

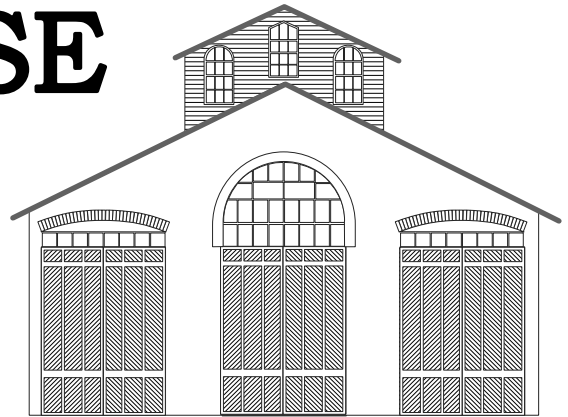
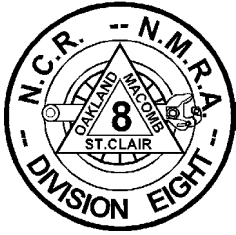
THE CAR HOUSE

The Monthly Newsletter of
Division 8 North Central
Region

National Model Railroad
Association

March 16, 2006

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



Call to Order

President **Curt Danielewicz** called the regular meeting of Division 8 of the NCR NMRA to order at exactly 7:05 PM. His watch was synchronized to the standard New York Central System clock located in the main waiting room of the historic Michigan Central depot in Detroit. We had one new member present, Mark Forrester. Your secretary apologizes for not obtaining information on Mark's railroading interests.

Visitors

No visitors revealed themselves to the membership this month except for a couple of members who might have visited the Dreamland & Pacific RR during the proceedings.

Show and Tell

We had outstanding participation this month in our Show and Tell activity. Marv's favorite 25 cent slot machine at the Greektown Casino is getting a rest this month. **Terry Bossick** showed off a pair of North Shore traction pieces. A powered combine with an unpowered trailer, although the trailer did have a trolley pole to pick up juice for the car's heat and light. These are Walthers products, with a 1940's paint scheme. **Larry Lauer** treated us to a group of his vintage organizational publications, this month some Hotbox issues from 1960. Actually, they're from 1960, but he just received them from publisher **Larry Wright** a couple of weeks ago. **Phil Kenyon** brought in a pair of tractor trailers, the type that don't ride on a ship from China and then a railcar from San Diego. New Member **Mark Forrester** has been working on moving **Ed Gray's** layout in as few pieces as possible to a new location. The problem being moving the sections from a walkout basement to a deep one. The project involves some new framing. **Phil Doolittle** is using a paper and fomecore mockup of his layout plans to visualize how his trackplan will fit into the available space. **Dave Thornton** brought in an O Scale Detroit PCC trolley loaded on a flatcar, ready for its journey "south of the border". The flatcar is a Lionel model, seen below with scale trucks and couplers added.



Show and Tell(continued)

Tony Britsky brought in a brass HO scale open sightseeing car from the Montreal trolley system. **Ken Sanborn** showed off a Santa Fe steamer that featured a coffin style feedwater heater. **Jim Clements** offered a brief discussion that he making to his narrow guage railroad that will result in greater accessibility and eliminate a "duck under".

Rad Jones has built a series of Northeastern Models "Tenement Row" structures. These would be well placed along the tracks and offer cheap rent. In Birmingham they'd go condo and each floor would sell for a million dollars.

Show and Tell (continued)

Jerry Shanek brought in an open side G Scale trolley and also gave an update on his massive grain elevator layout for his backyard railroad. The facility will feature 29 grain silos fabricated from thin wall PVC pipe. **Gene Kome** had no traction gear to show off but also gave an update on his major project, namely the glass bottle plant. See previous editions of the Car House for details and pictures of this project. **Tim Fisher** also had no traction items to offer, but did bring in a 1959 issue of Model Trains. This magazine is a long extinct Kalmbach publication offering simpler projects for modelers and coverage of Lionel and other tinplate lines. **Rick Ware** displayed photos of Melbourne, Australia streecars. **Dan Lewis** also had no traction model, but did bring in a model haybarn on poles with a sagging roof. He spotted the prototype near Mt. Shasta. As a condo in Birmingham, it would also sell for a million, well...maybe as a builder's closeout for 850k. **Bill Gaworth** brought in an industrial diorama and displayboard that featured the aspects of a layout subject, in particular, the Detroit Terminal Railroad. **Jim Zinser** also brought in a model of a Detroit PCC car. He also brought in a model of a little country gas station. See below. This is what convenience stores and gas stations looked like before lottery terminals.

Larry Wolohon brought in a Great Northern Y1 Electric locomotive. Larry commented that these were used in the Cascade tunnel. He also brought in a book entitled "Cross Continent Electrics." **John Gervasso** stunned the assemblage by showing a non-steam model, namely a Bachman Trolley. The model was carefully examined by several at the break for any evidence of steam propulsion. **Marv Linke** is finishing a group of storage tanks for inclusion on his layout. **Saul Kalbfeld** showed a plan for a long double track viaduct that will pass through an industrial area on his layout. And finally, **Stu Sonta** showed off a pair of German N scale rotary snow plows. Thanks to all the participants in this month's Show and Tell.

Visitors were noted in the room. Division 8 welcomed Tom and Sabrina Polarski to the March meeting. They are both N Scalers.

Minutes Approval The proceedings of the February meeting were approved in a motion by **Terry Bossick**, seconded by **Jim Zinser**, and nayed by **John Gervasso**.

Treasurer's Report

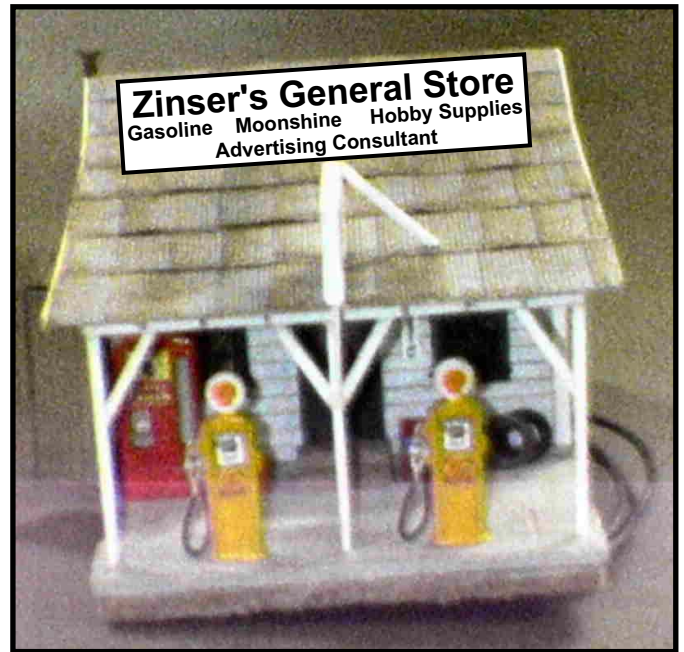
Treasurer Marv Linke reports that the Division has a total of \$3286.30 in the account. This includes a \$1000.00 CD. We will purchase additional CD's to improve the return on our cash.

Announcements

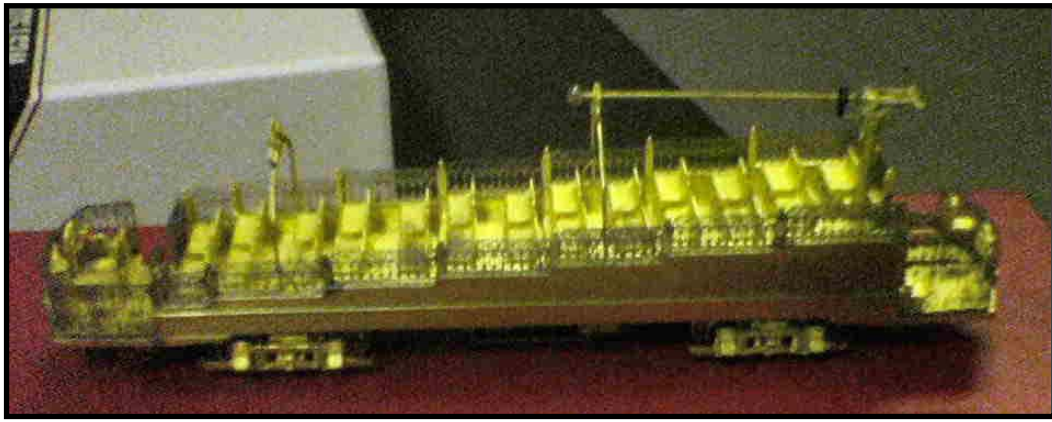
Dave Thornton more or less reiterated his comments of last month regarding the national convention in 2007. He reminded the membership that as of the meeting night there were 492 days until the convention opens. **Tim Fisher** reports that even though there have been no recent Region Hot Box issues, **Larry Wright** says that there will be a double issue shortly. **Doug Liefield** reports that longtime Pontiac hobby store RC Hobbies has relocated down the street from its former location to 935 West Huron, Waterford, MI 48328 248 681-1441. Even though they are best known for RC planes and cars, they do carry model railroad supplies and can probably order from wholesalers.

Commentary by Jim Zinser

Jim reports that he has a British correspondent who has sent him some videos of of English modelers railfanning in the USA. This person asked Jim for assistance in identifying an odd freightcar seen on tape carrying what looks like four separate tanks on a flatcar. Speculation by our group was that the car was actually a Halliburton Mud Car. Mud, probably in some refined condition, is used in the oilwell drilling industry for pumping and pressure building operations. A Google search by me on this description returned zero hits.



MONTREAL SIGHTSEEING CAR



TENEMENT ROW (except in Birmingham)



Live Presentation

This month our guest speaker was Lew Hoy. Lew is retired but had a long and varied career with the Pennsy, and later Penn Central and finally it's child, Conrail. His presentation covered traction in and around Philadelphia in the late 1940's when he was a college student and fortunate to have a high quality 35mm camera and access to color film stock. For me, the most striking part of the presentation was how much the look of our country has changed in the past sixty years. The vibrant downtowns of medium size cities such as Allentown and Bethlehem really don't exist any longer. The rural areas served by the interurban lines spreading out from the city center have been replaced by suburban development. However, many of the lines are intact and running and will attract many riders attending the NMRA convention this coming summer.

Upcoming Schedule

The next meeting of Division 8 of the NCR of the NMRA will be held at 7:00 PM on April 20, 2006 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 railroad memorabilia or a current project. For our monthly clinic or presentation, Vince Robinson will speak about the standardization of freightcars.

The March, 2006 meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM according to my watch synchronized to the spirit of the standard GTW clock located in the ghost of the main waiting room of the Fort Street Depot. The believers continued their seance at Big Boy's.

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