

Train Order

Division One NCR

Volume 36 Issue 5 February 2011



Cab Signals Superintendent Fred

It is almost the end of February, the snow is almost gone, and heaven forbid, there are only a couple of months left in serious modeling season before the great outdoors draws us out of the house. I do not know about you, but I am ready for spring and WARM weather. For some of us, this winter has inspired a hot bed of activity in our participation in our hobby. However, for others of us (me included), it has merely inspired procrastination. Maybe next winter I will get my old layout ripped out and benchwork started for the new one.

A year or so ago, we saw the birth of a new online publication called Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine. <http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com> I am sure that many of you have checked it out already. If you have not, this should be put on your to-do list. Now I have another site that I stumbled across that definitely should be on your to-do list. Welcome to the Rail Channel. It sounds like this should be something that you watch on your cable TV, but in actuality this is a broadcast service via the internet <http://therailchannel.com/index.htm> According to their web site, programming is changed every Sunday, with five new videos presented throughout the week. (New means changed from last week, not brand new, never before seen.) Following is a description of the channel from their web site:

In February, 2009, Aaron Gonthier, President of Black 5 Productions, LC started working on a business plan to create a web service that would play programs of interest to railroad enthusiasts. The Rail Channel would be a commercial entity, supported by the sale of advertising space within the video stream.

What you see today is the first phase of this effort. The Rail Channel is a collaboration between Black 5 Productions, LC, a film production company located in Springfield, Vermont and The Sign Loft in Claremont, New Hampshire in The United States of America. Contributors come from around the world and represent some of the best railroad video producers in the world today.

We welcome any program suggestions, new program producers and new advertisers. Just fill out the form on the Contact Us page and someone will answer your questions promptly.

Chuck Williams sent out an email to the board informing us of a schedule change for April. Because of a conflict at the church, the April meeting has been changed to Friday, April 29. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

This is an election year for officers of Division One. Each of the officers is finishing up their first two-year term in their respective office. It has become almost tradition that officers are re-elected to a second term, unless they have really messed up in the fulfillment of their duties. This year will be a little different. As my hearing continues to deteriorate, I find it more and more difficult to fulfill my duty as Superintendent. I need to rely on others at the head table to tell me what is being said during a meeting. Talking on the phone is very difficult. I do my best to compensate, and do it well enough that I do not think most people realize how bad my hearing is. (After my last hearing test, my doctor told me that I was classified medically as "profoundly deaf".) I have already resigned from all other boards that I served on for this reason, with one exception. I sit on the governing board of the Monroe County Library System. The library system has assigned me an interpreter that sits beside me at board and committee meetings. She is a very fast typist and, using a laptop computer, types a running synopsis of what is being

said so that I can effectively fulfill my board duties. At Division meetings, I catch about 30% of what is being said. During discussions, I prod Chuck for repeats so that I can follow. I usually can't follow programs at all, unless there are effective use of video, and effective use of the sound system, with the volume up a little. When I talk with you one-on-one, I am reading your lips as well as hearing some of what you say. Unlike normal hearing loss, volume is not the only issue. I also have a problem with distortion. Imagine listening to your car radio set to an AM station, but tuned a little off frequency so that it is distorted. This is what I hear all the time.

Last fall, I asked Bruce Birkenkamp to serve as the nominations chair, with the task of presenting a slate of officers to the club at the April meeting. Bruce is now faced with the task of finding someone who is willing to step forward and accept a nomination for the office of Superintendent. If you would be willing to accept a nomination for this office, please let Bruce know.

A couple of months ago, I announced that NCR has our Division slated to host the 2014 regional convention in Toledo. We need to start laying ground work for this convention this year. A target convention date needs to be set, talks need to be started with the convention bureau, and a venue for the convention needs to be selected. We need to get a general convention chair appointed and a planning committee up and running. I had planned to do make appointments this spring. However, with my decision not to run for a second term, I think the incoming Superintendent and board should make the appointments, since they will be working with the convention chair and committee during most of the planning. They convention chair should be good at delegating responsibility and making sure that everything is happening on schedule. The chair should be someone that is organized, can see the big picture, and then is content to let the various committees do their work, rather than micro-managing everything. If you think you would like to tackle this job, please let me, or another board member know. In the meantime, I have asked Dave McMullian to start making contact with the Toledo Convention Bureau and to start the process of finding potential venues.

Last spring, Bill Jacob put on a program focusing on the design of his new layout. It was very well done and very interesting. This Friday, Bill will be presenting the second part of his program, showing us what has happened to his layout over the past year. I am looking forward to another interesting program from Bill.

Finally, just a reminder that we have two featured layouts scheduled for March and April. Steve Kellogg has offered to open his layout to Division One members in March, and Chuck Williams has offered to open his layout in April. I think Chuck will be featuring his new On30 layout, rather than his HO layout. More details will be forthcoming in the next newsletters.

See you all at the meeting.

DIVISION ONE NCR

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2010 MEETING

Called to order at 7:35pm at Collingwood Presbyterian Church. Attendance: 21.

Visitors aere recognized: Keith Julius.

Minutes from the November 2010 meeting were approved as printed in the Train Order.

Reports: Dave McMullian reported that Bob Luzenski from Division 5 NCR in Lansing would present the program in January, Bill Jacob in February, Bob Giacci from Classic Metal Works in March, and Jeff Frye from the Saline Road Show in April.

There was no library report.

Steve Kellogg reported that one five car set and one single car are all that are left from the Division cars.

Ray Huber reported that the web site is back on line after having some problems.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:43.

Following refreshments, the annual Christmas auction was held.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05.

DIVISION ONE NCR
MINUTES OF THE January 28 meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm at Collingwood Presbyterian Church. There were 31 in attendance.

Minutes of the December meeting will be presented and voted at the February meeting.

There were no reports from most of the officers. However, Steve Kellogg reported that only a very small number of our club cars are still unsold.

There was no old business and no new business.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Following refreshments, Bob Luzenski of Division 5 NCR in Lansing presented a program on the use of LED's in model railroad lighting, both in scenery and in model engines and cars.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Kellogg's Korner
Steve Kellogg

I finally sold the last set of Division cars. I will pay Phil at the meeting. This closes out our Division cars. I still have all. or most of, the original paperwork from when we started this project. It includes notes, photos of proposed cars we could have done, etc. What should I do with all of this? Give it all to our Division Historian/Librarian or what? I will have this stuff at the meeting.

Show and Tell for this meeting will be:

A car or loco decorated for your favorite prototype railroad. When you talk about your item, also tell us why , or how, you became interested in that railroad. For you free lancers, what, if any, prototype railroad you are trying to emulate or are based on.

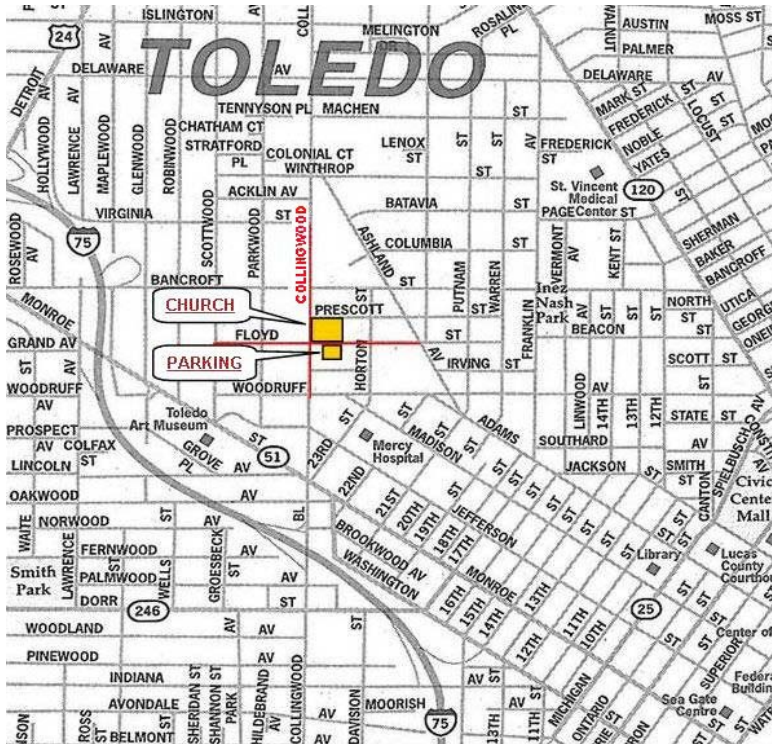
Hope to see everyone at the meeting.

Steve and Tina

Next Meeting – Friday, February 25

Collingwood Presbyterian Church

7:30 PM



Superintendent -Fred Lux..... fred@fredlux.com
Assistant Superintendent -Dave McMullian ... davemcmullian@earthlink.net
Chief Clerk -Chuck Williams..... cwillia4@frontier.com
Agent -Phil Kauffman..... pennsy6401@bex.net
News Editor -Fred Lux –
Program Chair -Steve Kellogg atsfmktrock@yahoo.com
Service Chair -Steve Kellogg.....