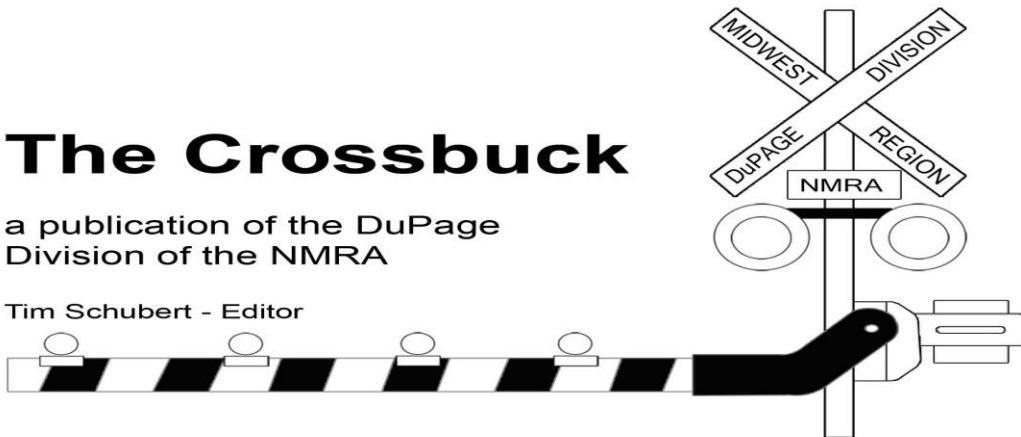


The Crossbuck

a publication of the DuPage
Division of the NMRA

Tim Schubert - Editor



Fall-Winter 2010 Edition

A MESSAGE FROM THE "SUP"

By Keith Lipske – Superintendent

As I write this column summer is just about over and "Model Railroading" season is about to start. We are planning some interesting clinics for this coming year along with our ever popular annual layout tour.

How about adding **your** layout to the tour this year? It doesn't take place until April. That should give you plenty of time to clean track, add scenery or even start a layout. Remember that the layout does not need to be 100% complete. They rarely are. So how about showing us what you have been doing. Every layout we visit whether it's in "our scale" or not is a learning experience for us all. Who knows, I might even have my layout on the tour someday. (Design Phase, Year 2) If you are interested in showing you handiwork, contact our Asst. Superintendent, John Brennan.

We now have a permanent address. You cannot actually stop in for a visit but you can send correspondence to us.

**DuPage Division – MWR – NMRA
P.O. Box 475
Downers Grove, IL 60516**

John Brennan has stepped up to fill the vacant position of Asst. Superintendent for 1 year. We do need people to come forward and help run the Division. In March we will be electing a Superintendent, Asst. Superintendent and Chief Clerk. You can also be a Trainmaster. These people help out in various ways to keep our Division chugging along. The CAL-DIV was dissolved last year because of lack of member participation and another Division is in the same predicament this year. Are we next?

It's **YOUR** Division!! **PARTICIPATE!!**

The "SUP"

2010-11 MEETING SCHEDULE

September 12, 2010

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: The ABC's of Steam Locomotives by Patrick Golden

Contest: Two categories: 1) Box cars – any type, vintage, homemade and even customized ready-to-run cars are invited. 2) Any project worked on for your railroad this summer, instead of maybe just watching soccer

October 3, 2010

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: Car Cards by John Brennan

Contest: Passenger cars – One or more of your favorites, any type, any era

November 7, 2010

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: Show & Tell – Talk for 5 or 10 minutes on your favorite model railroad or prototype subject. Contact Keith Lipske or John Brennan if you would like to share something

Contest: National Model Railroad Month: Motive power – steam, diesel, and electric- the engines we cannot do without to keep trains moving

December 12, 2010

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: Annual Christmas Party

Contest: Holiday season Photo Spectacular – all types of photos from models to prototype in color, black & white, slides and digital formats

January 9, 2011

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: to be announced

Contest: Chicagoland regional rails – Two categories: 1) any equipment from today's railroads 2) remembered fallen flags railroads

February 6, 2011

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: Victorian House by Rob Schiavone

Contest: Railroad Structures – found a lot in rail service and yard facilities: offices, sheds, storage buildings, towers, MOW and repair facilities

March 6, 2011

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: to be announced

Contest: Annual All Categories Model Contest – includes locomotives, cars, buildings, scenic vistas (dioramas) and photos

April 3, 2011

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: Division Layout Tours – Contact John Brennan if you would like to present your layout to the Division

Contest: to be announced in the Winter-Spring 2011 edition of the Crossbuck

May 1, 2011

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: to be announced

Contest: to be announced in the Winter-Spring 2011 edition of the Crossbuck

June 5 or 12, 2011

Program: Division outing to someplace railroad or model railroad related and fun!

*Note: Dates may be subject to change

MEETING LOCATION FOR 2010 and 2011

The Division meetings will be held at:

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
5729 Dunham Road
Downers Grove, IL 60516

The church is at the intersection of Dunham and Jefferson. There is plenty of parking and it is ADA accessible. Nearest major intersections:

North – 55th Street/Maple & Dunham
South – 63rd Street & Dunham

DIVISION OFFICERS FOR 2009-2010

Superintendent – Keith Lipske

Term expires 5/31/11

Asst. Superintendent – John Brennan

Term expires 5/31/11

Chief Clerk – Alan Basic

Term expires 5/31/11

Paymaster – Jim Allamian

Term expires 5/31/12

Trainmasters (All terms expire 5/31/11)

Crossbuck Editor – Tim Schubert

All American Railroad Show Chairman –
Patrick Golden

Membership Chairman – Ron Scharping

Achievement Program Chairman – Rob
Schiavone

Contest Chairman – Charlie Lewis

Trainmaster – Fred Henize

Trainmaster – Doug Krahn

Website: www.mwr-nmra.org/dupage

Additional Trainmaster positions are available, if you are interested in volunteering, please see the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent.

CONTEST NOTES

By Charlie Lewis – Contest Chairman

Contest categories for April and May of 2011 will be announced in the next Crossbuck. Some contests this Fall will have two categories. This was done in the past (last century) more often. The plan is to offer an additional choice to the modeler and to increase variety and to have more things to look at and discuss. Prepare to have something to say when you are a winner and some has questions.

The turnout for the Photo contest the last year was outstanding, especially including some of our new members from what I shall respectively refer to as DuPage Division's new Calumet Subdivision.

Anyone can win any of these contests. Be not lulled into believing popular vote format is not important. Your work is being judged

by fellow experts. In the interest of fairness, always give the competition best wishes for a limited amount of success. Thanks.

REPORT OF THE 2010

ALL AMERICAN RAILROAD SHOW

By Patrick Golden – AARR Show Chairman

The Division had another successful All American Railroad Show this past March and was able to generate a grand total profit to the Division of \$1,812.94. In comparison, our three previous years generated profits of \$3,118.78 in 2009, \$1,583.64 in 2008, and \$1,901.33 in 2007. The 2009 profit is a bit skewed because the Division also ran the concessions that year and added that profit of \$798.91 to the bottom line. Without the concessions, the profit from the 2009 show alone was \$2,319.87, a bit more in line with what we would normally expect.

Our net gate (the take at the door after the money used to make change is deducted) was \$5,761.00 compared with \$6,827.00 in 2009, \$5,225.46 in 2008 and \$5,309.95 in 2007. Attendance at this year's show was in neighborhood of 1,600 (those over the age of five) based on the net gate and number of passes turned in at the door. Using the same criteria, attendance at the 2009 show was close to 1,900.

Total expenses, which includes postage, office supplies, printing, advertising, coffee, donuts and lunches, came to \$2,400.76 compared with \$2,261.07 in 2009, \$2,150.70 in 2008 and \$1,696.15 in 2007. Expenses across the board increase year to year as is usual with the biggest variance resulting from the number of lunches the Division provides to the exhibitors.

Our contractual 50/50 split arrangement with the school resulted in a payment to the school of \$1,680.12 compared with \$2,282.96 in 2009, \$1,537.64 in 2008 and \$1,806.90 in 2007. A donation jar set out for coffee, donuts and lunches netted the Division an additional \$132.82 bringing the

Division's total profit from the gate and donations to \$1,812.94.

Our Division had a table at the show and I need to send a heartfelt thank you to those who staffed it throughout the day.

Kalmbach Publishing graciously donated three one-year subscriptions to *Model Railroader* magazine and the fine folks at the Illinois Railway Museum donated four family day passes to the museum. All seven prizes were awarded at the end of the day.

I need to send a sincere thank you to all the individuals who stepped up on the day of the show to collect money, stamp hands, count money and make the bank runs, distribute lunches and do any number of other small tasks that I called upon them to do. For the first time, I actually had too many people on hand and ran out of tasks to assign. Your willingness to help is very much appreciated even if I had no task for you to do.

And finally, if anyone in the Division knows of an individual or group who would like to exhibit at the show, please put me in touch with them. Over the years a group or two has dropped out and another few have downsized to the point where we could certainly accommodate more exhibits. You may have noticed the past couple of years there is a lot of empty floor space that I would love to fill. My goal has always been to put on the best show we can and one the public looks forward to and comes back to year after year. We need to impress them as they walk through the door and I fear we may get to the point where we are not doing that and that is something we need to address sooner rather than later.

Patrick Golden
All American Railroad Show Coordinator

SHORT BLASTS

By Tim Schubert – Crossbuck Editor

Some upcoming model railroading events for your calendar:

September 25 & 26 – **Southland Model Railroad Show** – Oak Lawn, IL

October 9 – **Fall Railroad Swap Meet** – Griffith, IN

October 17 – **St Joe Valley Railroad Train Show and Sale** – South Bend, IN

October 24 – **St Matthias Railroad Train Show and Sale** – Crown Point, IN

November 13 & 14 – **Trainfest** – Milwaukee (West Allis), WI

November 16 – **Southwest Model Railroad and Memorabilia Show** – Joliet, IL

November 20 – **Chatham Rail-a-Rama** – Chatham, IL

November 19 - 21 – **Valley Model Railroad Club Open House** – South Elgin, IL

November 21 – **Peoria Trainfair** – Peoria, IL

December 3 to 5 – **Lake Shore Model Railroad Open House** – Chicago, IL

February 19 & 20, 2011 – **Mad City Railroad Show & Sale** – Madison, WI

March 2011 – **All American Railroad Show at Lyon Township High School** - LaGrange, IL sponsored by the DuPage Division

April 15 to 17, 2011 – **The Badgerland Express** – Madison, WI

See additional details on these events at www.modelrailroader.com/events.

If you know of any other events or are sponsoring an event, please let us know and we'll post it on the Division web site.

NATIONAL & REGION NOTES AND INFORMATION

The Badgerland Express 2011

The 2011 Midwest Region, NMRA, Spring Convention will be hosted by the South Central Wisconsin Division (SCWD) of the NMRA, at the Radisson Hotel, located on the west side of Madison just off Highways 12/18 near West Town Mall on April 15 to 17, 2011.

Blocks of rooms at the hotel have been set aside and start at \$99. There is a wide variety of clinics being presented as well as layout tours. This convention is focused on youth in model railroading and there are several activities especially for them. Check out the details at the website www.nmra-scwd.org.

A MODEL RAILROADING OPPORTUNITY

At the site of our monthly Division meetings, there is a group of young model railroaders. They are the Baden Powell Modular Railroad Club that is a Boy Scout of America Venture Crew. This crew is open to boys and girls age 14 or older. It also welcomes boys and girls as young as 10 years old can also join the crew as an "associate" crew member with a parent or guardian. The Crew meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday and the 2nd and 4th Monday from 7:30pm to 9 pm at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Downers Grove (see Meeting Location section for exact address). If you know of a young person that would be interested or if you would like to volunteer yourself (I'm sure they would gladly welcome, experienced adult help), contact either Cal Christy (630-698-8916) or Wally Kurtz (630-698-4456) or visit their website at www.crew57.org.

FROM THE BACK OF THE ROUNDHOUSE

By Charlie Lewis

Do Overs, Restorations and Repairs – or what I did this summer.

For me this season is not a hiatus to do other things not model railroad related. I try to finish projects on the work bench (disguised as clean-up) and to not stop halfway through new projects that appear out of the blue, such as Do-overs. This clinic helped me access any forward progress and offers some useful ideas when you buy or when someone hands you what was once an operable freight car.

Do-overs. Usually something we have dropped or misread the instruction sheet. This tank car is a classic but not so simple identity switch. This hit me like a well aimed track spike. I could not pass it up. Go fetch your January 2010 Model Railroader and on page 51 is an article on the meat packing industry.



Photo #1

Photo no. 1 of the clinic is my tank car. I have a Tyco Texaco car I wanted to keep (see photo no. 2) which shows the "before." I found another at the Elmhurst train sale in July (from Angelo). Just good luck, I think. But not so simple, the tank portion is not easy to unsnap from Tyco car frames.



Photo #2

Simple, ordinary denatured alcohol removed the Texaco lettering before it hit the silver. Everything was spray painted black. I used a paint thinner wash with Model Master Ghost Grey paint to add some weathering. For "personality" spillage on the dome and underside cleanout plug is a lovely Poly Scale Reefer Yellow mixed as needed with alcohol. Not so simple, no one makes Consolidated Rendering Co. decal lettering. Micro-Scale makes white block and Champ made tank car classification data, but not for this car either. For you decal improvisational fanatics I call them decal bits. A total of 110 separate ones to cover this car, so much for summer time fun and luckily before the heat set in.

Restorations. In photo no. 3, my friend Glen Peisker sold to me a Varney Rock Island box car made of wood and stamped steel from the 1950's.

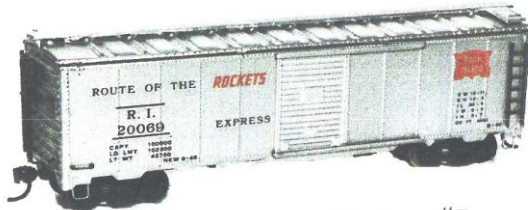


Photo #3

The tabs were not too far bent over so it came right apart. WD-40 and some steel wool removed most of the oxidation and pre-rust on the inner sides which were re-sprayed with WD-40 when the car was re-assembled. It needed a new wood floor, so I was able to reposition the AB brake parts but have not added the brake levers or rods. The floor and frame were sprayed flat black as per routine. I cemented Central Valley ladders with CAC to brass rod bent to fit into the original holes on the car sides and ends. The ladders are slightly raised off the metal

(.020") so the CAC would not damage the silver paint. It has sprung trucks with metal wheel sets of probably non-Varney origins. A vintage car is good to add to the roster. These cars were all gone from the hobby stores before I started in HO.

Repairs. In photo no. 4 (also from Angelo in Elmhurst) I bought this Northwestern refrigerator car to add to the collection (probably fallen flag syndrome).



Photo #4

No Athearn car purchased used ever has all its parts, especially steps and the brake triple valve. And refrigerator cars will have no latches and this one was missing on hatch cover. So, even though the car's colors are pretty, the buyer as usual has to be careful. I had spare hatch covers (simple). Other parts (not so simple) except I have latex molds for the triple valve from Model Die Casting and for a pair of Athearn latches. When I need a small commercial part and can make it, I do, but only if it no longer under patent or not available from any hobby vendors. It is not piracy it has been discontinued by the manufacturer. Other things also got done this summer, but keeping this clinic specific to my freight car projects helps to ease into the Autumn modeling season, lightly, and with thanks for your attention.

-Charlie

FROM THE EDITOR

By Tim Schubert - Editor

Thank you to everyone that provided materials for this edition of the Crossbuck. As always, submissions are welcomed and encouraged from Division members. If you have an idea or thought to share, please consider sending in an article – short or long. Submissions can count towards your MMR achievements.

The **due date for submissions** the Winter-Spring 2010-2011 Edition of the Crossbuck is **December 1, 2010**

TAKING THE CROSSBUCK ELECTRONIC

At our recent planning meeting for this coming season, the board discussed the need to begin to move the Crossbuck to an electronic delivery format via email. This direction was driven by the desire to quickly provide information to the membership of the Division and to conserve the Division resources. The Division is in good financial shape, but in these current economic times we are looking to cut expenses wherever we can much like many groups and business. Many of you have shared your email with National at the time you renew your NMRA membership. This email address is made available to the Division. We are looking to transition to a mostly electronic delivery of the Crossbuck during the 2010 – 2011 season. With that being said, this hardcopy edition of the Crossbuck will be replaced with the electronic version for the Winter-Spring edition that will be sent in late December 2010. You will receive a electronic copy unless we are notified that you would like to continue receiving a hardcopy version. Now, this is not meant to force any member to obtain an email address if they do not currently have one. We will continue to send a hardcopy version of the Crossbuck to those that require it.

An additional benefit of using the electronic format is that we can also use the email addresses to send out timely messages related to Division activities if there is a last minute change to plans or if a model or prototype opportunity presents itself. I have been receiving many other Divisions newsletters electronically and it has not diminished my interest or involvement with the hobby.

Rest assured that your email address will be over-protected and not shared with any other groups or individuals.

If you would like to continue to receive a hardcopy version of the Crossbuck, please see me at one of the meetings or email the Crossbuck editor at tijjr7@att.net. This is my home email address. Please be sure to note in the subject line the words “Crossbuck Hardcopy.”

Thanks for your help with this matter.

**THIS NEWLETTER IS NOTIFICATION OF THE
SEPTEMBER 12, 2010 MEETING. THERE
WILL BE NO POSTCARDS SENT.**

The Crossbuck is the official publication of the DuPage Division of the National Model Railroad Association. Subscription is free to all NMRA members that reside within the boundaries of the DuPage Division. The DuPage Division does not offer any liability from the information contained within this publication.

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Official Publication of the DuPage Division
of the National Model Railroad Association
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Wheaton, IL 60189