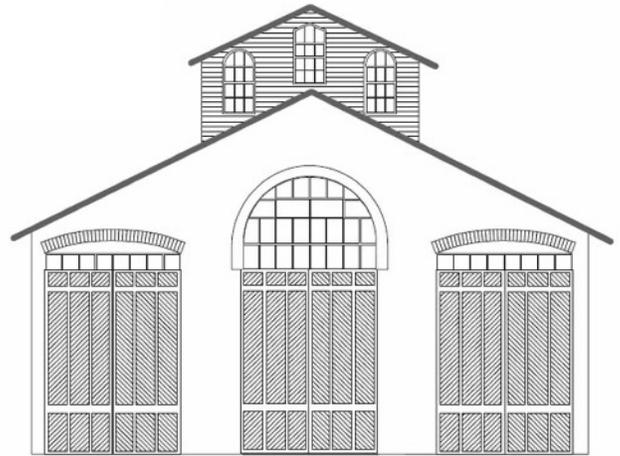


CAR HOUSE

APRIL 20, 2017



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



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

From the Super

Rethinking

The most recent *Model Railroader* had an article about Pelle Soeborg and the third model railroad he has built in the same room over the last 6 or 7 years. He rethought his locale, moving from the southwest desert theme of his last two layouts to feature more Midwest scenery. Down the road from here, in Blissfield, Doug Tagsold has rethought his railroad a number of times - building a D&RGW standard gauge class 1 railroad - the Durango and Silverton Colorado narrow gauge line - a busy belt-line railroad set in Toledo, Ohio - and his newest railroad in a non-standard scale necessitating almost all scratch building. Everyone who has read model railroad magazines in the last decade is aware of Tony Koester rethinking his approach to

operations. He tore out his excellent Allegheny-Midland railroad and built his new Nickel Plate line to be more conducive to running Time Table and Train Order operations. (And because he grew up near the Nickel Plate and loves it.)

I had an opportunity to operate at the Detroit Model Railroad Club layout in Holly a short time ago, and had several conversations with members that touched on the idea of rethinking. That club of course has a major amount of investment sunk in a layout designed in the 1970s, when things we take for granted today, like DCC and walk-around throttles, did not exist. More than once did members say that if the layout were designed today in the same space, it would look a lot different. But they haven't stopped with just rethinking *thoughts*; they are continually
(continued on page 2)

(cont from page 1)

redesigning and rebuilding parts of the layout so that they can operate trains with increasing realism. Their still-under-construction Detroit section of the layout (hidden from the view of the casual weekend open house visitor) includes probably the largest classification yard I've ever seen in a scale smaller than 1 1/2". It is a result of rethinking how they want to build and break down trains – with a sense of realism, not just something that looks good, or showcases a members' rolling stock.

At that DMRC op session, I had the chance to meet a number of "SONS", members of the Society of N-Scalers, giving their eyes a rest on the O-scale equipment. As you may be aware, they parlayed a loss of their previous layout space into a completely rethought layout in a much larger space. From the snippets of conversation I overheard, a lot of rethinking will happen before they finish populating that space with a completed layout.

I'm rethinking my yet-to-be-started home layout as well, and thanking the gods of procrastination that I am rethinking *before* I build, so that I don't have any demolition to do! I had hoped to build a twice-around-the-room mainline with a connecting short line on a peninsula. I would have had to create a new storage and work space for my Free-modules. My rethinking has me considering an idea that I had too quickly rejected before, that of incorporating my modules into the home layout, in a manner that they can still be slipped out and loaded into my truck for traveling setups.

Combining that with Pelle Soeborg's approach to staging tracks behind a backdrop, and I may have a plan that will get me energized and started much sooner than I had anticipated.

Happy rethinking!

Phil Doolittle, Superintendent

CLINTON RIVER DIVISION MEETINGS

Clinton River Division 8 regular monthly meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of the month, year-round. The location is the Troy Christian Chapel, 400 E. Long Lake Road, Troy, second floor meeting room. Show and tell is a monthly highlight - bring and explain your current modeling project and/or something railroad oriented related to the clinic topic. After a short business meeting and time to be inspired by those show and tell items, a live clinic or video is presented with discussion. All NMRA members living in Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair Counties are automatically members of the Clinton River Division. Even if your membership is not current, come and experience the fun of model railroading. And then renew your membership. After the meeting, many of us stop by the Big Boy on Rochester Road at M-59 for dessert and chats about model railroading and many other topics of interest. Join us for the May meeting, May 18, 7:00 p.m.

MODEL RAILROADING IS FUN.

And check us out on the web:

div8.ncr-nmra.org

APRIL SHOW & TELL
This month's Theme is Steam Locomotives or a Current Project

Steve Akers brought his Bachmann-Spectrum 3 truck 70 ton Climax and a HO house model.



David Cook rebuilt a Transfer Station



Terry Bossick displayed his Bowser Jewett car painted for the Lake Shore Electric Railway



Bill Gawthrop exhibited his B & O Class B-18c Ten Wheeler by Sunset Models.



Phil Kenyon brought his N-scale
C& O Mogul



Ken Scherer brought his Roundhouse 2
truck Shay



Marv Linke displayed three boxes of
locomotive parts and tools he uses to
repair model engines



Richard Kubeck displayed his B & O
2-8-8-4 and new type of switch
machine he just purchased



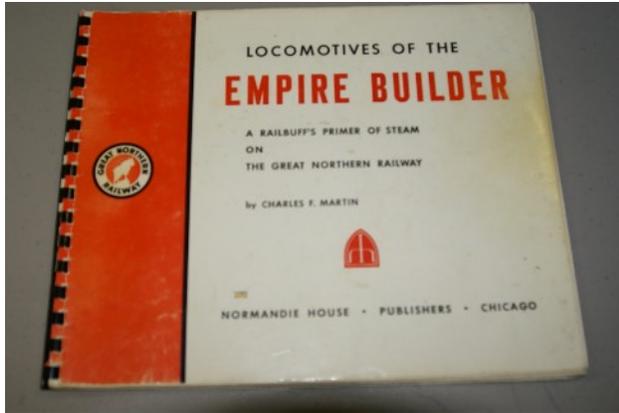
Greg Rich displayed a 2-6-0 Ken Kidder
Locomotive with decoder and new cam
motor



Steve Weber brought his 2 truck Heisler



Larry Wolohon exhibited his booklet about the locomotives of the Empire Builder from the early 1970's



Jim Zinser is adding a fleet of Bachmann 2-8-0's - 2 on hand 2 more to acquire



John Jackson made a Southern hopper patch out with actual rocks covered with scenic cement & a flat car load



TIPS OF THE MONTH

Marv Linke has repaired many DCC decoders that were secured with foam tape. The adhesive can conduct electricity, shorting out the decoder. Check that circuit boards are isolated.

NATIONAL CONVENTION VIDEOS

The NMRA website lists 83 video clinics for member viewing. Sign into the NMRA website, then look under "education" for the listings. If you have not signed up for the website, it is easy for all NMRA members. Try it out. There are many modeling, prototype and general interest items available. It's a benefit of your membership in NMRA!

GOT AN IDEA FOR A CLINIC?

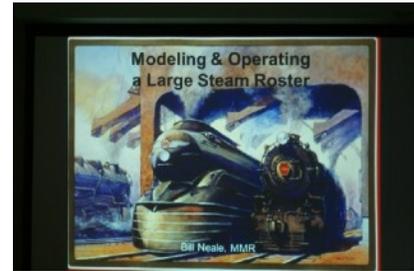
If you have a special skill or technique that would be of interest to other modelers, contact one of the officers or Larry Wolohon to discuss. If you conduct a clinic, you can earn credit toward an Achievement Program award!

THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION IS SEPTEMBER 14-17 in Grand Rapids. At \$45, it's the best deal around. Hotel is only \$79. Check out the information in the NCR HOT BOX. There is a link on the Clinton River Division 8 website, <http://div8.ncr-nmra.org>

**THE MAY MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 7:00 p.m.
SEE YOU THERE!**

APRIL CLINIC

Bill Neale, MMR, a member of NCR Division 6, presented his excellent clinic "Modeling and Operating a Large Steam Roster." Combining humor with his vast experience, his active roster includes **30** 2-10-0 Decapods, Bill gave us many tips for preparing locomotives for operation, for maintaining them, and even how to use STP oil treatment to keep your fleet running smoothly. Thanks, Bill



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ★ April 29, Detroit Model Railroad Club Open Operating Sessions, 248-464-0206 or trip@dmrrc.org
- ★ May 5 -7 - Trip to Cincinnati to operate Jerry Albers layout - contact Phil Doolittle for information
- ★ May 18 - Clinton River Division 8 monthly meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- ★ June 24 - "Age of Steam" Roundhouse Tour in Ohio. They need 40 people for the event to occur. Contact Div 1 Superintendent Jim Lang, jlang@buckeye-express.com or Dean Pyers, dpyers@aol.com

MAY CLINIC

"Weathering with Acrylic Paints"
by Lee Turner

MAY SHOW & TELL

Show off your weathered models or
a current project

CLINTON RIVER DIVISION 8 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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