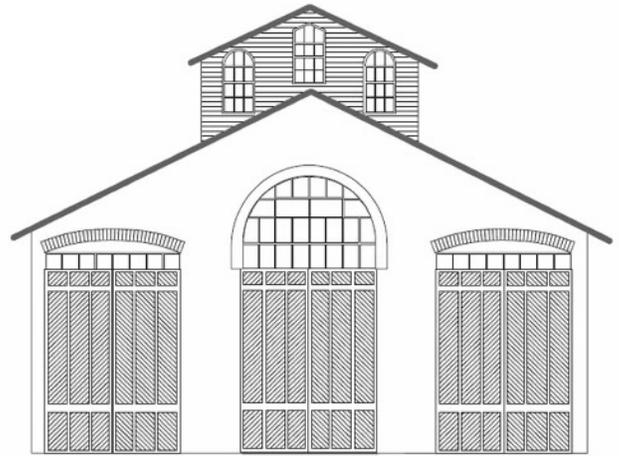


CAR HOUSE

FEB 20, 2020



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



Website:
<http://www.nmra.org/>

FROM THE SUPER – FEBRUARY 2020

From the Super February 2020

I'm in Savannah, Georgia, as I write this, on the last leg of a vacation trip that included surprisingly little railroad stuff, model or real. There is the very nice "Georgia State Railroad Museum" here in town, but we visited that the first time we came here, so it's just not in the cards to spend a day there again. We took a tour of the city, and on the tour, we heard that Savannah is either the second largest or second busiest port in the U.S. (not sure which). Every time we have been here we have seen huge container ships loaded to the sky gliding by on the Savannah River within shouting distance of the city. Surely all this traffic must mean lots of railroad activity somewhere close!

So, I pulled out my trusty tablet and hit the Google Maps icon to see what's here. Once I had a view of the city, I followed the river bank upstream and found the docks. And ships! And containers! Acres and acres of them. And, sure enough, there are railroad tracks. I followed the tracks from the container yard and found rail yards. Not one but several. One includes 14 tracks of which only one held any cars, but a little farther west is a yard of about 40 tracks, mostly full of cars. I found a mile-long container train headed for a main line north, a couple of very active intermodal rail loading/unloading yards, and even an elevator combined with a tank farm with 5 or 6 loops of loading tracks circling them. Tank cars on the tracks. Alcohol production? In addition to all that, there are enough isolated spurs with cars on them to let us know retail railroading still exists.

(continued on page 2)

FROM THE SUPER – FEBRUARY 2020 (continued from page 1)

My point in all this? You can have railroad fun sitting in your hotel room (or at home) just by picking an area of railroad activity and examining it online. Follow those rails up close and see where they go. Try to determine if they are still active. See what kind of cars are delivered where. What do you suppose they are carrying? Are there track arrangements or structures that beg to be modeled? How would you compress them to fit available model real estate? Can you find places to watch trains? The possibilities are many.

Have fun.

Phil Doolittle, Superintendent

T-TRACK MODULES

The January Car House included the attachment of Division 6 - The Motor City Division - Standards for a HO Scale T-Track Module. Several Division 6 members have committed to building modules and a number of Clinton River Division members have expressed interest. Perhaps the two divisions could combine efforts to display modules at a convention or at shows. It seems like a simple project, even if your primary scale is not HO. (Your editor is considering his first foray into the large HO scale!)

Please give serious thought to what you can build - a perfect project for a “new” modeler or one who has little or no room for a layout. Try out some scenery techniques or kit bash a building or two. It could a great group endeavor, or a school, church or scout venture - a wonderful way to involve youth and new people in the hobby.

Each module is 18” x 19.5” (4 - 18” 1x3) with 1/2” thick plywood or OSB 18” x 8” minimum, 4 - 9” pieces Bachman straight EZ track, and 15” x 18” masonite backdrop. It is hard to make it simpler! If you did not save the standards and instructions, please email the editor (chappie81@wowway.com) for another copy. Below is photo of a module completed by Barry Hensel of Division 6.

Please be prepared to discuss how you can be a part of this potential modular layout at the March 19th meeting.



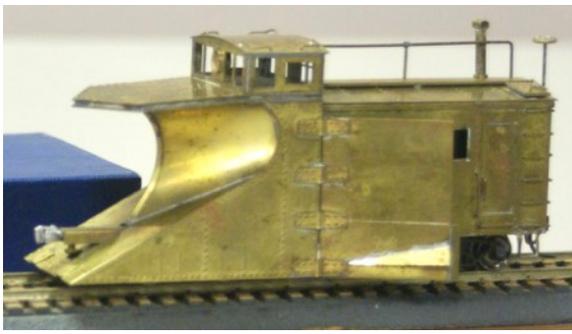
SECURITY ISSUES AT THE CHURCH

Unfortunately an unauthorized person was discovered in the Troy Christian Chapel after the January Division meeting. While nothing was missing or vandalized, we all must take extra precautions to protect the church property and all who use the building. Thus, **a member of the Division will monitor the parking lot door until our meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Then the door will be locked and a sign posted with the cell phone number of one of our members.** If you arrive after the door is locked, please call the cell phone listed for entry. This small inconvenience will provide safety for all. Please volunteer to be a monitor for one meeting, on a rotating basis. Thanks to **John Kline** who will monitor the door for the March meeting.

FEBRUARY SHOW & TELL

Theme: “Railroad Snow Fighting Equipment” or Current Projects

Ron King, MMR, displayed a Kemtron snowplow he build in 1963 or 64. He paid \$4 for it



Larry Wolohon, MMR, purchased this custom brass O scale snow plow on EBAY. He also brought a book titled “Snow Plow” by Gerald M. Best.



Warren Yohe built a tool rack with PVC pipe and Plastruct tubes in a cardboard box with foam spacers



Dave Cook showed his Rivarossi vintage snow plow built on a gondola with rocks as counter-weight and lettered for Illinois Central and Milwaukee



Greg Rich, MMR, displayed an Ambroid snow plow, with an old decoder powering an LED headlight



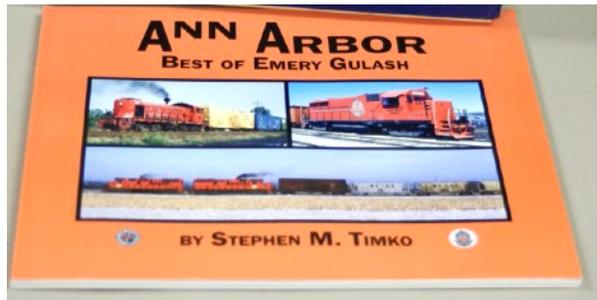
Bob Scherer showed his old “original condition” Rivarossi snow plow he acquired in the early 1960s



Robert Cabrera brought his first DC train set, a 1976 American Flyer diesel and caboose. He also brought the Kalmbach book “Modern Steam Locomotives”



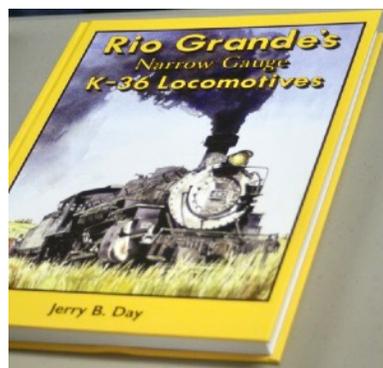
Bryan Allen showed a book by Stephen Timko, “Ann Arbor: Best of Emery Gulash” with lots of photos



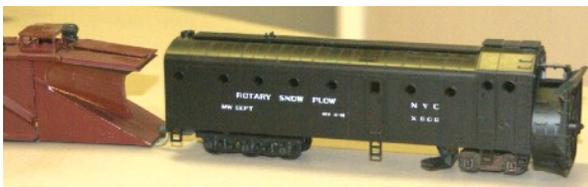
Richard Kubeck displayed a rotary snow plow attached to a Tyco shunter and electronics tools



Dave Thornton latest acquisition is “Rio Grande’s Narrow Gauge K-36 Locomotives” by Jerry B. Day



Ken Scherer brought two snow plows, one a Walthers model, a second by Athearn.



Paul Runyan displayed Pennsylvania Russel snow plow from Walthers



John Jackson's current project is the Great Lakes Brewing complex, a kit bash of City Classics and Micro Engineering kits



Kent Aughe vacationed recently in Charleston, SC and visited the Charleston Model Railroad Club. The club has tinplate and large N Scale and HO layouts, all in a storefront in the local mall. Open to the public weekends and two nights a week, the club is often called "Dillard's Man Cave" as the guys hang out at the club while the women shop at the Dillard's store next door!



Lakeshore Garden Railroad Club invites everyone to join them at Chi-Town on Sunday, March 8, 2-3p. Chi-Town's normal hours are 10a-5p if you wish to spend more time. This is last day Chi-Town will be open until next Winter. If you want to join Club at a local restaurant later, please contact **Jerry Shanek** at jerry_shanek@yahoo.com

NMRA NCR Extra 2020 - Kalamazoo, MI

Division 9 is hosting a Special One Day Model Railroad Convention, Saturday, April 25, 2020, at the River Facility, 517 Walbridge, downtown Kalamazoo, with plenty of free parking. The day starts with registration at 7:30 am, with clinics through noon. The afternoon is filled with layout tours throughout Southwest Michigan. Registration is \$20, through February 29, and \$25 starting March 1. For information, contact Rich Mahaney, 269-214-4221, hazmatrichm@aol.com We will have some registration forms at the March Clinton River Division meeting.

Who wants to be a Webmaster?

George Van Duyne has been Clinton River Division's webmaster for several years, keeping us up-to-date with Division happenings and the recent convention information. Thanks for the dedication, George. He is ready to pass the mouse to an IT geek. The position comes with training from George. Contact George or one of the Division officers for more information.

Welcome to our Master Model Railroaders this month: Ron King, Greg Rich, and Larry Wolohon.

And welcome to our guest, **Dan Shilt**, an On30 modeler and NMRA member, who recently moved into the area from Atlanta. Glad to have you, Dan.

Guests are always welcome at Clinton River Division meetings. Because of National Model Railroad Association insurance regulations, guests are limited to three visits, then must join the NMRA to continue to participate in Division activities.

CLINTON RIVER DIVISION has an additional link to our webpage.

<http://clintonriverdivision.ncr-nmra.org> - both links (see cover of this issue) lead you to the website.

Jerry Shanek traveled to Montreal last week, and visited Actonbale, a small town about an hour east of Montreal. Actonbale has a unique railroad station, picturesque with two feet of snow. (Sorry, no photo)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 2020 CLINIC

“DCC REVEALED”
by Jim Baker

MARCH 2020 SHOW & TELL

DCC PROJECTS OR ITEMS
Or a current project.

- ★ Weekends through March 8, 2020 - Chi-Town Union Station, 8275 Cooley Lake Rd, Commerce Township, \$5. information at www.chi-townstation.com
- ★ March 7 & 8, 28 & 29 - Detroit Model Railroad Club Open House, 12-5p each day, 104 N Saginaw, Holly, \$5
- ★ March 19 - Clinton River Division 8 Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm Troy Christian Chapel
- ★ March 7 - All Scale Model Train Show, Society of N Scalers, UFCW Local Hall, 876 Horace Brown Dr, Madison Heights, 10a-4pm , \$5
- ★ March 22 - Mid-Michigan Model Train Show, Finch Fieldhouse, CMU Campus, 1275 S. Franklin, Mt Pleasant, \$6
- ★ April 18 - All Day OP SESSION at Detroit Model Railroad Club in Holly, contact www.dmrrc.org or 248-634-5811

CLINTON RIVER DIVISION 8 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Secretary: Kent Aughe - chappie81@wowway.com

Directors: John Gavasso

John Jackson - jdsmjackson@wowway.com

Car House Editor: Kent Aughe

Car House Proof-reader: Barbara Aughe

THE MARCH MEETING
THURSDAY, March 19, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
TROY CHRISTIAN CHAPEL,
Second Floor Meeting Room (use parking lot door and stairway just inside the door. There is also an elevator in the lobby if you prefer)
400 E. Long Lake Road, Troy
SEE YOU THERE!
(Same place, same time, third Thursday, every month)



NORTH CENTRAL REGION - NCR 2020 - BLACK SWAMP JUNCTION
October 15-18-, 2020

- Hosted by the Black Swamp Division in Toledo
- Radisson Hotel at the University of Toledo
- Rail Marine activities
- Early Bird Registration \$55 by 9/1/2020
- www.divisiononencr.com/2020

Join our Toledo friends and the rest of the North Central Region for a fun weekend of model railroading in October. Registration information is online.

FEBRUARY CLINIC

Marshall Stull presented an informative clinic of the advantages and cautions of battery-operated trains or “Dead Rail.” Battery technology continues to give us smaller power supplies, but they are sensitive and potential fire hazards if not handled properly.. Stay tuned!

What is Dead Rail?

- No Track Power
- Battery Power
- Radio Control
 - WiFi
 - Radio Control
 - Bluetooth

Dead Rail Providers

Mainstream Systems	DCC	Sound
BlueRail Trains	No	Generic
CVP	Yes	Yes
Del Tang	No	No
Stanton	Yes	Yes
Tam Valley	Yes	Yes
Other Systems		
MRC	No	Generic
NCE (decoder only)	Yes	No
Bachmann/BlueRail	No	Generic
G Scale Graphics	No	Generic