

NER NUTMEG DIVISION NMRA



March / April 2017

Orlando Proto Tours really shine!



There's so much to do while you're in Florida that a whole week won't be enough time to do it all. In past articles we have mentioned

the tour of Broadway Limited, The Kennedy Space Center, The Daytona 500 Speedway, and the TECO Street Car Tour. We still have more for you to do!

The Florida Railroad Museum

The Florida Railroad Museum operates a heritage railroad, offering round-trip excursions along six miles of a former Seaboard Air Line Railway route. During this tour, you'll see "untouched Florida" as the train makes its journey from Willow to Parrish. While in Willow a tour guide will take you through the FRRM maintenance yard and car shops. The FRRM has recreated a typical Seaboard

A few words from the President



My report from Atlanta

I would like to provide a quick summary of our mid-year Board of Directors meeting, held in Atlanta in February. Why Atlanta? Well, three Directors live in the area or very close, as does our Secretary; the hotel is very reasonable and ATL is an easy/inexpensive airport to reach even in winter. We spent long hours in committee and planning meetings plus the BOD sessions. We also got a lot done.

At this BOD session, we announced some exciting initiatives and updated others already underway. The official minutes will summarize what was done but here are some of the items of interest to members and we are very excited about a wealth of member benefits coming your way.

We are expanding our educational and informational resources for you. We are renewing our agreements with TrainmastersTV, Model Railroad Academy and Model Railroader Video Plus in which they've agreed to donate some of their outstanding educational videos to our online library. These can be accessed through the [Member Only video page](#) on the website. Free!

We will soon be launching a new electronic newsletter linking you to some of

Air Line station along with several display equipment restorations, and some of the sawmill equipment that was used onsite in the early 1900's.

Tampa Phosphate And Industrial Tour

Phosphate is a basic chemical compound used extensively in fertilizer. The second largest source of phosphate worldwide is the Bone Valley in Florida. Phosphate is moved by the CSX Railroad to points north and to the Port of Tampa Bay where it's offloaded and shipped worldwide. You'll start with a boat tour of Port Tampa Bay, cruising by Rockport Yard, CSX's offloading facility. Trains are constantly unloaded using a rotary dumper and rotary hoppers. While in Tampa we'll visit to the Tampa Union Station, an Italian Renaissance Revival station has served Tampa for more than 100 years. You'll also visit the Mulberry Phosphate museum. which includes a caboose and an 1880 Steam Locomotive discovered in 2012 by an excavation crew

Bok Tower Gardens

For those of you who like to get away from the "hustle and bustle" of Orlando, Bok Tower Gardens is the place to go. It consists of a 20-acre Garden, a 205-foot tall carillon bell tower, and loads of ferns, palms, oaks, pines wetland plants, plus countless other species of plant life. The Garden is also a refuge for hundreds of species of birds including Wild Turkeys and Sandhill Cranes.

Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum

Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum is an educational Museum that displays, maintains, and restores all types of aircraft used by the world's military air forces from WWI to the present. It's a great opportunity to see a unique collection of venerable aircraft, exhibits, displays, and artifacts.

the best of the articles, videos and information on the Internet. Also free.

And we are very excited about new and increased efforts to launch a major Member Discount Program. We already have a significant number of rail attractions and museums offering discount admission for NMRA members. Now we are expanding that program to potentially include hobby shops, manufacturers and perhaps craft stores and big-box retail stores. Many organizations offer member discounts such as tie-ins to rental car companies or airlines. We want to initially focus on vendors of interest to our hobby and to our members. I expect this program to expand and over time become a significant reason to join or stay a member.

Similarly, our Model Railroad Visit Registry, a worldwide listing of model railroads and members you can visit on your travels, is well underway. The format for the list and process is completed and we next will solicit willing members to list. Soon, you will be able to find members on your trips you can contact and perhaps arrange a visit. That process is how, many years ago, a 16-year-old (me) met the legendary John Allen (a member) and visited the Gorre & Daphetid.

With the assistance of our Vice-President for Special Projects Gerry Leone and Marketing Consultant Christina Ganzer, the BOD agreed to development of a marketing plan, which will help us expand our membership base. Based on the excellent work done by our Recruiting and Retention Committee, we also will emphasize retaining existing members in addition to expanding member benefits. We recruit an impressive number of new members each year but lose as many if not more of those new members. Some sadly due to death, but a large number who choose not to renew. Working on new benefits and on retaining those new members will increase our membership numbers.

The BOD also adopted a modest but necessary dues increase of three dollars per year, effective for U.S. members on September 1st. This dues increase, representing just 25 cents a month, is due to increased costs caused by long-term inflation. We are aware of the challenges any increase brings but also recognize there has been no dues increase in six years. Believe me, the first thing we look at is cutting costs and overhead. Even with the best of intentions, costs do not always cooperate yet we held off increases for six years. This modest increase also allows us the flexibility to work on the initiatives and programs that can deliver more benefits. Dues only cover 80% of our costs and we seek non-dues funds wherever we can to keep your cost of membership as low as we can. If you want to save, renew before September 1 at the old rate.

There was a lot of other business accomplished but I will let the minutes, to be posted after approval, and unofficial summary below speak to that. We value your membership and your feedback.

Whether you agree or disagree with me, we always welcome your thoughts,

Hotel and Tour Registration

Hotel Registration will be opening soon! We know a lot of you can't wait to register for the hotel, tours and "Modeling with The Masters." Members who have pre-registered for the convention will get to make reservations and choose tours first. After that, the hotel registration and tours will be open to all members.

Keep up to date on all the convention info by visiting www.nmra2017orlando.org

Looking for a few, good shooters (video, that is)

We're trying to expand our NMRA video library of National convention clinics! If you're going to the Orlando convention and have the equipment to shoot HD video (using a video camera equipped with an SD card, rather than a cell phone), please contact [Gerry Leone](#) for more details.

You'll receive Achievement Program "Volunteer" points for your efforts, plus a huge thanks from our members!

We're STILL looking for retention and recruitment success stories!

By [Christina Ganzer](#), NMRA Marketing Consultant

As we work towards continuously improving the NMRA, we'd like to gather information from our members on successful techniques you've used for

insights and comments. As I always say.....those are my thoughts.....what are yours?

[Charlie](#)

Summary of the Winter BOD meeting in Atlanta, February 18-19

The winter Board of Directors meeting was held at the Drury Inn and Suites in Atlanta, Georgia, during the weekend of February 18 & 19 (with the Operations and Budget meeting being held the day before). Along with the Board members, officers, and department heads, several members of Atlanta's Piedmont Division also attended. The NMRA Leadership team greatly appreciates their participation.

Please note that this is an unofficial summary of what took place at the BOD meeting. The official minutes, authored by NMRA Secretary John Stevens, will appear on the NMRA website, www.nmra.org.

Some of the highlights of the meeting included:

- The Board discussed the continuing delays encountered with the "Magic of Scale Model Railroading" gallery exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM). President Charlie Getz reported that all of the delays have been the fault of the California legislature and the CSRM, not the NMRA. He added that the CSRM now appears to be ready to move forward with the exhibit. The Board voted to set a deadline of July 15 for the CSRM to have all legal documents and agreements prepared and signed.
- The Board approved a \$3 dues increase for U.S. members. Because there hasn't been a dues increase for six years, this will bring dues back in line with the consumer price index, as specified in the Executive Handbook. In addition, the extra revenue generated will help the NMRA pursue additional programs that will add more benefits to NMRA Membership (such as the Member Discount program), as well as additional opportunities for member education. The dues increase will go into effect later this year.
- The Member Discount Program was discussed at length, with the Board deciding to put it at the top of the priority list. In addition, a Board member will now be assigned as leader of every project, and is

retention and recruitment. It's our plan to collect this information, compile it in a concise and organized format, and distribute it as guidelines for best practices that Regions and Divisions can employ.

We recognize and understand that every Region and Division has its own unique challenges (geography, population density, funding, etc.), so it's our hope to assist you with retention and recruitment activities that have proven successful in a variety of areas. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated, and will hopefully prove beneficial to the entire NMRA family.

Submit your info and stories to Marketing@nmra.org. If your Region or Division has supplemental materials, such as brochures or presentations, please submit those, too!

Did you know the NMRA sells modern clearance gauges?



You may not realize that the NMRA sells clearance gauges in On30, HO, and N scales. When you're running On30 or post-1983 N- or HO-scale equipment, you need more than the standard, metal NMRA gauge.

Each clearance gauge comes with a separate, metal Mark IVb standards

responsible for either completing the project him/herself, or making sure the project gets completed by a volunteer on time and on budget. There will be monthly progress reports on each of the projects.

- CFO Frank Koch will re-issue the multi-part explanation of NMRA financial strategy and policy that was last distributed in 2013. It will appear in an upcoming issue of *NMRA Magazine* and will also be on the NMRA website in the next few months. Members should remember that the previous year's (2016) actual results and the audit results will not appear until after the Summer BOD meeting in August. The financial results for 2010-2015 are already on the website. There are multiple reports on the website that go far beyond the requirements of the IRS for non-profit corporations, however we've been advised that additional detail becomes either too specific for personnel privacy reasons or is business confidential based on contracts.
- The Board approved a recommendation by Vice President/Special Projects Gerry Leone, to institute a "President's Award for Service to the Division" as a way for National NMRA to recognize contributions by individuals in Divisions. Every year Board members and officers will nominate one person from each Region to receive this award, which recognizes outstanding and long-term service to a particular Division in that Region.
- At Large North American Director Peter Youngblood made a presentation on Retention and Recruitment containing several recommendations for new NMRA programs. Each of the programs will be announced as they're ready to be implemented.
- Digital Action Group leader Gerry Leone presented a concept and electronic mock-up of a monthly model railroading digital news roundup newsletter which will be emailed to all NMRA members who have not opted-out of receiving the *NMRA eBulletin*. The newsletter, named "*The NMRA Turntable*," will contain links to interesting videos, blogs, and stories found all over the internet. The maiden issue will be sent out sometime within the next few months.
- Secretary John Stevens reported that the Central District Director election was conducted both electronically (via Election Buddy) and traditionally (via letter). The electronic voting is being completed without problems. He stated that his intent was to conduct next year's At Large Worldwide Director election electronically. The election committee will attempt to contact members who have no valid email address registered with the NMRA to have them either register or update their email address.
- The Magazine Index project is now on the NMRA IT Team's official agenda. IT Team member Scott Povlot cautioned, however, that the revamping of the NMRA Company Store is higher on the team's priority list and is a large undertaking.
- Western District Director Stephen Priest reported that manufacturers are now beginning to produce LCC-compatible products. Upcoming

gauge (for wheels and track). The plastic clearance gauge fits over the standards gauge to give you the correct clearance dimensions, and also stores the standards gauge on its back side.

The combined HO and N Mark IVb and new clearance gauges are \$12 total, and the On30 combination sells for \$16. Both have a \$2 shipping and handling charge. You can order them online at the NMRA company store at www.nmra.org, or by calling HQ at 423-892-2846.

Remember to SMILE when you're online!

By [Alan Anderson](#), Fundraising and Development Dept. Manager, NMRA



I'm positive many NMRA members know about

Amazon.com, but are you aware of smile.amazon.com? If not, that's ok, it's the same Amazon you are familiar with but with a smiling twist. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon makes a donation of .05% of the purchase price to a non-profit organization -- such as the NMRA. The donation doesn't get added to your purchase price, and it doesn't get added to the seller's cost.

Just use the web address:

smile.amazon.com instead of the usual Amazon.com, then log in with your Amazon.com account. In the upper left corner Amazon will ask you to select your favorite non-profit. Select "National Model Railroad Association." It will remember your choice, though you can change it at any time.

issues of *Railroad Model Craftsman* will contain a series of LCC "how-to" articles to both increase LCC understanding and generate demand for more products. He also reported that RR-CirKits, Inc. is a leading manufacturer of LCC products and offers NMRA members a 15% discount.

- In preparation for developing a marketing strategy, NMRA Marketing Consultant Christina Ganzer led the Board in a several-hour discussion on Saturday evening to define the NMRA's role in the hobby, and identify target audiences and messages.
- Because state laws have finally changed, the Board decided to hold regular video conference meetings. This will give them additional time to discuss topics in depth and make decisions throughout the course of the year, rather than just at the two face-to-face Board meetings each year. Prior state laws prohibited the Board from making decisions in any manner except face to face. The new law requires the Board to be unanimous in its decisions when voting in an electronic medium.
- Meetings and Train Show coordinator Bob Amsler reported that registration numbers for the Orlando convention are on-track for this point in the convention year.

Results of the Regional Advisory Council Director Election

By [John Stevens](#), NMRA Secretary

The Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Director election opened Saturday, December 10, 2016 and closed at the end of the day Tuesday, December 20, 2016. After votes were tabulated, Steve August was re-elected RAC Director.

The election was run using electionbuddy, an online voting system, which sent email to all RAC members at the opening of the election on December 10. The announcement included a unique voting key and instructions.

Ballots were submitted by 16 of 18 RAC members.

The Regional Advisory Council Director is the voice of each of the NMRA's 18 Regions on the NMRA's Board of Directors. If your Region has some special concerns or questions, address them to [Steve August](#).

Region and National Conventions

(Only those Regional conventions occurring in the next three months are listed)

The majority of items on smile.amazon.com are eligible for Amazon Smile Donation.

That's it! When you purchase the item, the money will be donated to the NMRA. It costs you nothing and can really help the NMRA in the long run!

::

Editors:

[Gerry Leone](#), MMR, HLM, and [Chuck Diljak](#)

::

The NMRA eBulletin is an official bi-monthly production of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Publishing Department ([Don Phillips](#), Manager). Its purpose is to keep every NMRA member informed about organization news and events. If you know of an NMRA member who is not receiving this mailing, please direct them to [here](#) to update their email address. If you no longer wish to receive these mailings, please don't mark them as SPAM. Instead, click the Safe Unsubscribe link at the bottom of this page. ©2017 National Model Railroad Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy TN 37384.



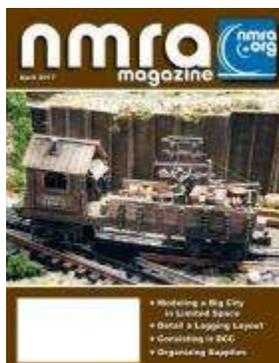
Mar 4-5: [European Region, Walferdange, Luxembourg](#)
Apr 19-23: [Pacific Coast Region, Bakersfield, CA](#)
Apr 28-30: [Midwest Region, Rockford, IL](#)
May 5-7: [Niagara Frontier Region, Kitchener, ON](#)
May 18-21: [Mid-Central Region, Louisville, KY](#)
May 18-21: [Mid-Continent and Thousand Lakes Regions Combined Convention, Ames, IA](#)
Jul 30-Aug 6: [National Convention, Orlando, FL](#)

Master Model Railroaders



#584 - Grant Knowles, NFR
#585 - Jim Wanlass, RMR
#586 - Charles Mason, SER

In Future Issues of NMRA Magazine



- **Boxcar shells for BSA Projects**
-
- **LCC and OpenMRN**
-
- **Organizing Supplies**
-
- **My Quest for MMR**
-
- **A Straw Car**

Welcome to the NMRA InfoNet News (Infoblast) For February, 2017

A message from Allen Pollock, Howell Day Museum Committee Chairman

There is one topic that deserves attention here, and is mentioned in other media such as President Getz's column, Board of Directors meeting reports on the web page and in the NMRA Magazine and that is the declining membership.

Programs and activities are in the works to address this problem. However, I believe that it is not solely the job of the membership promotional volunteers at the national level, as well as the regional and divisional folks. The most immediate attack on the membership decline lies with you and with me. We all know fellow model railroaders locally who for whatever reason don't belong to the NMRA. In many cases there is a confrontation or situation of long ago that happened to cause the member to not renew the membership, or deter this potential member from joining. Ironically, it was not a confrontation with the NMRA itself, but rather a situation involving another volunteer representing the

NMRA which turned negative. I think we would do a great service to the Association to talk with these folks, try to determine [their resistance to renew or join, and explain that most likely the original offending parties are no longer](#) involved or the situations have now been corrected.

Another avenue to offer these folks is to simply enroll them as a member. That can be as inexpensive as the \$9.95 Rail Pass membership, or as elaborate as a full one year membership with the NMRA Magazine. There are some divisions already enrolling and paying for the Rail Pass for visitors to their meetings. Internal studies have proven that the retention rate for renewal of these memberships is surprisingly high. This is a great gift to offer to a potential member, and should get their attention that you are serious about the NMRA, and want to share that with them. If each of us reading this InfoNet News would commit to signing up one new member, regardless of who actually paid the membership rate, this situation would be turned around in very short order.

The demographic data available has told us that almost all membership organizations have a problem with memberships declining. This is related to the fact that young people prefer not to join groups, spend more time than previous generations on electronic media, and are seeking instant gratification. While we may be able to convince these folks to join our NMRA at some point in the future with programs underway and directed at them, I think we should immediately address the potential members who form the group of age 45 on thru retirement. We meet these folks at divisional activities, conventions and train shows all the time.

I have signed up my new members will you commit to sign up yours?

Allen Pollock
Howell Day Museum Committee Chairman

From Trains Magazine

Circus cars are sound, but heavily altered

Expert cautions passenger car enthusiasts, museums that circus cars were cleaned out for work

By Steve Glischinski January 20, 2017

Chase Gunnoe

ELLENTON, Fla. — At first glance, the announced shutdown of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus would appear to be a boon to railway passenger car preservation. There may suddenly be available a vast fleet of heritage passenger cars that Ringling Bros. maintained in excellent mechanical condition. You won't find rust and rot in Ringling's fleet, all of which has been equipped with head-end electrical power.

The problem for museums and preservationists is there is a little if anything left of the original interiors, says Brad Black, a vice president with Virginkar & Associates, Inc., which consults on passenger car and rail transit rolling stock, equipment, and locomotive projects. Black says the cars have been "tunneled out," with the interiors stripped to empty shells. So the cars bear no resemblance to when they were in their previous service. In fact, Black says, in recent years Ringling has been purchasing old coaches rather than sleeping cars, because there are fewer interior walls to tear out.

Cars were assigned to specific acts. After being stripped, Ringling installed a custom interior, based on the needs of that act. Some acts occupy an entire car, while others would be

divided up. Interior furnishings were tailored to the act, and might even contain special areas for equipment the act would need to take along. Typically, acts were on the road for two years, and the car was considered their home. Some cars don't even have aisles through them, since performers generally did not pass through the cars while on the road.

"They are more like hotel rooms than rail cars," Black says. "So if a museum is going to preserve it as a Ringling Circus car that would work. But if they are thinking, 'The car was originally this,' and they are getting that, not really. They tunneled them completely out."

The cars could be valuable, Black said, to someone who was building a private train and needed empty "shell" cars. "The underbody equipment is very much up to snuff," He says. "They are good, mechanically sound shells."

Cars that might be of particular use for museums and other organizations, Black says, are the six-wheel-truck former elephant cars, and the power cars, which once were owned by Union Pacific. In particular, Black said, the power cars are in excellent shape, and are "whisper quiet" when running.

Other cars that might be available are the large stock of un-rebuilt cars Ringling kept at its shop in Ellenton. Even if it didn't have a use for a car, Ringling scoured the country scooping up carbodies for possible future use. When a car wasn't destined for immediate rebuilding, its trucks were usually quickly rebuilt and put to use, so there are a large number of carbodies stored at the shop without trucks.

Black said the Ringling shutdown came as a shock to members of the Railway Passenger Car Alliance, an organization private railroad equipment owners and operators. Some RPCA members have been providing equipment and parts for Ringling's cars for several years, and have suddenly lost a major customer.

One fear, Black said, is that Ringling might just scrap its rail cars. Most of its flatcars have reached 50 years old; Ringling was planning a rebuild that now will never come. The company could decide to simply dispose of the car fleet to scrappers, save a handful going to circus related museums.

From Model Railroader

In Memoriam: Jerry Williams 1937 – 2016

Jerome (Jerry) M. Williams, founder of Williams Reproductions, died November 1, 2016.

Jerry and Fred Mill founded Classic Models Corp. in 1969, producing new standard-gauge model trains. Several years later he parted with Mills to form Williams Reproductions Limited, which made reproductions of popular tinplate Ives and Lionel models.

In the mid-1970s Williams turned to the O gauge market, producing kits and later assembled models. Some of the company's offerings were replicas of the Lionel Madison passenger cars. Fairbanks-Morse TrainMaster, and the GG1.

During the 1980s, Williams produced scale 3-rail versions of historically significant steam locomotives. The company later focused on expanding its O gauge line with semi-scale offerings,

In 2007, Williams Reproductions Limited was sold to Bachmann Industries and is now known as Williams by Bachmann. Jerry was inducted into the Hobby Manufacturers Association Hall of Fame in 2016.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You will find those addresses at www.nmra.org or in the NMRA Magazine

Regards,

Tom Draper – HLM, DSA, FA, MSA, PA
Director – Support Services

Sincerely presented for your education and enjoyment.

Ronald J. Pelletier nmranutmegmembership@comcast.net
Communication Manager / Membership Promotion Manager / Newsletter Editor

If you need to talk with me, please call 860-977-5573 any evening between 7:30 PM and 10:00 PM. This is the time period that I am usually near my computer. If you are unable to call during this time period please send me an e-mail so that we can arrange some other form of communication.

Nutmeg Division <http://www.nutmegdivision.com>
Northeastern Region <http://www.nernmra.org>
NMRA <http://www.nmra.org>