



THE LANTERN



SEPTEMBER 2022 VOLUME 24 ISSUE 9

From the Superintendent

It was a good time at the Grosser's. It always is an enjoyable outing when we visit them since they are great hosts, have a great view of the country, and we also get to ride the train. I rode in the middle of the train on a gondola and then Ray let Jim Williams and I each drive the engine around the layout by ourselves, which was a new experience. I enjoyed it but you have to watch the speed of the engine on the upward and downward sides of a hill. I almost had a runaway on a curve. I know the weather kept some of you from coming but there was only a little rain and only for a short while. We saw all the displays they have made along with talking model trains and other topics with Ray and Renee. The following Saturday was the visit to John Bowling's layout in Danville. John is also a gracious host and likes having people view his layout along with talking with them. John told us a number of things about the layout and then he and my wife told some stories about growing up in Central Kentucky as kids.

We also saw the approximately 3 ft. by 5 ft. diorama John has made of the Dant Distillery as it was in the early 1900 including the family homes around it. The diorama is excellently made, as you would expect, and will be placed in the new station being built along the railroad line that runs to New Haven. This will allow the Kentucky Railroad museum to run west from New Haven to the new distillery being built in the area of the old Dant distillery. This will become a great boost to the museum! The diorama is as well detailed as you would expect from John's layout which features numerous Kentucky scenes. If you missed seeing Grossers and/or John Bowling's layouts you missed a lot. I wish more members would have been able to visit.

The summer months are fading and our planned visits are over, and now it is back to our regular meetings. Our next meeting is September 3 in the small conference room in the Tates Creek library. If a lot of members show up in person, maybe we can reserve the larger conference room. The meeting will be hybrid with both in-person and Zoom and

will start at 1:30 PM. Please attend whether at the library or on Zoom. The featured speaker will be Charles Bogart and he will present "Railroads around Lexington in the Past". Charles always has a good presentation and I am interested myself in the trains that ran through Lexington in the past. Our Monthly Modeling topic is photos of anything train related, whether model or real. I know you must have at least one photo to show so send it to Bob Belt (beltbob1@gmail.com) so we can see it during the meeting.

One upcoming visit, which will be worthwhile, is to the Ravenna Railroad Festival on September 10 & 11. Besides our T-Trak layout being shown (only on the 10th) a number of interesting things to see and ride will be available. There are more things being planned this year than last. Please check their website (railroadfestival.com) or their Facebook page for details. There are also a couple local upcoming train shows to be aware of. One is held by Division 7 in Cincinnati on October 8 & 9 at Lakota West HS, and the other is held by Division 8 on November 12 at Holy Family Parish church in Louisville. You may wish to check page 4 in *The Lantern* for more information.

In an earlier issue of *The Lantern*, I asked if anyone would be willing to host a layout tour for our division. Nobody volunteered but I felt that someone would be willing. I would like to try and start having some layout tours for our division again. I feel it is good occasion to get together safely and socialize and to also perhaps learn something new. I always enjoy them and I think others do also. Well, since I was asking, I feel that I should take the first step. I would like to have a layout tour at my house on Sunday October 9 from 1 to 4 PM. I was thinking of Sunday instead of after the meeting since it will probably make it easier on the layout owner and also allow persons to be spread out more with less contact. If you wish to wear a mask, please do so. I plan to have hand sanitizer available. I hope you can make it. Everyone take care.

— Larry Smith



For the NMRA MC Region officers link to www.midcentral-region-nmra.org/bod2.html

The Lantern is a monthly (except July) publication of Division 10, Mid Central Region (MCR), National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). All opinions expressed herein are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of Division 10, the MCR, the NMRA, or anyone else.

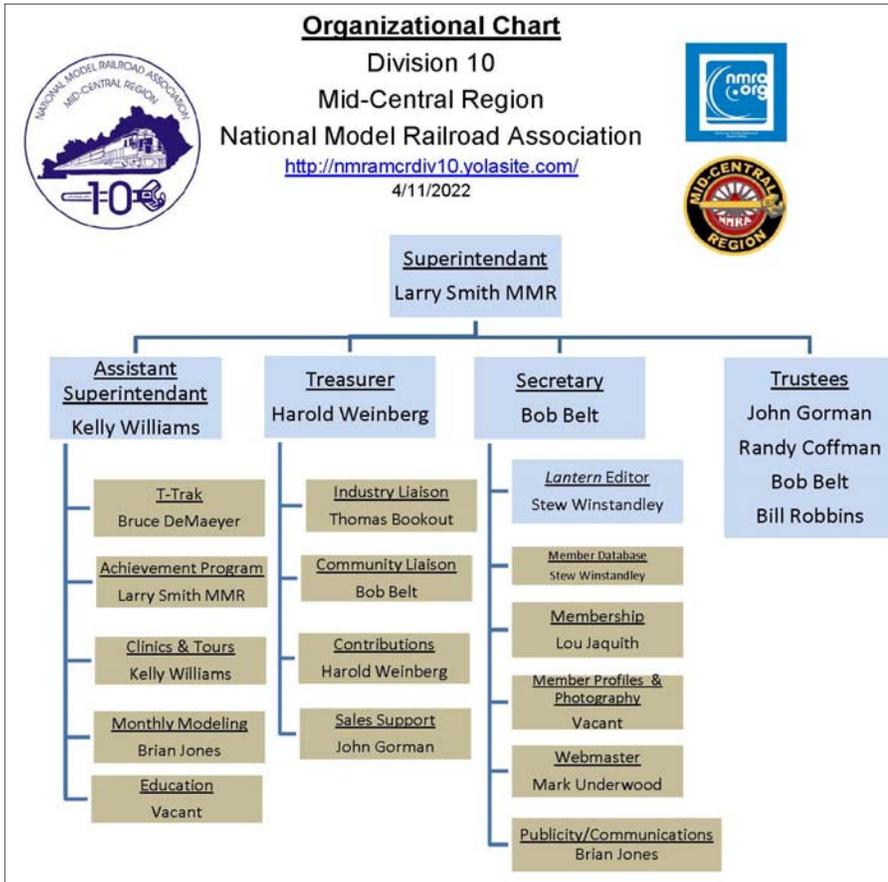
In Recognition...

Many thanks to folks listed in the column below. They have given their support for our club. We encourage all NMRA members to help with financial support to *The Lantern* and our website and the Division 10's activities. **Send your monetary contribution to our Treasurer.**

To be listed here your contribution needs to be at least \$20 in cash, or material valued at \$50, or a total of 20 hours time within the last year. Division 10 receives NO monetary support from the NMRA or the MidCentral Region. Div.10 is recognized by the US government as a 501c3 corporation and your cash or material donations may be tax deductible.

Report materials or time to Stew Winsteadley. To the right of each contributing member's name is the month of his or her latest contribution. Whenever one makes a contribution of money, material, or time, his or her date will be updated, and for new contributors, their name will be added. Anyone making a contribution will be listed below for 12 months.

John Wilshire	6/2022
Clay Faulconer	4/2022
Larry Smith	4/2022
Randy Coffman	1/2022
Harold Weinberg	1/2022
Donald Wilson	12/21



Division 10's advertising policy:

- A. COMMERCIAL AD RATES 1. Newsletter • \$10/month for business card • \$15/month for 1/8 page or less • \$25/month for 1/4 page • \$45/month for 1/2 page • \$80/month for full page • Multiple separate ads can be aggregated together for the above price structure.
2. Web site: No commercial ads allowed.

- Website** addresses are: 1) above at top of Organization Chart,
2) <https://www.facebook.com/NMRA.MCR.Div10/> and
3) <http://ttrak.wikidot.com/nmra-mcr-division-10-the-kentucky-division>
4) YouTube.com search: Division 10 Mid Central Region NMRA

Division 10 Treasurer: Give or send your contribution to Harold Weinberg, 8 Lansdown Estates, Lexington, KY 40502-3322.



John Bowling's layout on our visit in August 2022.

The National Model Railroad Association was founded at a meeting held in Milwaukee on Labor Day weekend, 1935.

The National Model Railroad Association grew more or less spontaneously out of two basic needs of the fledgling hobby. The first was the need for standards to assure interchangeable equipment. The second was the social need for getting together with other followers of a hobby which was then thought by outsiders to be slightly odd.

It is hard now to even imagine, or to recall, the complete dimensional chaos which existed prior to the NMRA. O gauge was the predominant scale then, but there wasn't even agreement on the exact gauge. Yes – everyone called it 1-1/4-inch, but one manufacturer said the 1-1/4" was to be taken on curves, and the track slightly narrowed on the straight! Others said the 1-1/4" measure was on straight track with the gauge slightly widened on curves. HO had three sets of scale and gauge dimensions.

About flanges and flangeways, there was even less agreement. Wheel treads varied all the way from nearly scale to a frankly tinplate "stay on the rails regardless of looks." Third rail was a nearly universal means of power distribution, but nobody agreed on where the third rail should be located – that is – how high above rail level, and how far out from the running rail.

This need for standards was strikingly demonstrated at the first convention, Labor Day weekend 1935 in Milwaukee. Some of the visitors had brought equipment to run on our Milwaukee Union Terminal O Gauge Club railroad. The third rail shoes were just a bit too short and were continually slipping off the third rail, jamming, and causing derailments. The visitors said the third rail was wrong. We said the third rail shoes were wrong, and the convention nearly broke up before NMRA charter was signed!

This, of course, was the era of invention in our hobby. The many constructional and control details which we take for granted now were, then, popping out wildly all over the place as exciting technical innovations. The permanent magnet motor, the bridge rectifier, and other methods of direct current reversing control, were still experimental ideas on paper instead of accepted commonplace. Automatic coupling ideas were so many and so varied that it wasn't even thinkable to start any attempt at standardizing. The practicalities of two-rail power distribution were still being devised rather than used. Prefabricated track just didn't exist, and the standard method of construction was to put track together from wooden ties, spikes, and rail. Even punched fiber tie strip was still to come.

Is it any wonder then that there was a spontaneous desire for some type of organization which could channel model railroad thinking in this period of fruitful development? Is it any wonder, when cars from two different manufacturers wouldn't even run through the same switch successfully that model rails said, "Let's organize and get the manufacturers to compromise on dimensions that will at least run together?"

When we think of the 10,000 NMRA members of today, the group that met in Milwaukee was frightfully small – not more than several dozen, as I remember it. Most were from Milwaukee and Chicago. The convention banquet was simply a couple of tables pushed together in the YMCA cafeteria. The convention fan trip was a hike over to the Milwaukee Road station and roundhouse to watch the then-new streamlined Hiawatha steam locomotives in action.

The NMRA was actually formed at the beginning of a short business meeting. A resolution was passed that those present band together under the name of "The National Model Railroad Association" to promote the model railroading and to set standards for the hobby. The resolution was written on a large sheet of paper and everybody signed it. The NMRA was on the track with a clear signal. Discussion, committee appointments, and election of officers finished the meeting. The rest is history. The founder of Kalmbach Media, A.C. Kalmbach, recalls the start of the hobby's largest organization in a 1955 speech.

THE LANTERN

NEWSLETTER FOR NMRA MCR DIVISION 10

210 BRANNON RD.
NICHOLASVILLE, KY 40356-9711
nmramcrdiv10.yolasite.com



Division 10 Officer Candidates; As of the publication deadline, Candidates: Larry Smith, Superintendent. Harold Weinberg, Treasurer. Brian Jones, Secretary. As of now, no one has volunteered for Asst. Superintendent.

SEPT. 3, 1:30

ZOOM & INPERSON, TCL,
3628 WALDEN DR., 40517

MONTHLY MODELING

RAIL RELATED PHOTOS

MEETING AGENDA

PAST RAILROADS AROUND
LEXINGTON, CHARLES BOGART

TOURS

SEPT. 17, 2-5, ALAN BROCK'S
HO SCALE LAYOUT



Left: Jim Williams, engineer at the Grosser's.

Right: Larry Smith, engineer at the Grosser's. Story on page 1.



AROUND THE BEND

MON.	DAY	HOST	PLACE	EVENT / PROGRAM	TOURS	MONTHLY MODELING
Sept.	3	Div. 10	Takes Creek Library and on Zoom	Railroads Around Lexington in the Past, Charles Bogart	Sept. 17, Brock, 1348 Prather Rd., Lex. 40502	Rail Related Photos, Models or Prototypes
Oct..	1	Div. 10		Painting Figures, Sam Swanson	Oct. 9, Larry Smith, 1041 Forest Hill Dr. Lawrenceburg	Cars
Oct.	8-9	Div. 7	Lakota West High School, West Chester, OH	Train & Trade Show, 11-5	8940 Union Center Blvd., 45069	
Nov.	5	Div. 10		Kit Bashing, thinking outside the box, Don Winn		
Nov.	12	Div. 8	Holy Family Parish Center	Train Show & Sale, 10-3	3938 Poplar Level Rd., 40213	

<https://zoom.us/download> - The web browser client for Zoom meetings will download automatically when you start or join your first Zoom meeting. Whether you are doing a Zoom for the first time or have done it before, use the link (web address) that will be emailed to you in the last week of August for the September meeting..