



The Lantern



Volume 6 Issue 05

Division 10, Mid Central Region

May, 2004



**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

Our congratulations go to Pete Birdsong. Dave Greer presented him with a certificate of achievement for operations. As most of you know, when it comes to operation, Pete is tops. Congrats Pete.

Division 10 would like to thank Bluegrass Hobby and Scale Reproductions for their support of our club. Both hobby stores, for 2004, have given us monthly gift certificates in exchange for advertising in the *Lantern*. If you attend our monthly meetings, you are eligible for the draw to win one of these certificates. And the next time any of you goes into one of those stores, please thank them for their sup-

(Continued on page 6)

Family Pot Luck Sunday May 2nd.

Immediately following the NMRA meeting, about 3:45, members and their families are invited to Mike Armstrong's home for a 'Pot Luck' cook-out. Mike and Mark Hunt will be providing hamburgers and hot dogs, you are invited to bring a vegetable, salad, desert, or other food item.

Mike's garden railroad will be at the center of the picnic unless it rains, in which case the party will be held inside.

Mike Armstrong lives at 4809 Agape Drive in Lexington. To get there go out Harrodsburg road, about 1.4 miles past Man 'O War, turn left on Dogwood Trace Blvd. Take the fourth right onto Agape. Mike's house is on the right near the end of the second block. I hope to see you there! If you get lost, call Mike for directions at 286-4746.



NMRA Achievement Program Explained

Over the last few months I have covered all but the last of the Achievement Program's categories. The last category is Model Railroad Author, which will wrap up this series of articles. Model Railroad Author is obviously about writing articles for traditional publication but also for presenting clinics and publishing articles electronically.

For an article to qualify for this category it must either be about model railroading, prototype railroading that is applicable to modeling, or pertain to NMRA administrative business. Obviously the articles must be your own work. MR Author is based on a point system. Points are earned for each article based on its length and type of publication it is in. Live clinics are awarded points based on what level of the organization it is presented to, i.e. Divisional, Regional, or National. A total of forty-two points are required to earn this category.

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“STUFF” & OPPORTUNITIES

Mike Armstrong occasionally knows of *members’ overstock* situations and other opportunities to acquire or dispose of “stuff.” Get in touch with him to find out what’s 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 Mike Walter to arrange for an ad, or Mike Armstrong for liquidations.

Committee Chairs

Achievement Program	David Greer
Advertising	Mike Walter
Community Activities	Open
Company Store	Ron Kercheval
Contests	Ron Kercheval
Conventions & Shows	Fred Plymale
Editor & Webmaster	John Gorman
Estate Liquidations	Mike Armstrong
Member Aid	Wendell Greer
Membership	Wendell Greer
Photographer	Pete Birdsong
Programs	Fritz Dutro

Witless vs. Clueless

The Continuing Railroad Adventures of Rivets O’Reilly and Larry Loungecar



**Created by ‘Railroad’ Pete Birdsong
Written by Mike Armstrong**

Rivets: Hey, Larry, what’s new?

Larry: Hi, Rivets! I’ve just been readin’ an article about the future of the hobby.

Rivets: Yeah, it seems like everybody has a take on what model railroadin’ is gonna be tomorrow.

Larry: Well, you can see how things have moved along over the years. Used to be we were happy just to have a locomotive that ran half way descent.

Rivets: Sure, then we got into detail. ‘Course, a lot o’ guys put details on their engines from the beginnin’.

Larry: Yeah. Today, a person can look at almost any company and see how they all changed for the better.

Rivets: I was in a hobby shop in Florida on last year’s vacation. The guy was sellin’ just about everything at seventy five percent off. The only thing he was keepin’ was ready t’ run engines and rollin’ stock and built up kits. Nobody wanted to do anything in his town. They didn’t even want to change out the couplers to a more realistic look. Ready to run and built up.

Larry: And the call for more detail and engines runnin’ so well. And they couldn’t leave well ‘nough alone. Now they got this DCC and that was what the article was about – technology. They say the future of model railroadin’ is in technology.

Rivets: Well, I have to admit, I have been lookin’ into a DCC system. People are makin’ it sound pretty good!

Larry: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Well, here is my theory, Rivets. The more stuff you put in and on a locomotive, the more stuff there is to fall off, go wrong, and generally make a person irritable.

Rivets: Well, that is the wave of the future, Larry. Either get on the train or get off the

train, no pun intended.

Larry: Well, I think the future of model railroadin’ is in simplicity!

Rivets: What in the world are you talkin’ about?

Larry: It is like this, Rivets. We have come too far. Too much prototype, too many details, too many electronic components. Simplicity is the wave of the future.

Rivets: I’m not followin’ ya, Larry and you are startin’ to worry me again.

Larry: Come on into my train room and have a look at my HO layout.

Rivets: . . . Oh man, Larry, what have you done? Where are all your buildings and mountains and bridges and scenery?!

Larry: Gone, Rivets, gone with the wind. I may put a few building’s back on, for when I want to have an operatin’ session, but for now simplicity is the key—flat and green.

Rivets: Where did ya get the green rug?

Larry: It’s not a rug. It’s Astroturf. I was in the city a couple of weeks ago and they were puttin’ new Astroturf in the stadium for the football team. They threw out all this good stuff by the dumpster. So, all of a sudden it came to me. Why not just have a flat layout with this nice smooth turf? It went down easy with my new electric staple gun.

Rivets: But Larry, your train is runnin’ on a football field!

Larry: There’s a prototype for everything, Rivets. I even got a few of these yellow flags for people who block the main. Excuse me while I spot my micro brewery reefers on the forty yard line.





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In Recognition....

Many thanks to our Patrons and Sustaining 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. Division 10 receives NO monetary support from the NMRA. Division 10 is recognized by the US government as a 501c3 corporation and your donations may be tax deductible.

2004 PATRONS

Alan Brock	Ed Butcher	John Deville
Irv Frary	Richard Frye	John Gorman
Ray & Renee Grosser	Bill Hammer	Lou Jaquith
Ron Kercheval	Skip Keyser	Bob Lawson
Bill Paulsell	Fred Plymale	Bill Robbins
Ron Saylor	Mike Walter	

2004 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Phil Ditchen

Scale Reproductions

3073 Breckinridge Lane McMahan Plaza
Louisville, KY 40220
(502) 459-5849 brian@sri.win.net

- Specializing in HO and N scale model railroading
- Large selection of accessories, decals, detailing parts and reference.
- Large selection of DCC items including Digitrax, Lenz, NCE and more!
- Most items 10%-20% off retail price everyday.
- We also give an additional 10% discount to NMRA members!!
- Special order and mail order service available.

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!!

Treasure's Report

The balance in our account after paying \$240.00 for another 24 C&O boxcars is \$4,576.85. I have a check on hand for \$20.00 to be deposited for the sale of one car. Anyone interested in a club car should check availability with Bill Robbins before this order is sold out.

-Fred

Bring n' Brag April, 2004

The theme for April was passenger and freight stations. First, I want to give a big thanks to Alan Brock for filling in for me while I was out of town. Looks like we had a real nice meeting at Arlington Christian Church!

There were just two modeling entries but their quality made up for the lack of quantity. Fred Plymale entered an exquisite small town freight station with all kinds of detail and figures in action and Pat Gerstle had a sharp looking freight station himself. Fred took first while Pat came in second.

In photography, Pat entered a fantastic photo of a freight station with narrow gauge locomotive from his layout and Randy Coffman showed up with a neat group of four large steam locos taken from overhead. This time, Pat took first place.

Thanks to all who entered and came out. Next month's category is freight cars so I'm already planning on having plenty work to do in this popular category. Also, don't forget to bring any items you want to sell or trade. See you next month!

-Ron Kercheval

2004 Bring n' Brag Scores

MODELS			PHOTOS		
High to Low or Tie	April	YTD	High to Low or Tie	April	YTD
Pat Gerstle (2nd)	4	13	Pat Gerstle (1st)	5	17
Fred Plymale (1st)	5	12	Fritz Dutro		7
Bill Robbins		8	Pete Birdsong		4
Richard Frye		5	John Lathrop		4
Mike Baskette		4	Randy Coffman (2nd)	4	4
David Greer		3	Lou Jaquith		3
Lou Jaquith		3	Bill Robbins		2
Fritz Dutro		3			
Pete Birdsong		2			
Bill Hammer		2			

* Off Topic

Points are awarded for models according the following rules. Three points for a first place. Two points for second place and one point for third. One point is awarded for your first entry. A second point is given if that entry is "On Topic". More than one entry in any month's contest can win place points but is not eligible for additional entry points.

Bring n' Brag Schedule for 2004

- May - Freight Cars
- June - "Anything Goes" – All classifications
- July - Infrastructure: Trackwork, Signals and Bridges
- August - On-line Structures (except stations)
- September - Diesel Locomotives
- October - Commercial Structures: Industrial, businesses, municipal, etc.
- November - Passenger Cars
- December - Open Loads: Flat Cars, Gondolas and Intermodal



Mid-Central Region Convention for 2004



Hop on Board!

We have quite an event in store for you at the Three Rivers Transfer in May. It's been eight years since the Mid-Central Region convention was held in the Steel City. Consider joining us for a few days this Spring for inspiration and rejuvenation of your modeling skills.

A slate of 36 clinics and seven prototype tours are lined up, along with an extensive self-guided tour of home and club layouts on Sunday. The NMRA model and photo contests will be held, two historical societies will have an exhibit, and there will be a small switching layout for the Boomers. Convention festivities conclude with a banquet of chicken, beef and pasta entrees. The after meal presentation will feature noted modeler, author and photographer, Paul Dolkos.

Activities will center around the well-apportioned Four Points Sheraton Pittsburgh North in Cranberry Township, Penna. This is located at the junction of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, Interstate 79, and US Route 19 just northwest of Pittsburgh. Our confirmed convention rate of \$99.00 per room includes a full breakfast to start your day. Up to two people can stay per room at that rate. Be sure to mention the Three Rivers Transfer convention for your room rate. You can book your room by calling (724) 776-6900, faxing (724) 776-1115, or via the Internet at <<http://starwood.com/sheraton/index.html>>. Nearby are many eating establishments and regional shopping centers to accommodate other needs.

Pittsburgh has a long tradition of railroads and heavy industry, in addition to a rich model railroading history. Join us from May 13 to 16 this Spring at the Three Rivers Transfer.

The Schedule

Thursday Evening, May 13

Registration open from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Clinics
Operating Sessions
Company Store Open

Friday, May 14

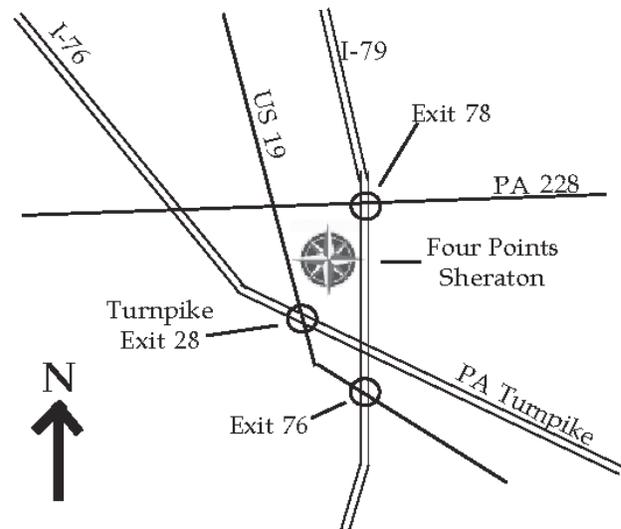
Registration open from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm
Prototype and Industrial Tours
Full Clinic Schedule until 10:00 pm
Contests and Displays
Silent Auction
MCR BOD meeting at 10:00 pm
P&LE and P&WV Historical Society Displays
Switching Layout
Company Store Open

Saturday, May 15

Registration open from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm
Non-Rail Tour
Prototype and Industrial Tours
Full Clinic Schedule until 10:00 pm
Contests and Displays
Company Store Open
Silent Auction closes late afternoon
P&LE and P&WV Historical Society Displays
Switching Layout
Boiler Wash 6:00 to 7:00 pm
Banquet - with speaker Paul Dolkos
Awards and MCR General Meeting

Sunday, May 16

Self-guided layout tours of many home and club layouts
Have a safe trip home!



Super's Message (Continued from page 1)
port of our club. If you buy anything, that will make them even happier.

More thanks to those of you who contributed to help maintain our club and the Lantern.

Our next train show is November 13th at the Knights of Columbus. Scale Rails has published notice of our show in the March and April issues. We also have flyers in the local hobby stores. With advertising going out earlier, this show should be better than the first two.

Scale Rails also put a notice, no picture, about our club car in the April issue. We have 12 cars left, but I don't think they will last long. We are in the process of looking for a second club car.

I would like to give you all a small review about three engines, I just bought recently.

The first is an Athearn AC4400. This is a nice looking engine, the paint job is great. It runs really well, but like most Athearn engines, it's a little noisy. It is not DCC ready, but has a "quick plug" for adding DCC. I retails for \$94.

The second one is an Atlas U30C. This engine runs beautifully and the painting and detailing are excellent. It is equipped with a decoder and comes ready for DCC. However, underneath the exhaust fan is switch, and if you want analog, just flick the switch. Retail price is \$140.

The third engine is the Kato AC4400. Again the Kato runs beautifully and the painting and detailing are also excellent. However, the buyer must put all the small parts on himself. I'm sure 99% of you are faster than I, but after 2 whiskeys and 5 hours, I finally got it assembled. Assembly is not for the faint of heart. Kato also has their own coupler. It is not automatic, unless you put on the trip pin that comes with it. It didn't work, so I put Kadee's on. Retail price is \$155. If you want DCC, you have to buy a decoder. It is wired for sound, but you have to buy a sound unit also. If you make the Kato DCC and sound equipped, you will have almost \$300 in the engine. Which engine is

best or best for the money? It's your call. Atlas has announced a Train Master with sound. Broadway LTD comes equipped for both analog and DCC, and Sound.

-Bill

AP Explained (Continued from page 1)

Published articles that appear in printed media are awarded points based on the scope of the audience and the content on a per page basis. A written article or column is awarded three points per page for a national (such as Model Railroader or Scale Rails), two points per page for a NMRA Regional publication, or one point per page for a NMRA Divisional publication. These articles can contain in addition to words, photos, artwork, and track plans. Scale drawings (blueprints) of a prototype earn twice the points of an article on a per page basis. The NMRA defines a page as approximately 1,200 words. An article that has been accepted for publication but not yet published also qualifies. Copies of your articles should be submitted with your paperwork as proof of publication.

Live clinics can also earn points toward MR Author. Again, points are awarded based on the scope of the audience. Six points for a NMRA national event, four points of a NMRA regional event, and two points for a NMRA divisional event. If the event is not NMRA sponsored only one half the points are awarded. The clinic must be at least thirty minutes long and must include a handout. A clinic can only earn MR Author points once, even if it is presented multiple times. However, if it is presented additional times it can earn points toward Association Volunteer.

Taped instructional videos can also earn points however, the method of determining the points is rather complex and the videos must be submitted to the AP Executive Vice Manager for evaluation.

Electronic publications are materials published to the Internet. The material earns points at the same rate as published articles in a Regional publication. Photo and drawings are considered one third of a page. Material can only earn points once, even if it is published in multiple places or ways. The URL address for the web site must be

included with your paper work so that it can be evaluated. The final determination of what is acceptable and for how much credit is up to the AP Department Executive Vice Manager. No more than twenty-one of the forty-two points required for MR Author can be from electronic publications.

That wraps up the eleven categories that make up the Achievement Program. Now that you have a feel for what it required in each category you are prepared to start your journey towards becoming a Master Model Railroader. Complete seven of the categories and you will be a Master Model Railroader.

-Dave

TRAIN festival 2004

What: Three Day Train Festival celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Dennison Railroad Museum showcasing railroading, past and present, to families and railfans

When: July 30, 2004, to August 1, 2004

Host: The Dennison Railroad Depot Museum

Where: Train Festival 2004 will be held in Downtown Dennison, Ohio, on 25 acres around the Museum.

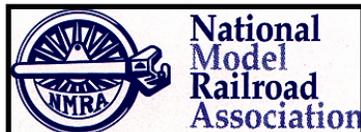
How Much: Gate price will be \$12.00/Adult and \$8.00/child (12 and under). A one-hour train ride will cost \$15.00/adult and \$12.00/child (12 and under)

Expected Attendance: As many as 20,000 over three days, 2500 coming in by train

Excursions: Trips are being planned to bring passengers to Train Festival 2004 from Columbus, Pittsburgh and other locations

Attractions:

- Several of the largest operating Steam Locomotives in the Eastern United States
- Several different excursions, behind different locomotives
- Free Motorized track car rides
- Free miniature scale live steam train rides
- Model Railroad display
- Cab tours of both steam and diesel locomotives
- Art exhibit
- Live entertainment (bands, entertainers)
- Railroad Flea Market
- Craft Tent
- Face painters, clowns, etc...



AROUND THE BEND

MON	DAY	EVENT	PLACE/TIME	PROGRAM	TOUR	CONTEST
MAY	2	MCR DIV 10	Beaumont Library Lexington, Kentucky 2:00 PM	Randall Coffman on Photography and Clamps	Mike Armstrong Pottluck Picnic Bring Your Family (more information on Page 1)	Freight Cars
MAY	13-16	MCR Convention	Four Points Sheraton, Cranberry, PA	Contact Div 2 for more information or see http://cjperry3.home.comcast.net/html/convention.html		
MAY	14	BGRRC	Medadowthorpe Community Center 333 Larch Lane, Lex. Ky 7:30 PM	George Dean on High Bridge and the Riney-B.		
MAY	15-30	Hiwassee River Rail Adventure	Etowah, Tennessee Saturdays & Sundays Time Varies	For ticket information , log on to Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum web-site www.tvrail.com	Hiwassee Scenic River in Southeast Tennessee operated by Tennessee Valley Railroad	
JUNE	6	MCR DIV 10	Eagle Creek Library Lexington, Kentucky 2:00 PM	Pete Birdsong on Operations	Pete Birdsong N Scale Layout	"Anything Goes" All classifications
JUNE	11	BGRRC	Medadowthorpe Community Center 333 Larch Lane, Lex. Ky 7:30 PM	Bill Paulsell on Making Trees		
JULY	4 - 11	NMRA Nat'l Convention	Seattle, WA	See Website for full details: http://www.nmra2004.org/		
JULY	11	MCR DIV 10	Ray & Renee Grosser's Eubank, KY Map will be available later Time to be determined later	TBA	Ray & Renee Grosser's Nostalgia Trip Soo Line HO Railroad	Infrastructure: Trackwork, Signals and Bridges
JULY AUG	30 - 1	Ohio Central RR	Dennison RR Depot Museum Dennison, Ohio 740-622-8118 for Tickets & Info.	Train Festival 2004	See http://www.trainfestival2004.com/ for more information	
AUG	1	MCR DIV 10	Danville, KY Map will be available later Time to be determined later	None	Bob Lawson Robin Grider John Bowling	On-line Structures (except stations)
SEP	12	MCR DIV 10	TBA 2:00 PM	Mike Armstrong Gadgets	Bob Larger	Diesel Locomotives
OCT	3	MCR DIV 10	TBA 2:00 PM	Mike Baskette: Assembly & Weathering Plastic Structure Kits	Bill Paulsell	Commercial Structures: Industrial, businesses, municipal, etc.
NOV	7	MCR DIV 10	TBA 2:00 PM	Bill Hammer: Anatomy of a Private Road Name Railroad	David Greer	Passenger Cars
NOV	13	Division 10 MCR NMRA Train Show	Knights of Columbus 1604 Versailles Road Lexington, KY 10:00am to 4:00pm	Adm \$5.00, \$4.00 with coupon. Children under 12 free. Table rental \$15.00.	For reservations contact Fred Plymale, 3463 Snaffle Road, Lex., KY 40513. (859)223-7270 F.Plymale@insightbb.com	
DEC	5	MCR DIV 10	TBA 2:00 PM	Tom Wheeler on Working with Styrofoam	Morgan McIlwain	Open Loads: Flat Cars, Gondolas and Intermodal
MAY 2005	12-15	MCR Convention	Comfort Inn, Austinburg, OH	Contact: Matt Kross e-mail mkross@earthlink.net		
JULY 2005	TBD	NMRA Nat'l Convention	TBD, Cincinnati			

Next Meeting:
Sunday, May 2nd.
2:00 pm
Beaumont Library
Lexington, Kentucky

Program:
Randall Coffman
on
Photography and Clamps

Tour:
Mike Armstrong
Potluck Picnic
Bring Your Family
(more information on page 1)

Bring & Brag:
Freight Cars



*Don't forget the
NEW
Show 'n Tell
and
Swap Meet
events during our
regular meetings.*



The Lantern

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STAMP

Family Cookout
See Page 1

~

Mid-Central Region
Convention
See Page 5
