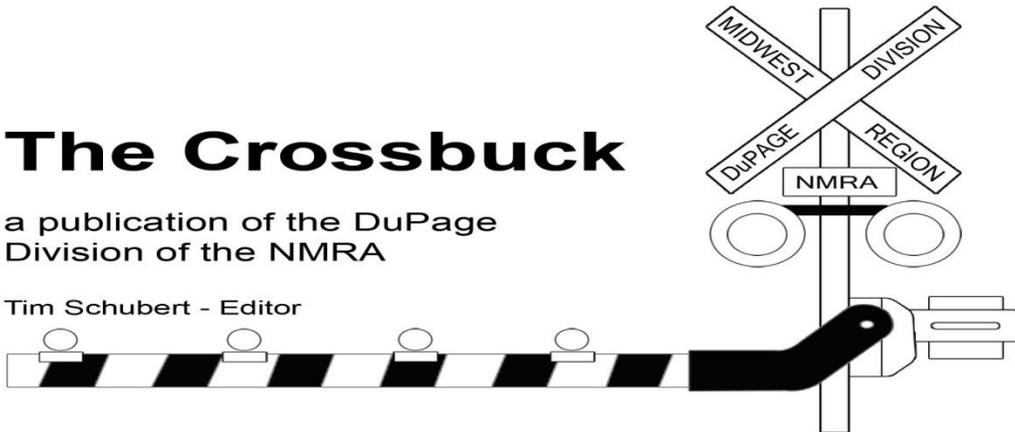


# The Crossbuck

a publication of the DuPage  
Division of the NMRA

Tim Schubert - Editor



## Fall - Winter 2016 Edition

### A Message From The Superintendent

By Alan Busic – Superintendent

Welcome to the 2016-17 season of the DuPage Division of the NMRA. Your Board of Directors have planned a great season with interesting monthly programs and contests, a February “how to build a layout” extra fare Saturday program, and the All American Railroad Show in March. See you at the next meeting!

### The Division Needs Your Help

The Division needs your help to fill several positions for the 2017-2019 seasons. Both the Superintendent and Chief Clerk positions reach term limits in May 2017. In order to keep your Division viable, we need these positions filled. Step up and volunteer to be one of the officers in the Division. You will be rewarded with knowing that you are contributing to the hobby that you love!

## MEETING LOCATION FOR 2016-17

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 – 55<sup>th</sup> Street/Maple & Dunham, South – 63<sup>rd</sup> 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 2016. Welcome! Come to a meeting and say Hi!

*Randy Adamsick – Oak Park, IL  
James Ailes – Manteno, IL  
Spencer Anderson – Hinsdale, IL  
John Bailey – Sugar Grove, IL  
Terry Balija – Bartlett, IL  
Bryan Bell – Medinah, IL*

Robert Braband – Lombard, IL  
Michael Crawford – Orland Hills, IL  
Ted Fisk – Naperville, IL  
Arnaldo Iturrieta – Naperville, IL  
Carl Johanson – Batavia, IL  
Paul Kraus – Joliet, IL  
David Krull – Westmont, IL  
Tom Schneider – Naperville, IL  
David Scoble – Elmhurst, IL  
Michael Stegmeyer – Berkley, IL  
James Veronico – Wheaton, IL  
Dennis Vlasak – New Lenox, IL  
Peter Wagner – Aurora, IL  
Matthew Wells – Northlake, IL  
Jack Whelihan – Western Springs, IL

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### **2016-17 Meeting Schedule**

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

#### **September 11, 2016**

*Program: A Layout That Fills The Room –*  
by Patrick Golden  
*Contest: Favorite Tank Cars*

#### **October 2, 2016**

*Program: Chicago Midland and Iron Ore Roads – Perry Sugarman*  
*Contest: Running Light or Caboose Hop –*  
Your favorite caboose, waycar or end of train device with a favorite engine

#### **October 8-9, 2016**

**Division table at the Southland Model Railroad Show at Richards High School in Oak Lawn – volunteers welcome**

#### **October 20-22, 2016**

**Division table at the RPM Chicagoland Conference in Lisle – volunteers welcome**

#### **November 6, 2016**

*Program: Chicago and Northwestern – A Layout in Review – Bill Drzal*  
*Contest: National Model Railroad Month –*  
Favorite Steam Locomotive or Diesel – single, double-header or multiple units

#### **December 4, 2017**

*Program: Soo Line Railroad by David Lieder and the Annual Christmas Party*  
*Contest: Holiday Photo Contest – models or prototype – any format*

#### **January 8, 2017**

*Program: Available for a presentation*  
*Contest: Weathered Freight Cars – any type, any era*

#### **February 5, 2017**

*Program: Hands on Clinic*  
*Contest: Results of the Kitbash a Kit Contest*

#### **February 2017 - 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 5, 2017**

*Program: Available for a presentation*  
*Contest: Annual All Categories – cars, buildings, vistas and such. Bring it all!*

#### **March 2017 – The All American Railroad Show**

at Lyons Township High School – 36th Annual 9am to 5pm

#### **April 2, 2017**

*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 7, 2017**

*Programs: Available for a presentation*  
*Contest: tbd*

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

### Division Officers For 2016-17

Superintendent – Alan Basic Expires 5/31/17  
Asst. Super. – Ray Gerlich Expires 5/31/18  
Chief Clerk – Alex Schneider Expires 5/31/17  
Paymaster – Richard Strebendt Expires 5/31/18

### Trainmasters (All terms expire 5/31/17)

*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* – Dave Angus  
*Trainmaster* – Kim Schlytter  
*Trainmaster* – Fred Henize

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

Website: [www.mwr-nmra.org/dupage](http://www.mwr-nmra.org/dupage)

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

### We're Continuing our Member to Member Sale Table

A member-to-member sales table is available at future DuPage Division meetings. Shopping opportunities will be limited to: Before the meeting starts, during the break, and after the meeting. A member may place up to 5 items for sale. There is no charge for the table space nor does the Division receive any of the proceeds from the sale. If the material to be sold is to be left unattended, a sign identifying the seller should be provided by the seller. Ron Scharping will coordinate the sales activity

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### Kitbash A Kit Contest

Starting at the October meeting, the Division will begin taking orders for this season's Kitbash a Kit model kit. In an unusual twist, the kit chosen for this year is available in N, HO and O scale.

Sign up for a kit and develop, improve or challenge your modeling skills. It's a great way to add a unique building to your layout. There will be a small number of kits available for purchase at the October meeting.

### Short Blasts (Things To Do)

By Tim Schubert – Crossback Editor  
Some upcoming model railroading events for your calendar:

October 8-9 – **Southland Model Railroad Show** at Richards High School in Oak Lawn – Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-3pm

October 14 – **Scale Model Railroad Swap Meet** at Elmhurst Christian Reform Center in Elmhurst 6-9pm

October 20-22 – **RPM Chicagoland Conference** at the Sheraton Hotel in Lisle See [www.rpmconference.com](http://www.rpmconference.com) for details

November 19-20 – **Ridge Model Railroaders Open House**. Southeast corner of Ridge and Colfax in Griffith, IN Sat 10am to 4pm, Sun 12pm-4pm  
*Come out and support some of our Division members*

December 3 – **Model Railroad Swap Meet at the Stone City VFW** 9am-3pm and Will County MRA Open House in downtown Joliet. See [www.wcmrra.org](http://www.wcmrra.org) for details.

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

Volunteer to help Jerry spread the word on the local Divisions at the Great Midwest Train Show. In addition to getting to spend some quality time with Jerry, who's a great guy, you will get free admission to the show and there will be some time to shop. Contact Alan Busic if you have interest in helping.

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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](mailto:dupagedivnmra@gmail.com) with a subject line of Newsletter.

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## From the Back of the Roundhouse – The End of the Line

By Charlie Lewis

Since the 1960's, I have been installing tracks, rails, spikes and ties on my railroad by hand. With two track projects completed this summer, I think I have finally reached

the “end of the line” for new track construction. If something breaks I still get to work with pliers and a track gauge and that will be plenty.

I built a siding for the narrow gauge line with the final spikes; a turnout and a derail were installed on the new roadbed. Also, I added a three foot extension on the branch line for more switching room past the switch points of the run-around track. The true end of the standard gauge is here, where we cannot dream any rails extend beyond. This clinic is pictorial, not explanatory. Photo captions will note anything special that was part of the work.



*Photo1* – Homasote and ties are in place on the branchline extension at the section connection. The roadbed is reused from parts of the railroad long dismantled. The top ¼ inch plywood is from my Dad, Ed Lewis' drug store and was installed there in 1914. I got it around 1962.



*Photo 2* – Before the steel truss bridge was installed, I needed to put the scenery behind it first.



*Photo 3* – Tail end of the new siding on the narrow gauge which is dead level, the mainline track in front is on a 1.6% grade uphill to the next level. Rail is code 70 and code 55.



*Photo 4* – The steel truss bridge deck and outside truss is Revell (1957), the other side is Tyco and they match just fine. Engine no. 203 is bringing a train from the upper level when this was down for the original narrow gauge, which was standard gauge before a bypass tunnel was finished and the line past the bridge was removed.



*Photo 5* – New turnout and derail for the narrow gauge siding is in place, final spikes in around Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. Only 5 harp switch stands still in use (never upgraded) are handcrafted brass parts and nickel silver rail.



*Photo 6* – Engine no. 620 is still used on the branchline when the NW-2 no. 100 is in the shop for maintenance. The 2-8-0 is Aristo-Craft (0-8-0) form the 1960's with many enhancements and upgrades, and does run very well. The unfinished brown scenery, I

suppose, looked like this when the bridge was being installed early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



*Photo 7* – Farther down the line is another siding for a coal mine with more harp switch stands. This is to show I have gotten certain areas almost completely scened.

The track gang will not be out of work or otherwise bored with nothing to do; there is still too much track that needs ballast. But I shall no longer slip into panic mode because some track work is not yet done, worth the 50 year wait, all of it. Thanks for your interest.

### **Are You On Facebook?**

By Tim Schubert

Some of you may think only the “kids” are on Facebook, but I can tell you that you are missing a lot of model railroading and prototype railroading from all over the world.

There has been a lot of talk of the hobby being in a death spiral, but from what I have seen on Facebook, it may be like many other things in that it has moved to a more digital format.

The range of ages that I see on several of the Facebook pages that I follow run the gamut from middle-high school students to those of a “mature” age. The range of talents and ideas are almost endless.

There have been postings from all over the world. The postings have covered a group modeling US prototypes in Brazil to several neighbors to the north in Canada to modelers in Australia (which is fast becoming an area of interest on my part) as well as Europe. The areas of interest are as many as you can find. From general model railroading to railroad specific groups, there is something there for almost everyone.

Some of the groups I follow are:

- Follow the Flag – Wabash Railroad
- CB&Q Modelers
- Fans of the Wabash Railroad
- NMRA
- BNSF Historical and Modeling Society
- CB&Q Railroad Fans
- Norfolk Southern Modeling
- Modeler’s Guild
- Model Railroading

The Model Railroading is a particular favorite as it showcases the excellent modeling by Bob Fallowfield and Timothy Hannum and has almost 12,000 members. Modeler’s Guild is run by Bob Bourdeau from Canada who builds very detailed and highly kit-bashed rolling stock and buildings.

The pages are also a great place to exchange and learn new ideas. There are many people out there to help and also some snarky ones on occasion, but they seem to get booted from the pages by the administrators. I’ve learned several new modeling techniques as well as a few tricks. One of the most recent ones was the use of a product called Purple Power. This is a high power automotive cleaner that works great to remove lettering from railcars without damaging the paint. I used this to take all of the lettering off of a Kato business car without any paint damage. This product is also used by modelers (both trains and autos) to remove paint. Something I plan to try soon.

If you have not tried it yet, give Facebook a try. You can access it from your desk top computer or your smart phone. There is a world of model railroaders out there for you to find.

## Obituary

Long time member George Herrmann has passed away on September 18<sup>th</sup>. George was a supporter of model railroading through the Division as well as with the European Train Enthusiasts group that displayed at the All American Railroad Show.

Arrangements are pending at this time.

## September Contest Results

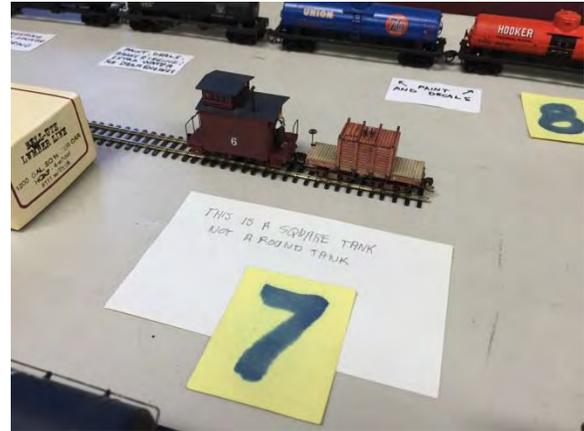
1<sup>st</sup> Place – Lawrence Balducci



2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Dave Angus



3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Joe Bennett



Congrats to the winners and thanks to all those that participated.

## 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 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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