

Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA –
Fall 2015



President's Report

By Paul Mangan, President, MWR



Paul Mangan

Summer has flown by as it always does and now that fall is getting closer the modeling crews are getting ready to return to the basement or wherever you have your layout. We outdoor G-scalers are preparing to take the railroad down for the winter.

There are a few that like to run their trains in the snow but I am not one of them. I prefer sitting in front of the fire reading NMRA magazine and maybe picking up a few tips to improve my modeling skills. Yup, I do dabble in HO. I set up modules with Madison HoTrak at Trainfest, Mad City, LaCrosse, Three Rivers, Rockford and a few other places. So when you are at Trainfest stop by the Madison HoTrak modules and say hello.

The National Convention was set up for the end of August this year. I am used to these events being in July most of the time so as of this report, I have not been there yet but soon will be. I will report on the convention in the winter Waybill.

I really enjoy attending the National Conventions as often as possible. These events always bring out the best that this hobby has to offer. During the week of an NMRA convention there are so many activities to partake in that one has a hard time making choices of what to do. This year I have decided to select more of the prototype tours than layout tours. There is a lot to see and do around the Portland area so I will be busy. The convention this year is called the Portland Daylight Express and I and a lot of friends will be attending.

In 2016 the showcase of model railroading comes

right here to the Midwest Region. The Central Indiana Division is sponsoring "High Ball to Indy 2016". MWR V.P. Steve Studley and the convention committee are organizing another fine convention. Indianapolis is not a very long drive from anywhere in the Midwest region. Hope you're considering attending The High Ball to Indy.

The fall Midwest Region Board of Directors meeting is being hosted by the Michiana division on the same week end of the Edu Train Conference and Workshops 2015. The dates are Sept 11th and 12th at the Comfort Suits in the University area South Bend Indiana. The board meeting is scheduled for Sunday September 13th at 9 a.m. Any NMRA member is invited to attend and observe these meetings as usual.

I would like to thank Bob Blake and the Michiana Division for offering to host our meeting. The spring board meeting will be hosted by the South Central Wisconsin. Details will be in the winter Waybill.

There are elections every year for one position or another and this year is no exception. Organizations of any type do not operate well without good leadership. As time has moved on I think we all have noticed that the number of people who volunteer to step up and take on the challenges of this leadership has been dwindling. The age thing is always what is blamed first. When I was first asked to run for a position on the division board I was a bit nervous as I have never done this before. After being elected I found it wasn't that hard to do. The satisfaction of doing something for our hobby and the people in the hobby is very rewarding.

Why did I start this conversation string, well, we have elections for Director at Large soon, that's why. I would like to encourage as many as I can to take on this experience especially if you have never done it before. There is still time to get on the ballot for the next election cycle. It would also be nice to see more than one person running for any given position.

How do I do this you might say? The best way is to get a hold of the MWR elections chair Mike Vivion. His contact information is on our MWR web site. He will be glad to hear from you.

The WAYBILL

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CONTRIBUTIONS

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ADVERTISING

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Full page	\$100		\$35
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Editor's Column

For me, summer is a time for railfanning. Unfortunately, my favorite railroads, Soo line, Milwaukee and C&NW are long gone. So is my favorite motive power, first and second generation diesels. Give me a mixed freight pulled by some F-7's with maybe a GP-9 for variety! That's nostalgia.

My favorite railfanning spot, where Deval tower once stood in Des Plaines, is now inhabited by new GE's and EMD units that trundle by with 150 cars loaded with coal, oil or containers, sporting foreign reporting marks like CN, CP or UP.

Fortunately I have my spots to see something different. One is for only one day, The annual Franklin Park Railroad Daze. For more see Walt Herrick's Around the Division Column on page 5. I have been going to this event for at least 25 years. Of course the railroads represented have changed over the years, but there is always a good mix of the old and new. I need a people filter to block out the crowds, but by filming from the backside, I can get my shots. And I always run across a lot of friends there. This year was no exception, as Mike Hirvela and Jim Allen were manning the NMRA booth.

My other favorite haunt is the former C&NW coach yard in Des Plaines. It is now reconfigured as a MOW yard, and always holds some treasures, if you like work equipment. Once again getting C&NW or CGW reporting marks are getting rarer, but some new such as MP and UP are added to the mix. I go on Sunday morning, where I can get my shots quickly and get out.

My third favorite spot is the maze of switch tracks in Elk Grove Village. It was formerly switched by the Milwaukee and C&NW on a joint basis. Now it is the UP and Chicago Terminal railroad. But it is a fascinating look at a small, easily modifiable switching layout. Of course I go to photograph the motive power.



Above: Equipment on display at Franklin Park Railroad Daze

Below:

Waiting to switch the Elk Grove industrial trackage



Below:

C&NW flat car X261488 at the Des Plaines yard. It would make an interesting model with all the junk on it.



All photos by the editor, unless noted.

Continued from page 1

Another person I would like to say thanks to is our Publications Chair and Waybill Editor Dave Leider MMR. Being a division newsletter editor myself I can appreciate all the work that Dave puts in to get the news out to us. Thanks again Dave.

The modeling season will be in full swing soon, train shows and division meetings will be on our minds. So as always ...
I'll see you by the Rails

Paul

Region News

Midwest Region Achievement Program Report by Jim Landwehr- MWR AP Manager

As fall draws near I find myself reminiscing of the train trips my family and I have taken over the years. For years, we spent fall weekends traveling to train museums across the Midwest. Some of our favorite places are Mid-Continental Railroad in North Freedom, Wisconsin and National Railroad in Green Bay, Wisconsin just to name a few. Many of these places gave me inspiration for my personal train layout. From the colors of trees to the restoration of historic passenger cars, trips to museums are a great place to gather ideas. Now is the time to get out and enjoy the days of great weather!

The following members received an AP Certificate:

Jeffrey Jarr	Chicago, IL	Volunteer
Dave Johnson	Glenview, IL	Official
Jim Allen	Lake Villa, IL	Official
Joe Russ	New Berlin, Wi	Official
Bill Drzal	West Chicago, IL	Electrical

As always, work with your division Achievement Manager first, and if there is a problem, feel free to contact me.

Enjoy the season,
Jim Landwehr
Midwest Region AP Manager

**Fall Board of Directors
Meeting
Comfort Suites University Area
South Bend, Indiana**

9:00 am, Sunday, September 13, 2015

Registration is now open for "Designing & Building Like a Prototype"

When: September 11th & 12th 2015

Where: Comfort Suites - University Area, in South Bend Indiana, (One mile north of the Indiana Toll Road on SR933)

Cost: \$35 Both Days (Fri-Sat) and \$20 for Saturday only.
\$5 NMRA member discount.

Friday evening banquet at the Villa Macri Ristorante \$25
Registration: more information and updates can be found at: <http://michiana-nmra.org/>

The Michiana Division Education & Training Conference is now four weeks away, and we're continuing our preparations. If you haven't sent in your registration, this would be a good time to make that choice! You can register at the door, but early registration will help us in planning for some of the workshops, pre-printing badges to speed check-in and give us an early count for the banquet. You can even pay online if so desired.

The registration can be found at <http://michiana-nmra.org/>
If you need a hotel room, please call the Comfort Suites University Area at (574) 272-1500 and mention the NMRA Michiana Conference to get our preferred room rate.

I believe we have planned an outstanding conference with several new features and we look forward to seeing you in just a few weeks.

Regards,

Daniel Brewer
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Above:

Several Fox Valley Division members admire an engine at the Illinois Live Steamers picnic.

HIGHBALL TO INDY, 2016



It's less than a year to the next NMRA National Convention and National Train Show. Not only is it close in time, but it's also close in distance. Here's your chance to attend another convention that will be essentially in your backyard. July 3, 2016 marks the beginning of Highball to Indy, 2016 which will be held in downtown Indianapolis, IN. The Central Indiana Division will be the hosts and will be looking forward to your visit. We have been working hard to ensure you will have plenty of opportunities to add to your model railroad enjoyment and expertise.

Planned prototype tours will include visits to local railroad facilities. Tour Amtrak's Beech Grove Shops to see how Amtrak cars and engines are refurbished and/or repaired. Visit Indiana Rail Road's new loco maintenance facility at INRD's Hiawatha Yard. Check the Tours tab on the 2016 website for updated information about tours as they are announced. www.nmra2016.org

There are currently 20 layouts listed under the layout tour tab. Check out the photos of each layout to find the ones that interest you. We'll be adding more layouts to this area of the website. As with the prototype tours, check the website often for updated information.

The list of clinics and clinicians is increasing, too.

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We expect it to increase dramatically after the Portland Convention. In time, the clinics will be listed on the site. We are also planning on having varied and extensive Non-Rail, and General Interest programs for those whose interests may not be primarily based on model railroading. Indianapolis is a great location for family attendance at conventions due to the number of interesting attractions within walking distance of the headquarters hotel. Tours will be available to visit museums, the zoo, and other locations a bit farther out from the hotel. If you wish to stay closer to the center of activity, there will also be presentations, hands-on workshops, and fun activities held in the convention hotel.

Two means of registration are currently available from the Highball to Indy, 2016 website's main page. You may either; print out a paper copy of the registration, complete it, and send it in, or, you may link to the NMRA site to register online. Choose whichever method is easier for you. Don't forget to get your registration in before the fares increase on Feb. 1, 2016. Now is a good time to get that done. If you are anything like me, you'll forget till after the fares increase. Do it now. Don't procrastinate. Save some money.

The convention hotel will be The Westin Indianapolis. Room reservations are not currently being accepted. Rooms will open after the first of the year, usually announced in the NMRA magazine January or February issue. We'll also make note of room availability on our website. The National Train Show (164,100 sq. ft.) will be held in the Indiana Convention Center which is directly across the street from the hotel. Access is available via covered, elevated walkway.

We look forward to your visit to Indianapolis next July, the 3rd through the 10th.

HIGHBALL TO INDY, 2016 www.nmra2016.org

Steve Studley

chair, Highball to Indy, 2016

Vice President, MWR

Past Superintendent, CID

From: Larry Stoll

Subject: QSME Open House

If you would, please list our open house in your upcoming newsletters and emails:

Quincy Society of Model Engineers Open House Sat Nov 7th (noon-5pm) and Sun Nov 8th

(noon-4pm) Held at Good Samaritan Home, 2130 Harrison, Quincy, IL

Around the Midwest Region

by Walt Herrick, Fox Valley Division

Summer in my Fox Valley Division is a little more relaxing than during our September through May modeling year. We don't schedule monthly meetings in June, July and August, so our members have a chance to get out and rail fan, visit other layouts, go on family vacations, outings, etc. An outing our Membership Promotions Trainmaster, Mike Hirvela, (and a number of other Fox Valley members, too) went on was to the annual Franklin Park Railroad Daze celebration June 11 – 13. At this event, Chicago's west suburban town of Franklin Park celebrates its rich railroad heritage with a ton of railroad related activities for rail fans and the whole family. There are prototype locos and rolling stock to see (and some to tour), special prototype displays, model railroads, a carnival, lots of food vendors, and live music. To top it all off, everything is free! Mike sent along some shots he took of this year's excellent festival...Several Fox Valley members including yours truly, enjoy visiting the Illinois Railway Museum in the summer. The museum is located out in the country north west of Chicago near the small village of Union, Illinois. There's a bunch (with a capital B!) of stuff to see and ride at the museum especially on weekends. Rail-fanning is great particularly on one of their special event weekends or when their Frisco 2-10-0 steamer #1630 is running....Though the FVD doesn't hold monthly meetings in the summer, we do have a summer outing usually in August. Our Public Relations and Webmaster Trainmaster, Jim Osborn, took some great shots of this summer's outing to the Illinois Live Steamers south of Chicago in Joliet. The weather was superb for the event as were the live steam locomotive models which the ILS guys ran the day we were there....Soon we'll back to "work" at our regular Sunday afternoon monthly meetings normally on the third Sunday of the month. We'll also be preparing for our High Wheeler Train Show March 5 & 6 at Harper College in Palatine, Illinois. (Yes friends, there will be a High Wheeler Show in 2016 despite any rumors to the contrary!) The Show's new web site should be up and running by the time you read this.

Frisco 1630 is near the Seeman Road grade crossing with six cars this past July on Illinois Railway Museum right of way. Walt Herrick photo. The Fox Valley Division visited the Illinois Live Steamers in August and had a great time at their extensive facility. That's Waybill Editor, David Leider, MMR, in the light blue cap at the picnic table. Three photos below by Jim Osborn.



At Railroad Daze in June, a UP SD70AII and an IHB Genset switcher were two locos you could view and tour. Above photos by Mike Hirvela.





Central Indiana Division
of the
National Model Railroad Association

Presents the

Danville Train Show

Saturday - November 21, 2015

Admission
\$3.00 per person
\$5.00 per family



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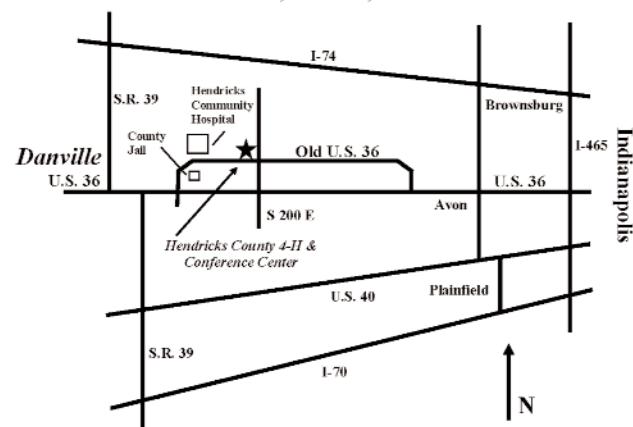
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Dealer Tables \$16.00 each [8 foot] Setup from 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM
Contact Keith Clark at (812) 876-6799 or gtwf@bluemarble.net



Check out our website at <http://cid.railfan.net/>

Mark your calendars for the Noblesville Train Show on January 31, 2016. Also look
for the CID booth at the Worlds Greatest Hobby Show January 9-10, 2016.

Martinsville Train Show will be in April 2016.

In 2016 the CID will host the National Convention for the NMRA in Indianapolis.

A message from Mike Brestel, NMRA At Large Worldwide Director

The three strikes policy:

What is it and what does it mean?

We've been getting a lot of questions about the Visitor Policy that the NMRA Board adopted and publicized in February of this year, limiting visitors to NMRA meetings to three visits during their lifetime. This isn't really a new policy, since it was first adopted in 2007 and explained in the "President's Car" column in the November, 2007 issue of Scale Rails. Then, as now, the needs of our insurance provider played a large part in the adoption of this policy, but there are also issues of basic fairness, as well as tax issues in the U.S.

Here's the policy: Visitors are allowed three visits to an NMRA meeting IN THEIR LIFETIME. If they don't join by their third visit, they cannot attend any more meetings. A lot of the questions we've been getting are from members trying to over-complicate the policy, worrying about this or that exception and making up complicated what-ifs. The policy does not apply to spouses who come along to the meetings so that they can go to dinner afterwards. It does not apply to non-member caregivers who aren't modelers, but who provide a ride to a member who cannot drive himself. It does not apply to events that are organized for the general public, like mall shows, swap meets, beginner clinic series, and the like, nor does it apply to things like joint meetings with another group or family picnics or outings.

Allowing freeloaders to participate as if they were members is unfair because it takes advantage of our members who HAVE paid up. We're all paying to keep the organization going – what are the freeloaders doing, besides getting a free ride on our backs? And tolerating permanent freeloaders can give our insurance providers a reason to cancel your coverage if you have an incident, leaving individual officers and members responsible for paying the claim. The IRS has rules about giving benefits of membership to non-members, too – they say don't do it, and there are tax consequences if you do.

Now, if your Division and Region are already following the rules (which would be a really good idea if you want the protection of our NMRA Liability Insurance policy), this is not the big deal you might think it is. We all know that if someone comes and tries us out three times and still doesn't join, they're not going to join. So after the third turn-down, don't worry about it – just move on to the next prospect.

If you're still wondering whether your group is in compliance, just ask yourself: are you allowing people who aren't members to come to your meetings month after month, year after year, and participate as if they'd paid their dues? If the answer is no, then fine, just keep doing what you're doing. If the answer is yes, then you have some changes to make.

If you have additional questions about this policy or how to implement it, please feel free to contact an NMRA officer, director, or NMRA HQ. We'll get your question to the right person.

Mike Brestel - At Large Worldwide Director

A few words from the President

A few words about LCC

You may have seen the ads or heard the scuttlebutt about "LCC". What is "LCC"? Well, in a nutshell it is "DCC for your layout," although it is much more than that.

DCC or Digital Command Control has been on the scene for almost 30 years now in one form or another. Originally introduced as an analog system commercially over 50 years ago by GE as "Astrak," this approach allowed individual control of locomotives through carrier waves superimposed on the rail system. It worked, but it had limitations such as heat buildup and the size and number of onboard receivers.

Today's far more sophisticated digital system uses digital packets of information sent through the rails along with the voltage needed to operate. Again, the emphasis is on individual control of motive power, and Astrak's limits have been addressed by this different system. But DCC also has limits, primarily when adding non-motive power devices to a limited bus line, such as stationary decoders for switch machines, signaling systems and detection. LCC is not intended to supplant or replace DCC for your motive power but offers many advantages in operating switches or turnouts, signaling, detection and even lighting. This column is not the place for a primer on LCC; we hope to offer that primer at Portland and in NMRA Magazine.

But understand, this new technology, built by hobbyists on a proven platform, is just that - NEW. That means that commercial products and the articles on LCC are still underway. As with any new technology, one predicts at their peril about its impact. We believe it holds great potential to do for your layout functionality what DCC has done for your motive power. It all depends upon the commercial sector and you, the consumer.

In theory, LCC offers a revolution in providing easier and less expensive control for your layout systems. Whether that theory is realized depends on you and your interest. I know that the timing is good for me as I embark upon a major layout project in the next few years. I want LCC along with DCC and hope it will be there when I am ready. For now, watch these pages as we finalize the standards and encourage the commercial sector to plunge into this new technology. For once, the NMRA is ahead of the curve and we hope no curve balls are thrown.

Those are my thoughts; what are yours?

Charlie

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