

The Lantern

June 2011

Volume 13, Issue 6

Superintendent's Report Pete Birdsong

A great big thanks to **Anthony Hardy** for hosting the May tour of his layout in Georgetown.

The joint swap meet with the Bluegrass Railroad Club on the 13th was a lot of fun, a great way to get rid of stuff you aren't using, and get some stuff you want, all at bargain prices. Josh and I plan to hold it again next year, maybe expanding it some.

I'm looking forward to seeing most of you at the Saturday, June 4 tour of the Cincinnati Union Terminal tower and layout. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to see a fabulous layout and the workings of a real tower. Check the back page for car pooling information.

Larry Smith attended the MCR regional convention. His report begins, and his 2010-11 Bring and Brag is here.

Larry also represented us in my absence at the regional board meeting, at which we were presented two awards - one for largest increase in membership, and one for percentage of growth. Almost literally while we receiving these awards, the April membership list was distributed, showing we had dropped four members as of March 31. Knowing most of the members involved, I'm sure their lapse is an oversight which will soon be corrected. But it highlights the importance of staying current with your dues, and renewing in a timely manner. You can see your expiration date on the label of your newsletter each month.

FINAL 2010 -2011 Bring and Brag Standings

Name	May Points	Total Points
Lou Jaquith – TOP MODELER		123.9
Tom Krill - TOP MODELER	14.3	123.7
Ray Grosser		99.0
Bill Paulsell	14.1	83.8
Larry K Smith		78.1
Pete Birdsong	16.4	66.2
Bill Robbins	13.7	55.0
Stew Winstandley		45.8
Don Burris		43.5
Dave Batten		36.5
Renee Grosser		27.6
Brian Jones		23.7
Franklin Miller		23.1
Ed Butcher		20.4
John Bowling		19.0

The complete May auction report is on the web at: <http://www.div10-mcr-nmra.org/shopping-cart.php>

Bring and Brag by Larry K. Smith

I would like to thank Tom Bensberg for conducting Bring and Brag for me at the May 1 meeting and for doing such a good job. I would rather not miss a meeting but I was attending the regional Mid-Central convention that weekend.

The Bring and Brag topic for May was weathering and we had four entries to be judged and admired. The one that Lou Jaquith brought was for exhibition only since he had conducted a weathering class last month. Bill Paulsell brought in three Southern boxcars he had weathered, and Tom Krill brought one Southern boxcar as his demonstration of weathering. Two On30 steam locomotives from Pete Birdsong were entered and Bill Robbins provided several HO buildings that he had worked on and weathered. We appreciate everyone who has participated in Bring and Brag for this month and throughout the year. We could not have a Bring and Brag program without all of you. Thanks.

To judge the weathering we had two new and different categories for consideration. One was Conformity or Realness, which basically was how well has the person who submitted the model did in imitating real life. Or, in other words, does it look believable. The other category for judging was Complexity, which was intended to give the modeler credit for using more than one method of weathering, for also employing a number of different colors, and for weathering a large area. The scores still ranged from one to ten and the average of the two scores for each of the two categories were added together for a total score for the modeler. After all the adding, Pete Birdsong had the highest score of 16.4 for his steam locomotives. Tom Krill had a total of 14.3 for his entry of a Southern boxcar and Bill Paulsell was close behind at 14.1. Close behind them was Bill Robbins at 13.7 for weathered buildings. Thanks for showing us your work.

TOP MODELER Since May was the final month of Bring and Brag for this year which started in October, we now can crown the Top Modeler of the year. Looking over the total scores for the year, we had one person with a total of 123.9 and another person has a total score of 123.7. The two highest scores are REAL close, in fact, the two are, for all practical purposes, the same. Since they are the same, the consensus says we have two winners! The winners for Top Modeler of the year 2010-2011 are Tom Krill and Lou Jaquith. Congratulations to both modelers! A good job done by both guys. We appreciate all the hard work you two have done throughout the year to win this award and it has shown up in the voting.

We all hope everyone enjoyed Bring and Brag this year and perhaps learned some additional techniques and skills for their modeling. Learn and have fun is the goal. I would like to thank the following modelers who participated in Bring and Brag this past year. Thanks go to all the participants listed in the final standings. Hopefully we will add some more names next year. You can start working on some models over the summer and be ready for fall and the start of a new year for Bring and Brag. Tentatively, the topics for the opening months of next year are: August – Off track structure, October – Flat or gondola car, and November – Car to carry passengers. Have a good summer and notice the trips that Bill Robbins has planned for us in the coming months.

THE MID-CENTRAL CONVENTION

The Mid-Central regional convention this year was in northeast Ohio and the hotel was in the state park right on Lake Erie. The area was relatively quiet. The rooms and the hotel facilities were nice and included a view of the lake. About three miles away was the city of Geneva where the NS (ex Nickel Plate) and the CSX (ex Conrail and NYC) lines both actively run thru the middle of the town. After checking in and acquiring the convention information packets, I attempted to find out more about the operations that I signed up for that evening. Operations seem to be coming more popular at conventions and you should try it sometime if you have not done so already. Usually it is the Thursday of the convention but this convention also planned it

The Lantern
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JUNE TRIP DEPARTURE

9 AM, SAT., JUNE 4

MEET AT THE TARGET PARKING LOT
 AT HAMBURG TO CAR POOL TO THE
 CINCINNATI UNION TERMINAL,
 TOUR THE MUSEUM AND TOWER A

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For the NMRA MidCentral Region officers link to www.midcentral-region-nmra.org/bod2.html

For Division 10 officers and committee chairs link to <http://www.div10-mcr-nmra.org/officers-and-directors.php>

MON.	DAY	HOST	PLACE	EVENT / PROGRAM	TOURS	BRING & BRAG
June	4 (Sat.)	Div. 10	Cincinnati Union Terminal (CUT)	Car pooling will depart from the southwest side of Target's parking lot at Hamburg Place off of Man o' War Blvd. at 9 AM.	Museum and Tower A	None
Aug.	7	Div. 10	Watkins Bldg., Central Christian Church	Scratch building cars & locomotives, Stew Winsteadley	Billy Wilson, Versailles	Off track structures
Sept.	4	Div. 10	1145 Linn Rd., Eubank, Ky.	Tour	Grosser's	None
Oct.	2	Div. 10	Watkins Bldg., Central Christian Church	Open Car Loads, Dave Batten	Howard Coleman	Depots
Nov.	6	Div. 10	Watkins Bldg., Central Christian Church	Bick Briggs	Fred Plymale	Passenger Cars

Convention ... continued from page 1

Friday evening. The advantages to operations are that you get to see one of the layouts, run some trains, and meet new people. After we all gathered at the appointed time and place in the hotel waiting for the operations host, the host described the layouts operating that evening. Then we all got the choice we wanted and suddenly people volunteered to drive to the various layouts. There were over two dozen of us and we all got the choice we desired. The layout I went to belonged to Harley Smith and it was almost 50 years old and took up 85% of the basement. Harley had lots and lots of switching to do at the many industries on the layout while two mainline trains were running around the layout. He uses quite a few switch lists but he knows the layout and equipment so well that he can do them quickly in his head and just writes them down. His son was one of the co-chairpersons of the convention, and Harley was honored at the banquet for his long service to model railroading. Harley had a crossing and a gauntlet track on his layout which was signaled and added to the overall operating experience. You had to watch the signals as you moved around the layout and call the dispatcher if you needed a red signal. Once when I was moving one of the mainline trains around the layout, a switcher ran into my train but it was not my fault since I had the green signal and he did not. I found that out later when I looked. I think it would be neat to add something similar to my layout for operations.

Friday, the next day, we (my wife and I) made our choices for

clinics. I intentionally did not sign up for any tours so I could concentrate on the clinic offerings. There were quite a number of prototype and non-rail tours and they seemed to be very popular. There was a crowd gathered to go to the Amish dinner. A lot of nice comments were heard about the tour to the James Garfield house and the antique mall. The wine tasting tour that included dinner was quite popular. I would say that tours similar to these are probably a major reason some people remember a convention.

So here I am trying to select clinics to attend throughout the two days. There is a choice of three clinics offered at most times but it seems like I have seen a lot of these clinics before at other conventions or the topic deals with something local of which I have limited interest. Overall, it seemed the number of clinics offered was not as many as before. However, since I am here to attend clinics, I made a choice. Even though Steel Mill modeling and Modeling Mining Complexes were not my first choice, I found them interesting and well presented. Between clinics I looked around at the Silent auction, the raffle room, and the contest room. Saturday was more clinics but first I had to serve as a volunteer judge for the model contest. — Larry Smith (read the rest of Larry's Convention report in the August issue)

Treasurer's Report: Balance April 30, 2011 \$3006.18 (more details in August) Mike Armstrong's "Witless & Clueless" returns in August issue.

Auctions and Raffles: May total was \$21. Have a great summer and bring cash to the next regular meeting in August.

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Weekdays 10 - 7:30, Saturday 10 - 5, Sunday 1 - 5