

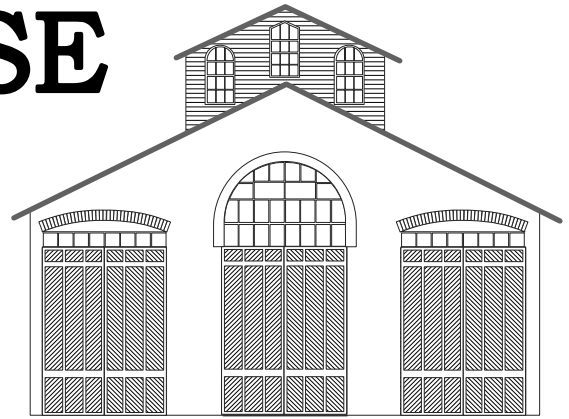
THE CAR HOUSE

The Monthly Newsletter of
Division 8 North Central
Region

National Model Railroad
Association

February 21, 2008

Website - <http://div8.ncr-nmra.org>



Call to Order

The February meeting of Division 8 was called to order at 7:02 PM. I counted 35 members and several visitors. All officers were present.

Show and Tell

John Cline picked up several Athearn cars at a bargain price. He intends to redecorate the group. **Bill Gawthrop** coaling mining and coal moving expert showed a scale house which is used in conjunction with the truck dump model that he showed a previous meeting. These dump sites which are used by small operators to dump a truck load of coal into a railcar, require a scale to weigh each load. **Kerry Albrecht**, a member of the South Oakland County RR Club, brought in a switch and route controller designed for the club layout. I believe he explained that the unit will provide system control of a number of stationary decoders. **George Schachermeyer** showed an ancient set of shorty passenger cars, the manufacturer questionable. During the break several members attempted to make an identification. They look sort of like the OK cars once marketed by Herkimer Models, but no one was really sure. **Uwe Thormaehlen** is working on a design plan for the control of turnouts. **Tony Tahnoose** who explained some of his duties working for the Lionel Corporation showed off a classic heavyweight Pullman in Southern RR colors. **Fred Rockwell** in his aimless wanderings as modelers and train watchers are wont to do, wandered into the LaMont Station Hobby Shop and bought a nice 2003 release PRR passenger car. While there, he got an invitation to visit a large N Scale layout in the area. The operator showed a collection of thousands of cars and hundreds of locomotives. Turned out the owner was also an engineer in the Horseshoe Curve district, (correct me if I'm wrong) as was a number of the layout owner's friends. **Doug Liefeld** has a sentimental attachment to an N passenger car that he brought in. He showed off an Atlas CNW passenger car similar to the ones that passed his window at good ole' Wheaton College. That's the Illinois Wheaton, **not** the Maine Wheaton. Somewhere in a previous issue of the CH, I made a gag out of train watching in college rather than girl watching, but I'll let it be this time around. **Paul Runyon** brought in one of those nice new Rapido passenger cars, his, a PRR Pullman 10-5 roomette, named the Cascade Plateau. Just think if modelers named their passenger cars based on layout geographic locations. We'd have cars named Naked Plaster and Exposed Benchwork. **Richard Hait** showed a LaBelle Chapel car which is a model of an actual restored car. In the 19th Century, primarily in the West, these cars allowed traveling clergymen to bring religion to new developments that had no church. **Jim Sieradzinski** brought in a group of Walthers Amtrak Superliner models, with variations that he pointed out. The prototype cars are generally assigned for long distance travel west of Chicago and have limited use in the East because of their required 16 foot clearance. Jim did comment however that the cars have been recently seen on the Pontiac to Chicago run as they are easier to heat in the winter. **Dave Thornton** has a nice collection of O Scale Lionel cars that he has converted to scale operation. Once the ugly Lionel trucks and couplers are replaced the result is a nicely proportioned car body, an example being the ice reefer that he brought in this month. **Bill Moore** explained how he uses glass cover slips for glazing passenger car windows. The glass can be cut to size with a diamond tip cutting tool. He also darkens the glass some to make an undetailed interior less visible. As an example, Bill brought in an MBC Pullman Palace car. **Peter Jacobson** brought in a wireless TV camera mounted on a gondola which can be pushed around his layout. I'll be looking for this channel on Comcast, for an extra 10 dollars a month that is. They'll bundle it with the NFL network and VS. (Sorry for the Comcast bashing, it just comes so naturally). **Tim Fisher** discussed passenger operations on the Santa Fe south main through Oklahoma and Texas. The famous trains of this route were the Grand Canyon and the Scout. **John Gavasso** brought in an NMRA 50th Anniversary business car and **Larry Wolohon** showed off a GN business car. **Jim Zinser** showed a Milwaukee Road Pullman lounge and observation car. Finally, **John Jackson** discussed and demonstrated a means of adapting a model airplane control rod and clevis to control a Blue Point manual switch controller. **Thanks to all who participated in this month's Show and Tell.**

Visitors

The division welcomed a number of visitors and new members to the February meeting. **Steve Hudler** is a new member who models in N Scale. **Dave Katona** will be starting a new layout in his Royal Oak home. Visiting and representing the Stoney Creek Club were **Roger Terry** and **Ed Bigies**. Also present was Bob Winkle. He's a live steamer at Star Park during good weather. His organization is the Michigan Small Scale Live Steamers which is an all NMRA club.

Dave Thornton NMRA Report

Dave summarized the financial settlement of the GLE2007 convention. The NCR can expect to receive about \$300.00.

Tim Fisher NCR Report

Tim reports that the Hot Box needs articles from members.

Free-MO Clinic Update

Bill Gawthrop reports that plans for the Free-MO clinic/seminar are coming along. He is coordinating with the other NCR divisions. The event is tentatively scheduled for May at the Livonia Civic Center.

Announcements

Marv Linke was officially recognized for his efforts to provide a permanent name tag for each Division 8 member.

Thanks to Vince Robinson

Vince presented the presentation that was first offered at the GLE2007, Life on a Business Car, A Bit of Railroad History. Vince described his early experiences in the lesser executive ranks of the Southern Railroad, how an appropriate hat and an authentic southern drawl was essential for success. Vince, a dyed in the wool Yankee had to fake that part. Even though we might think living and working on a business car would be a perfect life, not so, he said. After a week, you needed a break.

March Clinic

Marv Linke will demonstrate how to make resin castings. Show and Tell will be your own resin project, a model or castings, or as usual, a current project.



Upcoming Schedule

The next meeting of Division 8 of the NCR of the NMRA will be held at 7:00 PM on March 20, 2008 at the Troy Christian Chapel located at 400 E. Long Long Lake Road in Troy on the south side of the street between Livernois Road and Rochester Road.

The February meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM. Several members stopped over to the Troy Big Boy Restaurant for dinner and refreshment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Saul Kalbfeld, Division 8, NCR-NMRA Secretary

Sorry for the brief issue this month but I have a time crunch because of travel the week of March 9.