



Call Board

Volume 65 Issue 10

June 2025

Division 3 Website: www.modelraildayton.com

Superintendent Report for June 2025

Congratulations, summer time is upon us. Training Day is behind us and it was a successful endeavor. Ahead is our next division meeting, followed by Rail Fest on 21-22 June, at Carillon Park. I encourage everyone to come to Rail Fest as it is a great event.

Seven division members attended the excellent 2025 MCR Convention in Columbus. The convention was well attended by the region with over 159 people attending which made it a success. We learned a number of lessons about what was good and where improvements could be made. I was asked to make a presentation about next year's convention. The presentation really got many of the attendees excited about our convention. I was impressed about how many folks expressed their interest in attending. That gives me confidence that we are going to put on a great event.

The Convention planning is moving along very rapidly and we will be starting to accept reservations very soon. Now is when we need all of your support. As we get closer to the convention dates (4-7 June 2025), the support efforts will require more of your time. The heaviest workload will take place in the final months before the convention. I ask for all of your

support.

The following areas will need your support. Please offer you support to the applicable team leader. Some of the areas require more effort than others but they are all critical. Below are the areas where we know there are needs now:

- We need division members that can show-off their layouts to volunteer to do so ASAP – Gordon Carlson is leading the Tours Team
- We need volunteers to man the projection effort in each clinic (1-3 clinics on per volunteer/2-3 hours with a break between each clinic.) – Jim Foster is Clinic Team Leader
- Need volunteers to work registration on Thursday AM – Chris Stilson is the Registration Leader 9 (Discover Dayton will help.)
- Need a few volunteers to help in the Company Store/ Consignment Area. Team Leader is Gregg Heeter (Asst – Paul Jenkins).
- Need volunteers to support the Display Set-up on Wednesday evening or Thursday morning – Ed Durkin is Team Leader
- Setup include T-Trak and Argyle Switching
- Contest/Celebration Room will need qualified judges. Ray Persing is Contest Leader (You can get the judging qualification training at the convention.)

T-Trak has become a key part of each convention. The Columbus exhibit displayed and operated over 50 modules in a “double “U” scheme. T-Trak has become an excellent tool for providing members who are interested the opportunity to build a module and display it at each year's convention. A person does not have to be a dedicated N-scale modeler because the small modules are principally the opportunity to work on scenic skills. Each module is not particularly time-consuming, but it does present new members the opportunity to get involved at a minor level. Each module is used at the annual convention to create a large display that is an element of the convention.

The Dayton Train Show November planning will be getting involved in earnest and will require the whole division's support. Be prepared to offer your help. Our next meeting is on June 15 at he Greene County Historical Society. The Contest will be Railroad Structures. Don't forget that our July meeting will be the annual auction, so get your stuff together.

See you all on June 15 at GCHS in Xenia.

The History of Division 3 and the Scouting

Railroading Badge Gail Yarnall

Division 3 has a long history of working with the Scouts on the Railroad Merit Badge. Several men talked to me and asked about the badge. They all said they had gotten their Scout Railroad Merit Badge at our show at Hara Arena. Note that we have also begun to visit Scout Camperees to talk about model railroading and at the last Camperee, a leader approached us with questions about the training, mentioning that he has several members, both girls and boys, who would like to take the class. After our recent TRAINing Day (which includes our Scout RR Merit Badge session), we were curious about the history of the badge and our group.

Today, Div 3 provides a place at our TRAINing Day for the class to be run (thanks to Carillon Park), helpers for the time when the scouts build a train car kit (the kit also provided by Div 3), and plenty of displays, experienced modelers and other amenities to support the scout class. We also arrange for Operation Lifesaver to attend.

From the beginning of Division 3 involvement with the Scout RR Merit Badge, including this year so far, we have had 1279 Scouts who earned their RR Merit Badge. We have sponsored 53 classes since

1998. What exciting numbers! Kirk Perkins (a member of Div 3 and our scoutmaster/leader of the class) was kind enough to dig up these statistics and added a nice history of the early class. Thank you, Kirk!

History of the Scout Railroad Merit Badge:

“I started the class in March 1998 with 31 Scouts that we recruited from our council. This was held at the George Mueller Memorial Spring Train show, which was open to the public and in space, donated by Hara Arena. In the time since, we have had many classes which I have revised the schedule and brought in more outsiders or ‘experts’ in various fields to provide a unique session and has been experienced by over 700 Boy Scouts and their leaders. We have enhanced the class by the use of Operation Lifesaver and making railroading safety one of our primary goals in the education of the Scouts. I also give each Scout a packet of RR information. Members of our division, who would otherwise be throwing them away, donate the back issues of magazines. The highlight of the class for most Scouts is building RR car kits or touring the train layouts at the event that is held in conjunction with the class. I have had kits donated by manufactures, vendors and friends that I use as gifts or rewards for Scouts that do

well on the class tests and oral questioning. Sometimes I use candy or pencils or just some fun games to liven up the six-hour class.”

“That’s a brief summary of what our division has done with this dying merit badge as we have worked to save it. I was asked by Charlie Anderson to join his staff of 76 as a RR Merit Badge Counselor at the 2001 Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill. That was a great experience as we had 2222 Scouts earn the RR merit badge over the two weeks of the Jamboree. More Scouts at the Jamboree earned the Railroading Merit Badge than the next three top merit badges combined! I also learned some of his tricks to putting on outstanding class and met some people that connected me up with resource people in the industry to enhance our class.”

“Well that is a summary on the Railroading Merit Badge class as sponsored by The Miami Valley Division of the NMRA here in Dayton Ohio. We were recently recognized in the September issue of Scouting Magazine on page twelve in the numbers section for our efforts to date. I have worked with three other RR Merit Badge Counselors to start similar classes in other areas of the United States.”

In Service to Scouting, Kirk Perkins, Railroading Merit Badge Counselor

CORRECTION TO MAY CALL BOARD:

We wish to correct the entry from last month’s Call Board regarding

Dalson Cull’s engine for his “Bring and Brag” entry. Dawson brought and “bragged” about a Bachmann Union Pacific 4-8-4 Northern steam engine. He did an excellent job in

describing it and telling us why it was special to him. We erroneously identified the engine picture as belonging to Nate Adams. That special engine belongs to Dalson.

GROWING MODEL RAILROADING

Gail Yarnall

As we approach 2026 two significant things are occurring: the 2026 Mid-Central Convention and the Dayton Train Show's 50th Year. In the midst of this, we are working on finding more members to join us as we "Play with Trains." Our approach, our attitude and our acceptance are all very important tools in moving forward.

I have been a member of this group for 12 years. From the beginning, I was accepted into this group. I know that was almost unique at the time because I am a female in a historically male hobby, and because I willingly admit that my railroading is strictly Fantasy. I fully respect the historical model railroaders. They show us where we came from, and how our railroads developed. What they are doing is very important. I also respect those who model a certain era. However, for my taste and my trains, I want what I want. If I want to hook a cool 1946 car on the Railrunner, so be it. (I wouldn't, but I could if I wanted to.)

Why do I bring this up? Because the attitude of intolerance over scale, era, type of train, sex of the train owner, etc., is what chased me away from other groups. And the acceptance from within this group (along with a gift of a membership from my then boyfriend, now husband) is what started me here. But what keeps me here? My friends. I have so many wonderful friends in NMRA MCR Div3. I so enjoy the meetings and

events so I can interact with my friends. And when the interaction topic is model railroading, it is a win-win.

If we want our group to grow and model railroading to continue to be strong, we have to model (pun intended) the following:

1. Acceptance. This group does a great job of acceptance. If we didn't, I would not be here. Being open to different types of modeling and different types of people is important for our success. You don't have to like or participate in a particular type of modeling, but being willing to accept it and exchange ideas is a huge draw for people who would like to belong to a group of model railroaders.

2. Welcoming. Make it a point to greet a new face. Seek them out. Smile. Ask about their interests. It's not hard since you can share your interests and compare similarities between the two, even if theirs is different from yours.

3. Be flexible. We displayed that when we invited the student from Cedarville to learn more about trains. His project was primarily on designing a Cyber City. They had to have a theme and he decided to make it a train city. Although the main theme was not about trains, we were able to help him. Working with an internet planning expert and helping him with his project is a great example of being able to flex a bit and bring in other avocations to model railroading.

4. Consider seeing how the other half works. For example, you may not model HO, but how about helping to rehab the Argyle? The hope is to feature the Argyle next year at the convention, but hands are needed to help rehab it. We will be working on it in the storage room. Contact J Hedge for further information. Modeling your own scale is your main fun, but what about bailing in and trying something new? Consider building a suitcase layout or a diorama in a different scale. There are plenty of 'teachers' in our group who could answer questions and support your effort.

5. Introduce something new to the group. When I joined my first model railroading group, I had almost nothing in trains: no knowledge and no real connection to the group. I do enjoy cooking however, and they always had a nice mix of snacks at the meeting. I scoured train shows for railroad cookbooks. I scoured the cookbooks for appropriate snacks, made the snack for the meeting and published the recipe in the newsletter (plus had copies at the meeting). I had very little knowledge of model railroading, but I adapted the knowledge I did have and brought it into the group.

6. When the opportunity presents itself, reach out and talk about trains: how much fun they are, what got you started, future plans, or anything else

(Continued on page 4)

Division 3 News Bits
by Rick Lach

CARILLON PARK RAILFEST
UPDATE:

The Carillon Park Railfest is the weekend of June 21 and 22 at Carillon Park, with set-up on Friday, June 20. I will be emailing and calling our volunteers from last year, and we will have the June Meeting on June 15 to nail down our final list. If you are available or have not attended a railfest, why not try it out for size. Railfest is a two-day event at Carillon Park honoring the rich railroad heritage of the Dayton Area by train related displays, train rides on the Park Railroad and the smaller live steam trains, food, a train show, and all the other Carillon Park exhibits. This is the 18th Annual Railfest, and it is a great event for the entire family with plenty of fun for all. Volunteers have the opportunity to attend a volunteer picnic after the Saturday portion of the event with a free train ride on the park train, followed by a picnic (Lee's chicken -- \$10 ticket) and then ride the live steam trains until you are dead tired. Please contact Rick Lach at (937) 426-2025 or email caboose46@sbcglobal.net to volunteer. Hope to see you there.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
(AP) UPDATE:

By the time the membership receives this issue of the Call Board, we will have tried again to evaluate Ray Persing's modules for the Electrical and the Civil Achievement Program Certificates. We were all set to judge on April 19, but a "short" developed in one of Ray's modules causing a cancellation of the judging. We rescheduled for May 25, which is prior to submission of this draft to the editor. We will announce the results at the June 2025 Division General Meeting. We sincerely hope our report will be good news.

A COUPLE OF BIRTHDAYS TO
CELEBRATE:

Division 3 was established on May 29, 1959. So, on May 29, 2025, Division 3 was 66 years old! There are still 2 surviving charter members of the division (that I am aware of): Bill Fearheller and Jim Rhinehart. Happy Birthday Division 3!!!!!!

Also, the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) will be 90 years old this fall. Let us all be aware that our wonderful organization has been around for so long.

PROGRAMS UPDATE:

Wil Davis will be our featured speaker at the June 15 General Meeting. He will speak on Moving a Large N Scale Layout from one location to another and nearly doubling it in size.

Our July meeting will be our annual auction. So start gathering items you no longer need and be prepared to sell or buy items that you think you may need. Wil Davis will be our auctioneer. Plan to attend this meeting and support our

Note: I wish to thank Phil Gliebe for his excellent presentation on How I Made An Engine Shed from Cardboard, Sticks, and Paper. This format superbly discussed how Phil solved a particular problem on his layout by scratch building the structure. All of you who have a layout have probably solved similar issues. Discussing your solution makes for a fantastic clinic which is interesting to all of us. Why not consider putting a presentation together focusing on a situation you solved on your layout or model, and discussing it with the division?

(Continued from page 3)

about them. You don't have to be pushy, but if you want to attract someone to model railroading, telling/showing them about your experiences is a dynamic way to start the conversation rolling. Introduce them to the topic and then if they seem enthusiastic, you can mention that we have an inexpensive membership that

will give them a chance to experience our group. If you are in the position of having a working layout, by all means invite them and a few of our members over to run trains.

Thank you all for the friendship and acceptance over the years I have been with this group. I hope there will be many more. ~~Gail Yarnall



Cass Railroad Station May 2010

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 ...

- June - Railroad Owned Structures
- 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

May

Passenger equipment;

- Kit built - 1st - Mark Stiver -101
- Kit-bashed - 1st - Jim Foster -203

Photo - 1st - Nate Adams

Non-revenue;

- Kit built - 1st - Jim Foster - 102
- Kit -bashed - 1st - Will Davis - 202 & Mark Stiver - 201
- Photo - 1st - Nate Adams

Board of Governors
Superintendent Eric Zimmerman ezrails@att.net
Assistant Superintendent Gordon Carlson gorhenca@gmail.com
Chief Clerk Gail Yarnall grich4440@yahoo.com
Past Superintendent Mark Stiver mstiver@woh.rr.com
Membership Chairman Wil Davis wdavis5069@gmail.com
<i>Call Board</i> Editor J. Hedge hedgejn@hotmail.com
Member at Large Ed Durkin eedurkin@ameritech.net

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.

Official Division Contact

Division 3, MCR, NMRA Inc
PO Box 341233
Dayton, OH 45434-1233

Division Cell Phone:
937-424-6413
Leave a message

Email:
NMRA.DIV.3@gmail.com
NMRA.MCR.Div3.gmail.com

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.



June 2025

Next Crew Call	
When:	June 15, 2PM
Where:	Greene County Historical Society 70 W Church St Xenia, OH
Program:	Moving and Enlarging an N-Scale Layout By Wil Davis
Contest:	Railroad Owned Structures
Visitors and Guests Always Welcome	