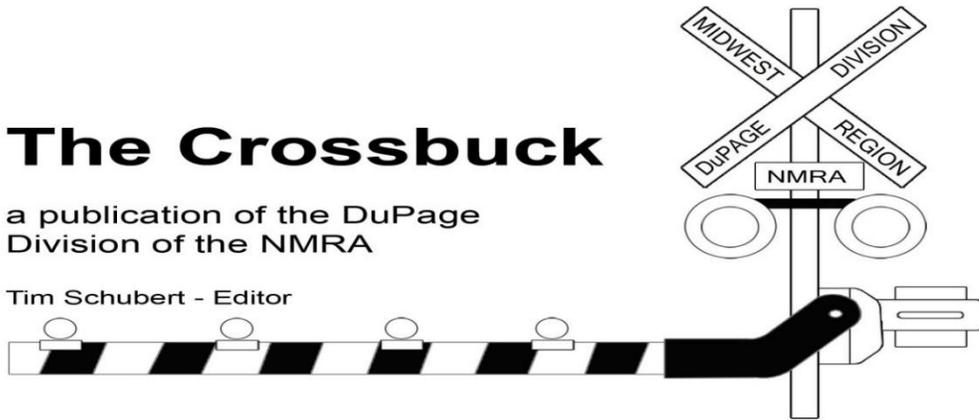


The Crossbuck

a publication of the DuPage
Division of the NMRA

Tim Schubert - Editor



Spring 2022 Edition

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK By Patrick Golden

As I write this column, we are coming up on two weeks removed from the All-American Railroad Show and I am floating on air. The financial report on the show is elsewhere in this issue of the *Crossbuck* and it will show we experienced an exceptionally good show. After a two-year Covid-induced hiatus I thought I might be a little rusty when it came to coordinating the show and so checked and rechecked any number of things to make sure all was on track. The comments I heard from the exhibitors, visitors and fellow Division members were nothing but positive and that tells me as a Division, we all got it right!

The Division had a Holiday Luncheon in mid-January at Tim Schubert's church in Wheaton as our usual meeting place at St. Paul's UCC in Downers Grove had a no food order in place. Thank you to Tim for his arduous work during December to arrange the luncheon. While I hoped more members

would have been able to come out to enjoy the gathering, I can understand why they may not have, especially with the pandemic still having its ups and downs. In January, the Omicron variant was making the rounds and I thought maybe we needed to get through the octagon and decathlon variants before all was over. The pandemic appears to be on the run and things seem to be returning to normal, so we'll keep our fingers crossed.

The Division conducted elections in March for the positions of Assistant Superintendent and Paymaster. Perry Sugerman was elected to the position of Assistant Superintendent and replaced Ray Gerlich. Perry assumed the position with the understanding that should anyone else desire to take on that responsibility he'd be happy to step aside. Any takers? We'd sure love to see more individuals in the Division step forward to take on leadership positions. Alex Schneider was elected Paymaster, replacing Kim Schlytter. Thanks go out to Ray and Kim for their service to the Division over the past four years.

Next March (2023) the Division will elect a new Superintendent (my position) as well as a new Chief Clerk, Tim Schubert's position. Per our Constitution, both of us will have reached our term limits. Please consider taking on a leadership role in our Division. It's actually fun and rewarding.

Our Division continues to pick up new members with an average of one or two a month. Membership Chair Ron Scharping sends me notification of a new member and I reach out with a welcoming letter. I've had new members approach me at a Division meeting thanking me for the letter. I see that as positive feedback.

No one individual makes the Division a success. It's every member doing their part no matter how small. We are all like-minded enthusiasts enjoying this hobby and any contribution a member can give, be it time, skills, talents and resources does make a difference.

Finally, the Division is always looking for presenters at our monthly meetings so if you are willing to speak to the group about "just about anything railroad or model railroad related" we'd love to have you. In the past we've had excellent presentations on modeling, railroad operations, signaling, CTC machine operation, railroad related photo essays and any number of other subjects. Surely most of us have "something" we could share with the group. We have all the electronic projection equipment, and even the expertise to assist in set-up. All we need is talent.

Until next time, happy railroading all!

MEETING LOCATION FOR 2021-22

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

Division Officers For 2021-2022

Superintendent – Patrick Golden - Expires 5/31/23

Asst. Super. – Ray Gerlich - Expires 5/31/22

Chief Clerk – Tim Schubert - Expires 5/31/23

Paymaster – Kim Schlytter - Expires 5/31/22

Trainmasters (All terms expire 5/31/22)

Tim Schubert - *Crossback Editor*

Patrick Golden - *All American Railroad Show*

Ron Scharping - *Membership Chairman*

Rob Schiavone - *Achievement Program*

Charlie Lewis - *Contest Chairman*

Dave Koch – *Social Media*

Dave Angus – *Name Tags*

Jerry Howard – *Division Outreach*

Alan Busic – *Division Outreach*

Fred Henize – *At Large Trainmaster*

Perry Sugerman – *At Large Trainmaster*

Contact Information is available on the Division website. Website: www.mwr-nmra.org/dupage

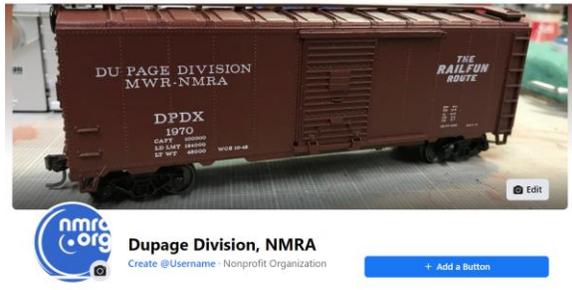
Division Address:

DuPage Division – MWR – NMRA

1278 Oxford Lane

Wheaton, IL 60189

Like us on Facebook!



If you are on Facebook, find us at DuPage Division, NMRA. We are looking to grow our presence in this area and use it to promote our annual show. We also have a Division members only closed group as well. Our hobby is not dying, it has just moved to the digital world like many other things.

TINKERING AT THE WORKBENCH

By Patrick Golden

I have mentioned in the past that in 2008 I inherited a Lionel train set my father had purchased in 1961 and added to each Christmas for ten years or more thereafter. That Lionel set was my first introduction into the hobby of model railroading, and while I have an HO scale collection and am a member of and run on the layout of the Elmhurst Model Railroad Club, I still set the Lionel trains up every Christmas for family and friends and have added to the setup extensively over the years.

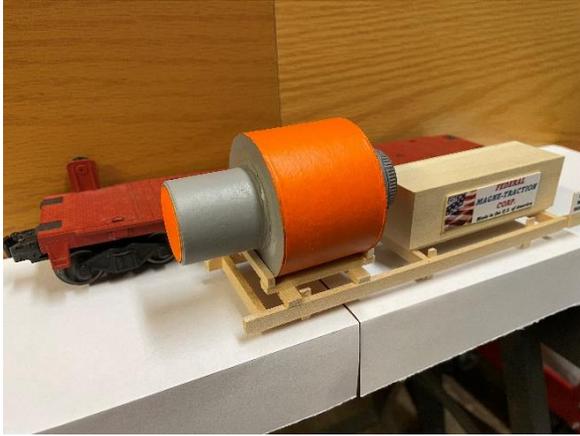
One of the things I enjoy doing is browsing the bargain bins at hobby shops for the reasonably priced vintage Lionel rolling stock. I check to make sure nothing is missing, broken or chipped and that the springs on the automatic couplers are still intact and the couplers still function. A little vintage patina is fine. These vintage cars

then become a project to clean up and maybe get creative to design a load for the car.

I recently picked up a Lionel 6511 Pipe Flat Car made between 1953 and 1956. The silver-colored pipe load and posts to hold the load in place had long since been lost to the ages but I was not concerned with that as my intent was to create some kind of open load for the car.

The Lionel flat car mold had stake pockets along each side and using basswood I crafted a skid on which to mount the new load with stakes that would allow the load to sit into the stake pockets and in doing so no modifications needed to be made to the car itself.

Using a cardboard roll that once held holiday ribbon, I removed the ends and used cardstock to create new ends. A round hole was cut in one end to accept a cut down prescription pill bottle and a hole was cut in the opposite end to accept a plastic scotch tape roll and a pill bottle top. White glue secured everything. I airbrushed the assembly with acrylic primer followed by orange and gray acrylics I had on hand from other projects. A wooden crate of miscellaneous parts sits at the opposite end of the flat car. The crate was left in the original color of the basswood to represent a shipping crate.



To finish the project, I used my printer to make the Federal Magne-Traction Corp. sign complete with an American flag that came from address labels that arrived in the mail as I was working on this project. The sign is typical of what a manufacturing company might affix to a load prior to shipping to get a little free advertising as the load moved on the railroad to its destination.



The Magne-Traction was a nod to Lionel and its 1950's exclusive innovation of magnets to magnetize the driving wheels of their locomotives and the steel track to allow higher speeds and the ability to climb steep grades. And since every Lionel product in its heyday carried the molded proclamation, "Made in the U.S. of America" that too was

incorporated into the sign that traveled with the load.

And finally, as would be typical of an open load such as this, both sides of the car have a "Do Not Hump" placard so switch crews in the railroad yards would know not to send this car over the hump while making up trains.



While this project may not satisfy the rivet counters and may appear a bit crude in some respects it provided several evenings of tinkering to produce something reasonably plausible as an open load. I've been asked what it is and I respond that it's a magnetometer, whatever that might be. Maybe it's a component of a flux capacitor.

BECOME A MASTER MODEL RAILROADER!

Get credit for the work you have done! See Rob Schiavone at one of our meetings to get guidance on the Achievement Program for the NMRA. You may be surprised that some of your work or volunteering counts towards this program. See details at <https://www.nmra.org/education/achievement-program>

DuPage Division 2021-22 Calendar of Events

Month	Presentation	Contest
September 12, 2021	<i>Operations on A&IR and Applying Yard Management Systems by Perry Sugerman</i>	Anything You Worked on Recently
October 3, 2021	<i>An HO Traction Micro-layout by Dave Lull</i>	Structures
November 7, 2021	<i>Operations on the N Scale Apple Valley Route by Fred Henize</i>	Supporting Characters
December 5, 2021	Cancelled	
January 15, 2022	Division Christmas Party	Annual Holiday Season Photo Contest
February 6, 2022	Chris Vanko - Weathering	Open Loads
March 6, 2022	Jerry Zeman - 20 Months into my 3D Printing Journey	Annual All NRMA Categories Contest
March 26, 2022	All American Railroad Show – 39th Annual at Lyons Township High School in LaGrange, IL	9am to 5pm Admission \$5
April 3, 2022	Layout Tours	No Contest
May 1, 2022	Dave Lull - Cardboard Structures	Favorite Train
May 18-22, 2022	Midwest Region Convention The Indy Junction Indianapolis, IN	<i>Regional Contests</i>
June XX, 2022	Division Outing	<i>Let us know some things you want to see or places you may want to go.</i>
August 7-13, 2022	National Convention at St. Louis, MO.	<i>National Contests</i>

Short Blasts

Some upcoming model railroading events for your calendar:

Fri & Sun – Elmhurst Model Railroad Club Open House - 111 E. 1st St. Elmhurst, IL Friday – 7-10pm, Sun – 1-4pm *Come out and support some of our Division members*

Weds & Fri – Prairie Scale Model Railroaders - 3 E. Ash St Lombard, IL 7:30-9:30pm *Come out and support some of our Division members*

May 20 – Scale Model Swap Meet – Elmhurst MRRC – Elmhurst Christian Reform Center, Elmhurst, IL. 6pm to 9pm, \$5 admission

June 12 – 46th Annual Kane County Railroadiana & Model Train Show - 10am to 3pm, \$6 admission.
<http://www.rrshows.com/>

Keep your eye on our Facebook page as we will promote any upcoming model railroading or prototype events as we are notified.

REPORT OF THE 2022 ALL-AMERICAN RAILROAD SHOW

By Patrick Golden

The Division had a very successful All-American Railroad Show this past March and was able to generate a grand total profit to the Division of \$2,353.64. In comparison, our three previous years in which we've had shows (remember we missed 2020 and 2021) generated profits of \$2,519.91 in 2019, \$2,149.57 in 2018 and \$2,906.06 in 2017.

Being that the 2020 show was cancelled one week prior to the show, we do show a loss of \$1,055.34 for that year which included the printing, postage, office supplies and insurance fee National charges the Division to process the coverage under the NMRA umbrella. The amounts showing as profit for

each year include admission profit after expenses, concessions profit after expenses, both split 50/50 with the school per our contract, and coffee/lunch donations which are not split.

Our net gate (the take at the door after the money used to make change is deducted) was \$5,673.00 compared with \$6,564.00 in 2019, \$6,032.25 in 2018 and \$6,881.35 in 2017. While the numbers may make it look as though we had an off year, I felt very good about our return after a hiatus of two years. While we hit a high-water mark in 2017, with Division profits almost hitting \$3,000.00, this year was a very respectable showing and more consistent with our average since raising admission price to \$5.00.

Paid attendance at this year's show was estimated at 1,227 (those age five and older) compared with 1,431 in 2019, 1,322 in 2018 and 1,364 in 2017. Add in those under five and you can see we had a rather good show.

Total expenses, which includes postage, office supplies, printing, insurance and coffee and donuts for exhibitors came to \$1,464.93 compared with \$1,914.33 in 2019, \$2,061.42 in 2018 and \$1,416.23 in 2017.

For the ninth year now, since 2012, the Division operated the concession, as we have done ever since the senior class school kids whose task it used to be to operate the concession opted to do a less than stellar job. Concession sales totaled \$1,376.60 against total expenses of \$1,111.37, generating a gross profit of \$265.23 and when split with the school netting the Division a profit of \$132.61. Concessions typically operate at or near a break-even point since the Division uses the concession to provide free lunches to the exhibitors, asking only that they remember to patronize the donation

jar. In addition, many of the people who attend the show look for a light lunch or snack during their visit.

Our contractual 50/50 split arrangement with the school resulted in a payment to the school of \$2,236.66 compared with \$2,471.80 in 2019, \$2,088.69 in 2018 and \$2,820.88 in 2017. A donation jar set out for coffee, donuts and lunches netted the Division an additional \$117.00 bringing the Division's total profit from the gate, concessions and donations to \$2,353.64.

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 one subscription to *Model Railroader* magazine and five softcover books. The fine folks at the Illinois Railway Museum donated four family four-pack passes to the museum. All ten prizes were awarded at the end of the day.

I need to send a sincere thank you to all the individuals who showed up on Friday evening to assist with set-up and to assist with last minute repairs to the rented coffee makers and popcorn machine. Thanks also go out to those who stepped up on the day of the show to collect money, stamp hands, man tables, keep the concession stocked with cold drinks, count money and do any number of other tasks that I called upon them to do. Your willingness to help is very much appreciated.

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. And I certainly believe we impress them as they walk through the door and see the trains, sights, sounds and exhibits waiting for

them. I heard nothing but positive comments about our show this year. Thank you everyone!

Editor's Note – Next Years All-American Railroad Show will be the 40th Annual! Let's make it the best!

Message from the Asst Superintendent By Ray Gerlich

This month will be my last month in this position I have been doing this for 5 seasons.

I want to thank all the presenters that helped me over the years in providing programs for our groups as well as people that helped me network in finding presenters, The board of directors and staff was always supportive. I hope you found the programs entertaining as well as informative.

Per our rules, I can no longer serve in this position and must step down for another member to do this. This is a good thing it allows more members to help with our group and brings fresh ideas to us.

My replacement is Perry Sugerman. I wish all the best. If anyone has program ideas, they should bring them to him.

See you all at the meetings. I will be working on learning how to paint and build some models I wanted to do recently hoping to network with fellow members on this.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

- James Broton – Darien
- Zachary Godzicki – Lombard
- Jim Panza – Oswego
- Tim Perkin – Burr Ridge
- Charles Regan – Oak Lawn

Welcome to the NMRA and the DuPage Division – we hope to see you at a meeting!

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c/o Tim Schubert
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Wheaton, IL 60189

**This is your notification of the November 7,
2021 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.