

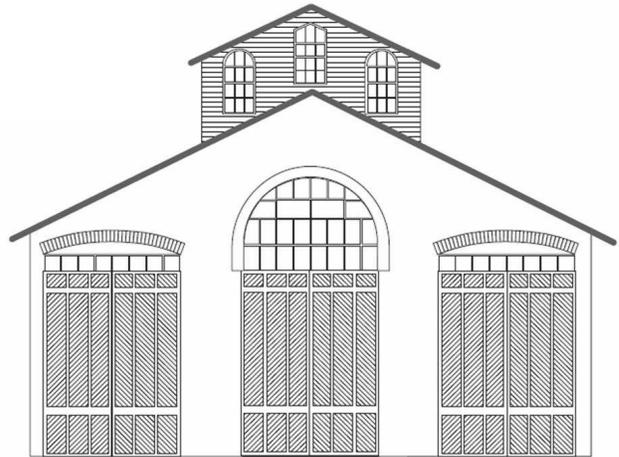
CAR HOUSE



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



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<http://www.nmra.org>



The News

February 16, 2017

From the Super

Troy, MI:

What's Next?

A group of us visited the Windsor Model Railroad Club today. It's an active club that had a layout in the basement of a commercial building for several years. It worked, but was far from ideal as I heard the story. But then an opportunity came along for a long-term lease on a large room on the second floor of the same building. The club decided to move into the larger, more pleasant quarters, which they did about 18 months ago.

The visit revealed that a lot of work has been done in those 18 months. The room has been prepared. Two layouts have been started and have trains running, one in N-scale and one in HO. If you've been to the South Oakland Model Railroad Club layout, you can appreciate the size of the Windsor one if I suggest that the Windsor HO layout (which will eventually be double deck) is nearly similar in size to the South Oakland one. The N-scale layout occupies another 20 or so feet in front of the HO layout.

So what's all this got to do with the title of this piece, "What's Next"? Well, as I looked at the Windsor layout, it was apparent that although they do have some trains circling each layout, there is a LOT of work to do. On one whole length of the

upper deck are buildings saved from the previous layout, each of which will require a decision about whether to use it, and rehabilitation and site planning and construction if they do. Two long stretches of the lower deck have no track, but some roadbed is laid, and three Fast-trak turnouts under construction represent the dozens and dozens that will be required. Space for 2 helices has been allocated, but construction has not started. Some of the well-scenicked portions of the layout are actually individual members' portable modules temporarily installed in the layout to achieve readiness for today's open house. A large white-board hangs on the wall with 2 or 3 tasks listed. I got to thinking, "Man, where do you start, and how do you decide what to do next?"

Sometimes you decide to do a project and the necessary steps sort of lay themselves out in front of you in a logical order. Although we don't all understand the concept of PERT charts, we sort of understand that certain things must be done before certain others, or else the project will not proceed without wasting time redoing tasks, or worse become impossible because completion of one task precludes ever doing one that should have been done first. That's OK for a single project, but when the work to be done is comprised of hundreds of projects as the Windsor layout does, [Continued next page]

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how do you decide what to tackle next?

I've never been a member of a model railroad club that is building a large layout like Windsor's, but I'd sure like to eavesdrop on some of the conversations struggling with the "What's next" question! I have enough trouble when I finish building a kit. I look at my shelves of inventory of unbuilt kits and puzzle over what to work on next. Should I build a freight car or a structure? Should it be for my Free-mo activity or for my future home layout, or maybe for a stand-alone diorama? Am I ready to tackle a complex difficult project, or is it time for something simpler? Something I think I NEED or something that will just be FUN? Probably I should be spending the time cleaning out the space where the future layout will go, but that's work!

How about you? How do you face and answer the "What's next?" question?

On another note altogether, thanks to all the members for the vote of confidence in reelecting Paul Runyan as your Treasurer, John Gavasso as your board member a large, and yours truly as your Superintendent. A special thanks to Kent Aughe for being willing to serve as your new Secretary and to you for electing him. Perhaps we can get him to write a short biography for the next Car House so we can all get to know him better. And BIG thanks to retiring Secretary Bill Gawthrop who has served as our Secretary for the last 8 years and to John Jackson who remains our immediate past superintendent and thus on the board. We will strive to keep the Clinton River Division worth your participation.

Phil

Guests

Troy, MI: Tonight's guests included: Martin Rowl, Chris ?, Jeff ?. Jeff and Chris are recruits from the "A" Train Show.

Election Results

Troy, MI: Election of officers for the upcoming two-year period include:

Phil Doolittle, Superintendent
Kent Aughe, Dispatcher
Paul Runyan, Paymaster
John Gavasso, Member at large

These people will take office March 1, 2017.

Thank You

Troy, MI: As I step down as Dispatcher/Secretary, I want to thank you for your support. This job was fun as made possible by each of you over the many years.

Bill Gawthrop

Train Shows

Troy, MI you can download a list and details of upcoming train shows in Michigan from the website:

<http://www.grandrivalleyrrc.org/shows.html>

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Show & Tell

This Month's Theme was **Your Favorite Holiday Gift**

Saul Kalbfeld emailed in his latest project [from California]. He is working on a Quality Craft kit. PRR 50 foot cushioned box. It still needs roof ribs and end detail. Fits into my early 60's era.



Marv Linke shared the results of his improvements to this O scale locomotive so that it would negotiate 6 foot radius curves. He blinded center drivers, fabricated widened driver tires, lengthened the frame of the trailing truck, and modified the pony truck.



Steve Akers brought in:

1. HO Grand Rapids crossing guard tower which he built from a Tomar kit
2. HO Westside class A Climax super-detailed with scale lumber
3. "Toots Tires" in which he used JRE used tires from "Junior's Shiner Trailer" kit and o-rings. He added Dollar Store Christmas lights and the tires and cast tire piles.



Rad Jones offered 2 buildings and 2 boats and an airplane. All are in N scale. These models have a place in the "wharf" scene on his N scale layout.



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Ken Scherer displayed mechanical stops which he designed for sloping Trackage in HO scale.



John Jackson offered articulated piggy-back flat cars in Ho scale. He modified 3 Athearn kits to better navigate the small radius curves on his industrial layout.



Phil Doolittle brought in a mostly finished HO scale building he built from a JL Innovative "Bertran Billards" kit. He also brought in a signal control panel which he uses to control the signals on his Wheatland Jct. Free-mo module.



Mark Mincek offered an HO scale model of the B&O Dickerson station. Mark built the model for his town of Holiday. He built the station from an MJB models kit. The prototype was built in 1899 and is still in use.



Greg Rich displayed an HO scale S&S refer which he built from an old Binkley kit.



Bill Gawthrop offered the mine office and equipment maintenance garage for his Betsy #1 Mine complex. He kitbashed the HO scale structure from a Plastruct kit adding interior details and interior and exterior lighting.



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Larry Wolohon brought in an O scale NYC USRA 40-foot box car. He also brought in an RPCYC magazine containing an article on this box car.



Richard Kubeck offered an HO scale Plymouth switcher. The model is by Broadway Limited.



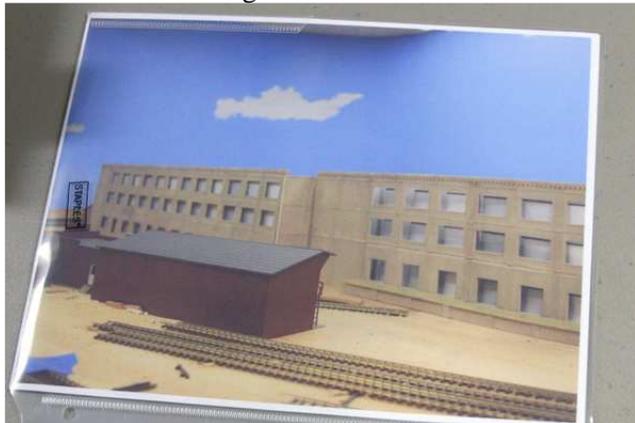
George Van Duyne displayed a large scale 4-6-0. The lead driver on this locomotive wore out it had been run so much in a large scale layout at the Steam Railroad Institute.



Steve Weber brought in an HO scale factory which he built from a DPM kit. Steve intends to install the building in the back ground on his layout.



Bob Scherer offered building flats for industries from Pictures of Progress. The flats are resin kits.



Tom Hoermann brought in technical information including photos on the Wiscasset Waterville & Farmington Railway and predecessors.

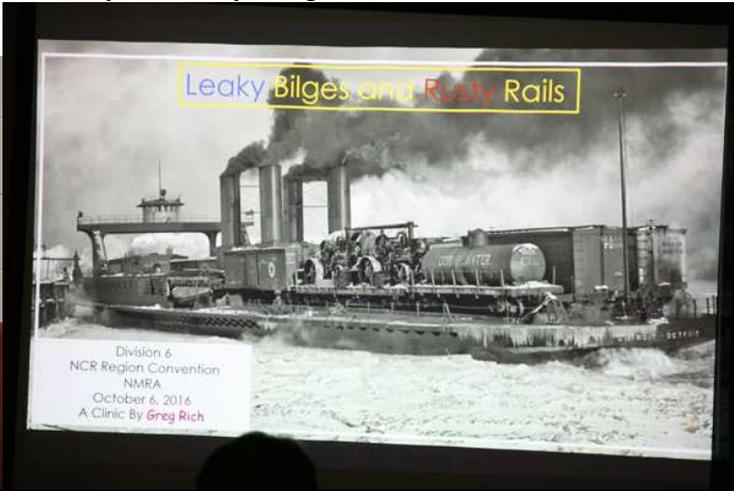


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February Clinic

The February Clinic was “Leaky Bridges and Rusty Rails” by Greg Rich.



March Clinic

The March clinic will given by ken from Empire Hobbies. He will discuss “How to Run a Hobby Shop.”

March Show & Tell

The subject of the March Show & Tell will be your latest acquisition. Of course you may bring in your latest project.

Upcoming Events

- Mar. 4; Great Midwest Train Show, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi, MI
- Mar. 11 & 12 & Mar. 25 & 26, Detroit Model Railroad Club Open House, Holly, MI
- Mar. 12; Trainorama, Cossick Center, Farmington Hills, MI
- Mar. 12 & Apr. 9, Wolverine RR Club, UF & C Workers Hall, Madison Hts., MI

Division 8 Board of Directors

Superintendent: Phil Doolittle
doolittlep@comcast.net
 Treasurer: Paul Runyan
prrdi61@gmail.com
 Secretary: Bill Gawthrop
wegawthrop@aol.com

Directors: John Gavasso
 John Jackson
jdsmjackson@sbcglobal.net

Car House Editor: Bill Gawthrop