

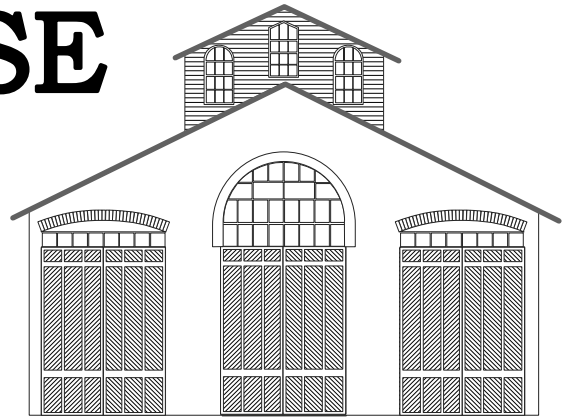
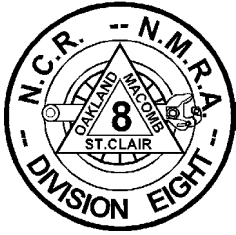
THE CAR HOUSE

The Monthly Newsletter of
Division 8 North Central
Region

National Model Railroad
Association

March 19, 2009

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



Call to Order

The regular meeting of Division 8 was called to order at 7:03 PM. All officers were present as well as 35 members and guests. As of this writing, the fate of our beloved Michigan Central depot in Detroit hangs in the balance. It won't come down easily if its built anything like railroad reinforced concrete coaling stations. On a lighter note, the Free Press carried a brief article about the "Witches Hat" depot in Milford, restored and very dignified, residing in splendor in a town park. The station originally stood at the crossing of the C&O and GT railroads.

REPORT FROM WGH SHOW IN CLEVELAND

Peter Jacobson commented at the start of the meeting that the Free-MO display at the show was very impressive and credited a number of our local Free-MO enthusiasts for helping make it a big success.

2009 SERVICE FEE REMINDER

Treasurer **John Jackson** reminds everyone that has not paid their 2009 service fee that it is now past due. Don't risk being dropped from the Division 8 roster. (This was a spelling error I didn't bother to correct...ha,ha :)

SHOW AND TELL

This months main subject was cabooses, also known as hacks, crummies, cabin cars, way cars, whatever.



Show and Tell

Peter Jacobson brought in a model of an Aladdin kit built house circa 1917. These houses normally were shipped by flatcar. **Jim Zinser** built the Bernie's Bikes model from Walthers. This is a snap together kit to which he added a number of details including lace curtains and a staircase, also wallpaper. **Larry Wolohon** GN expert showed off GN cabooses. **Gene Kome** brought in a book about Santa Fe waycars, by Steven Priest, who is the publisher of Scale Rails. **Bill Moore**, our B&M expert, showed a 34 foot caboose. This particular example has a narrow cupola and is a Northeast Rail Service model. Bill consulted the B&M Historical Society Journal for modeling details. **Rick Ware** showed a pair of Chessie cabooses in the company's system safety paint scheme. **Ken and Bob Scherer** both contributed this month, Ken showed off a Walthers GTW caboose and Bob showed a Silver Streak bay window work caboose. **Walt Connell** showed off a Tennessee Central caboose and talked about Spring Crossing Hobbies in Spring, Texas. Spring is in the Houston Metro area. He said that the operator has an extensive private collection of models worth seeing. The store is listed in the MR classifieds as he said.

Show and Tell continued

Marc Forest gave a little personal history of his days at MIT. He was a member of the Tech model RR club and still remembers the rigors of course C225-Mechanical Engineering, some of the same stuff us modelers have learned by accident over the years, except for the part that our bridges are built from wood and plastic instead of steel. **Phil Doolittle** offered some additional comments on the Free-MO setup at the WGH show in Cleveland. Phil said that the event attracted people from 8 to 10 states and featured 3 staging yards and an operating coal mine. For DCC operations he showed a programming track booster, the basic circuit built into a box. He also saw a G Scale triplex locomotive which sells for about \$1300.00. Great to drag a hundred hoppers around the yard at 10 MPH. We're all guilty of starting a project and then putting it aside for years, or decades. **Jim Clements** did this with a Florence and Cripple Creek gondola kit. When he decided to finish the kit he noticed that older kit parts did not fit as well as today's parts. All of us have older parts that don't fit together as well. **Rad Jones** brought in a nice group of N scale MOW cars by Bachmann. These are similar to the older Micro-trains made by Life Like but with extra detail. **Jim Sieradzinski** showed a GT caboose, one of the last types to operate. **Roger Terey** has a group of miscellaneous kits that he acquired as part of an estate. Some are classics including an Athearn Swift refrigerator kit. **Jim Dennis** brought in the one and only moose caboose, an NYC model by Overland with a moose head attached to the front of the cupola. He wonders if anyone needs the back end of a model moose. Might just fly off the 5 cent table at his next garage sale. **Tony Tahnoose** commented on caboose usage on the Southern in 1984 to 1985. During the transition period some trains carried cabooses and some did not. **Gil Lalonde**, who is just getting started in DCC operation brought in a manual that he is in the process of memorizing. **Roger Austin** showed an NCE decoder installation using Kapton tape. I did a web search and came up with the following information. Maximum resistance to high temperatures. Recommended for masking circuit boards and splicing wires. Polyimide film with silicone adhesive for easy release. UL 510 flame retardant. **Doug Kass** showed an unusual caboose by Overland Models. The model is an over the road caboose that looks like a transfer unit. At this point Doug led a brief discussion on the origins of the word caboose with no real consensus of where it came from. **Dave Thornton** reviewed a time tested but effective way of controlling a turnout and powering the frog using a common slide switch. **Phil Runyan** showed a WWII troop carrier converted by the C&O. **Fred Cosgrove** brought in a South Shore Line caboose which was a recycled CSX boxcar. **Joel Goldberg** is working a pickle processing and storage plant. Downsized to fit his layout. The pickling barrels are made from PVC pipe. **John Jackson** is working on various methods of keeping track bright and shiny. Letterman once said something about how this should be a requirement for the turbans of NY taxi drivers. **Saul Kalbfeld** brought in a model of a D&H wood sheath caboose, a brass Nickel Plate model and an FJ&G caboose acquired from the D&H. Finally. **President Jerry Shanek** showed off a G scale CB&Q caboose with a detailed interior that includes a smoking stove and a plugged toilet. Thanks to all who participated in this month's Show and Tell and thanks again to **Joel Goldberg** for his digital photography.



Division 8 Business and Finances

Treasurer John Jackson reports that the total of the regular checking account and 2 CDs totals \$4172.00

Old Business

Marv Linke discussed grant proposals regarding money available from the NCR that was received from the profits of the GLE2007 convention. The idea of welcome bags containing various goodies for prospective members was well received by the region. The plan to donate magazine subscriptions of model railroad magazines to local HS libraries still has legs, but in a scaled down size because of cost but there is concern that the effectiveness of the plan might be compromised if scaled down. A motion was made by **John Jackson** and seconded by **Joel Goldberg** to generate a letter to be presented in April directed to the four budget committee members, regarding this issue. Marv made an additional comment, that in these difficult economic times, we don't want to lose any members because of their inability to pay the annual division user fee. Anyone who is in this position is encouraged to speak with **John Jackson** who will keep the information confidential.



Dave Thornton Dave commented on how the current NMRA election ballot has had to be reprinted because of how Scale Rails is addressed to members. The ballot required that the address label be removed from the magazine front and be affixed to the ballot, the problem being that the magazine has addressed printed directly on the front page. Also, Dave made an interesting comment the the NMRA may be able to receive up to a 40K donation if a group or individual builds a full distance model of an actual railroad. How many Free-mo units can fit in Cobo Hall? NMRA budget data is available from Dave. You must be wearing a bean counter visor when making this request.

Upcoming Schedule

The next meeting of Division 8 of the NCR of the NMRA will be held at 7:00 PM on April 16, 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 a current project or what Larry Wolohon announced at the March meeting. Sorry I missed it. I'll update e-mail recipients.

The March meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

