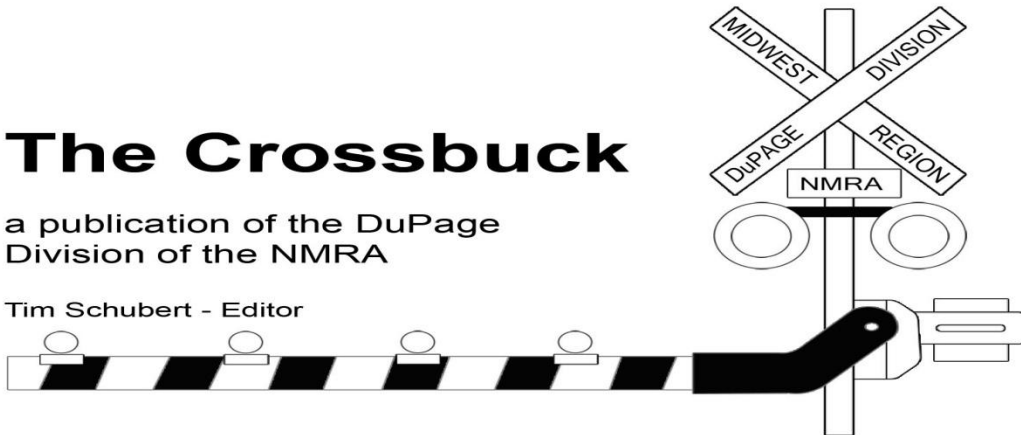


The Crossbuck

a publication of the DuPage
Division of the NMRA

Tim Schubert - Editor



Winter-Spring 2015 Edition

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Alan Busic – Superintendent

The New Year brings our Division into full swing with events reaching out to the model railroad community.

The February 1st regular meeting will be our “Show & Tell Kitbash-a-Kit” program.

Earlier this season, members purchased kits identified by the Board of Directors for kitbashing (O, HO, & N scale). We will share the results of the “bashing” with an opportunity to see “how they did that”. Members can also give short presentations on helpful modeling techniques.

February 21st will be our “Model Railroading 101” seminar. Beginning at 1pm, DuPage Division members will show registrants how to build benchwork, lay track, connect wiring, and scenic an N scale layout. The concepts for building a layout are the same in any scale. It is fun and satisfying to say “I

built that”. Registration is \$20 for 1 adult and 1 child, additional adult or child \$10. You can get a registration form at Timberline Train Shop in Downers Grove or call me at 630-789-3628 to register. Thanks to KATO, USA for their donation of track and trains! The layout will be finished and given away as a door prize at the All American Railroad Show on March 28 at Lyons Township High School.

June 7 will be a return trip to the Illinois Live Steamers in Lemont, Illinois. We had such a good time last year that we asked to come back again. They were very gracious hosts with skill sets that are “much larger” than our O, HO, N, and Z scale plans. They ran trains all day for us and opened their workshop area for our inspection. It was great!

Come join us in 2015!

Alan

MEETING LOCATION FOR 2014-15

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

By Ron Scharping – Membership Chairman

The following named individuals joined the NMRA and the DuPage Division since September 1, 2014. Welcome! Come to a meeting and say Hi!

Jeffery Brown – River Forest, IL
Garrett Drozd – Lockport, IL
Edward Gell – Lockport, IL
William Roberts – Manhattan, IL

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.

2014-15 MEETING SCHEDULE

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

February 1, 2015

Program: Show and Tell – Come talk about your latest model railroad project, find or discovery.

Contest: Results of the Kitbash a Kit contest (kits were available at the October 2014 meeting)

February 21, 2015, 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 1, 2015

Program: Measuring Up and Building Buildings by Paul Wussow and Friends
Contest: Annual All NMRA Categories Model Contest

March 28, 2015 – The All American Railroad Show at Lyons Township High School – 34th Annual 9am to 5pm

April 12, 2015

Program: Division Layout Tours – Show off your work from the past winter!
Contact Alan or Fred if you would like to present your layout.
Contest: None

April 17-19 – Midwest Region Spring Meet in Manitowoc, WI Sponsored by the WinnebagoLand Division
<http://www.wld-nmra.com/?action=meets>

May 3, 2015

Program: Modular Branch Line Layout by Ken Dabisch
Contest: Passenger Cars – All eras, all types

June 7, 2015

Division outing to the Illinois Live Steamers in Homer Glen, IL. More details to come!

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

DIVISION OFFICERS FOR 2014-15

Superintendent – Alan Basic Expires 5/31/15
Asst. Super. – Fred Henize Expires 5/31/15
Chief Clerk – Alex Schneider Expires 5/31/16
Paymaster – Richard Strebendt Expires 5/31/16

Trainmasters (All terms expire 5/31/15)

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

Division Election Coming in March

At our March meeting, we will be holding an election for the following positions within the Division:

Superintendent – 2 year term
Chief Clerk – 2 year term
Assistant Superintendent – 1 year term

If you would like to find out more about each of these positions, volunteer for one of these positions or have interest in being on the nominating committee, please see or contact Keith Lipske.

Your division relies on volunteers to keep running and bringing you these programs year after year. You don't have to go it alone as mentors are available for each position.

SHORT BLASTS (THINGS TO DO)

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

January 17th to February 22nd – **LGB Model Railroad Club of Chicago at the Morton Arboretum** in Lisle, IL Check Arboretum website for times.

Come out and support some of our Division members

January 25th (1-5pm) - **Prairie Scale Model Railroaders Open House**. 3 East Ash St. Lombard, IL

February 7th (5-7pm) **Boy Scout Venture Crew 57 Boxcar Pasta Supper and Model Railroad Open House** at St. Paul's UCC. *Come out and support the Venture Crew Model Railroad Club that calls the church home!*

February 28th – March 1st (9am to 5:30pm) **High Wheeler Train Show** at Harper College in Palatine, IL Adults \$9, Seniors \$7 and Kids 5-12 \$2, Under 5 are Free *Come out and support our neighboring Fox Valley Division*

April 10th (6-9pm) – **Scale Model Swap Meet at Elmhurst Christian Reform Center** in Elmhurst, IL 6 - 9pm *Sponsored by the Elmhurst MRRC*

March 14th (10am-4pm) – **Ridge Model Railroaders Open House**. Southeast corner of Ridge and Colfax in Griffith, IN *Come out and support some of our Division members*

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 DIVISON (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 - Jan, March and May

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

Crossing the Great Divide

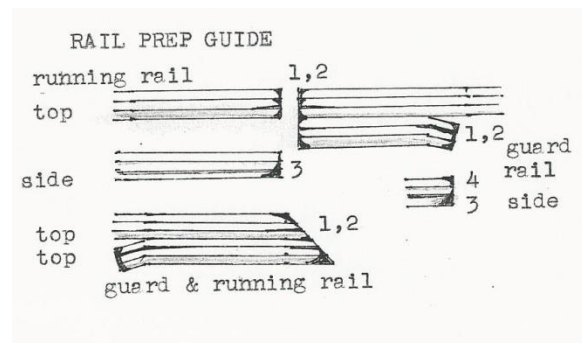
By Charlie Lewis

When building connecting model railroad sections and/or modules, the module people will probably concur 90% of the construction and engineering involves everything except rails and ties. So when these are installed, they should match to specs when the parts are put together. Module guys have a specific protocol; none-the-less, some techniques for sections may be useful for modules also.

Getting across the gap to the next section is not tough with level track bases butted against each other and properly secured. This clinic is for we who insist the rail extend to the edge of the section. The best example for tips is rails crossing a most

challenging project: the pull-out (swing-bridge) section. Mine crosses an aisle where a duck-under would not work. The Rail Prep Guide and tips shows where rail should be filed so things (shirt tails, et.al.) do not get snagged.

The other reason for all the fuss, pilot (lead) wheels on our steam engines have a high tendency to go where ever they want to when crossing any gaps in the rails. The photos are to do most of the explaining, with text where needed.



Darkened areas shown above are recommended for filing.

- 1) Round both sides of rail web
- 2) Flatten the inside of the running rail head and bevel (round) slightly; the outside of railhead to remove its sharp edge
- 3) Along with (1) round up the rail web to remove its sharp lower edge
- 4) Beveling down the top of the guard rail at its bent end makes rail cleaning easier; filing the inside of the guard rail side as (1) may also include removing some or all of the side of the entire guard rail for better wheel clearances

Continue to the next page for more:



Photo #16: End of section with pull-out. Each track has only one guard (or guide) rail, placed to lure derailed equipment away from the layout edge, normally in the inside of a curve. The lower track has a lap joint. The upper tracks use the tongue and groove method, necessary if the track's end has strayed too far from a solid support from the lower levels and to help against warping.



Photo #17: A companion end of the pull-out for section in photo #16. A bullet catch (Stanley CD5357 US3), brass and steel, carries the ground wire connection for the mainline (center track). It shuts off power when open and makes a noise when opening or closing.



Photo #18: The pull-out “bridge” is open. Note places to hide track designations, crib notes and rail polarities. The dead-center bolt secures the large piece of wood to the section. This piece secures the hinge and is not used for alignment. The hinge pin never needs to be pulled.



Bonus photo #22



Bonus photo #23

Bonus photos #22 and #23:

No one would be pleased at not getting to see the other end of the pull-out section. Guard rails are correct to keep wheels from picking the outside curved rails at the gaps. They are very similar to guard rails on turnouts and are easy to fabricate. They need be no longer than 8 HO scale feet, : the wheel base of a four wheel truck on an Athearn GP-9 diesel.

So, now you know the most important (and usually most delicate) parts of a railroad can be protected if it ever has to be relocated. For folks who do not totally believe it is worth a little more effort, just smile and explain it was in the construction and engineering contract.

Thanks for editor Tim’s photo work and for your attention in reading these clinics.

Thanks,

- 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 *Fall Winter 2015* Edition of the Crossbuck is **September 1, 2015**. This edition will be used as the notification for the October 2015 meeting.

CONTEST ENTRIES FROM THE JANUARY 2015 MEETING



1st Place – Joe Bennett



2nd Place (tie) – Fred Henize



2nd Place (tie) – Charlie Lewis

*Contest notes: For the 2014-15 season, we will continue with the two divisions for the modeling contest: **Novice** and **Advanced**. The Novice division is for those new to the hobby or just starting to hone their skills. The Advanced division is for the experienced modeler. Once a modeler wins the Novice division 3 times, they will compete in the Advanced division. This change was made to encourage additional participation in the Division contests.*

This edition of the Crossbuck is your notification for the February 1, 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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