

Train Order

Division One NCR

Volume 35, Issue 8 March 2010



Cab Signals

Fred Lux, superintendent

By the time our March meeting rolls around, spring will officially be here. This is the time of the year when model railroading activities tend to start to take a back seat to outdoor activities for most of us. For others, whose railroads are outdoors, the work and play season is just beginning.

We have three meetings left for this club year. We also have a lot of things that are going on in the next couple of months.

I hope to have the final information on the Anderson's freight car repair facility to announce at the meeting. I will be sending a special email out with all the details as soon as I have them.

Our program this month is being presented by Bill Jacob. Bill is going to be documenting how he has prepared the room in his basement for his new layout. It should be interesting to see a new layout room, and layout come to life.

I spent some time at our featured layout taking pictures last week. It was my first visit to this layout. Those of you who have not seen Dave Miller's z-scale empire are in for a treat! It is amazing how much railroading you can pack into a L-shaped layout that is 13 X 14 feet. If my calculations are correct, this would equate to a little under 40 X 40 in HO scale.

Everyone should have received the special printed edition of the Hot Box by now. Be sure to take time to mark your ballot for region officers and mail it back. Also, please take time to take a close look at

the registration information for the region convention.

I hope to see you at the meeting Friday, March 26.

Minutes February 26, 2010 Division One Meeting Chuck Williams, Chief Clerk

Attendance: 28

Meeting called to order at 7:38

The Minutes of the January meeting were approved.

Old Business: Information about a possible tour of the Anderson's railroad facility is still being investigated. It would be scheduled for the 2nd or 3rd weekend in April if arrangements can be worked out.

New Business: Jim Treadaway will research a possible cabinet to store our AV equipment at the church. He will report at the next meeting.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:47.

There was a brief Power Point presentation by Ray Huber.

Show and Tell featured structures and misc. other items.

Steve Kellogg presented the second part of his clinic on scenery construction, focusing on rock casting using aluminum foil to create the molds.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Kellogg's Korner
By Steve Kellogg

A big thanks to Ray Huber for his "wordless" clinic. It was a very interesting concept.

I hope everyone was able to get something out of my scenery clinic. I have decided to finish up the rocky hillside I started. That way everyone will get to see what it looks like "finished". I am going to work on it over the summer and bring it in at the September meeting.

I want to thank everyone who came to see my layout last month. Like I said, those of you who hadn't seen it a while were surprised. Once I get the staging yard in this summer, I will be looking for operators.

This month's show and tell, like last months is structures. This time though, you can bring any type of structure, not just small line side structures. If you have one you haven't built yet, bring it so we can all see what you will be doing. (Does this mean I can bring a built-up? – editor)

Remember, extra door prize ticket when you bring something for show & tell.

Next month is our annual Modelers Showcase. This is NOT a contest. Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring something. This includes Locomotives, rolling stock (freight or passenger), structures, photographs (prototype or model). You can even bring in railroadiana to show.

Tina and I hope to see all of you at the meeting

Layout of the Month

This month, Dave Miller's Z-scale empire is our featured layout. Following is Dave's description of his layout.

The Cascade Mountain Railroad is a large L-shaped Z-scale layout with mountainous scenery. I has a double helix and can operate 5 trains at once. Some of the more spectacular features include a working drive-in theater, a large and highly detailed refinery, and a container terminal. There are many small

detailed scenes. This layout was featured in the 1997 issue of Great Model Railroads, and was on the 2007 National Convention tour. Control is DC.

Those of you who have not seen Dave's layout at all, or recently, are in for a real treat. It is amazing how much railroading you can pack into a z-scale layout. Dave's layout will be open from 11 AM – 7 PM on Saturday, March 27, and from Noon – 5 PM on Sunday, March 28. As usual, the address is in an email, and maps will be available at the meeting.



The Ops Box

By Fred Lux

It has been a while since the Ops Box column has appeared in our newsletter. Even so, operations are alive and well. Just this past Tuesday evening I was fortunate enough to be invited to an ops session on James Treadaway's Stinky Creek Railroad. I had forgotten what a fun railroad the Stinky Creek is to operate on. There is very little pressure on the operators, unless you happen to be in one of the busier yards. And the refreshments provided by his wife were an added bonus.

The Southeast Michigan OPS weekend (April 23 – 25) is fast approaching. This is a marathon operating weekend, with one ops session Friday evening, two on Saturday, and one Sunday morning. Some of the finest operating layouts in the Detroit area are open for ops this weekend. While aimed at experienced operators, those new to operations are welcome and will be taught how operations work. I do not know if there are any open positions left at this time or not. Their web site is www.semichops.org

Don Bigney is finishing up some fine tuning and rewiring on his Big Knee Valley layout. Watch for an ops session there in the next couple of months.

This past month the Wabash Road Show layout resumed operations after being torn down and taken to Hartford, CT for the National Convention last summer. For those of you unfamiliar with the layout, it is designed to teach the ins and outs of operating with car cards and way bills. Both experienced and those new to operations are welcome. There are at least two more sessions scheduled for this spring. If anyone is interested in attending, contact me and I will see if and when there might be an open slot or two.

Following is a list of the local ops sessions that I am aware of. Remember that it is not polite to show up at a session uninvited. If you are interested in operating on any of the layouts listed, contact the owner to see when it would be convenient for you to come.

Ops Sessions for March - May

Great Northern - Jerry Sahagian - 419-843-4438

Informal ops on a weekly basis. Up to 8 slots available.

Stinky Creek – Jim Treadaway – 419-382-2097

Formal ops once a month. 7 slots available.

Big Knee Valley – Don Bigney – 419-475-8816

No regular schedule. Call for a session.

River Falls & Eastern – Larry Hickman – 419-833-3851 or email hickman@wcnet.org.

Regular ops the first Saturday of the month. Contact Larry to be added to the Extra Board. If emailing, use OPERATIONS as the subject.

Upcoming Events

Tour of Andersons Freight Car Facility

April - Date not yet determined

Bucyrus Model Railroad Assoc Train Show

Saturday, April 10, 10 AM – 4 PM
Crawford County Fairgrounds

Spring Model Railroad Show – Maumee Rec Center

Sunday, April 25, 11 AM – 4 PM

Division One Meeting

Friday, April 23, 7:30 PM
Annual model and photo display

SE Michigan Ops Weekend

April 23 – 25 www.semichops.org

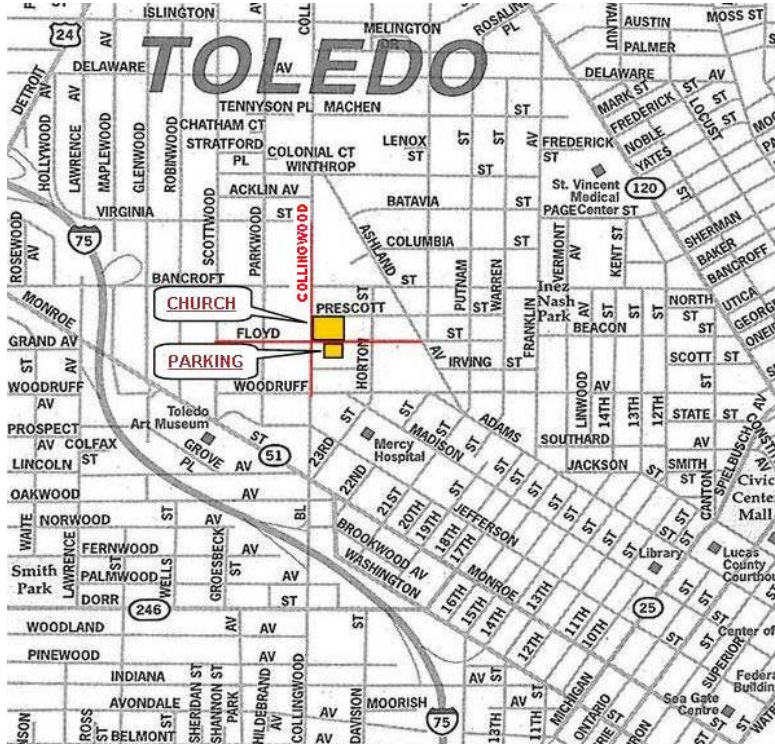
Division One May meeting & BBQ

SATURDAY, May 14
Tour Jim White's G-Scale Garden layout
Details about tour and BBQ coming later

Next Meeting – Friday, March 26

Collingwood Presbyterian Church

7:30 PM



CURRENT OFFICERS (2009 - 2011)

Superintendent -Fred Lux fred@fredlux.com

Assistant Superintendent -Dave McMullian ... davemcmullian@earthlink.net

Chief Clerk -Chuck Williams..... cwillia4@verizon.net

Agent -Phil Kauffman..... pennsy6401@bex.net

News Editor -Fred Lux –

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Service Chair -Steve Kellogg