



# The Lantern



Volume 3 Issue 11

Division 10, Mid Central Region

November & December, 2001



**National  
Model  
Railroad  
Association**

*The Lantern* is a monthly publication of Division 10, Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association. Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Division 10, the Mid Central Region, the NMRA, or anyone else.

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## Message From The Superintendent

November is going to be filled with activities that will interest Div. 10 modelers. Please note that our meeting on the 4th has been moved from the Beaumont library to the Bates Creek library due to a scheduling conflict. We will be back at Beaumont on the 9th of December, the *second* Sunday, to avoid conflicting with the Springfield, Ohio show.

The Greater American Train Show at Heritage Hall in Lexington on Nov. 17-18 conflicts with Div. 7's show at the Convention Center in Northern Kentucky on the same date. It will be an important event for Div 10 and

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## Editor's Notes

The October meeting was well attended (about 20, including one guest, and now NEW MEMBER, **Mike Walter**), and a lot of fun. Welcome, Mike!

There was a lot of discussion and interest at the October meeting in building some HO modules, with several volunteering to get involved in this activity. **Fred Plymale, Wes Ross, John Gorman**, were among those expressing an interest. Let one of

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### In Memoriam

Gene Compton was a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer. He had been building Fine Scale Miniature kits and dioramas which were sold thru a North Carolina dealer. Our condolences to family & friends.



## “STUFF” & OPPORTUNITIES

Fred Plymale and Mike Armstrong occasionally have or know of *members’ overstock* situations and other opportunities to acquire or dispose of “stuff.” Get in touch with them to find out if anything is currently available. These liquidations, generally via a web auction, bear a 15 to 20% fee.

In addition, *The Lantern* is in a position to advertise your “overstock” items, for a fee of 10%.

Contact Pete Birdsong to arrange for an ad, or Mike or Fred for liquidations.

Howard Coleman has four of the *Lex-N-Trak* caps left, at \$15.00 each. Contact him if you’d like to buy one:

224-4363

## Treasury Report

Contact Treasurer Mike Armstrong if a detailed report is desired.

8/1/01 Begin	4014.71
Income	257.30
Expense	80.95
8/31/01 End	4191.06
Income	2217.00
Expense	1851.88
9/30/01 Balance	4556.18

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Editor’s Notes

them know if you want to get into this, also.

**Pat Gerstle** gave a fascinating clinic on modeling metal roofs by actually etching metal! I hope you didn’t miss this one.

The October tour of **Lou Jaquith’s** HO empire, complete with helix, is a work of art and engineering in progress. Lou is working to-

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## Committee Chairs

<b>Achievement Program</b>	<b>David Greer:</b> 859 296 4313
<b>Advertising &amp; Programs</b>	Open
<b>Community Activities</b>	Bob Richardson 859 219 1583
<b>Company Store</b>	Mike Baskette 859 278 8150
<b>Contests</b>	Alan Brock 859 269-3250
<b>Conventions &amp; Shows</b>	Wendell Greer 859 272 8731
<b>Estate Liquidations</b>	Mike Armstrong 859 296 4746
<b>Member Aid</b>	Wendell Greer 859 272 8731
<b>Membership</b>	Franklin Miller 859 269 3205
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Pete Birdsong 859 268 1462
<b>Photographer</b>	John Gorman 859 269 3573
<b>Webmaster</b>	Pete Birdsong 859 268 1462

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Superintendent’s message

for all modelers in our area. We will have the N-scale layout and our membership booth at the show. We need your help to cover our booth in two or three hour shifts. This will be our greatest recruiting opportunity to meet local modelers and acquaint them with the NMRA, our local division, monthly modeling clinics and interesting layout tours. We want to have every GATS attendee fill out a registration form for our free NMRA draw prize. The registration of local modelers will be an extremely important addition to our data base to be used to promote future modeling activities and our first annual Div. 10 train show in 2002. Please help by calling and scheduling the times you will be available to help.

We intend to invite GATS attendees to our December meeting for a brief introduction to the basics of Model Railroading 101. You can help by conducting a mini-clinic, about 10 minutes, in design, building bench work, laying and ballasting track, detailing buildings, scenery, etc. It’s a good opportunity to earn some extra volunteer points and share your skills with others. As you know, the real fun of model

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***In Appreciation....***

Many thanks to our Sustaining and Patron members listed below. (Sustaining members contribute \$10.00 per year, and Patrons \$20 or more.) We encourage all members to help support *The Lantern* and our website. A number next to a name indicates a second or subsequent donation.

**PATRONS**

**SUSTAINING MEMBERS**

Carl Adkins	Mike Armstrong (2)	Jerome Baker	Mike Baskette
Pete Birdsong (2)	Burt Brashear	Dennis Brennan	Rex Childers
Alan Brock	Tom Brough	Richard Crane	John Daniel
Harold Burks	John Deville	Ray Grosser	Mark Hunt (2)
John Gorman	John Greene	Lyman Jenkins	Ron Kercheval
Wendell Greer	Joe Holbrook	Frank Miller	Jim Mink
Lou Jaquith (2)	Skip Keyser	Bill Paulsell	Frank Randall
Bob Lawson (2)	David Mikulec	David Reed	Richard Rink
Fred Plymale	Bob Richardson	J. Roberts	Wes Ross
Bill Robbins	Ed Sims	Ron Saylor	John Stokes

**Support Our Local  
Hobby Shops**

Our advertisers are supporting us with their ads, so let's support them with our business! A strong retail network is vital to keeping the hobby visible to the public, and provides valuable help to newcomers. By our patronage of their stores, they are able to continue bringing more people into the hobby, and promoting our organization.....

**win-win!!**

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Editor's Notes

wards having Operations Sessions on his layout, and we all look forward to it. Thanks to Pat and Lou for contributing to a great meeting!

October Operations Meetings were great, with improvements made on both layouts.

We made forms for volunteer service documentation toward Achievement Program certification available at the October meeting. Let me know if you need a form, or you can print them directly off the HQ website.

The Bring & Brag contest had a lot of entries this time, which made for a lot of fun. Bring in your caboose for November, and remember December is a free-for all—you can bring in *anything!*

We made some cosmetic improvements to the website in October, and eliminated the music. Feel free to send in any comments.

Congratulations to three members who received Merit Award Certificates at the MCR Louisville Convention:

**Ray Grosser** - for his Soo Line L-4 Mikado steam engine

**Joe Holbrook** - Clinchfield Bridge

**Bob Lawson** - Industrial District

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Superintendent's message

railroading is in the fellowship and sharing among our members. Please get involved and help us extend our fellowship by introducing new modelers to the NMRA Division 10 by working the membership booth at GATS and a mini clinic on December 9.

Call now!

*Fred*

Certificates will be presented at the November meeting by **Dave Greer**, Division 10 AP Chairman.

One more reminder that this issue covers both November and December.

And last, but **VERY important**, see the insert for *PROPOSED* changes in the newsletter distribution policy, which will be implemented in February, unless there is a significant improvement in donations.

*Let me or Fred know how you feel about it.*

Thanks.

*Pete*

## BRING & BRAG

High to low or tie:	Oct.	YTD
Fred Plymale	5	22
Pete Birdsong	4	17
Mark Hunt	2	16
John Gorman	2	8
Joe Baker	0	4
Mike Armstrong	0	3
Bill Robbins	3	3
Lou Jaquith	0	2
Ed Sims	0	2
Tom Wheeler	2	2

**Fred did it again, taking another first place. Bring in your entry and STOP THE TYRANT!!! We had 6 entries this month. Let's triple it for November! EVERYONE has got to have a caboose to bring in! There's nothing to lose, and the more the merrier.**

**Remaining events:**

November—Caboose

December—Free Category.

See the April Lantern, or contact chairman Alan Brock, for a refresher on the rules!

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## MEMBER PROFILES

## Mike Cummins



Mike lives at 268 Briar Patch Lane in Frankfort, KY, with his wife, Vicki. They are both retired from jobs with the Kentucky state government, and work now at Wal Mart.

Mike and Vicki recently moved into a new house with a full walkout basement, and Mike is now working on his N-scale layout, with benchwork mostly complete. Vicki helps with building scale structures. The main prototype interest is the Louisville & Nashville.

In addition to the n-scale home layout, Mike has built several N-Trak modules, and has been an active participant in shows at Somerset, the Kentucky Horsepark, etc., and is a past president of the BGRRC.

Mike's job at Wal Mart is in the photo lab, reflecting another interest: cameras and photography. He also has a railroad watch collection, and has played Santa Claus on the train in Versailles in the past, and again at Wal Mart last year.

The Tuesday night informal group is where to find Mike regularly, either as a guest or a host. It's worth the trip to Frankfort when he hosts the group—the "crew lounge"

## Witless vs Clueless

*Rivets O'Reilly and Larry Loungecar***"Happy Holidays"**

*Rivets:* Hey Larry, what's happenin'?

*Larry:* Not much, Rivets—just makin' plans for the holidays.

*Rivets:* Yeah, that's right. Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here soon. Whattaya got in mind, Larry?

*Larry:* Well, number one, I'm trying not to pout or cry, or be naughty. Ya never know who might be watchin', ya know?

*Rivets:* Yep. But in my case not cryin' is really hard, when I'm around you. Guess you're makin' a list and checkin' it twice, too, huh?

*Larry:* I think you're mixin' metaphors or somethin', Rivets, but yeah, I'm workin' on a list.

*Rivets:* So whatcha got on it so far - engines, rollin' stock, turnouts, track, backdrops, structure kits, scenery materials - the "usual suspects?"

*Larry:* Naw, I've got pretty

is most pleasant.

Mike can be counted on always to pitch in in helping to set up, operate and take down equipment for shows.

Immediate plans are to start "makin' tracks" on the new layout.

much what I need on all that, Rivets - I'm expandin' my horizons this year - thinkin' big!

*Rivets:* Oh, boy, I hate to ask, but what does that mean?

*Larry:* Tops on my list this year is the house and lot behind me.

*Rivets:* What? Why do you want that?

*Larry:* I'm gonna bulldoze the house and rebuild - you see it happenin' all over Lexington these days.

*Rivets:* Yeah, but that's got nothin' to do with trains. Are you berserk?

*Larry:* No comment. But I'm gonna put up a prefab warehouse and build a whole new layout.

*Rivets:* It ain't gonna happen, Larry. You don't have the resources to pull it off. Anything else on your list?

*Larry:* Yeah, a chainsaw, so I can take out my old layout.

*Rivets:* Well, I can relate to that one, anyway, Larry. I'll even help you on that one. I'd really enjoy chainsawin' your layout.

*Larry:* Gee, thanks, Rivets. It's nice to see you gettin' the holiday spirit already!

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<b>AROUND THE BEND...</b>
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MON	DAY	EVENT	PLACE/TIME	PROGRAM	TOUR	CONTEST
Oct.	27	LCCA	10:00 - 3:00 Continental Inn, US 27 & New Circle Rd, Lexington			
Nov.	4	NMRA MCR Div. 10	2:00 pm, Tates Creek Library, Lexington	Jack Green: Brass Collecting	Morgan McIlwain	Cabooses
	9	BGRRC	7:30 Meadowthorpe Community Center	Ken Cotton: Railroad Bridges		
	17-18	GATS	Heritage Hall, Lexington	Displays by NMRA Div. 10 and BGRRC		
Dec.	9	NMRA MCR Div. 10	2:00 pm, Beaumont Library, Lexington	Members: Introduction to Model Railroading	Carl Adkins	Free Category

# The Lantern

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## PROPOSED POLICY CHANGE

Effective February, 2002, if there is not a substantial increase in donations, we will have to institute a subscription charge of \$10 per year to receive a mailed copy of *The Lantern*, as discussed at the October General Meeting. The objective is threefold:

1. Reduce the effort by the staff to produce and distribute the newsletter.
2. Generate some revenue for Division 10.
3. Reduce our operating expenses.

*The Lantern* will continue to be available free of charge in its on-line format on the website:

<http://nmra-division10.railfan.net/>

Since the vast majority of Division 10 members have access to the website, we believe this will not be a great imposition for most. Moreover, the \$10 charge is not an exorbitant amount, and is line with what we have been asking as an annual donation from the start. However, if you feel this will preclude your receiving the newsletter, please contact the Superintendent at

**859 223-7270, or f729@aol.com**

Advertisers and NMRA staff will continue to receive a free mailed copy. This policy change will be reflected in the Constitution and By-laws, which are also available on the website, or by request to a Division 10 officer (see front page for names, phones, e-mails.) The changes are printed at right. A list of everyone on the current distribution list without an e-mail is also provided at right. If you are on the list, but have an e-mail address, please send it to me at

**rrpete@prodigy.net**

Thanks for your support and understanding. Please contact me at 859 268-1462, or the above e-mail address, if you have questions. To ensure continuous copies, please make your payment to Mike Armstrong as early as possible, but before December 15th. The mailing labels will carry the subscription expiration date.

*Pete*

**Please let me know right away if you object to this change.**

**The following are on our distribution list, without e-mail addresses.**

Carl	Adkins	Jerome	Baker
Gary	Barkman	Orville	Boes
Thomas	Bookout	John	Bowling
Dennis	Brennan	Thomas	Brough
Gerald	Brown	W.	Chenault
Eugene	Compton	Richard	Crane
John	Deville	Jerry	Feather
Roger	Fischer	Irv	Frary
James	Gardner	Leonard	Giovannoli
Robin	Grider	Shawn	Harley
Jeffery	Hinnrichs	Joe	Holbrook
Mark	Hunt	Lyman	Jenkins
Robert	Lawson	Chester	Myers
Paul	Proessel	Frank	Randall
Kenneth	Robinson	Wesley	Ross
Ron	Saylor	Donald	Scaff
George	Schwert	Ed	Sims
William	Smith	Gary	Sole
Bob	Stewart	Kenneth	Tackett
H.	Thomas	Tom	Wheeler
Tug	Wilson	James	Zinsner

### CHANGES to Constitution & By-laws

1. The phrase "sent by mail" is struck from Section 2 of Article VI of the Constitution.
2. The phrase "or e-mail" was added at the end of Section 2 of Article VI of the By-laws.
3. Section 3 of Article VI of the By-laws:

Each Division 10 member shall be mailed a copy of **The Lantern**.

is replaced by the following:

**The Lantern** may be updated on the Division 10 website, and /or mailed to members. A subscription price, to be determined by the Board of Directors, may be charged for mailed copies.

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## The Kingpin

Mid-Central Region  
National Model  
Railroad Association

Fourth Quarter, 2001

### President's Message by Marty Vaughn

There have been some tragic and significant events in our country since the last of these columns. Our country has lost some of its innocence and perhaps some naiveté. As I write this, the number of dead and missing is over 6,000 but probably not complete. While these terrorists found a temporary weakness they also brought to light some of the enduring strengths of our country. These strengths have been demonstrated from the beginning by the rescue workers in New York and Washington D.C., by the passengers of United Airlines Flight 93 and by the outpouring of blood donations and aid to the victims and their families. Sometimes we forget our strengths. Those with the terrorist mindset will never understand those strengths, but they will come to know the impact of those strengths over time.

As you all know by now the NMRA has increased dues effective 1 September 2001. I have heard from a number of you about this increase. Most of you, that I have talked to, aren't happy with the increase but understand why it is necessary and are going to continue in the NMRA. A few of you have told me that this increase does cause some financial problems but you are going to stay on as affiliate members. And a very few that I have talked to are going to leave the NMRA.

We all have to make our own decision on what to do about our membership and whatever you decide, I support your decision. I hope you will remain a member of the NMRA. I decided to convert the multi-year membership I sent in July into the down payment on a life membership.

There is only one complaint I have heard that bothers me. Basically this complaint is that the NMRA doesn't do anything. In the most striking case the member made that complaint and went on to say he had never attended a National Convention and had never attended a Regional convention. He said that the AP program was a waste and too much money was spent on these "contests" for a select few and he wouldn't ever waste his time on that. He didn't say if he uses digital command control or not so I don't know if he got any benefit from the newest NMRA standards program or not. While he didn't come out and directly say it, he left me with the impression that he didn't bother to attend the meetings of the Division where he lived either. It became apparent that even if there were NO dues this person wasn't getting his money's worth.

His complaint about the AP is one prime example of this. I'm proud to admit I have earned an MMR so while you might accuse me of being a bit biased toward the AP I have also participated and know about the program. There are no "contests" in the AP. In fact there are nearly as many certificates that are based on service as there are modeling. If you aren't interested in sharing and improving your modeling you can still participate in the AP. The organization at all levels can always use Volunteers, candidates for Officer who are willing to help lead or Authors who are willing to share their efforts with the Bulletin, the Region web page or a Division newsletter. As for the modeling certificates, you can complete them all, become an MMR and never enter a contest. I guarantee you that if you do it will improve your modeling and probably open up aspects of the hobby you'll enjoy but never thought to try on your own. The NMRA is no different than any other organization; you're not going to get anything out of it if you aren't willing to put something into it.

I hope you caught the mention above about articles for the web page. There have been some problems getting the web page running smoothly, but hopefully we have over come that now. We finally got the text for the first layout uploaded and by the time you read this Jim

Hodde's layout should also be up and viewable. We are also interested in modeling articles, with pictures for the web page. If you don't feel comfortable submitting your first effort to the Bulletin then give us a try. Send the article to me, complete with pictures and we'll load it to the web site to share with everyone. Photos, slides and digital images are all acceptable. If you can send your write up on a disk or email that would be best but we will type it for you if you don't have access to a computer. You'll gain experience writing an article and Author points in the AP as well. We also have room for more layout tours on the site. Send your layout tour photos to me and remember to include captions for the photos, a photo of yourself, and a little information about your layout and your personal modeling interests. We are also getting the events page up and running. If you have a Division event coming up, please send the information by email to Ivan Baugh at: [iv-baugh@home.com](mailto:iv-baugh@home.com). In the meantime Ivan will take the events listed in your Division newsletters and use those to post the schedule. We will try to keep this updated monthly with a 90-day window of events. In the meantime, if you have any questions, problems or just want to talk model railroading, feel free to call, write or send me email.

### Trustee's Message by Mike Brestel

The last time I wrote to you was just before the St. Louis Convention. I told you about National's financial crisis, which many of us in the Mid Central Region had seen coming for a long time, and I promised to let you know what we did in St. Louis to help resolve our problems.

This is probably old news to you by now, but the BOT action of immediate concern to the most members, was that we raised the dues from \$34 to \$45 per year for a regular membership. Something that has surprised me since the increase is that I haven't heard nearly as much negative about it as I expected.

To those who are not sure whether an NMRA membership is worth \$45 per year, please consider this: My wife and I went out to dinner and a movie a few weeks ago. The movie cost about \$18 for two tickets. Small popcorn and small drinks cost about \$10. Dinner, with no alcohol, cost about \$30. The babysitter was free, but usually costs about \$20.

So a four-hour date one evening cost us about \$58. If we had to pay for a sitter, it would have cost about \$78, and the movie was lousy! When I compare the cost of a year's worth of NMRA fun, fellowship, and educational opportunity to the cost of a single evening's questionable entertainment, the NMRA wins, hands down. When it comes time to renew your membership, please think about what the NMRA means to you and your modeling, and consider that the price of almost everything has gone nuts in the past few years.

In addition to acting to raise revenue, the BOT also worked to cut expenses in nearly every area of our operations. The intent of these changes was to return us to a balanced budget by the end of August, 2002, with some left over to repay what we were forced to borrow this year and last. Thanks to those of you who have given me specific suggestions for returning us to a balanced budget. Every one of your ideas was considered, and many of them have been adopted.

In St. Louis the BOT also voted to move forward on the Long Range Plan that we hope will return the NMRA to its core functions and increase its relevance in today's modeling world. The only part that did not pass was the effort to reduce the size of the BOT. I guess I should not be surprised, what group will volunteer to reduce its size? But I was still disappointed. Only five trustees out of 17 voted to downsize the BOT.

The rest of the Long Range Plan will take some time to implement, since it involves rewriting large portions of

the constitution and by-laws. I expect to see the first concrete results of this effort at our meeting in February, and we will proceed from there.

On the financial front, our new treasurer, George Schmid, found the size of the cleanup job needed in Chattanooga to be too much for his available volunteer time. Fortunately, Tom Draper, our treasurer from before all this started, had just retired from Motorola and was able to come back to continue the work George started. He has spent much of the last several months in Chattanooga, completely re-ordering HQ's financial operations and re-doing our accounts and reporting. Straightening out the NMRA's finances has turned out to be a truly Herculean task, and we owe Tom a great debt of gratitude for taking on this responsibility.

Among the hundreds of NMRA volunteers around the country and across the world, all of whom deserve our thanks, there are two other individuals whose efforts I specifically want to commend to you. Allen Pollock and John Roberts inherited a situation that was totally beyond their or anyone's expectation when they took their current offices. They have devoted countless hours to our organization, often at their own expense, and there is no end in sight. When you have the opportunity, please let them know how much you appreciate what they have done for all of us. As you can imagine, the pace and volume of BOT business has dropped off considerably since the tragic events of September 11. Somehow, a \$14 dues increase just doesn't seem quite so important when we hear what so many of our countrymen and their families have gone through in recent weeks.

I hope that a lasting effect of all this will be to help us appreciate just how fortunate we are in this country. And our view into the face of ignorance and hate over the past few weeks makes what is good in the world and in our lives all the more precious to us. More than ever, I look forward to seeing all of you in Dayton this spring, and as always, I urge you to get in touch with me about any questions or concerns you may have.

### Treasurer's Report by Dick Flock

Checking Account	\$	812.90
CD (Mat 12/10 -3%)		2,521.53
CD (Mat 12/10 -3%)		2,521.53
CD (Mat 12/14 -3%)		2,500.00
CD (Mat 6/11 -3.6%)		1,500.00
Disaster Fund CD (4/21-3.64%)		3,639.78
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$13,495.74</b>

We still have trailer kits, Morgantown convention shirts (\$5.00) and cars, and a few V&O hoppers.

### Miscellaneous

Tri Regional Convention in Ft Wayne, Indiana. Oct 26 - 28, 2001. Please contact Chuck White, 6418 Midchannel Way, Ft Wayne, IN 46845-9412. Phone (219) 482-7930; e-mail [ewhite8357@aol.com](mailto:ewhite8357@aol.com).

### Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the first quarter newsletter is **January 2, 2002**. Please send your articles and announcements to the address listed on the first page. Accepting informative articles, how-to articles or announcements.

Email: [logandj@earthlink.net](mailto:logandj@earthlink.net)

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