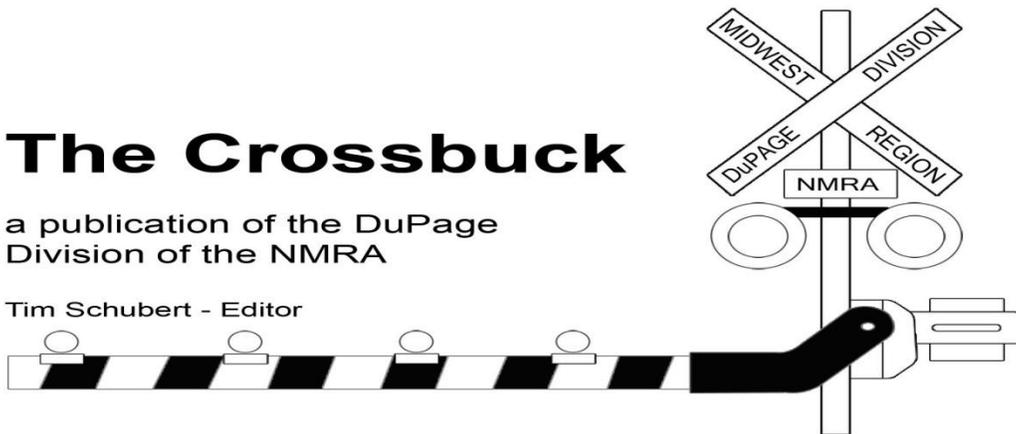


The Crossbuck

a publication of the DuPage
Division of the NMRA

Tim Schubert - Editor



Fall-Winter 2015 Edition

A Message From The Superintendent

By Alan Busic – Superintendent

Fellow Model Railroaders:

As you read this, our Division has already had our first meeting. Patrick Golden gave us an excellent presentation on "Railroad Forensics" (re-purposed railroad buildings). If you weren't there, you missed a good one! Thanks to Patrick.

The Division will once again give an introduction to Model Railroading in February. Model Railroading 101 will show all of the elements of building a Model Railroad. We will do it in 'N' scale because it is easier to transport and not because we are partial to 'N'. If you know someone new to the hobby, let them know. A date and cost will be determined next month.

We will have a Kitbash-a-kit contest. Kits will be on sale at our November meeting for \$10. This has been a popular event the past couple of years.

Our Assistant Superintendent, Ray Gerlich, has put together a terrific group of

presentations for our monthly meetings. Plan on attending! See you on October 4th.

MEETING LOCATION FOR 2015-16

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

A Welcome to New Members!

By Ron Scharping – Membership Chairman

The following named individuals joined the NMRA and the DuPage Division since January 1, 2015. Welcome! Come to a meeting and say Hi!

Dave Moser – Aurora, IL
Mike Cibelli – Bloomingdale, IL
Walter Stachon – Bridgeview, IL
David Kelly – Chicago, IL
Robert Novak – Darien, IL

Paul Mueller – Downers Grove, IL
Michael Gardner – Elmhurst, IL
James Leonardo – Forest Park, IL
Edward Gell – Lockport, IL
Garrett Drozd – Lockport, IL
Ray Stuenkel – Monee, IL
Jeffery Brown – River Forest, IL
Deborah Maxwell – Riverside, IL

2015-16 Meeting Schedule

All meetings start at 1:30 pm at St. Paul's unless noted otherwise

September 13, 2015

Program: Railroad Forensics – By Patrick Golden – A presentation on finding and locating former railroad structures and facilities.

Contest: Locomotives built for and normally assigned to switching duties.

October 4, 2015

Program: Weathering Models by John Drozdak

Contest: Billboard refrigerator cars – sort of a colorful and “cool” beauty pageant.

November 1, 2015

Program: A Fireman's Story – Jack Wheelihan (fireman on SP GS4 and UP Heritage Steam Program)

Contest: Open Contest: Bring something from a favorite MR category to celebrate National Model Railroad Month.

December 6, 2015

Program: Annual Christmas Party

Contest: Annual Photo Contest – models or prototype, color or black & white, in all formats.

January 3, 2016

Program: Tips on kitbash building for the February Model Contest

Contest: Maintenance of Way – any equipment used to keep the railroad operational and safe.

February 7, 2016

Program and Contest: Results of the Division wide Kitbashing Contest

Note: Be sure to pick up your building at one of the meetings for a reduced price of \$10.

February 2016, 1 to 5 pm

Model Railroading 101 – Learn the Basics of Layout Construction. Presentation is at St. Paul's UCC in Downers Grove.

Note: This is a class intended for non-NMRA members. If you would like to volunteer to help present this class (and help is always appreciated), contact Alan Busic. If you have friends that would like to take this class, please see the signup sheet at the Division website or stop by Timberline Trains in Downers Grove

March 6, 2016

Program: DCC Talk by Bill Drzal and friends

Contest: All categories – cars, buildings, vistas and such. Bring it all!

March 2016 – The All American Railroad Show at Lyons Township High School – 35th Annual 9am to 5pm

April 3, 2016

Program: Division Layout Tours – Contact Alan or Ray if you are interested in showing your layout. We'll be focusing on the southeast are of our Division this year.
Contest: none.

May 1, 2016

Programs: Railroading and Circus Models by Ray Gerlich; Techniques for building and scenery on HO modules by Andrew Bobis

Contest: Thumbz – bringing back an oldie but goody (based on a popular model railroading cartoon). Bring something that will provide some “pun”ishment...

Note: This is a joint meeting with the Venture Crew 57 modeling railroad group.

*Note: Dates may be subject to change. See Division website for the most current information.

Division Officers For 2015-16

Superintendent – Alan Busic Expires 5/31/17
Asst. Super. – Ray Gerlich Expires 5/31/17
Chief Clerk – Alex Schneider Expires 5/31/16
Paymaster – Richard Strebendt Expires 5/31/16

Trainmasters (All terms expire 5/31/16)

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 – Dave Angus
Trainmaster – Kim Schlytter
Trainmaster – Keith Lipske

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

From the Achievement Program Chairman

By Rob Schiavone

Although it has been a long time since I have had anything to report on any Achievement Program Certifications, I do know there are people out there working on their certificates. This time around I am happy to report that one of those people has earned another AP Certificate.

Congratulations to **Bill Drzal** for earning a **Certificate of Achievement as a Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical**. Bill is well

on his way to earning a MMR. Keep up the good work Bill.

Speaking of working on certifications, yours truly has finely gotten around to filling out some of that paperwork for my first Certificate of Achievement. I know what you are thinking; the AP chairman doesn't have any certificates? Yes, I have procrastinated long enough although I have earned a Golden Spike Award. No, the Golden Spike Award does not count towards a MMR but it is a start. I am two thirds of the way toward a Certificate for Model Railroad Engineer – Rolling Stock, with four awards on freight cars and I have one of the passenger cars needed on the workbench. I also have plenty of time in as an Association Volunteer and Official, which is the paperwork I am working on.

Hopefully in the next Crossbuck there will be more congratulations to announce. As always I am available for questions, even though I may not be able to get back to you right away. You can reach me at 630-690-3262 or at robert_s_60188 @yahoo.com.

Report of the 2015 All American Railroad Show

By Patrick Golden

The Division had another very successful All American Railroad Show this past March and was able to generate a grand total profit to the Division of \$2,102.95. In comparison, our three previous years generated profits of \$2,000.82 in 2014, \$2,481.61 in 2013, and \$1,801.18 in 2012.

Our total door collection was \$5,038.92 compared with \$5,203.00 in 2014, \$5,629.00 in 2013 and \$4,756.00 in 2012. Attendance at this year's show seemed steady all day long and a spot survey of the door prize registrations indicate we still draw

from several outlying cities and towns and even a few from out of state.

Total expenses, which include postage, office supplies, printing, advertising, coffee, donuts, equipment rental and miscellaneous administrative paperwork, totaled \$1,381.80 compared with \$1,403.59 in 2014, \$1,229.26 in 2013 and \$1,915.09 in 2012. Expenses across the board can be expected to vary a bit from year to year but the Division has eliminated the biggest variance, and biggest gamble, by changing a few years back from catered lunches to lunch tickets redeemable at the concession table. The Division again operated the concession and that added \$230.47 to the bottom line, up from \$61.47 in 2014.

A donation jar set out for coffee, donuts and lunches for exhibitors netted the Division an additional \$43.92, up just a bit for the \$39.65 collected in 2014. That combined with the concession profit brought the Division's total profit to \$2,102.95. Our contractual 50/50 split arrangement with the school resulted in a payment to the school of \$2,059.04 compared with \$1,899.71 in 2014, \$2,199.87 in 2013 and \$1,724.94 in 2012.

A big thank you goes out to the many individuals who stepped forward to help with the show, collecting money, stamping hands, counting money, signing up door prize registrants, manning our Division's "Win This Layout" exhibit, running the concession and doing any number of other small tasks that I called upon them to do. Thank you to Tim Schubert for picking up the rented concession equipment and transporting the N scale layout door prize to the winner. A big, big thank you to my wonderful wife Mary who took charge of the concessions, ordering and transporting all the food and even returning some of the unused items for credit. Everyone did a terrific job and your willingness to help is very much appreciated.

This year's show featured a couple of returning layouts we haven't seen in some years and a couple of exhibitors who increased the size of their exhibit. All this adds to the appeal the show offers our target audience - the many moms, dads, kids, grandparents, etc. that visit the show. I heard several positive comments about the show during the day. Well done to all the exhibitors.

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. Well done on both their parts.

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.

I hope to have a date soon for next year's show in March 2016.

Short Blasts (Things To Do)

By Tim Schubert – Crossbuck Editor

Some upcoming model railroading events for your calendar:

October 9 – Scale Model Railroad Swap Meet at Elmhurst Christian Reform Center in Elmhurst 6pm to 9pm \$5 admission

October 10-11 – **Southland Model Railroad Show** at Richards High School in Oak Lawn Sat – 10am to 5pm, Sun – 10am to 3pm \$6 admission

October 22-24 – **RPM Naperville Conference** at Sheraton Lisle Hotel see www.railroadprototypemodelers.com for more details. The Division will have a table at this event.

October 24 – **Prairie Scale Model Railroaders Open House** at 3 E Ash St in Lombard 7pm to 10pm

October 25 – **Model Train Show & Swap Meet** at Gov. Small Memorial Park Civic Center in Kankakee. 9:30am to 3pm \$3 admission

November 21-22 – **Ridge Model Railroaders Open House**. Southeast corner of Ridge and Colfax in Griffith, IN Sat – 10 to 4, Sun – 12 to 4
Come out and support some of our Division members

January 16-17 - **CWMMR 19th Annual Model Railroad Show**. Holiday Inn Convention Center Hotel, 1001 Amber Avenue Sat - 9am – 5pm Sun 10am-4pm. Stevens Point, WI. Adults \$3.00, \$2.00 kids 11-16. Many layouts, swap/sales tables, vendors. Contact Phil Gjevre at phil.jane.gjevre@charter.net or 715-341-8228.

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.

Spreading The Word On The NMRA And The DuPage Division (and Fox Valley Division as well)



DuPage Division member Jerry Howard manning the DuPage/Fox Valley table at the Great Midwest Train Show

Upcoming show dates that the DuPage Division will be manning: 2015 – Sept, Nov and Jan 2016

Contact Alan Busic if you have interest in helping to promote the hobby and the Division at the show.

Save a tree – Use less paper
Would you like to receive DuPage Division meeting announcements and newsletters via email? If so, and you have not previously provided your email address to the NMRA, send an email to dupagedivnmra@gmail.com with a subject line of Newsletter.

From the Back of the Roundhouse By Charlie Lewis

Special Duty Throw Mechanism for Turnouts

A scientific study once circulated with much study and math calculating to prove it is physically impossible for the Bumblebee to fly. A colleague with much technical expertise said my switch-throw for turnouts is not supposed to work either. It may be a good idea for a clinic on my above-ground, spring loaded manual switch throw “gizmo.”

My problem with my narrow gauge yard with coal mine tracks is there is no clearance underneath for any switch-throw mechanism. So, my device had to be compact, with a design I could understand and easily replicate. It is a unique design mostly by accident which I also sometimes call “cosmic coincidence.”

The ideas originated in the Model Railroader issue from December 1961. The switch-throw had excellent design and assembly guidelines, but ended oddly using

a rubber band and not a spring and most parts were still under the layout.

So, this project is not easy, some parts are small and some assembly and testing is not exactly straight forward. Refer often to the photographs and drawings included in the article. The pit has been dug out of 1/2 in. Homasote roadbed with a width of 3/4 in. by 2-1/8 in. long and down to the plywood base. The outside long switch-block tie next to the throw bar rests on the roadbed. Glue a 1/16 in. thick square of plywood (3/4 in. W x 7/8 in L) into the pit near the switch-throw. This sets the height of the throw-rod and adds wood to hold the 3/16 in. OD brass tubing for the throw-rods pivot point (K&S no. 5126 tubing). The throw-rod lever is 1/16 in. brass wire (K&S no. 5162). The rod is about 5/8 in. in length.

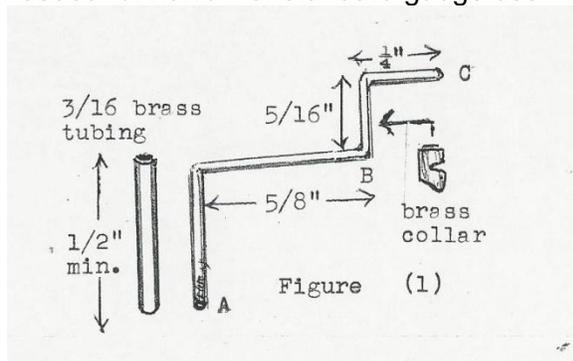
See figure 1:

A - fits into the pivot point brass tubing

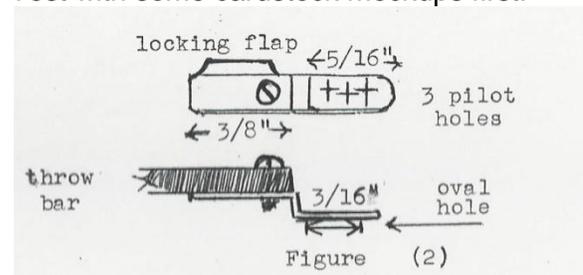
B - bend up the wire to start the switch-throw lever

C - a brass tube collar is now soldered on; it has a notch filed to align the spring rod, before making the last bend to form the switch-throw lever. This can be as short as 1/4 in. and can be bent over so the lever in normal position is parallel to the rails (not shown in this way in the photo).

A piece of brass sheet connected to the throw-bar assists the lever in moving the turnout points. My throw-bars are 1/16 in. thick circuit board cut about 1/8 in. wide. Use plain circuit board cut to length as needed for narrow or standard gauge use.

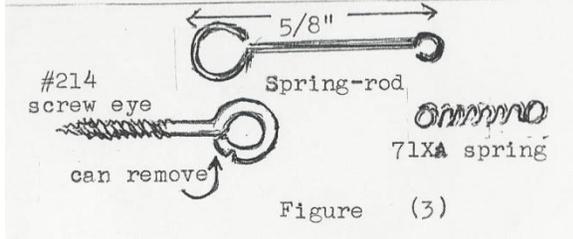


In Figure 2, the sheet brass is 0.003 in. cut to 3/4 in. length. Center punch and drill three pilot holes (no. 56) for the throw lever opening. The center punch mark is off slightly for a nice, curved oval opening. Three small files help. A square file opens each hole to 1/16 in. diameter. An oval file gets rid of uncut excess brass. A round file cleans up the work done with the other files. The "flap" helps lock the brass to the throw-bar. It is secured with a no. 80 round head screw (1/4 in. length). The hole drilled through the throw-bar will show you where to mark on the brass sheet to drill and tap for the screw. In the photo, the flap is bent up for the throw on this die of the track and on the other side the track reversed. Just opposite across the track it is bent down. Test with some cardstock mockups first.



In Figure 3, the spring rod connects with the throw-lever at the collar and with the tension spring. I used a 0.9 mm (.040 in.) steel wire. Also, a 0.7 mm (.027 in) wire is okay and easier to bend. Loops are made with pliers, plain, serrated and needle nose of different sizes. The spring is Hillman no. 71XA cut in half. The cut end is reformed with pliers to match the other end. The screw eye is no. 414 with the longer shank. The spring rod should be affixed to the collar and crimped before installing. Test the spring rod, spring and eye for location and tension before drilling for the eye location. Notice that the screw eye is adjustable after it is place. The screw on the throw-bar can be loose when installing with throw-lever, if there are clearance problems. The spring-rod is attached to the spring last and may have to be crimped, but I did anyway. The second switch-block tie can be added and a fitted

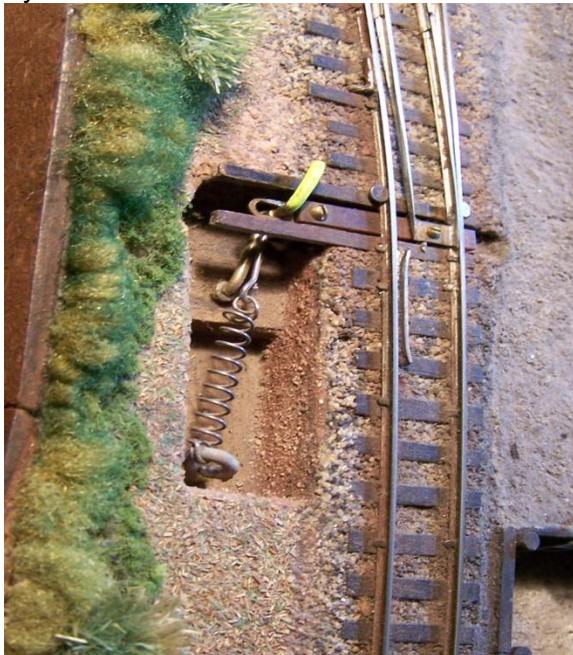
piece of scened cardstock can be used to cover the whole mechanism.



I have eleven units on the narrow gauge and one more on the trolley line. I used more time and text in this clinic than it takes to build and install one of these “bumblebees.” Hope you understand how oddly these things sometimes “turnout.”

Thanks for your attention.

The final results as shown on Charlie's layout



Layout Available

I have a HO scale, double track layout that needs a home. It was based upon a MR cover story called, “The Port Able Lines, Model Railroading in Someone Else's Basement.”

It consists of 8 curved sections, 2 - 1' x 3' straight sections, and 2 - 1' x 2' straight sections. The 1' x 2' sections contain crossovers between two loops of track. All of the straight sections do not need to be used at one time. The sections are made to be stackable for storage and bolt together. They can be assembled on tables or legs will have to be made for them. Two of the switch motors will need to be replaced and minor repairs made to the track.

If you are interested, please reach out to Ken Krizanic, Retired Adjunct Faculty, Triton College at 773-688-5557

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 *Fall Winter 2016* Edition of the Crossbuck is **December 1, 2015**. This edition will be used as the notification for the January 2016 meeting.

This edition of the Crossbuck is your notification for the October 4, 2015 Division Meeting.

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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