

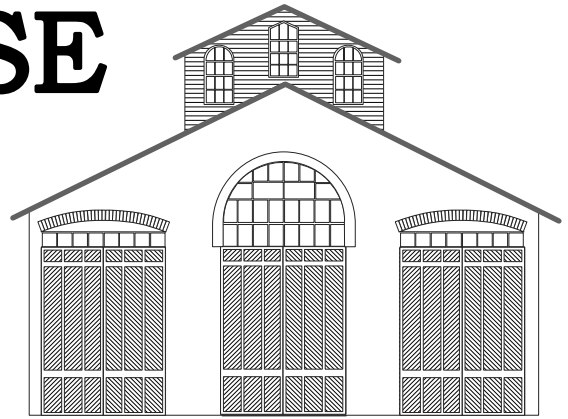
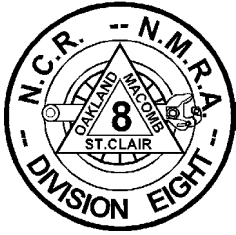
THE CAR HOUSE

The Monthly Newsletter of
Division 8 North Central
Region

National Model Railroad
Association

February 19, 2009

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



Call to Order

The regular meeting of Division 8 was called to order at 7:05 PM. All officers were present along with a large turnout of members and guests.

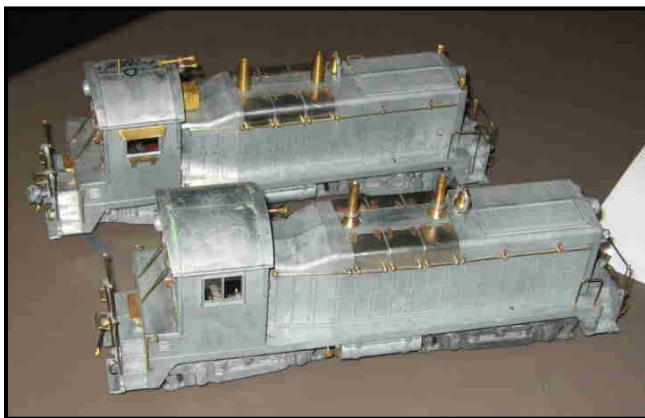
Show and Tell

First up **John Cline** showed several books and magazines one of which featured an article on the famous Witch's Hat depot in Milford located at the crossing of the GTW and C&O railroads. The GTW route is mostly gone except for the fragment still in West Bloomfield and Walled Lake, and this may mostly be abandoned soon. The C&O route remains a very busy line. **Bill Gawthrop** showed a GTW GP-40-2 road engine with some accompanying pictures. **Rick Ware** brought in a nicely detailed model of a large stationary chain saw that cut down logs to flat car size. With the model he showed a picture and photo display. The saw was built by the R. L. Curry company according to documentation Rick found in a Google search. Santa Fe modeler

Tim Fisher brought in an old engine that has been undergoing a serious rehab. He replaced the original open frame motor with a can type. Also he added a DCC decoder in the tender and worked out the problem of connecting the circuit board to the motor. Tim also discussed how to use shrink wrap tubing for DCC installations. Finally he showed a DCC test unit and reversing circuits. **Joel Goldberg** is proud of his bobber cabooses based on a **Timber Times** article. The model is finely detailed with working brake rigging. Joel offered a hint that



common emery boards make good sanding sticks. **Note:** A good source for emery boards and other nail care items is **Sally Beauty Supply**. They carry a wide variety of these products in addition many other items useful to modelers. Also, you qualify for a "green card" if you are a senior for discounts on all products. **Ed Black** finished his Katrina House. The story here if I got it right is that after the hurricane, Lowes offered a book of plans for "shot gun" and other small homes that could replace those lost in the storm. Ed models the 1918 era and many of these plans fit well into that time period. **Vince Robinson** brought in two O scale works in progress, EMD switchers that at first glance look similar, this this not the case. Vince challenged the membership to find the differences at break time.

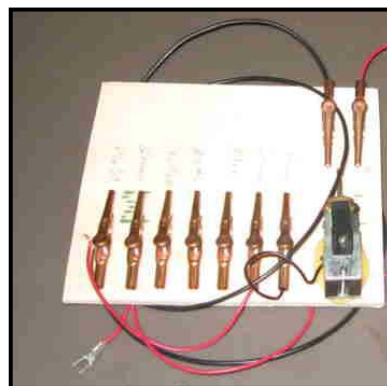
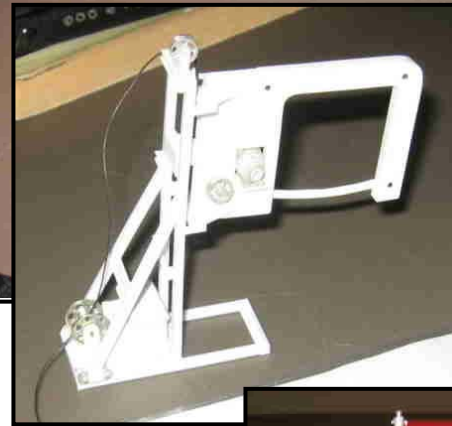
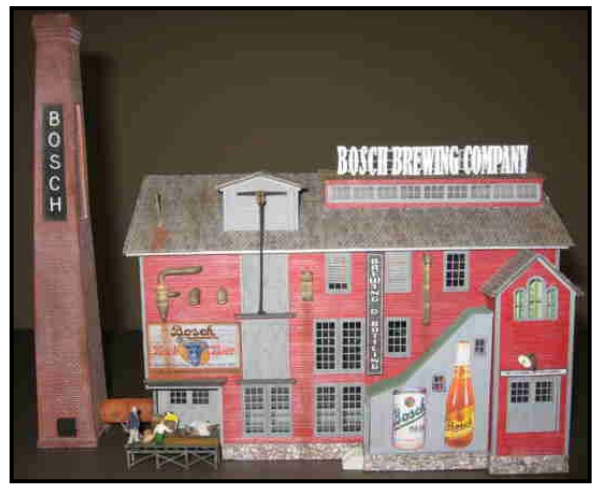


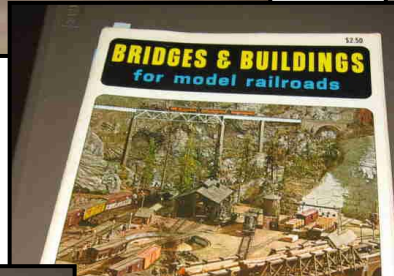
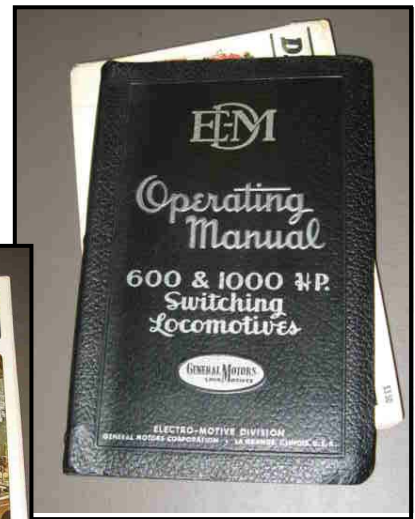
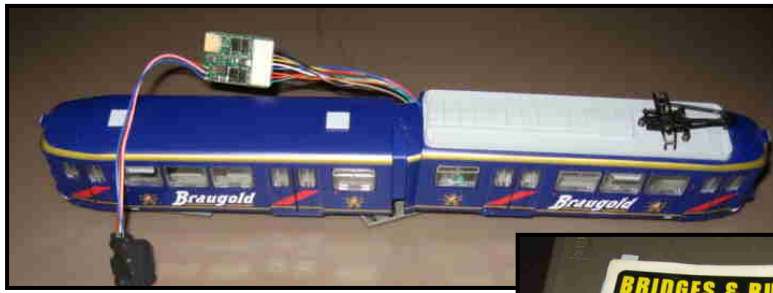
Marv Linke showed a nice N scale corn crib model, highly detailed with ventilated sides and hatches in the front and rear walls. Marv also brought in an accompanying article.

Kerry Albrecht offered a brief presentation of DCC decoders, an example being a DZ125 which is a simple 2 function unit that sells for \$19.95. This is a wired type which he prefers in many cases over the plug types. Kerry also mentioned that nail polish makes good insulation. Check out all the hot new Spring colors at **Sally Beauty Supply**. NYC fan **Jim Dennis** brought in an MTH Mohawk type L4B steam engine. The model pulls well and conforms well and runs on DC, DCC, or DCS. DCS is the MTH proprietary control system.

Show and Tell Continued

Roger Terrey offered some comments on making 6 conductor loco net cables, commonly used for multi-line telephones. It makes sense to make your own cables cut to length using a standard crimp tool available from Greybar Electronics at similar commercial outlets. Your cables must remain "inline", meaning that the color coded wires must be the same end to end in the cable. Another NYC fan, **Gil LaLonde** recently converted to DCC with the assistance of **Rad Jones** and some others. Gil's collection includes 18 steamers so this was a large project done quickly. Gil likes toggle switches, but has already forgotten how to use them. **Ken Scherer** showed a classic Hobbytown of Boston diesel chassis. These units were outstanding in the 1950's to 1960's era dominated by cheesy Athearn drive units. They were designed to accept most of the common Athearn shells among others. The only drawback was that the wheel flange contour was outside the RP-25 standard. This was not a problem on code 100 track. I don't know if later units were made to conform. **Gene Kome** is working on a series of storefronts across from the prototype glass plant that he has modeled. He has a mockup study of the properties which include two bars, a credit union and a heating and cooling company. **Bill Moore** is working on new construction techniques for his next layout. He plans to pre-fab his switches on foam strengthened by 3/4 inch plywood. The object was to determine if the Tortoise slow motion switch machine could operate a 3 inch long throw. Bill has tried a number of adhesives for this purpose and found Liquid Nails for Foam Board because of its strength and longer working time. Bill Gawthrop commented that Gorilla Glue will work well to stabilize foam on the frame while the Liquid Nails is setting. **Peter Jacobson** complimented Dan Lewis' DPM clinic last month then offered an update on the Bowser Mountain loco that he is completing. A Tsunami sound unit has been installed in the tender with connections to the locomotive via a mini NMRA plug. Peter is working out how to replace the original open frame motor and adding a flywheel. These plugs are available from Litchfield Station. WWW.litchfieldstation.com. **Jim Zinser** completed his model of the Bar Mills Brewery. He renamed the structure Bosch Brewing Company to conform with his Upper Peninsula locale. He did a number of upgrades to the basic kit including signage and a chimney. He also added a Paper Creek foundation.





European modeler **Tony Britsky** showed a 12 wheel articulated trolley used in Cologne, Germany. It has a Lenz decoder. Tony is also working a helix track and a custom 5 channel speaker system for realistic sound effects on his layout. **Larry Wolohon** brought in a mighty 45 ton GE switching locomotive by Bachmann. These units can effectively pull a long train that has been gotten up to speed by a regular engine, that is until the laws of momentum take over. Finally, bean counter **John Jackson** reports that the Division is waiting for its settlement from the Bernie Madoff Ponzi scheme settlement. If John gets the check for \$500,000.00, we'll probably have to elect a new treasurer. We have already been deemed ineligible for TARP or Federal stimulus funds. Seriously, John is also doing a DCC conversion and also showed pictures of his new fold away control panel. **Thanks to all who participated in this month's Show and Tell.**

Financial Report The Division currently has \$1070.09 in the checking account. This is in addition to 3 CDs for a grand total of \$4172.09 in assets.

Old/New Business The NCR budget committee met on February 22. Details will be offered at the March regular meeting. The purpose was to review grants that are pending. **Marv Linke** announced that the last 3 Hot Box issues are available on the NCR-NMRA website. Thanks to **Bob Luzenski** for the February clinic on DCC decoder programming. For more information visit Bob's website www.decoderizer.com/clinics.

Upcoming Schedule

The next meeting of Division 8 of the NCR of the NMRA will be held at 7:00 PM on March 19, 2009 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 Show and Tell for the meeting will be cabooses or a current project. For the scheduled clinic Kerry Albrecht will again discuss the JMRI and Decoder Pro DCC programming software.

The February meeting was adjourned at about 9:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Saul Kalbfeld, Division 8, NCR-NMRA Secretary

