



PEDDLER FREIGHT

Division 1 - MCR - NMRA



Volume No. 15 - Issue No.9

The Akron - Canton - Youngstown Division

JUNE 2008

Serving Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Mahoning, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas and Wayne (Except Wooster) Counties



Superintendents Message

Occasionally I try to explain NMRA's operations and advantages to individuals. I'm always looking for other opinions. In the May 2008 issue of *Model Railroad News* I found some very good comments about NMRA. John Sipple, Editor of *Model Railroad News*, has much to say about NMRA in his editorial. (All quotes are from John's editorial).

Model Railroad News is "performing conformance testing on certain specific rolling stock products for NMRA". They will make recommendations for performance warrants to NMRA which will be taken under advisement by NMRA. All testing will

be done by MMR's or specially trained individuals. This means that more items may be reviewed more quickly". John's comments stem from his discussion of this topic and provide another individual's view of the NMRA.

"This process (conformance testing - Ed.) Also reflects the high regard we hold for the NMRA. As the magazine's Editor, I personally believe this association strives to work toward the betterment of model railroading by setting and maintaining standards and goals within our hobby. Is the organization perfect? No. Its membership is made up of some of the most dedicated model railroaders in the hobby. They would be better with more members, but would they be better with more members who weren't as dedicated?" Good question.

"Most of the positions of leadership are held by volunteers, a worthy statement about each one, that they give up so much of themselves and get little more than pride of accomplishment in return".

"So while there are those who complain about the way the NMRA works, I think it works just fine the way it is and attempts to streamline it would be dangerous if not done carefully. It is a large and complex organization that has an arduous and complicated job, and yet it offers so much to interested model railroaders".

"We would like for the large numbers of our readers who are new to the model railroad hobby to see the role NMRA take within the hobby, look it up on the organization's interesting web site, and possibly consider joining. The NMRA offers lots of membership pluses and activities as well as access to all of its resources, so you get quite a lot for your dues".

I want to thank John for the use of his comments. His ideas reflect well on NMRA and model railroading.

David

Web site - div1-mcr-nmra.org

THE CONTEST

Division 1 Officers

Super. - David Hazlett 330-434-4565
Asst. Super. - Bob Ashley Sr 330-644-4778
Treasurer - Bob Ashley Jr. 330-645-6175

Division 1 Appointees

Clerk - Jim Williams 330-996-5477
Editor - Bill Smith 330-644-1434

Division 1 Volunteer Positions

Comm. Chest - Jack Miller 330-882-4872
Web Page Coordinator -
Meetings - Ron Wigal 330-592-1800
Apparel - Bob Ashley 330-644-4778
Achievement Program -
Modules - Bob Ashley 330-644-4778

Mid-Central Region

President - Jerry Ashley
e-mail MCRPREZ@HQ.NMRA.ORG

National Model Railroad Association

President - Michael Brestel
email PRES@HQ.NMRA.ORG
Vice President - Allen Pollock
email VP@HQ.NMRA.ORG

The "Peddler Freight" is published each month September through November and January through June. Opinions expressed in this issue may not represent the opinions of the Editor, Division 1, MCR or NMRA. Subscriptions are \$15.00 a year. Checks payable to Division 1-MCR-NMRA may be mailed to the Treasurer - 3656 Shikellamy Dr., Akron OH 44319-3702

Each month the contest will have three categories for the type of model. The categories will be SCRATCH-BUILT, KIT-BASHED AND KIT-BUILT. The idea behind this is that this should allow anyone to enter anything they are proud of and at ANY skill level.

Judging will be by popular vote at the meetings. However, for anyone wishing to have a model judged by NMRA rules for the Achievement Program (AP), we will attempt to make the arrangements (since Division 1 currently has no active AP person). In all cases we will keep track of points scored as the months go by and at the end of the year (May or June meeting) the total point winner(s) will receive special recognition.

WINNERS FOR 5-18-08:

Scratch-Built: NONE Kit-Bashed: David Hazlett Kit-Built: NONE

CONTEST STANDING (as of 5/18/08):

SCRATCH-BUILT

Don Deakins - 5
Ivan Stasa - 3
Bill Bigler - 1
Dan Williams - 1
Bob Vensel - 1

KIT-BASHED

David Hazlett - 4
Chuck Boyer - 1
Don Deakins - 1
Jim Peters - 1
Ivan Stasa - 1

KIT-BUILT

Bob Ashley, Sr. - 1
David Hazlett - 1

Names are listed by point total with ties in points listed alphabetically. Special Note: Ron Wigal, who keeps track of the voting, does not vote in The Contest. Whenever I have a model in The Contest, I do not vote.

The Contest model types for September 2008 through May 2009 are:

September - Passenger cars	February - M of W equipment (scale cars/track maintenance)
October - Flat cars w/load	March - Stock cars
November - Off-line structures	April - On-line structures
January - Snow fighting equipment	May - Steam locomotives

DONATION ACCEPTED

At the may meeting David Riggle donated several boxes of model equipment and buildings (some built and some in kit form) to Division 1. I do not have the words to adequately thank him for doing this. This is a welcome source of income for the Division. In fact, we have already sold some of the items. The remainder of the items will be for sale at the October, 2009 meeting and swap meet.

David is one-half of the membership from Tuscarawas County and has been an NMRA member since January 1961. I first met David at the Coshocton Club in October 2004. We found some common ground in that I knew where his town of Port Washington was, as I lived in the neighboring town of Newcomerstown for eleven years.

David is to be commended for his thoughtfulness in donating items to Division 1. Thank you, David, for your donation.

David Hazlett, Superintendent

Division 1 Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2008
Host: Bob Ashley, Sr., Akron, Ohio

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 PM by Assistant Superintendent Ron Wigal. 24 people attended. The minutes of April's meeting, as printed in the Peddler Freight, were approved. The Treasurer's report was presented and accepted subject to audit.

Superintendent David Hazlett was concluding an open house for his railroad (as part of the Regional Convention) and was not able to be present for the start of the meeting. The Superintendent's report was presented by Ron Wigal. NMRA membership stands at 97. The June issue of the Peddler Freight will be the last issue until September. No meetings are held in July and August. David recommended that all members use our website (div1-mcr-nmra.org) and view the Peddler Freight there where most pictures are in color. Ron Wigal, after the election will serve as Meeting Chairman and will be in charge of scheduling meetings. The two new officers from today's election will take office after this, May's, meeting. The change in signature cards for the Treasurer should be done by June 1.

Assistant Superintendent's Report:

- 1) Schedule for next year:
 - a. September 21 **open**
 - b. October 19 Bob Ashley Jr's, Div-1 SWAP MEET
 - c. November 16 Whistlestop Hobbies in Cuyahoga Falls
 - d. December **no meeting**
 - e. January 18 Sebring RR Club
 - f. February 15 **open**
 - g. March 15 Youngstown RR Club
 - h. April 19 Dave Athman's, North Canton
 - i. May 17 Randy Dettmer, Hudson
 - j. June 14 Don Bonk's, Louisville
- 2) The roster list was passed around for update.

Old Business:

- 1) It was reported that the Regional convention in Cleveland last week was first class with many events, clinics, a banquet, a silent auction and a raffle. Division 1 had 5 members attend.
- 2) Clothing: two kinds of hats and patches are still for sale plus other items can be ordered
- 3) The module group has not started yet. Bob Ashley, Sr. thinks he will have time to devote to this effort in several weeks. He is ordering enough supplies to build 10 modules and already has the electrical connections for several.
- 4) Buildings: the older kits are now sold out. Bill Smith brought a new kit for both HO and N scales. Each kit makes two passenger shanties. The HO kit is \$25.98 and the N kit is \$19.98.

New Business:

- 1) Election of Officers
 - a. A motion was made to have the Clerk cast a single vote to affirm the slate of officers from the nominating committee. This was seconded, voted on, and passed. The slate consisted of David Hazlett for Superintendent, Bob Ashley Sr. for Assistant Superintendent and Bob Ashley Jr. for Treasurer.
 - b. Twelve ballots were submitted to Marian Athman who reported that all who voted selected the 3 officers on the ballot.
 - c. It was moved, seconded, and passed that we accept the above vote.
- 2) Other Division 1 member activities
 - a. Ron Wigal – Meeting Chairman
 - b. Bill Smith – Peddler Freight Editor
 - c. Jim Williams - Clerk
- 3) Contest suggestions for 2008-2009 were presented by David Hazlett and discussed by the group.

They will be printed in the June Peddler Freight.

- 4) David Hazlett reported that the regional convention is in Columbus next year and you can save \$15 by registering before 08/01/08. It will be April 30 through May 3, 2009 and will be hosted by Division-6. You can find more information on the Div-6 and Mid-Central Region web sites.
- 5) Contest: David Hazlett was the only member to bring in electric powered locomotives which passed everyone's judgment.

The next meeting is on June 8th at Bill Bigler's home in North Canton.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Respectively submitted,
Jim Williams, Division 1 Clerk

Before and after the meeting, Bob, his son and grandson served sandwiches, snacks, and drinks and showed us his railroad which he is breathing life into after a long hiatus. He is preparing to split it and expand it into another room.

N-SCALE NEWS AND VIEWS

This month's topic is decoder installation and the problems that I had installing one in an Atlas GP 38-2. The decoder was a Digitrax DN163AO. This was my first decoder installation, up to this point, all my other engines had the decoders already installed. After doing some research I ordered a few decoders. The decoder that I'd ordered would also work in a few other engines. Being that I had never done an installation before, I wanted to make sure that I was going to do this the right way. After doing the research and reading the information, it seemed very easy to do. You loosen some nuts, slide the frame apart enough to slide the light board out, slide the new board in, tighten the bolts, and you're good to go.

Sounds easy, but it wasn't as easy as it sounds. I had some problems with this installation that I'd like to share. My first problem was with the motor pickups on the board itself, they were on the wrong side of the board. After calling Digirax, I was informed by one of the reps that this is a problem that they are trying to fix. The decoder board should have the pickups on the other side. I was told just to turn the board over and it should work just fine. Also, at this time I made sure that the motor pick ups were isolated from the frame. What I did to do this was to put some tape around the pick ups to make sure that they don't touch the frame. This works very well, and takes the guess work out of the installation.

My next problem was also with the decoder board. The light board that came with the engine was just a little thicker than the one for the decoder, giving me very poor operation, stop and go, and the head light would only work sometimes. After looking at the installation of the decoder board, I noticed that the board was very loose in the frame and the side frame clips that hold the board in on top of the frame. I put my finger on the top of the board and with very light pressure I pushed down. This helped a great deal and the engine ran better and the light stayed on. I needed a way to make a tighter fit between the board and the frame clips on top to keep the board in place.

There were a few things that I could do to fix the problem. I didn't want to bend the tabs down to make a better fit, perhaps making it very difficult to remove the board. So, what I came up with was to add some foam under the board. This seemed to work very well. The foam acted like a little spring and kept some pressure under the board and pushed it up to make good contact with the frame. Now the engine works very well with on problems.

Kurt Sanders

MY THANKS

"parking in the rear" open 7 days

The Whistle Stop Hobby Shop
Trains Plastic Models Remote Control

Kevin M. Hess
Owner
whistlestopobbies@sbcglobal.net
2146 Front Street
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
(330) 928-8984

10 % discount to NMRA members, not valid
with any other offers.

I wish to express my thanks to Ron Wigal for serving as the Assistant Superintendent for the past several years. Ron has been a great help to me. I can't let Ron rest, so, as you may know, I have appointed him to the position of Meeting Chairman.

I also wish to thank Bill Smith for his four years of service as our Treasurer. Bill has also been a source of help to me during the past three years. Bill has agreed to continue as the Peddler Freight Editor, much to my great relief.

The service of these men to our Division is to be greatly commended. Thank you gentlemen.

David Hazlett, Superintendent

June Destinations and Division 1 Meeting June 8 at 2 PM

Bill Bigler of North Canton will host our June meeting. **Bill will plan on supplying snacks and suggests to bring a folding chair.**

Bill indicates the meeting will be held in the basement. Entry is through the front door and down the stairs OR walk to the back yard and go through the sliding doors.

Lucky Bill lives just 4/10 of a mile from Nicks Sales and Service Hobby Shop on Middlebranch Road.

From I-77 take the Everhart exit and go EAST on Everhart to Main Street. Turn LEFT on Main St to MAPLE St. Turn RIGHT on Maple St. next to the Hoover Plant. Maple St. will change name to EASTON when you cross over MARKET St. Continue on Easton until you reach Middlebranch. Turn LEFT on Middlebranch and go past NICKS until you reach WERNER CHURCH Rd. Turn LEFT on Werner Church Rd. Turn RIGHT on SARATOGA HILLS. We are the third (3rd) house on the right. 7325 Saratoga Hills.

You may park at the Club House across the street if

street parking is full. Contact Bill at 330 493-9757.

Bill looks forward to seeing all of us at our last meeting until September. (*Editor*).



Subscriptions Due for 2008-2009 Issues of the Peddler Freight!

Many THANKS to all the 51 NMRA members who "donated" \$15.00 for a subscription to Division 1's **PEDDLER FREIGHT**.

Our NMRA membership in Division 1 has been about 100 with increases and decreases, but the 100 is a good gauge of our membership in Division 1's area.

With 51 subscriptions at \$15.00 each we generated \$765.00. However, our costs to produce and mail the issues to all 100 NMRA members is \$1,255.50 not including this issue.

Obviously changes will need to be made. What those changes are, we are not sure yet. We would like to continue to distribute the **Peddler Freight** to all NMRA members as a service to the membership.

I hope, as well as other Officers of Division 1, that more NMRA members will subscribe for the upcoming season which begins in September.

Robert S Ashley, our new Treasurer, is now accepting your \$15.00 donation for a subscription. Mail your check for \$15.00 to Robert Ashley at 3656 Shikellamy Drive, Akron Oh 44319-3702. Make your check payable to **Division 1 - MCR - NMRA**.

"Blue Lantern Award"

Awarded to Chuck Boyer at the Port City MCR Convention - May 2008

This is the 25th Blue Lantern awarded since it's inception on September 1995. The award is sponsored by "Narrow Gauge Car Shop" in Shiremanstown, PA and William Nesbit, Achievement Program Chairman, Mer. Susquehanna - Division # 11.

The Blue Lantern Award . . . is for a judged contest model containing no more that 40% commercial parts, that best represents an example of either branch or short line operating equipment and/or facilities.

Railroad lanterns were used by railroad personnel to signal the engineer either from the track or from the rear of the train, or to warn other trains of a problem on the track. The various colored globes had different meanings. They are as follows:

Clear Normal day to day signaling

Red Danger, stop train and await instructions

Yellow Warning, go slow, proceed with caution to the next signal

Green All Clear

Blue Warning, personnel working on tracks, or on nearby stopped train, or another line, proceed with caution

Therefore the "Blue Lantern Award" is the appropriate colored globe with an original railroad style lantern to be awarded to - Dinon Boyer - for the model on HO.

Certified by Natalie M Mine

(Photo courtesy of Bob Ashley on reverse).

