

Train Order

Division One NCR

Volume 36, Issue 7

April 2011



Cab Signals

Fred Lux, Superintendent

Well, it is April. Mother nature has been teasing us relentlessly for the past couple of months, letting us know that warm weather is coming, but not letting it happen. It is like the proverbial Donkey with the carrot. April also may tend to bring about a sense of panic. As we look at our layout, or the area where the layout exists in our minds, we find ourselves thinking of all the things that we were going to accomplish this winter, but didn't get around to. Some of us have good excuses. Others of us are recycling excuses already used.

I visited Jerry Sahagian's layout the other evening and was amazed at what he has accomplished over the winter. He has been working hard on scenery, and it shows. While touring his layout, he pointed out where he hoped to be by the end of the year. Don Bigney has been devoting lots of time to detail work on his layout. While most of his scenery is complete, he is now at the stage where he is redoing things. He is discovering that there is a life span to how long signs printed on color printers last before the ink fades. He is painting things that have been on the round to-it list for years. And he is thinning out things that he realizes that he will never use again. (Rumor has it that there will be a couple of boxes of stuff from his layout at the April meeting priced

very attractively.) I, on the other hand, have progressed from thinking about ripping out my old layout to cogitating about bench work for the new layout. I gave serious thought this winter to applying for a procrastinator's award, but never got around to it.

I don't know about you, but I really enjoyed the March meeting. Bill Giacci presented a great program showcasing his company, Classic Metal Works. I found it very interesting to see the entire process, from research and design, to manufacturing, and finally distribution. Everyone who was at the meeting went home with a 1950's era pickup truck. Bill also donated ten items for the door prize table. Five were given away at the March meeting, while the other five will be given away in April and May. Thanks Bill for your generosity.

The program for April is a complete change of pace. John Young, who is a member of the Rails on Wheels model railroad club in Saline, and also a part of the Operations Road Show, Wabash Style group is going to present a program on operations. This program will focus specifically model railroad operations using car cards and train orders. In addition to the program, the Wabash Road Show group has scheduled an operating session for Division One members on their layout in Saline for Saturday, May 7. The session will begin at noon and run all afternoon. Because space is limited,

preregistration is a must. We will have a sign-up sheet at the division meeting for those interested in attending. Remember because of Easter, the April meeting is being held on the 5th Friday of the month, not the normal 4th Friday.

At the last meeting, we took time to discuss the upcoming regional convention scheduled for Toledo in the fall of 2014. Many members of Division One had concerns about putting a a convention in Toledo just a couple of months after the NMRA national convention scheduled for Cleveland the summer of 2014. Based on the general concerns and reservations of the membership, I have informed Jack Watson, NCR president, that 2014 is not an option for us. As we speak, he is working on getting the venue for 2014 moved, and Division One scheduled to host the regional convention in 2015.

I am constantly getting emails about railroad related items, both model and prototype. Every now and then I come across one that I think members of Division One will be interested in. The following announcement was forwarded to me by Bruce Ernatt. It focuses on a new rail-cam in Fostoria, Ohio. The email, in its entirety, follows:

This past hour, a live video camera was activated in Fostoria! Now we can see both the CSX and NS in Fostoria live. A video camera was mounted on the side of the Rail Bar. Go to <http://www.greatlakeslive.com/fostoria.html> to watch the action.

BTW, the owner of the Rail Bar, Ray Jones, is a railfan. Inside, he'll have the video feed on a large TV and ATCS on another TV. What a great place to watch trains and have something to drink. Patronize this rail fan

for permitting us to put this camera on his building free of charge.

Also, you'll not only see, but hear the trains in real time. No motion activation. The camera will run 24/7. A big, special thanks to Mike Kisser for this and the live audio stream of Fostoria.

Chuck Williams is the host of the featured layout this month. Many of you have had an opportunity over the years to see his HO layout above his garage. This layout is fully operational and completely sceniced. However, the garage layout is subject extreme cold and warm weather, so it is not available year round. Chuck decided to address this problem a couple of years ago by designing an On30 layout that would fit into a spare bedroom. What began as a small switching shelf layout along two walls has evolved into a layout that fills the entire room. For many of us, this will be our first opportunity to see Chuck's new layout. His HO layout will also be open. More details about the layout open house appear later in the newsletter.

Remember, Division One meets the 5th Friday of this month, April 29, because of the Easter holiday. Hope to see you all there.

Elections, elections, elections!

As you know, Bruce Birkenkamp has been working on a slate of officers for the May election. The slate will be officially presented at the April meeting. Also, the floor will be opened for additional nominations. Voting will be done at the May meeting. The slate is a follows:

Fred Lux, Superintendent
Dave McMullian, Assistant Superintendent
Chuck Williams, Chief Clerk
Phil Kauffman, Agent
Steve Kellogg, program and house committee
chair

In addition to the above elected positions, there are two appointed positions that need to be filled. John Roth announced at the March meeting that he was going to have to give up his responsibilities in Division. John has worked had in assembling and managing the Division DVD lending library. We now need someone who is willing to step in and take over management of the library. If you think this is something you would like to do, please talk to John to see what is involved, and also talk to me. Also, John has been acting as the information officer for the Division. This primarily involves writing a short article every couple of months to submit for inclusion in the Hot Box. This article is simply a brief overview of what has been happening in the division, as well as upcoming events. If you are interested in this job, talk to me.

I know that earlier in the year I indicated that I would not run for a second term as superintendent because of my hearing handicap. The members of the board have convinced me that it is more of a concern to me than it is to anyone else. They have also come up with some suggestions of ways to work around the handicap. It is with their support that I have allowed my name to be put on the slate for another term.

Kellogg's Korner **Steve Kellogg**

A big thanks goes to the guys from Classic Metal Works for their informative presentation, and generous donations at our March meeting.

The "Great Pop" debate and experiment is over and the results are in. By a VAST majority, Coke and Pepsi have won out over "store brand" pop. Starting with the April meeting, Coke, Diet Coke, Pepsi and Diet Pepsi will once again be served. The store brand Black Cherry will also be served. That was the only store brand you actually liked.

This month's Show and Tell is: Passenger car.

See all of you at the meeting.

Division One **Minutes of March 25, 2011** **Chuck Williams, chief clerk**

Collingwood Presbyterian Church, Toledo, OH
Attendance: 31

Meeting called to order at 7:32pm by Superintendent Fred Lux.

Minutes of the January 2011 meeting were approved. Since the February meeting was canceled by inclement weather, there are no minutes for February.

Superintendent Lux opened a discussion of the 2014 NCR convention which Division One is scheduled to host. Among the points which came up is that Cleveland will host the 2014 National NMRA convention and the host group

wants to have a tour bus visit to Toledo layouts during the convention. It has been suggested that having a national convention in that close a proximity to Toledo just two or three months before the regional convention will have a major adverse effect. Delaying Toledo's turn until at least 2015 was suggested. Dave McMullian and Superintendent Lux both stated that they will raise the issue at the next regional board meeting.

In other business, John Roth stated that he was stepping down as both Division Librarian and Division Information "informer" to the Hot Box.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:42. Bill Giacci of Classic Metal Works, headquartered in Sylvania, presented a clinic on his company and its products, how they are designed, manufactured and marketed. Afterwards he answered questions and presented persons present with sample products of the company. The presentation ended at 8:36.

After refreshments, at 9:04, there was the door prize drawing and a Show and Tell.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25.

National Train Day festivities

The coming of spring not only heralds the arrival of April showers and May flowers, it also signals that it is time for National Train Day. While the official National Train Day is set for Saturday, May 7, many local communities are using different dates dictated by the availability of equipment from Amtrak and other participants. The following information for the

Toledo, OH celebration of National Train Day is copied from the official web site.

Toledo Amtrak Station

415 Emerald Avenue

Toledo, OH 43604

Event Date: 04/30/2011

Start Time: 9:30 a.m.

End Time: 4:00 p.m.

Event Description: Our 4th annual National Train Day will be held on Saturday, April 30 at the Toledo Amtrak station. The day begins with an Opening Ceremony featuring national, state and local speakers, followed by an open house. The open house will include a tour of an Amtrak train and an NS locomotive, displays by various rail history and advocacy groups, five working model rail displays, music, food, and children's activities, all celebrating the past, present and vision of rail in Northwest Ohio/Southeast Michigan and the country.

Featured Layout

Chuck Williams is hosting the monthly layout open house this month. He will be open from 1 PM – 5 PM on Sunday, May 1. This is the Sunday following the meeting. His address is included in the email announcing this month's Train Order. He will also be able to give people directions at the meeting. Both his HO layout and his new On30 layout will be open. For many, this is the first opportunity to see the On30 layout. Be sure to put the date on your calendar.

Pictures on the following page are of Chuck's On30 layout.



"Fensters" Photo by Chuck Williams



"Forney – front" Photo by C. Williams



"Forney – rear" Photo by C. Williams

Highlights from NMRA Wnter Board Meeting

NMRA merchandise

The Board unanimously agreed that in the future all merchandise sold by the NMRA, including by Regions and Divisions, must conform to any applicable NMRA standards. Questions about certifying whether products conform to standards should be directed to Didrik Voss, who heads the Standards and Conformance Department.

Achievement Program's 50th anniversary

The 50th anniversary year for the popular Achievement Program that leads to Master Model Railroader status is at hand, but it's not clear whether it's more appropriate to celebrate that anniversary in 2011 or 2012. AP officials and the Sacramento convention host group are working to resolve the date for the official celebration

Modern clearance standards

The increasing popularity of model railroads set in the modern era has led to requests for an NMRA Standards Gauge that reflects the increased vertical clearances needed for modern railroad equipment such as double-stacks. The BOD approved the addition of two new tables to S-7 to accommodate modern clearances. S&C Department head Di Voss is also investigating an adjunct to the current Standards Gauge that will allow modelers to ensure that overhead structures and tunnel portals will clear modern equipment.

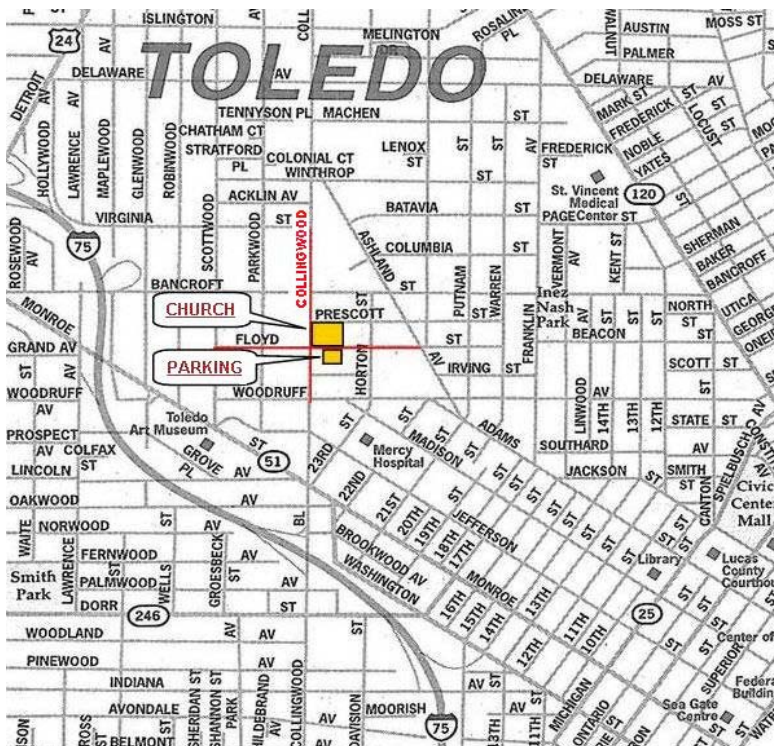
NMRANET standard adopted

The board reviewed two versions of S-9.x.1 for the definition of the physical layer of the layout control bus called NMRANET. The version modified by Didrik Voss, manager of the Standards & Conformance Dept., was adopted. With this approval, the sponsors for the other version will be invited to present their concerns to the Board at the Sacramento meeting. S-9.x.1 was re-designated as S-9.5.1 and will be posted on the NMRA web site.

Next Meeting – Friday, April 29, 2011

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@frontier.com

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

News Editor -Fred Lux –

Program & Service Chair -Steve Kellogg atsfmktrock@yahoo.com

Librarian -John Roth..... jroth@bex.net