



The newsletter of the Central Indiana Division of the Midwest Region, National Model Railroad Association

Volume 43 – Number 5 October – December 2013

Fall Modelers Meet October 19, Bedford, IN

In an effort to encourage attendance by CID members in the more southern areas of the Division, the fall Modelers Meet will be held in Bedford, IN on October 19, 2013. The location will be Fellowship Hall in the First United Methodist Church, 1409 K Street. The times will be from 10A to 3P. As usual,



Here is an example of some of the modeling that can be observed at a Modelers Meet.

this will be a meet for CID/NMRA members who are more experienced modelers. Modelers attending should bring along some of their current work for display and discussion. Information on the modeling techniques used will be shared among the modelers and there will be a clinic presentation. Bill Schoonmaker will be our clinician and his clinic will be on using the Arduino in model railroading applications. From the Arduino website: [\[arduino.cc/\]\(http://arduino.cc/\)](http://</p></div>
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Arduino is an open-source electronics prototyping platform based on flexible, easy-to-use hardware and software. It's intended for artists, designers, hobbyists and anyone interested in creating interactive objects or environments.

For those modelers who have some background in computer programming and an interest in automating systems on your railroad, this clinic will show you how easy it is to use this non-expensive, adaptable aid to add interest to your railroad.

Lunch will be on-your-own. You may either bring your lunch – there are always some of us who stay at the meet during lunch – or you can drive to a local fast-food establishment. Since there will be some of us in the room during lunch, your models will be safe if you wish to venture out for food. If you have questions, please contact Steve Studley, studley@indiana.edu

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The **RUSTY SPIKE** is the official publication of the Central Indiana Division, Midwest Region, National Model Railroad Association, and is published at least five times a year just prior to meets. It is sent FREE to all N.M.R.A. members in the C.I.D. and non-members may subscribe for \$6 per year. Articles for publication are welcome for the benefit of the readers and the hobby but cannot be paid for. Submit articles for publication to the Editor; address changes or mailing problems to the Circulation Manager; and advertising or advertising inquiries to the Publisher.

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The Columbus Area Railroad Club is dedicated to serving all those interested in the preservation of railroad history through the use of modeling, photography, artifact preservation, and railfanning.

Memberships are available

We have operating layouts in O and On-30 and we are in the process of building new layouts in HO and N scales. Come and see the progress and our new home!

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12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Free Admission

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In Praise of Portable Layouts

As we begin another season of CID meets, beginning with the Carmel Clay Library meet November 9th lets pay tribute those who have taken the time to build portable layouts and displays and share them with us and the general public over the years. According to my NMRA membership card I became a member in January 1976. I recall my first meet in the IBEW hall on Shortridge in Indy, a smoky dim basement with a few dealers and just 2 small modules. As a newbie I studied every detail, went home enthused and brought the beginnings of my own layout to a meet under the tracks in pre-restoration Union Station later that year. Plaster dropped down on us as trains rumbled overhead. A few modelers found us and the winos wondered what was going on in their neighborhood. Next year I was elected a train master and Jim Wilhite asked me if I could keep track of the portable layouts since I was already displaying. He gave me a sheet with 5 unfamiliar names and phone numbers and I started to learn how to be module manager. Today that list has over 30 entries with as many as 14 layouts attending some of our meets.

For ingenuity and creativity portable layouts are hard to beat. Over the years I have seen them built on planks, doors, in pizza boxes, brief cases, guitar cases, one constructed entirely of corrugated cardboard, and one with water and live goldfish. A wooden working model of Baker valve gear, operating lift bridges and loaders, real miniature steam engines, extensive modular set ups, and exquisitely detailed small modules have graced our meets over the years created by individuals, families, and groups of friends. It's fun to observe the teamwork and camaraderie as one of the large modular layouts is set up, the different solutions to

the challenges of safely transporting a layout and its trains, connecting and supporting everything so that a heap of components becomes a smoothly operating model railroad. These folks were up way before dawn loading trucks and trailers, drove for many miles and will crawl home exhausted, sometimes with a few locos bound for the work bench and some broken scenery to repair. How much easier just to slip into a train room and close the door, but they do it all for the rest of us, and for the future of the hobby.

For those of us who are already model railroaders portable layouts show us new idea and techniques, models we did not know were available, and prototypes and scales we may not have thought about, but for the casual visitor they reveal the joy of the hobby. Toddlers in Thomas tee shirts stare at the choo choos and protest when mom wants to move along. Little girls stand and study every detail. Boys watch the trains and say "this is so cool." Dads ask what train set should I buy for my kid. Older guys say "I've got some trains in the attic, I need to get them out again." Who knows how and when our work will bear fruit . Be assured, those of us behind the layouts operating them are having a great time. In a sense showing a layout and getting appreciation from the general public validates us as modelers: We might sometimes wonder about being grown ups who still play with trains. So if there is a prototype you find interesting or a scale you would like to try your hand at that doesn't fit with your main modeling focus consider putting together a portable layout or a static display, we would all love to see what you come up with and you will be going the extra mile to promote this hobby we all enjoy.

Trevor Jones
CID Portable Layout Manager



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INTERCHANGE TRACK

As a railroad modeler, are you and your layout evolving with the hobby?

The subject for this article came to me while I was thinking about clinics at the NMRA National Conventions. [Remember - *Highball to Indy, 2016*] There were 226 clinic slots at this year's convention in Atlanta. There were also layouts and prototype venues to visit, and some inspiring models to view. Attending a convention provides a great opportunity for you to update your knowledge of model railroading in a short period of time.

If you don't think model railroading has evolved, perhaps you've seen some photos from the 1940-50 era showing gentlemen in coats, ties, and hats running their O-scale, outside-third-rail powered trains. Power was supplied by 6-volt Direct Current (DC) storage batteries and speed control was by rheostats. Transistorized throttles came along in the 1960s providing much better speed control than did simple rheostats. In a series of articles in *Model Railroader* beginning in 1985, Bruce Chubb explained his "Computer/Model Railroad Interface" (C/MRI) for layout control. Using C/MRI made it (slightly) easier to have your own Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) machine to control the layout. The advent of Digital Command Control (DCC) has taken train, turnout, and signal control to yet another level. If you consider what we have today, for both DC and DCC systems, and compare it to the equipment of 50 years ago, I'm sure you will agree that model railroading has evolved.

While the subject of the previous paragraph was evolving model railroad electronics, we have also seen advancements in locomotives, rolling stock, structures, and scenery products.

Gone are the days of printed cardstock sides for freight cars. Advances in injection molding have provided us with a superior product. Plastic and etched-metal detail parts allow the modeler to produce great looking models. Printed cardstock is still in use, but now the use is often for background structures – and you can print some of these on your home printer. Most all models are more to-scale and come ready-to-run with many manufacturer-applied detail parts. Track products are also quite a bit better than in the past. Flex-track today is available in several scale rail sizes with spike/tie plate detail that looks great. Compare this to the code 100 fiber-tie flex of the past. It had pieces of shiny metal the size of staples holding the rails to the ties. It's safe to say that essentially all parts of the hobby supply-side have evolved - have you and your layout?

Some of you may now be saying, "But my 'completed' railroad doesn't need to be updated. It's fine as it is." You may feel that way, but ask yourself, "Am I still as satisfied with the layout as when I 'finished' it?" Have a critical look at the scenery. Could it be upgraded using newer scenery products? How much detail is shown on your rolling stock? Are you **OP**erating the layout as opposed to just running trains? Not only have there been advances in the materials we use, but there have also been many new modeling techniques developed through the years. Perhaps it's time to see about incorporating these new products and techniques in your "completed" layout.

How do you now learn about the changes that have happened over the intervening years? Hopefully you are still reading the monthly print and internet hobby magazines - including the NMRA magazine. That will get you started. A good way to learn about specific techniques and materials is to attend conventions where learning opportunities abound.

The annual week-long National Convention offers clinics on most every aspect of model railroading. There are often multiple authors

(Continued on page 7)



Central Indiana Divi-

Presents the

Danville Train Show

Saturday - November 23, 2013



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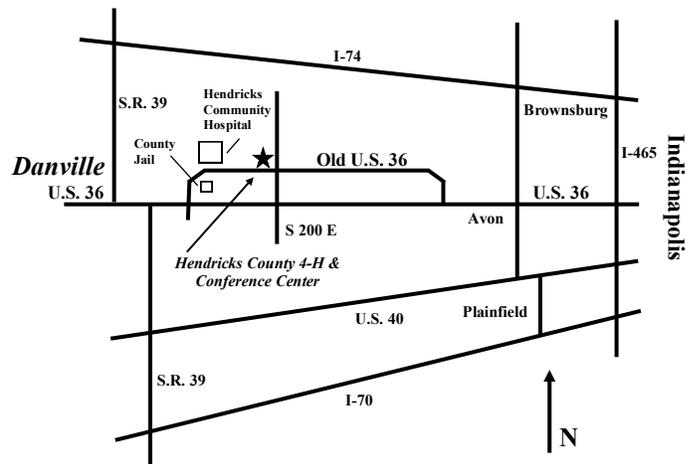
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- Displays
- Model Judging
- Door Prizes
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Contact John Pancini at (317) 272-3796 or jpancini@indy.rr.com
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Check out our website at <http://cid.railfan.net/>

The next CID show is at Noblesville, IN in January 26, 2014

Upcoming Events

– Division Schedule –

Carmel Library Train Show – November 9, 2013 – Carmel, IN

This show is a display of portable layouts by CID members in conjunction with National Model Railroad Month and sponsored by the Carmel-Clay Public library.
10am to 3pm - Free Admission

For more information: trevjn@sbcglobal.net

Danville Train Meet – November 23, 2013 – Danville, IN

Hendricks County Fair Grounds, Danville, Indiana
Dealer Show & Meet – 10am to 4pm - Free Admission
Operating layouts, vendors, door prizes, contests, food and free parking

For more information: John Pancini at (317) 272-3796 or jpancini@indy.rr.com

– Extra Board –

Great Train Expo – October 12-13, 2013 – Indianapolis, IN

Indiana State Fair Grounds Blue Ribbon Pavilion
Admission-Adults: \$7.00, Kids under 12: FREE - 10am-4pm both days

For more information: <http://trainexpoinc.com>



The Great Train Expo
America's Coast to Coast Train Show

Train Show and Sale – November 16, 2013 – Louisville, KY

Highland Post, American Legion - 2919 Bardstown Rd., Louisville, KY
10am-3pm - Admission: Adults \$5.00 Children under 12 Free
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Vendor tables are \$25 for 8 foot table

Website: <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/index.htm>

For more information: Mark Hedge (evenings) at (812) 288-8037 or div8trainshow@gmail.com

Great Train Expo – January 4-5, 2014 – Indianapolis, IN

Indiana State Fair Grounds Blue Ribbon Pavilion
Admission-Adults: \$7.00, Kids under 12: FREE - 10am-4pm both days

For more information: <http://trainexpoinc.com>



The Great Train Expo
America's Coast to Coast Train Show

Upcoming CID Board Meetings

Date: October 20, 2013

Location: Fishers Library
Municipal Drive
Fishers, IN

Time: 1:30 PM

Date: December 8, 2013

Location: Fishers Library
Municipal Drive
Fishers, IN

Time: 1:30 PM

CID members are welcome and encouraged to attend.
Board members can confirm location and date.

Rusty Spike Closing Dates

Volume 44 Issue #1 - December 8, 2013

Dates are tentative and subject to change.

Attention – All notices of club open houses, or other shows & meets will be included in the **Extra Board** only if the official request form is used. This form may be printed off the CID website at:

http://cid.railfan.net/Extra_Board_Request_Sheet.pdf

Fill out the form and send to the address listed on the form. Upcoming deadlines for each Rusty Spike are listed in the Spike or may be obtained from Keith Clark (see pg. 2). Events not sent on the request form cannot be included.

Interchange Track

(Continue from page 4)

explaining their techniques for using the latest products. This provides the attendee with several ways to accomplish the same thing. Attend the clinics and choose the methods that match your skills and abilities. Or you can expand your capabilities by adding to your skill set as you try out some of the newer techniques.

Annual Regional Conventions are typically three- or four-day meetings with most of the same opportunities as a National. There will be clinics, layout tours, and operations. Often there are prototype tours, model contests, and/or displays. Because of the shorter time period, the number of clinics and tours will be fewer than at a National.

Held three times per year, CID meets typically have two clinics per meet. Find out the subjects of the clinics, set aside some time to attend, and learn something new. Remember that at conventions and meets we all speak the same language – model railroading. Even though there may be different dialects, - N-scale, O-scale, narrow gauge, etc. – we still are able to understand one another.

Visit the CID website, cid.railfan.net, for access to info on Regional and National Conventions. Click on Midwest Region and NMRA Home Page tabs at the top of the CID homepage.

Eng CID 2013 run extra MP50 to Highball to Indy

“Clear signal at Sycamore Hollow”

Steve Studley
CID, Superintendent
MWR, Vice-President

Please
send us your email address!

Send us your email address. It's important. It's important for two reasons. First, the NMRA sends out monthly news articles to the members' email addresses. If you are not

receiving this information, perhaps your email address is either missing or incorrect. We can check that and with your help alleviate the problem.



Second, the CID would like to be able to send important news about upcoming meets and activities. Without your address, the system doesn't work properly. We do try to get all the information about CID activities into the *Rusty Spike* but don't always make the deadlines needed for publication. Up-to-date news is also located on the CID website.

Make sure we know your email address. Send an email to me telling me you are doing this to make sure the CID has your email address. We can check to make sure the info the NMRA has on you is current.

Please help us so we can help you.

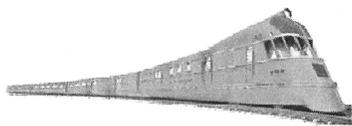
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The Central Indiana Division of the NMRA would like to welcome these new members. We're happy to have you aboard. If you know any of these new members or happen to see them at a CID activity, please give them a personal welcome.

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Upcoming Clinics

There will be three clinics presented at the next two CID activities. First, on October 19 at the Modelers Meet in Bedford, IN, Bill Schoonmaker will be presenting a clinic on using the Arduino prototyping platform in model railroading applications. Bill will display examples of the capabilities of this class of computer. More information is available on the CID website.

At the Danville meet, November 23, there will be two clinics presented. Al Askerberg's presentation will be about the modeling of John Allen. This year, 2013, marks the 100th

anniversary of John's birth and 40th anniversary of his death.

The second clinic at Danville will be presented by Tom Fitzsimmons and Steve Studley. This clinic will be about the NMRA Achievement Program. Tom and Steve will give an overview of the program, how you can become involved in it, and why you'd want to.

If you have a clinic you'd like to present, contact Bill Litkenhous with that information mrlit47170@gmail.com

Rusty Spike Vol. 43 No. 5

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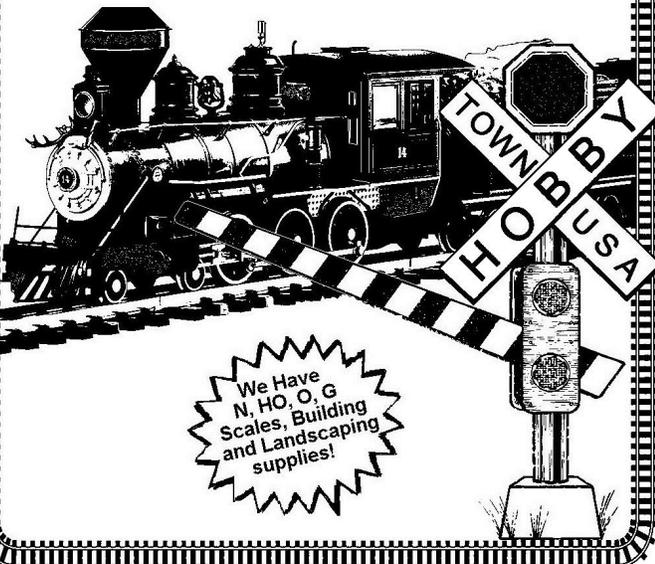
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