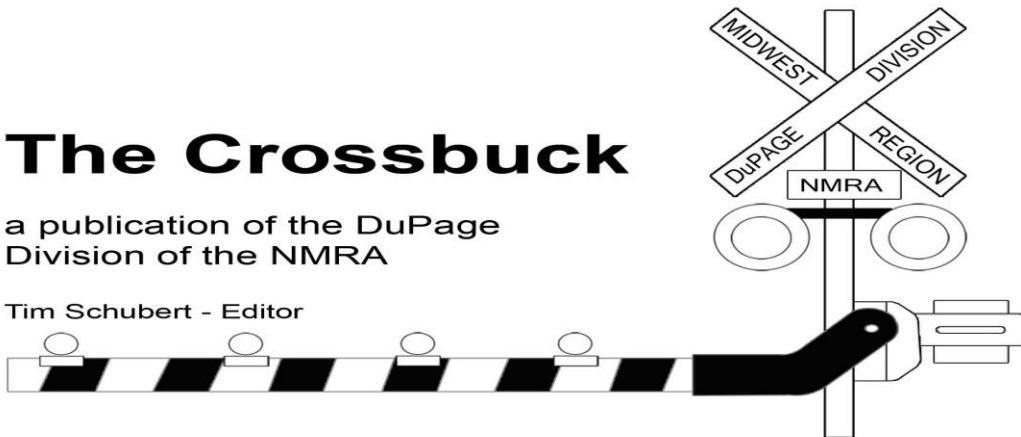


The Crossbuck

a publication of the DuPage
Division of the NMRA

Tim Schubert - Editor



Winter-Spring 2012 Edition

A MESSAGE FROM THE "SUP"

By Keith Lipske – Superintendent

Well, we are more than half way through the season. We've had some very excellent clinics including Patrick Golden's Union Ave. Switching District and an excellent one on Steel Mill Modeling given by James Gorski. This was the first time James did a clinic for us and it was great! And more clinics are on the way.

Our annual layout tour is coming in April. This year we will be visiting layouts on the south end of our Division. Remember, layout tour in April, NO meeting NO clinics!!

MARCH IS THE ALL AMERICAN RAILROAD SHOW MONTH!!

Be sure to contact Patrick Golden if you wish to help out. This is the show that we put on once a year that helps us finance the various activities of the Division.

It's **YOUR** Division!! **PARTICIPATE!!**
The "SUP"

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

By Ron Scharping – Membership Chairman

The following named individuals joined the NMRA and the DuPage Division since September 1, 2011. Welcome! Come to a meeting and say Hi.

Chris Hoffmann – Chicago
Richard Moser – Naperville
Vicki Ortega – Northlake
Richard Steinke – Tinley Park
Jon Zimmer Sr. - Elmhurst

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

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: Geodesic Scenery by Rob Schiavone

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

March 17, 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 – Take a chance and do one!

Contest: 1) Stock cars, any kind, for sheep, cattle, pigs, etc. 2) Kitbashing. Open to almost anything assembled from leftovers and spare parts. A Committee member request.

June tba, 2012

Program: Division outing Bedford Park along the IHB for food and fellowship and trains, of course. More info to come.

*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)

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 – Tom Buller

Trainmaster – John Brennan

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

2012 ALL AMERICAN RAILROAD SHOW

By Patrick Golden – AARR Show Chairman

The 2012 All American Railroad Show is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, 2012.

The location is the same, the Lyons Township High School North Campus Fieldhouse located at Brainard and Cossitt Avenues in LaGrange, just a short distance from the BNSF Stone Avenue commuter

station. Set up will be on Friday night March 16, 2012 beginning at 6:00 pm and running until 10:00 pm and again on Saturday morning beginning at 7:00 am. Doors open to the public at 9:00 am on Saturday. The Division will again provide lunch to the exhibitors.

For those who may want to promote the show via their club newsletters please keep in mind admission to the show has been raised to \$4.00. Some information got out a few years ago using the old admission price of \$3.00 and this made for a few odd moments for our money collectors at the door. The Division does appreciate any advertising we can get in club and organization newsletters so please do not hesitate to promote the show. We have had a very good turnout the past few years in spite of a sagging economy.

A few volunteers are needed on Friday evening just to make sure everything falls into place as the exhibitors arrive and begin to set up. Friday evening is typically spent distributing floor location information to the exhibitors, helping them measure for their location and spot checking around the room to make sure there are no conflicts.

The bulk of the volunteers are needed on Saturday to collect money at the door, stamp hands, distribute lunches, count money, make bank runs and staff our own Division's table near the entrance to the show. This year we again expect to have door prizes to award at the end of the day and the door prize registration process also needs to be monitored throughout the day.

To date 33 invitations have been sent. If anyone knows of any group who would like to be a part of the show and exhibit a layout,

module or something else related to the hobby and of interest to those who attend our show please have them contact me at 708-482-8225 and/or pggolden@aol.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO STAFF NMRA BOOTH AT GREAT MIDWEST TRAIN SHOW

By Alan Busic, 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: 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 Busic. (Email: mabusic5@att.net or call at 630-789-3628)

FROM THE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

By Rob Schiavone

In this news letter I am beginning a report of all those who receive Achievement Program Certificates. I hope to be able to report a new AP certificate in each new Crossback, so if you have been procrastinating on filling out those AP forms now is as good a time

as any to start. When you do fill out the forms please make three copies of everything, the original, one for yourself and one for me. 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.

If you are a DuPage member who has received a Certificate but did not go through me please, let me know. I would like to include you in the next report. I am also researching those who have received Certificates in the past to include here as well.

Certificates achieved in our 2010–2011 season have been awarded to:

Bill Drzal for Master Builder- Scenery and a Golden Spike Certificate
Paul Wussou - he is applying for Railroad Engineer Electrical.

A couple of past AP certificates earned:

Charlie Lewis for Association Volunteer
Fred Henize for Association Volunteer and Association Official.

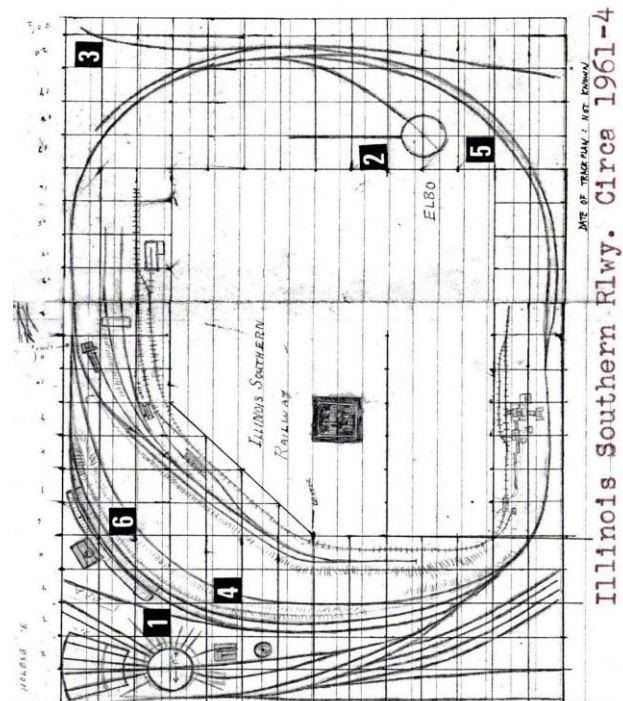
Until next time, consider the work you have done in the past for AP certification. The only work you may have left to do is the paperwork.

**FROM THE BACK OF THE
ROUNDHOUSE – Moving Forward in
2012 – Looking Back**
By Charlie Lewis

To all our Crossbuck readers, a wish for a prosperous 2012 and lots of enjoyable activities and projects in our favored pastime of model railroading. So a retrospective clinic on what was a long time

ago, now approaching 50 years, might seem counterproductive. But lessons learned early on do not stop paying dividends. This clinic is an archaeological dig, not a post mortem. So veterans may remember their first projects in modeling and new entrants to the hobby may find something to help them get started. Many ideas hid from me then no matter how many model railroad magazines of the time I got into. Convention has a very limited horizon and the subtle innovations do not get into print. We were all on our own.

The track plan graphic is of my model railroad in grandmother's basement. It is not dated, but the completed parts were done in 1961 to 63. The room was about 14ft x 24ft and the plan is in square foot increments. This is Part 1 of the clinic comparing today's layout design wisdom with what it did then, including some improvements I got into the next layout which I am still building and operating.



The current ideas are pretty well known. So I'll use them as the focus of the discussion:

A) Turntable. The original plan has two turntables. Today one is almost always recommended. Turntable 2 was to serve an imaginary branch line (3) and was not very elaborate. Turntable 1 was never installed.

B) Turning Wye. This plan had none. But I (over) compensated on my current layout with four. One being HOn3 narrow gauge

C) Reversing Loop. There were none in the 1960's. In a previous clinic I explained the hoops-jumping I did to add one in this new century. Now I could not do without it.

D) Passing sidings. The plan has two passing tracks (4 & 5) as defined by NMRA standards for MMR achievement for track work. I now also have two that qualify, plus several designated for run-around during switching.

E) Staging tracks and/or yards. None are included in either track plan, then or now. I have only designated tracks where trains can be held to vary the trains being operated. Some modern track plans have staging yards with very small radius of curvature across several tracks. Be careful. I have a dislike for this unless only engines and equipment with short or medium wheelbases are being operated. I would not want to damage a visitor's DD40X or UP Big Boy they brought to run (nor hurt their feelings either).

For the five basic tenants proffered today for layouts on my first plan, my score is 2 of 5. On my current layout, it is 4 of 5. I concur with the experts. Starting with these five elements can relieve a myriad of problems

for operating and gives the modeler an excellent place to begin layout design.

Now about things which doomed the first layout to be dismantled and elements which were carried over and are still with the railroad today.

I did not build in sections. The modular experts are truly the experts and have their techniques very well executed and documented. There are only a few techniques for building in "sections" (a topic for another clinic) that differ from standard modular format, but can be used for both.

Homasote board is still out there and I cut it into 1-1/4" strips to laminate to plywood for roadbed and building foundations. The old plan used 1" strips glued together in sets of 4 for roadbed. Some of it is still on the layout as scenery parts. I saw this on new construction and wished they had a plan-B. Homasote expands with humidity, close spacing of bracing underneath does not help, and usually not done anyway. The porous edges do not hold spikes or track nails and expand with water based glues used for ballast. The top cannot be truly leveled. Sanding produces fluff (not dust) that is un-breathable. Another clinic will explain tricks around problems with Homasote learned over the years.

Tracks and turnouts: New in the 1960's, Code 100 nickel-silver rail in three-foot sections on fiber ties. I still have some on my railroad but it cannot be ballasted with water based glue either. Also had some True-Scale "High Speed" turnouts; the frog had movable wing rails, but it was difficult to properly position the pivot. The ones I saved and still use have the pivot plate removed

and the frog and wing rails are now one soldered unit.

A series of clinics to follow will expand on whatever I can without putting everyone to sleep. Very little was lost from the middle of the last century. The 1958 Revell depot (6), now named Wedgaf, is on the layout in almost the same location as it was on the old track plan. Diagonally across is the Elbo passing siding (5) in its original location, but is now hidden under the upper levels of the current layout and is not sceniced.

So there it is; a beginning where the past is prolog. Where use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without, is now discussed as reuse and recycle. Enough ideas for a good beginning for the New Year, for the next model railroad project. Thanks. Charlie.

SHORT BLASTS

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

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

Jan 28 & 29 – **Midwest N' Pioneer MRRC Open House** in Broadview, IL 11am to 4pm

Jan 29 – **Prairie Scale Model Railroaders Open House** 1pm to 5pm at 3 East Ash St in Lombard, IL – Also 2/26 and 3/25

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

Feb 26 – **Duneland Model Railroad Club Swap Meet** at IBEW/NECA Community Center E. 8th Street Michigan City, IN \$3 admission

March 3 – **Southwest Model & Railroad Memorabilia Show** at VFW Building at 124 Stone City Drive, Joliet, IL \$3 admission

March 3 & 4 – **High Wheeler Train Show** at Harper College Palatine, IL 9am to 5pm sponsored by The Fox Valley Division - NMRA

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

March 11 – **Train Fair** at the Orr Building – State Fairgrounds in Springfield, IL 10am to 4pm sponsored by the Springfield Model Railroad Club

March 17 – **All American Railroad Show at Lyon Township High School 31st Annual** - LaGrange, IL sponsored by the DuPage Division

March 18 – **St. Matthias Model Railroad Show** at St. Matthias Church 101 W. Burrell Drive, Crown Point, IN \$3 admission

April 13 – **Scale Model Railroad Swap Meet** at Elmhurst Christian Reform Center in Elmhurst, IL 6pm to 9pm sponsored by The Elmhurst Model Railroad Club

April 15 – **WCMRRA Swap Meet and Open House** at VFW Building at 124 Stone City Drive, Joliet, IL \$3 admission

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

Third Saturday of each month – **Bolingbrook MRRC meeting** – Community Center B at 201 Canterbury Lane in Bolingbrook, IL

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 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 2012-2013 Edition of the Crossbuck is **August 1, 2012**.

GET THE ELECTRONIC CROSSBUCK

Receive the Crossbuck electronically by providing your email address to the Division. Advantages are that you can enjoy full color pictures (when included) and get the Crossbuck before anyone else. Emails are held as confidential and not shared with any organization. See the Editor or Ron Scharping to sign up today!

CONTEST WINNERS FROM THE JANUARY MEETING



1ST Place – James Gorski



2nd Place – George Herrmann



3rd Place – James Gorski

This edition of the Crossbuck is your notification for the February 5, 2012 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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