of and at any skill level. Judging is by popular vote. If you want to have your model judged to NMRA standards for the Achievement Program please contact Rick Lach.

The coming contest schedule ...

September - Freight Cars

- January - Open Loads
- February - Non-Revenue Cars
- March - Freight Cars
- April - Motive Power (Diesel, Steam, Electric)
- May - Passenger Equipment
- June - Railroad Owned Structures
- July - No Contest
- August - No Contest
- September - Freight Cars
- October - Caboose
- November - Weathering
- December - Non Railroad Structures

Results

July - No Contest

- Kit built -
- Kitbashed -
- Scratch-built -
- Photo -

Live Contest

Deadline for entries is 2 pm Sunday, 17 September 2023 at the Greene County Historical Society, Xenia, Ohio.

LAYOUT TOUR TO GERRY ALBERS, ED SWAIN, AND CURT LARUE'S LAYOUTS CANCELED

The layout tour to Gerry Albers, Ed Swain, and Curt Larue's layouts, scheduled for August 19, had to be postponed. We wish to thank those involved in the planning of this trip and to the drivers and owners of the layouts involved. Special thanks to Gerry Albers, Ed Swain, and Curt Larue for being willing to open their homes so 11 division members could tour their layouts. Thanks to Mike Mereness for coordinating the entire effort and for ordering the food and water. Also we thank Ken Allen and Rick Lach for being willing to drive to this event, and finally we thank the 11 division members who signed up for the trip. We will work on rescheduling this trip when the time is right. Rick Lach will return the money deposited for food and transportation at the September general meeting on September 17.

NO MT. HOPE SHOW IN 2023

Sadly, the Mt. Hope Train & Toy Show in Mt Hope Ohio on Nov 4 is cancelled for this year. Vendors will be receiving a letter. Mt. Hope was the same weekend as our show, and we found them to be great partners in promoting model Railroading to the public. Jon is fun to work with. This show is normally a huge show, very well done in a great setting. It is a big loss to the hobby. For further information from on the show C J Trains, click <http://cjtrains.com/>.

But while Mt. Hope 2023 is gone, C J Trains still run. C J's Massillon Train & Toy Show is still on Dec 10. It is another high-quality show worth seeing. We are so glad that C J is still doing the Massillon show. The model Railroading community cannot afford to lose great shows. Thank you, Jon, for an amazing show. We will miss it.

Gail Yarnall

2023 DAYTON TRAIN SHOW – THE CLOCK IS TICKING!!! TWO MONTHS TO GO.

As usual, at this time of year, things are getting exciting. We have Vendors calling, letters coming in and emails from the public continuously. Soon our show will be full. It's time to begin thinking about Volunteering to help the show.

Volunteers are critical to the success of the show. Not only volunteers from the group, but also finding another group that is willing to volunteer in return for a donation to the group. If you know of a group that is reliable and willing to work with us as floorwalkers, runners, etc., check with Rick Lach. If you are willing to volunteer, contact Rick, who will have a sign-up sheet at the September meeting. Our show is a major event, and your help is critical to the quality of that show.

Also, please be thinking about what items you would like to place on the consignment tables. Take the time now to find the items, do some research on price (If you want to sell, a reasonable price is needed- even if 'Uncle Erasthus' engine is worth a million dollars to you, it will not sell for that much at the train show), and prepare your paperwork ahead of time.

Our floorplan is coming together. We still have tables available for Vendors. The DTS team is meeting monthly, and our preparations for the show are proceeding on time, on schedule. We are looking forward to an outstanding 47th Dayton Train Show. Many of your favorite Vendors will be at the show, as well as many new Vendors/Exhibitors. Please support Div 3 and our efforts to encourage model Railroading in the community.

Gail Yarnall

IN MEMORIAM:

I would like to bring to the attention of our membership that several members of our division and close local members of the local model railroad community have passed away during the last several months. Jeanne Davis, wife of Wil Davis, passed away on August 5. Jeanne was a strong supporter of our division and in particular helped work our train shows in 2016 and 2017. Alan Keesling was a life member of the NMRA and the division since 1973 whose passing was discovered when his last edition of the Call Board was returned to J. Hedge. Inactive members of the division, recently discovered as deceased are Tom Powers and Dick Kehl, each of whom attended meetings and were active a decade ago. And members of the local model railroad community that we have had a friendly relationship with through local train events to include our train shows, Carillon Park events, and Christmas on Campus include Frank Timko, owner of Timko's Train Repair Depot who passed away on August 14 and Dan Miller, owner of Dan Miller Auctions, who passed away in June just before Railfest. I mention these because they were all very special people who touched and were part of our lives, who were associated with us in our hobby, and who will be missed. May they all rest in peace. Let's all remember their extended families in our thoughts and prayers.

TRAINS, PLANES, AND CARS:

On August 12, 6 members of our division were involved in a new exposition event at the Museum of the United States Air Force, that focused on various STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) aspects of technology. Wil Davis, who is also a docent at the museum, was our project manager and coordinated our planned participation. Wil planned to demonstrate DCC, but due to his wife's Memorial Service, enlisted the help of Ric Zimmerman, who explained DCC with his demo layout. Gordon Carlson demonstrated automated signaling using microchips and sensors on his demo layout. John Santel showed his N gauge coffee table layouts, and Kirk Perkins displayed several miniature layouts, including the first local showing and demonstration of T scale, a new release out of Japan that is actually smaller than Z scale. Rick Lach rounded out our team. This initial expo proved to be a success, conducted in the museum under the wings of historic aircraft exhibitions, and engaged by an enthusiastic public. We found the event worthwhile and sincerely hope that the museum will continue to sponsor it in the future.

Contest and AP Awards

At the July meeting two Division contest awards, four AP certificates and two judged model merit awards were presented.



2022 Model Contest Winner
Wil Davis



2022 Photo Contest Winner
Rick Lach



Chief Dispatcher
Jack Honeycutt



Association Official
Mark Stiver



Association Volunteer
Ed Durkin



Model Railroad Engineer Electrical
Phil Gliebe



Merit Award for Structures
Wil Davis



Merit Award for Structures
Stuart Merl

MONTSTERS, MURDER, AND MANIFEST— RAILROADING MOVIES

Awhile back, I wrote about the movie “The Black Scorpion.” In the movie, a Lionel train was wrecked because the giant scorpion and his less-giant minions were in a bad mood and had a case of the munchies. Since then, I’ve been looking for interesting movies featuring trains/model trains.

I’ve found one! The movie is called “Murder in the Private Car.” It is a 1934 murder mystery, complete with a mild romance and humor. It consists (haha) of full-sized trains and maybe some models for close shots. You will recognize some well-known character actors and actresses, but no stars. However, sometimes that makes a better movie.

The story begins at a large corporate office with lots of people coming and going, and a surprise is revealed to one of the employees. This is the beginning of introducing the characters, the plot and getting ready for the setting. Roughly 1/4th of the movies is involved in this, but the story picks up afterward. The movie includes attempted kidnapping, plotting and planning, lies, truths and some magic. It also has some high tech (for that time) upgrades to the interior of the private car which bring surprises.

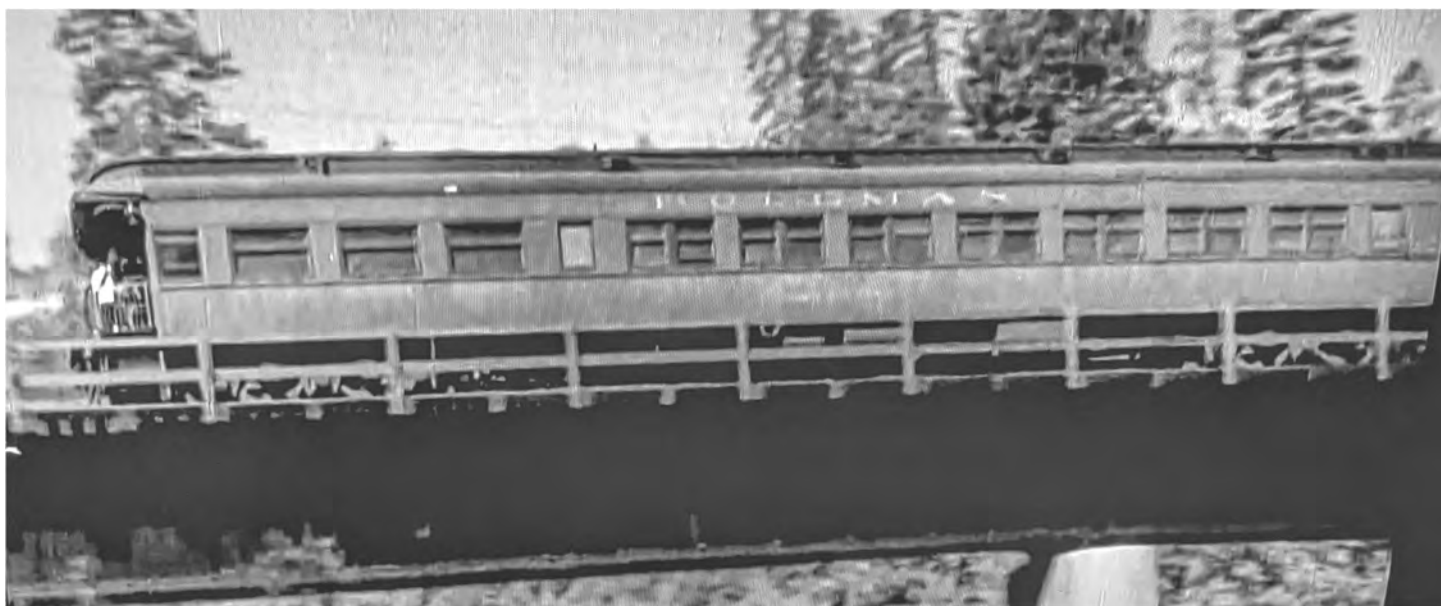
The show culminates with the leading characters getting on a real Southern Pacific train, although in the movie they call it “The United and Western Railroad.” Eventually everyone navigates to the private car with the usual (for that time) railroad employees. Up to now, it is a nice little black and white mov-

ie. Nothing special: a few low-level thrills, but overall, just OK. If you get through to this point, you are about to have a major treat!

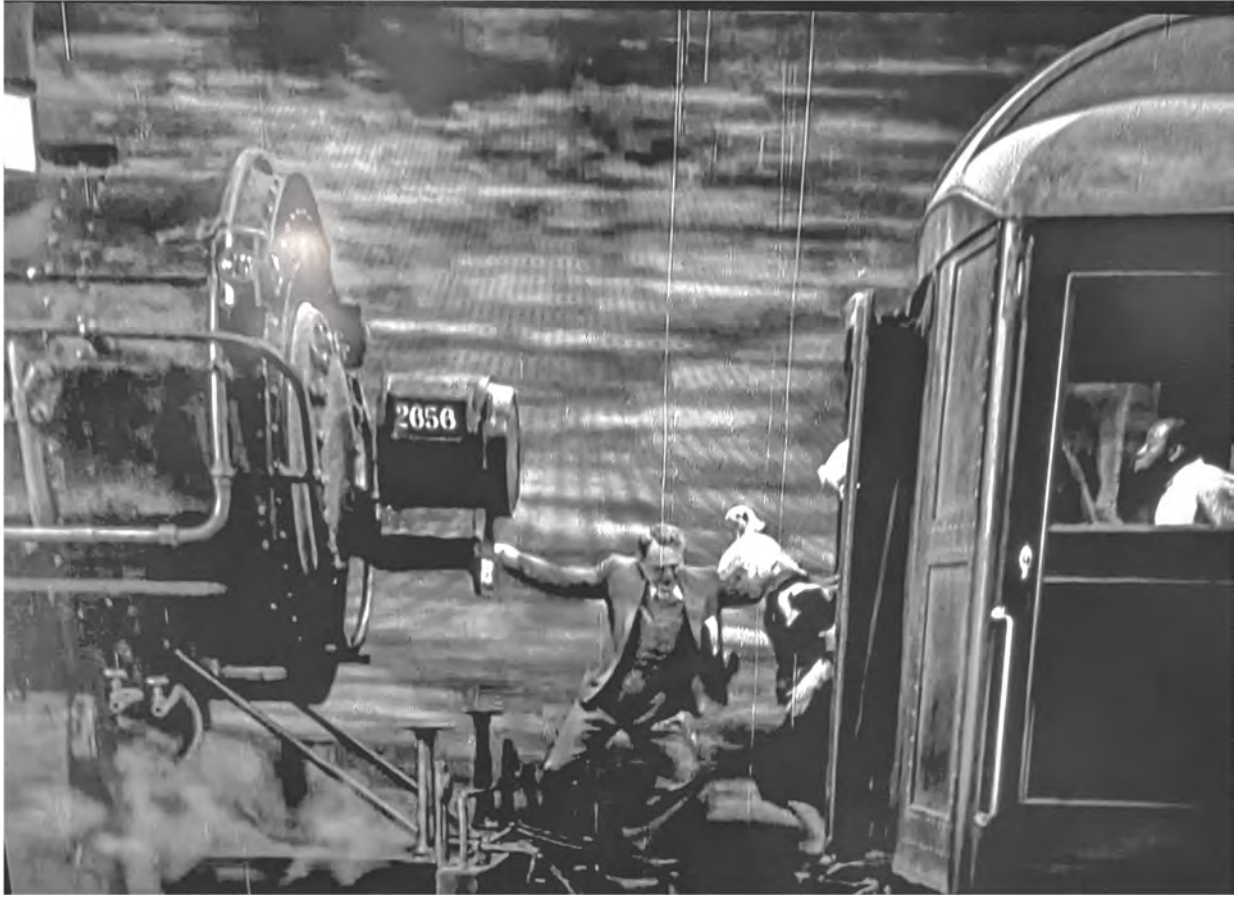
After a bit of illusion, the real purpose comes out. A psycho is about to kill all of the good guys very traumatically. On the top of a very steep mountain, a henchman steps onto the preceding car and cuts the private car loose. The grade seemed very steep, but that could have been movie magic. At the same time, another train was coming up the hill. All the safety features and the radio on the private car were disabled and there is an additional little trick to insure the death of all. I won’t reveal it, you will have to see the movie. The detective fixed the radio and called the yard (at the bottom of the hill). This is the point that you will all love: run away car careening toward disaster, chasing train which is frantically running backwards away from it. The loose car gets into the yard and there is the fastest series of track switchings you will ever see, both yard switches and tower switches. They did speed some things up, but it was done with great finesse creating an exciting sequence. After the yard they sent another engine out to catch the car. So now we have gone full circle with the car chasing a train and an engine chasing the car.

The good guys won, and the bad guys didn’t. The story has humor and is well done, although in places it is a bit histrionic, probably a carry over from the silent films. It’s well done and stands up to scrutiny. I hope you get a chance to see it.

Gail Yarnall



The Private Car—if you look closely you , you can see “PULLMAN” on the side



Good guys climbing from the run-away car to the chase engine.



Good guys watch as run-away car chases the train downhill.



View of the private car on the guard rails of a bridge.

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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September 2023

Next Crew Call	
When:	September 17, 2pm
Where:	Greene County Historical Society 74 Church St Xenia, Ohio
Program:	A Tribute to Bob Fink by Rick Lach and John Burchnall
Contest:	Freight Cars
Visitors and Guests Always Welcome	