



August 2014 - Volume 2 Issue 6

Thoughts from the Superintendent



NMRA President Charlie Getz made some comments at the 2014 Region Convention in Salt Lake City, and talked about how he, as a model railroader, didn't find the same enthusiasm for prototypical model operations that many NMRA members do. He made an intelligent and articulate explanation of what operations seemed to be from his perspective, and then he made a point that was missed by many people across the NMRA.

To paraphrase: *Operations may be fun for many members of the NMRA, but not for everybody. There are many different ways to find personal fulfillment in our hobby. It is up to each individual modeler to find the way that works best for them, and we all need to be tolerant of these differences.*

I think we can all relate to what Charlie is saying, and need to make sure it is a priority for each of us as we participate in Division activities, so we are never responsible for offending another member just because they see things a little differently than we do.

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I did a little research into the State of Utah, especially the part of Utah that we know affectionately as the Northern Utah Division!

Did you know that our Division covers 60% of the State's land? More impressive is that 90% of the State's population live within our Division!! The other 10% live in the Southern Utah Division boundaries. I did some quick math: where we only have one Division, there are enough people to have NINE divisions the size of Southern Utah's very active Division. So keep your eyes and ears out for anyone you know who even glances at a train when it rolls by ... they need the opportunity to see what the Northern Utah Division is all about!

Speaking of “what we’re all about”, there are a couple different ideas floating around our Division, but the one that matters is that our Division is all about our people.

Yep, it’s you that are our greatest asset! Your enthusiasm, your participation, and yes, even the diversity of your interests that make this place even worth belonging to. Without any of us, what would we have? There would be no meetings, no operating sessions, no conventions, and no train show.

And that would make the world a little less bright.

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Speaking of train shows, we are fast approaching Wasatch Rails 2014. This year we have even more additions to our traditional Autumn “festival of the iron horse”, and look forward to a significant turnout.

We have an experienced event planning team taking care of all the ... well ... planning, and they have submitted a request to the Board asking for money to pay for advertising this year’s show!!!

That’s not even the best part ... thanks to the Region convention, and to everyone’s purchase of one or more convention cars, we actually have enough money to do this, so the Board has unanimously approved the funding for this proposal.

Of course, there is no point in paying for advertising and not get increased turnout, and we are expecting 500+ new attendees this year over last, and that will just amp up the fun at this year’s Wasatch Rails.

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Speaking of 500+ new attendees, all those extra guests aren’t going to take tickets for themselves, and our Division has a great need for you to commit two hours of your time at the Show to help our Division earn the money we need to fund next year’s programs.

We need lots of help doing lots of things, and the Show committee has a nifty schedule to keep track of who is going to take care of what. There are many ways to help at the show, and all of them are rewarding.

Come be part of the good that is going on in model railroading in northern Utah, and help “promote the hobby” and make someone’s day a spectacular experience!

Contact Alan Anderson or Stan Jennings for more information on what there is that you can do to make a difference in our annual show!

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Speaking of making a difference, our elections aren’t *very* far away. We have made the election process as painless as possible, and made sure that every member has a fair and equal opportunity to run for office. Candidate filing begins in October, candidate statements are issued in November, and the election is held at the December meeting. Who knows? You may even be able to vote by email this year!

Oaky, so running for division office isn’t often thought of as the *most* fun of all the NMRA activities, but I’m working hard on tidying everything up and sorting everything out so that serving in a Division office is as easy as attending an op session, as fun as assembling a kit, and as rewarding as earning an AP certificate for service. You won’t have the life sucked out of you endless demands on your time, the programs will pretty much run themselves, and you will still have time for modeling!

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Speaking about our Division, we are all about our people (I said that a little while ago) and our people are all about modeling railroads. We need to put our corporate structure as far out of the way as possible, just where it belongs in a Model Railroad Association, and spend as much of our time as possible modeling railroads!

So if that is why you joined the NMRA (to model railroads), let me hear a “Hallelujah, brother!”

Cheers,

Ken Berry

People make our Division fun - our programs are only something we do together!

Meeting Highlights



It is one thing reading about Turbines and quite another having Fred explain, in person, about these great beasts! They were amazing machines and Fred had slides and models of many of the different types. He even had one with a soundcard hooked up to a DCC track. It has the diesel engine sounds and then you can hear the turbine spin up. It is really loud. I'd explain more but you had to be there to get the real effect! You can read Fred's articles in past newsletters for more info.



The Monthly Clinic



At the Division Meeting on the 19th we will have an awesome clinic! Here are the details:

Tricks and Tips for DCC.

Some of the new trends in digital command control (DCC):

- Dead Rail Society
- Keep-Alive(tm), Current-Keeper(tm), etc.
- Soundtraxx SoundCar(tm) (See below under 1. and 2.)
- Smart phone apps to run trains. (I won't be able to show an example at the hospital as the port is blocked and the hospital can't change it. I can provide step by step instructions that attendees can take home with them.)

1. Features of the Tsunami SoundCar

- Brake cylinders
- Brake squeal
- Clickety-clack: Adjustable for 2-, 4- and 6-axle cars
- Coupler clank and pin drop
- Coupler release with glad hand separation
- Flange squeal
- Flat spots
- Emergency brake valve ("big hole"): Activated when the emergency stop button is pressed
- Generators: User-adjustable for reefers and passenger cars
- Hand brake tie down and untie
- Multiple airhorns, air whistle and bells with adjustable ring rates for cab cars and cabooses
 - Airhorns: Wabco E2, Nathan K5LA and Hancock air whistle
 - Bells: Cast, electronic and gong
- Retainer bleed-off

2. Intelligent Consisting — Consisting Made Easy

- With the SoundCar, your switching sessions can be more realistic than ever! Our easy-to-use Intelligent Consisting™ lets you add and remove cars from your train without tricky programming. When the mode is activated, you can simply wave a magnet over the cars to quickly cut them in or out of the consist. Just like a brakeman with a brake club, this action is synced with a sound effect of the car's hand brakes being tied or untied.

D.O.G. News



A communications snafu put the kibosh on July's DOG session, and the top DOG is on his way home from the DOG pound in sunny Florida to set things aright!

Stay tuned for an announcement regarding the 4th Saturday of August.

~ Junk Yard Dog

Help Me Promote the Division



The NMRA Board of Directors, at their annual meeting in Cleveland, unanimously selected Salt Lake City as the location for the 2019 NMRA Convention and Train Show. The convention dates are 07-07-19 to 07-13-19 and the train show dates are 07-12-19 to 07-14-19.

Upcoming National Convention sites:

- 2015: Portland, OR - August 23-30, 2015
- 2016: Indianapolis, IN - July 3-10, 2016
- 2017: Orlando, FL - July 2017
- 2018: Kansas City, MO - Dates pending
- 2019: Salt Lake City, UT - July 7-13, 2019 - Sesquicentennial of the driving of the Golden Spike

Newly revised NMRA Web Page

Ben Sevier, NMRA Information Technology Manager, has announced the release of a new and improved version of the NMRA web page at www.nmra.org. Please visit this new web site and experience the many new features, functions and format of this important communication tool. You will be impressed with the new site.

Getting the word out can be daunting at times. I have been in the media business for more than thirty years. My job for the Division is to promote the activities of the Northern Utah Division, (such as meeting dates, information about up-coming clinics, etc.) to the magazines, E-publications like Model Railroad Hobbyist, and who ever might have an "audience" of train lovers. Many of these publications work up to four months in advance, meaning if you want to get it in their publication, for say the Sept. 2014 issue, I have to submit the material no later than June 15th as an example.

As you can see, if you have an up coming clinic or information about a Division activity of any kind, I need to receive it ASAP. Your kind and timely input will be greatly appreciated. Thanks in advance. 😊

Steve Moore,
Division Marketing
kiss@kissmethodinc.com

Achievement Program



Often people wonder where or how to get started in model railroading. Well, anyone reading this has probably already started! However, for this crowd, the topic of improving upon one's skills and/or trying their hand at something they haven't tried before is relevant!

This month's clinic at the Division Meeting is a case in point: I'm sure many of us know what DCC is and even have it on their layout. The question then is, "Are we using it to it's full potential?" My guess is we are not. You might be fine with that, it does what you want. What if you found out it does something that you didn't even know about, and once you hear about that you want to try it out?



For me, that is the benefit of the AP Program. There are several things I thought I would not have thought to bother with but once I tried them because they were an option to complete a certificate I started, I found out it is something I really like!

You don't have to be earnestly working on an AP certificate to get the most out of this hobby. Just figure out what you like doing and get with others who share your passion and they might show you new ways you hadn't thought of, or you might show them something cool they didn't know about!

Make sure you come to the clinic and even if you know about DCC, you might end up learning something new you hadn't even thought about! As we share our knowledge and experience we can enjoy the journey together!

Jim Wanlass
AP Chairman
ap@northernutahnmra.org

Layout Tour



Well, the August tour has already happened. You mean you didn't go to Evanston? It was a well done show and you should put it on your calendar for next year. Next month, September, we will be visiting layouts that belong to members of the Hostler's club. It looks like the date is the same as the Division's meeting, namely September 20 so you might want to plan your day so you can visit layouts early and then come to the Division meeting. I'll have details next month.
Pete Harmon

The Club Car



There are many model railroading clubs and organizations within the Northern Utah Division territory. Rather than listing them all here go to our website and you will find a list of them. If there are any corrections please let us know so we can update and keep it as current as possible! admin@northernutahnmra.org

<http://northernutahnmra.org/local-clubs/>

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The Trackers model railroad club has taken the initiative in repairing the deteriorating old freight dock at the Tooele Valley Railroad Museum. It needs some repair work, and the Trackers have been in negotiations with local corporations and the City of Tooele for donations in terms of pricing and materials, but the project stands in need of cash. Please visit [the Trackers' website](#) for more information, and while you're there, match my \$10 donation and help save the old dock. Great work, Trackers, for stepping up and taking care of business!!

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We need to know what's going on around Utah! If you belong to a model railroad club, consider contributing one or two lines about what's happening in your club. Enquiring minds want to know!



What follows is a list of railroady-type events that may be of interest to all you train nuts.



Rocky Mountain Express

Rocky Mountain Express propels audiences on a steam train journey through the breathtaking vistas of the Canadian Rockies and highlights the adventure of building a nearly impossible transcontinental railway. Recruited to realize this venture—one of the greatest engineering feats of all time—were engineers and laborers from around the world.

The film weaves together spectacular IMAX aerial cinematography, archival photographs and maps, and the potent energy and rhythms of a live steam locomotive to immerse audiences in this remarkable story from the age of steam.

- ATK Imax Theater at Clark Planetarium
- 40 Min program shown multiple times daily thru Apr 3rd
- clarkplanetarium.org/shows/rocky-mountain-express/

Northern Utah Division Social

October 11, 2014

Save the date!

12:00 NOON - 4:00 PM, Oct. 11, 2014,

The Northern Utah Division of the NMRA will be hosting a Social at the Tooele Railroad Museum. A BBQ style lunch will be served courtesy of the Division - Hamburgers & hot dogs with sides and desert. The layout will be open and the 1 1/2" scale train will be running so bring the entire family! The kids always love riding the "little" train! - Big kids love it too. :-)

The museum equipment will be open for display as well. We will be the guests of the "Trackers Model Railroad Club" - come see what they have to offer.

Railshow 2014, Idaho Falls, ID

www.ida.net/org/errhsi

Saturday & Sunday, October 11 & 12, 2014

Admission: \$3.00 per person with at least 2 cans of food

Multiple Scale Model Railroads, Swap & Commercial Dealers

Videos shown throughout the day

Modeling Contests, S Scale Layout, Trolley layout

Trains you can ride in the parking lot!

Brio Trains for the Young (and old) to play with!

Door prizes awarded each hour of the show!

ERRHSI Train Layout in the Basement



Wasatch Rails 2014

- November 7th, 8th, & 9th :: Friday 3pm-8pm; Saturday 9am-6pm; Sunday 10am-4pm ([Add to your Calendar](#))
- Utah State Fairpark, 155 North 1000 West

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!! Step up and volunteer to help make this the most successful Train Show sponsored by the Division in many years. We need ticket takers, ambassadors, setup, and just helpers. Contact Alan Anderson, alan.anderson66@gmail.com or Stan Jennings, rienn24103@aol.com. Come on, this is your division and all of our reputation that is on the line. Don't just stand there... lend a hand. It's fun and rewarding, I promise.

NEW THIS YEAR!! is that we will have a substantial advertising and marketing campaign on various media outlets. We expect quite a bit more attendance than previous years. An ad campaign we've not seen in a few years! We'll let you know when they will start and where you can see and hear the ads for the train show.

You can see the live shot that aired last year on KUTV [here](#).

SHOW WEBSITE: www.wasatchrails.com

South Weber Model Railroad Club

Giving rides the 3rd Saturday of the month. Come ride the train this Saturday 11am to 4 pm.
Canyon Meadows Park at 475 East Petersen Parkway, South Weber, Utah.



The South Weber Model Railroad Club is a 1-1/2" scale model railroad. They are the ones who run the trains out front of Union Station at the Hostlers Festival that the kids get to ride. Most ride-on railroads that are 1-1/2" scale are also known as 1/8th scale with 7 1/2" between the rails. This just happens to be the same size as the one in my backyard. The biggest difference is that it is run in a park and can have much larger radius than I can in my limited space.

The club has been around about 4 years and has about 20 members and are a 100% NMRA Club. The park is about 18 acres, of which not all is developed yet. Currently there is a baseball diamond with plans for a second one. The track is nearly one mile with plans to double it with loops,

crossings, the works! When we rode the train it went all the way around the baseball diamond and the other side of the parking lot. It was a fun ride. Right now they are giving rides on the third Saturdays of the month. A few weeks back during a baseball tournament they had 250-300 people ride. It's not just for kids. Big kids can ride too, the cars are comfortable.

Several companies and individuals have donated and loaned equipment and supplies. Wheelwright Lumber, Home Depot and Lowes have donated to the club. Even though the city said they can charge for rides they say "no" and instead take donations which come out to about the same amount anyway. Through word of mouth and local news the number of riders has been increasing. While I was there some of the kids were "repeat customers."

I got some good tips that will help me with my backyard train. Even though it was a bit of a drive for me it was a lot of fun! My daughter and I rode the train in the morning and had plenty of time to get to the Division Meeting in the afternoon to see a great clinic! I recommend spending some time with the folks at the South Weber Model Railroad Club. If you just want to take the kids or grandkids on the 3rd Saturday it will be a lot of fun. If you are interested in helping or being part of the club, look for more info at the links below.

-Jim Wanlass

<http://southweberrr.webs.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Weber-Model-Railroad-Club/203970886299755?sk=timeline>



Meets at Pioneer Valley Hospital 3460 Pioneer Parkway, West Valley City Utah 84120
editor@northernutahnmra.org meets 3rd Sat.

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