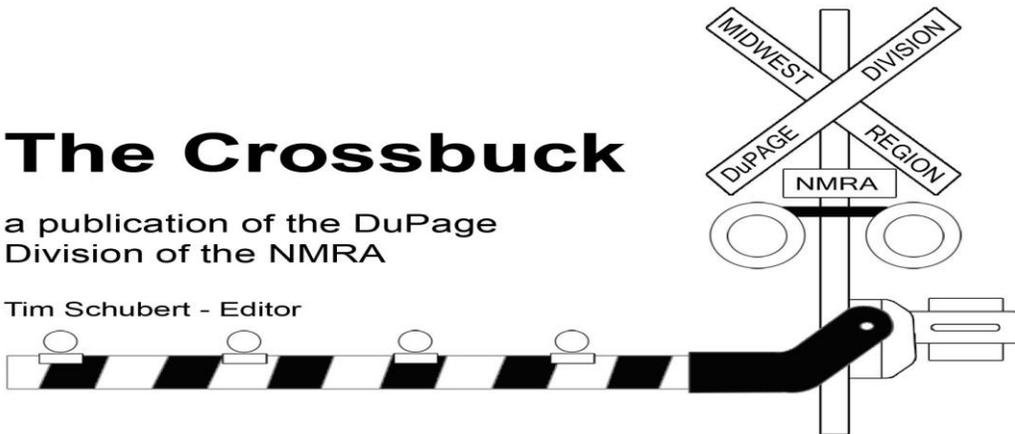


The Crossbuck

a publication of the DuPage
Division of the NMRA

Tim Schubert - Editor



Fall - Winter 2011 Edition

A MESSAGE FROM THE "SUP"

By Keith Lipske – Superintendent

Summer is almost over as I write this column. What a summer!! Rain, Heat, Repeat. Oh did I mention the Tornado that hit Downers Grove. Anyway, enough of that.

Ready for "TRAIN SEASON"? Your BOD is. We have been working on the schedule for this upcoming year and things are starting to shape up rather nicely.

We will have clinics, the popular "Show & Tell", the Christmas party, contests and more. So you need to stay tuned into what's happening. The layout tour this year will feature layouts from the South end of our Division. No, not Florida, but in Channahon, etc. So if you are in the Southern part of our Division and have been itching to have your layout on the tour, well here is your chance. You have until **APRIL 2012** to get it ready.

Want to help out manning a table for the Division at the Wheaton Show? Let Alan

Basic know and he'll get you signed up. Oh did I mention **FREE ADMISSION**.

Also, just a quick thank you, to our officers, committee chairman and trainmasters that volunteered to help run your Division this year.

I know the State Of Illinois and the Federal Government are on slippery ground but we are solvent.

Well that's it for now. Hope to see all of you this year at a meeting.

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

The "SUP"

MEETING LOCATION FOR 2011-12

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

2011-12 MEETING SCHEDULE

September 18, 2011

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: Union Ave. Switching District by Patrick Golden

Contest: Open Loads: all applicable car types including inter-modal and Supporting Characters: The more unusual the more exciting

October 2, 2011

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: Scratch Building Cabooses by John Drozdak

Contest: Favorite Tank Cars, any type or era and Favorite Refrigerator Car, any type or era

November 6, 2011

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: Operations on the Apple Valley Railroad by Fred Henize

Contest: NMRA Month: Favorite steam and/or diesel locomotive. Most overall votes for Best in Show

December 4, 2011

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: Annual Christmas Party

Contest: Pre-Winter Solstice Holiday Season Photo Spectacular. All types, models and prototypes, color, black & white, slides and modern digital formats

January 8, 2012

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: Steel Mill Modeling by Jim Gorski

Contest: Steel Mills: All things related to the creation of steel. Buildings, equipment, rail cars and related motive power...real or simulated hot furnaces and molten metal anyone? (Requested from the Division contest survey)

February 5, 2012

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: Show and Tell Presentations by Division Members - Take 10 minutes and talk about a current project, prototype,

model, whatever you are working on or interested in related to trains.

Contest: Favorite Train: Locomotive(s) with some freight or passenger cars in the division member's favorite time period (Requested from the Division contest survey)

March 4, 2011

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: TBA

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

March tba, 2012

All American Railroad Show at Lyons Township High School Field house – 31st Annual!

April 1, 2012

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: Division Layout Tours – Southern End – Contact Alan Basic or Keith Lipske if you would like to present your layout to the Division

Contest: None due to tour

May 6, 2012

1:30pm at St. Paul's UCC

Program: TBA

Contest: TBA

June tba, 2012

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

*Note: Dates may be subject to change

DIVISION OFFICERS FOR 2011-12

Superintendent – Keith Lipske

Term expires 5/31/12

Asst. Superintendent – Alan Basic

Term expires 5/31/13

Chief Clerk – Richard Strebendt

Term expires 5/31/13

Paymaster – Jim Allamian

Term expires 5/31/12

Trainmasters (All terms expire 5/31/12)
Crossback 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

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

Website: www.mwr-nmra.org/dupage

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

REPORT OF THE 2011 ALL AMERICAN RAILROAD SHOW - 30th Annual!

By Patrick Golden, Chairman - All American Railroad Show

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 \$1,866.13. In comparison, our three previous years generated profits of \$1,812.94 in 2010, \$3,118.78 in 2009, and \$1,583.64 in 2008. 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.

Our net gate (the take at the door after the money used to make change is deducted) was \$5,645.75 compared with \$5,761.00 in 2010, \$6,827.00 in 2009 and \$5,225.46 in 2008. Attendance at this year's show was the average we usually expect and a survey of the door prize registrations indicate we draw from several outlying cities and towns and even a few from out of state.

Total expenses, which includes postage, office supplies, printing, advertising, coffee,

donuts and lunches, came to \$2,082.75 compared with \$2,400.76 in 2010, \$2,261.07 in 2009 and \$2,150.70 in 2008. Expenses across the board can be expected to increase year to year with the biggest variance resulting from the number of lunches the Division provides to the exhibitors, but sometimes leftover office supplies from the previous year can be used and the total costs are offset somewhat.

Our contractual 50/50 split arrangement with the school resulted in a payment to the school of \$1,781.50 compared with \$1,680.12 in 2010, \$2,282.96 in 2009 and \$1,537.64 in 2008. A donation jar set out for coffee, donuts and lunches netted the Division an additional \$84.63 bringing the Division's total profit from the gate and donations to \$1,866.13.

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 six family day passes to the museum. Our own Superintendent, Keith Lipske of Timberline Train Shop in Downers Grove donated a train set. All ten 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, distribute lunches and do any number of other small tasks that I called upon them to do. Your willingness to help is very much appreciated.

We had a LEGO exhibitor at the show for the first time in several years and he was a big hit with the kids. He mentioned to me he will be back next year and will expand his exhibit. The group that exhibits the large (7-1/2") gauge equipment has indicated they might want to expand also. One group that was set to return after a couple years' absence to rebuild was forced to cancel at the last minute due to a family emergency but I expect them back next year.

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. 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.

DUPAGE DIVISION STAFFS BOOTH AT THE GREAT AMERICAN TRAIN SHOW IN WHEATON

By Alan Basic, Assistant Superintendent

On June 5, Gerry Howard and I staffed a booth at the Great American Train Show in Wheaton. We are alternating months with the Fox Valley Division. The purpose of the booth is to increase awareness of the NMRA generally and the DuPage Division and Fox Valley Division specifically.

We arrived about 8:30am, registered at the office, found where our booth was located in Building 1, and set up our display. The display consists of 2 sets of posters describing the DuPage Division and Fox Valley Division. We have assorted handouts and applications to join the NMRA.

The day went by quickly as attendees had questions about the NMRA and model railroading in general. Gerry and I were each able to walk around the show being mindful to ALWAYS have one of us sitting at our booth.

Vendors started closing up about 1:00pm, so we did to. If this had been a "Division Meeting Sunday", there was plenty of time to leave Wheaton and get back to Downers Grove.

DuPage Division members should consider volunteering to staff this event (See article elsewhere in the Crossbuck). It was easy, it was fun and you can earn credit toward Volunteer in the NMRA Achievement Program.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO STAFF NMRA BOOTH AT GREAT MIDWEST TRAIN SHOW

By Alan Basic, Assistant Superintendent

The DuPage Division is helping to staff a booth at the Great Midwest Train Show in Wheaton. We are partnering with the Fox Valley Division. We will be responsible for the following months:

September 11, November 13, January 8, March 11, and May 6.

We will need 2 volunteers for each show. We will have to arrive by 8:45am to register and set up our table before the show opens at 9:00am. We have posters describing our Division and handouts for distribution. One person must always be at the booth to answer questions. The show runs until 3:00pm but many booths start shutting down between 12:30pm and 1:00pm (Plenty of time to work the booth and get to our DuPage Division meeting by 1:30pm).

This is a good way to volunteer for the Division and also see the show. If you are interested contact Assistant Superintendent, Alan Basic. (Email: mabasic5@att.net or call at 630-789-3628)

SHORT BLASTS

By Tim Schubert – Crossbuck Editor

Some upcoming model railroading events for your calendar:

Sept. 24 – **Galesburg Railroad Museum Train & Memorabilia Show** at 248 E. Simmons St, Galesburg, IL 9am to 3pm

Sept. 25 & Dec 18 – **Monroe Model Train Show** at the MBT Expo Center in Monroe, MI

Oct. 14 – **Scale Model Railroad Swap Meet** at Elmhurst Christian Reform Center in Elmhurst, IL 6pm to 9pm

Oct. 15-16 – **Southland Model Railroad Show** at Richards High School in Oak Lawn, IL 10am to 5pm

Oct. 22-23 – **iHobby Expo** at Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont IL 10am to 5pm (last year in Chicago)

Oct. 22 – **Prairie Scale Model Railroaders Open House** at 3 East Ash St in Lombard, IL 7pm to 10pm

Oct. 23 – **Model Railroad Show and Swap Meet** at St. Matthias Men's Club in Crown Point, IN 10:30am to 3pm

Nov. 12 & 13 – **Trainfest** at the Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis, WI 9am to 5:30pm

Nov. 20 – **Dune Model Railroad Club Swap Meet** at the NECA/IBEW Community Service Center in Michigan City, IN 10am to 3pm

Dec. 10 – **Swap Fest** at Our Lady of the Ridge in Chicago Ridge, IL 60415 9am to 2pm

Jan. 28, 2012 – **Great Tri-State Rail Sale** at the LaCrosse Center in LaCrosse, WI 9a to 3pm

Feb. 18 & 19, 2012 – **Mad City Model Railroad Show and Sale** at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI 9am to 5pm

March 2012 – **All American Railroad Show at Lyon Township High School 31st Annual** - LaGrange, IL sponsored by the DuPage Division

March 8-11 – **RailSplitter Region Spring Convention** in Springfield, IL

Every Friday and Sunday – **Elmhurst Model Railroad Club Open House** Elmhurst, IL 7-10pm and 1-4pm

First Friday of each month – **Wagon masters Model Railroad Club Open House** Elmhurst, IL 7-10pm

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

RailSplitter 2012 by the Illinois Valley Division

The 2012 Midwest Region, NMRA, Spring Convention will be hosted by the Illinois Valley Division of the Midwest Region of the NMRA, at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield Illinois on March 8 to 11, 2012.

Blocks of rooms at the hotel have been set aside and start at \$89.99. There is a wide variety of clinics being presented as well as layout tours. Saturday night features an "unplugged" session with Allen McClelland, Tony Koester and Mike Brestel. The Springfield Train Fair will also be held on March 11. Check out the details at the website www.mwr-nmra.org

FROM THE BACK OF THE ROUNDHOUSE – "Scratchbuilding" in the 21st Century

By Charlie Lewis

Once upon a time much of model railroad construction was "Scratchbuilding" as few ready-builts were available off the hobby store shelf, or may have been of questionable quality and/or authenticity. Even with plans or diagrams in front of us, projects were made up as we proceeded getting by with whatever was available at the time.

At the Division outing to Big Rock, I picked up for \$1 (marked down from \$1.45) the 1959 RM HO scale color buildings cut-out book printed on heavy cardstock which was

only a small step from completely do-it-yourself. Today almost anything a modeler wants is all-built or plastic kits or wood laser cut kits. And I did read some of us now have the “urge” to use these not-too-cheap wood kits for “kit-bashing.” I own none of these kits and did have mixed feelings about his laser-kit depot looking much like everyone else’s laser-kit depot. But now that the bashers have arrived, they get to learn one way or the other how some “scratchbuilding” ideas will keep the scrap box from filling with hundreds of dollars of unusable laser-kit wood parts.

The Depot at Wick, IA was originally published in the NMRA bulletin of April 1996. The article gave the history of this CB&Q branch-line depot with photos and building plans. It was suggested for a contest project by Crossbuck esteemed Editor, Mr. T, I could not resist. I successfully built the dept (good), but was in it up to my ears (not so good) for most of the project. I now really understand what earlier modelers went through working with very little, except wondrous ideas and know-how.

C.B.& Q. Depot, Wick, Iowa



photo 1) original trackside

The photos do not show my dept model very well. It is tiny: 3" x 3-1/4" x 1-7/8" and non-descript which is why the roof pops off to view the interior, as yet not finished. Not required for the MMR AP for buildings,

inside nonetheless will be the projects “hidden” best parts.

Now tips, to the new age kitbashers. Start with the floor or building foundation. I used 1/8" scribed basswood 1/16" thick. Make sure the floor is precisely square. My favorite basswood for bracing stringers is 1/16" x 1/16", 1/16" x 1/8" and 1/16" x 1/32". Exterior siding below the sash is scribed basswood running horizontal, while interior walls below the sash are vertical scribed basswood which adds to the structural integrity. I am sure this technique appears in laser-kits, so use it.

Above the sash the interior walls are scribed horizontal basswood which reinforces the outside vertical board and batten siding. Exposed framing was applied in the freight room. I started with plain basswood outside as no product was available with the proper spacing for the battens with over 80 required and cut form scribed basswood. Luckily, the depot has some irregular spacing of the battens.

Laser-bashers should not encounter this, but other problems equally vexing can occur. The roof is card stock which needs good truss bracing. The wood waiting room ceiling is also attached to add strength. The interior trusses match the roof angle at each end of the depot. The roof sub-assembly can be aligned with the dept when gluing parts together without gluing everything together accidentally. The roof should stay true after the glue dries and it comes off. I always have new wood inventory and scraps from other projects to start the next one. None of this does in any way help with resource management or clean-up, ever.

Only roof shingles are the Campbell product and the tiny heating stove in the waiting room is a N-scale soft metal casting (the tiny train guys help me again). Craftsmanship is always in the details. The depot carpenters used different width boards for the two freight doors. Scratchbuilding is being emphasized less now in projects for contest or merit. The new “buzzword” is “conformance”, which I can say I have covered, at least with the

freight doors. So focus in this new age of model railroading on building your best from plastic and wood laser-kits, and use your own personal skills to add parts to the project you get to scratchbuild yourself. Thanks for your attention.



photo 2) rear with door to waiting room

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 2011-2012 Edition of the Crossbuck is **December 1, 2011**.

TAKING THE CROSSBUCK ELECTRONIC

Electronic copies of the Crossbuck will be sent to those that have provided emails recently. If you would like to receive a “soft-copy” 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 Softcopy.”

Thanks for your help with this matter.

DID YOU SEE “UNSTOPPABLE?”

By Tim Schubert

Thanks to my usual busy schedule, I was not able to see the movie “Unstoppable” in the theaters earlier this year. The movie is based on a true story of a train crew that chased down and stopped a run-away train several years ago. I had the opportunity to catch it one night on the HBO and took the opportunity.

As a model railroader and railfan, it was quite the experience. Some broad license is taken with how trains operate and how physics works in this movie. If you watch it with a super critical eye from your knowledge of railroading you’ll probably end up laughing or groaning at several points. But don’t let this stop you from seeing the movie. It is entertaining and can hold your attention due to some nifty editing of the shots. It’s also neat to see railroading up close in the movies. There are plenty of shots of rail yards, bridges and structures. And is it kind of neat to see a trusty old SD40-2 run down a couple of newer Dash 8/9’s and help bring them to a halt. The last few minutes of the movie really stretch the boundaries of physics, but it is still fun to watch. I’d like to see someone run their models around the last curve like they did in the movie and see how it ends up.... If you get a chance, grab some popcorn and either catch the movie on HBO or rent the DVD. It may end up on your Christmas list this year.

**THIS NEWLETTER IS NOTIFICATION OF THE
OCTOBER 2, 2011 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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