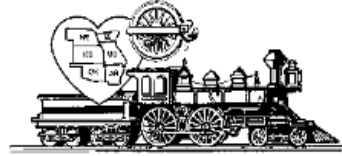




April 2005

Mid-Continent Region (MCoR)



Cedar Rapids, Davenport, & Moline

Modeling Tips

Do you have steel coils on your layout? Want to help make them look more realistic? Put some banding around them like the steel mills do. I use the smallest size black vinyl pin striping for cars to make mine. I usually put 3 around the outside, then 3 to 4 through the center and then wrap it perpendicular to the ones you already put on. This makes an interesting look on your layout and will be sure to make those steel coils look like they are ready to unwind.



Modeling tip and photo by
Gary Zillyette

Do you have any modeling tips? If you would like to share them, then please write, or email us with your tips and we will get them into our newsletter.



Thought for the Month

It's spring and the weather is starting to get nice. Time for getting those outdoor chores done or getting ready for the upcoming grass-mowing season. We enjoy the spring and summer time to spend outside with our families playing ball or camping or fishing or what you may like to do. But it seems to amaze me that how much we love our hobby of model railroading, that there are people who would give up all model railroad time to spend outside. I am not saying this is bad, but as I read in the magazines many modelers wait until the fall and winter time or when the weather is bad to only work on their empires. I for one am guilty of this. I tell myself "I will work on that tonight when it gets too dark to work outside". Then by that time when I could be working on a structure or putting details on a locomotive, I am too tired to even think about it until the next morning where I will tell myself the same thing again.

I guess I am trying to get at is, how much time should or shouldn't a person spend on their hobby? I know my wife says all the time, "do you ever not think about trains?" Of course my reply is "NO!!!" We all know that we can not neglect our loved ones for it, but what about those who would rather stay inside on a nice day to build that rail car or finish ballasting that new spur? Are they any different than those who go outside when it is nice? I don't think so. Point being, it really doesn't matter how much time you spend on this wonderful hobby or how much effort you put into it. As long as you have fun. That's all that matters.

Area Information

Allen Merta of Cedar Rapids volunteered to be our Assistant Division Director, editor of this newsletter, and the first Member-of-the-Month Spotlight. Is he crazy or demented? Well, maybe, but no. He wants to set a standard for volunteerism for all of the CRD&M Division.

We need help with this newsletter. We need your input on a name for it. We need story ideas, modeling tips, photos, and Member-of-the-Month profiles. Like the Uncle Sam poster of years past, We Need You!

Corrections

I would like to make a correction for what I had written in my introduction letter. I wrote, "I would like to see our division turn into a region someday." & "I feel that if we can work towards becoming our own region, We will only help the hobby and make it more enjoyable for everyone." What should have been written was, I would like to see our area turn into an active division someday & I feel that if we can work on turning our area into an active division, we will only help the hobby and make it more enjoyable for everyone. I apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Gary Zillyette

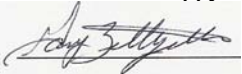
Do you see any mistakes? If so please contact me so that I may put out a correction.

Classifieds

None at this time

Final Thoughts

We join the NMRA to gain knowledge, information, and to see our hobby grow. We join our regions to gain even more knowledge, information, and try to get closer to the hobby that we all love. So why not help out our division / area? We spend the extra money on it so why not get involved. I understand that this area hasn't been active for a while. That's why I accepted the directors position, to help our area become an active division and to help our hobby grow. So having said that, Please take advantage of your membership and let me know what your thoughts are. Thank You & Happy Modeling



Gary Zillyette

MCoR, Cedar Rapids, Davenport, & Moline
Area Director

Region Information

June 9-11, 2005 – "June Rails to Topeka" in 2005

Hosted by the Kansas Central Division at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka, Kansas. Clinics, Silent Auction, Prototype Tour, Train Show, & Much More. See the MCoR web site at www.mcor-nmra.org for more information

New Members

None at this time.

Other News

Once again, please contact Gary Zillyette regarding your information, like address and phone number. He sent out a form that can be filled out and mailed back to him or you may email or call him with the information that is needed on the form. This information is kept completely confidential and is to make sure that you are kept up to date of news in our area. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you have an idea for a newsletter name, contact us with your suggestion. If we get enough suggestions, we can vote on which one to use.

NMRA - As you may have already read in the April issue of Scale Rails, The NMRA will no longer be issuing Lifetime memberships. The reason is that it is not in the best financial interests for NMRA. Do I like what they are doing? NO, I was planning on getting a lifetime membership next year. Do I understand why they are doing this? YES. It is to help make sure that the NMRA doesn't die. If that happens a little part of us goes with it. -GZ

Thoughts of Region President

To the Cedar Rapids, Davenport, & Moline Area of the Mid-Continent Region, NMRA. Since you have an area director for the first time in quit a few years, I hope you will take this time to get to know Gary as your representative to the MCoR BOD. Both Gary and I would sure like to see everyone in your area become active again in the region. Let Gary know about any clubs you belong to, any swap meets you are having in your area so he can pass them on to Gary Hemmingway to be put on the Switching list. On 1 September 2005, everyone living within your area will become MCoR members as long as you are a NMRA member. MCoR, as a whole, will pick up about 800 new members over night swelling our ranks to about 1400 NMRA members. Your region can only be as good as you are willing to make it. I would hope that every one of you would be willing to turn your area into an active division where you can get together and share your love of model railroading. Each of you will be receiving the Handcar from me at least twice a year because you are now MCoR members. If you wish to receive the Caboose Kibitzer four times a year, you will need to subscribe to it for \$6.00 a year. Those of you that are MCoR members before 1 September 2005 will continue to receive the CK for the rest of your membership year. The BOD is thinking about putting the CK on-line at our web site www.mcor-nmra.org for about \$4.00 a year, do you think this is a good idea? What else can MCoR do for you? Just let Gary know. Remember, the officers and your director are here to assist in any way possible. Got a modeling problem, ask the MCoR modelers for help on line. Need to know about a show in your area, check out Gary's switching list, which is updated monthly on-line. I invite you all to attend the MCoR Convention in Topeka, KS this 9-11 June 2005. Details will be in the next CK due out this month.

Remember the FRISCO!

Richard E. Napper, MMR - MCoR President

Final, Final Thoughts

As you drive down a highway, you occasionally see a billboard with a paid advertisement. Often, the billboard owner will place their own advertisement on it –

THIS SPACE FOR RENT

This is your newsletter. Gary Zillyette and I are just the caretakers. Help us fill this space.

Do you have a modeling question?

Can you answer someone else's question?

I suggested to Gary that we name this newsletter *The Zephyr*. Several of the CB&Q's famous Zephyr trains plied the rails in Illinois and southern Iowa. It seemed pretty natural to me, but I'm sure you have a better idea.

If you haven't noticed, throughout this publication, we have been begging you to participate. This is only as good as you make it!

Web Sites:

National Model Railroad Association
www.nmra.org

Mid-Continent Region – NMRA
www.mcor-nmra.org

Don't forget June Rails to Topeka, June 9 through 12, 2005

Thousand Lakes Region Convention, May 19 – 22 in Mason City, IA – River City 2005

Member of the Month



Name: Allen Merta

Home: Cedar Rapids, IA

Length of NMRA Membership: 5 years

Model Railroad & Scale: Northern Pacific Railway – Yellowstone Mountain Lake Division; HO scale

Status / State of Completion: My wife and I gutted our basement earlier this year in order to reconfigure the space. I am in the process of finishing off space for a workshop to clear space for my layout. I hope to have the room “layout ready” before Thanksgiving. I have a mental image of a track plan, but we will see how that translates onto paper and into the real thing. The best I can say is “stay tuned.”

Modeling Philosophy: I am definitely not a rivet counter! I like the freedom of saying it's my railroad and I can do whatever I want. At the same time, I will follow the prototype in many very general ways. The name Yellowstone Mountain Lake Division is a combination of several of NP's divisions. This allows me to model the Minnesota, North Dakota, and Montana portions of the NP.

Experience: I would characterize my skill level as intermediate. I built 4 small N scale layouts for my sons as we moved around the Midwest and Plains States early in my professional career. I built a small, nondescript HO layout a number of years ago. I'm anxious to get started again.

Most Satisfying Model Railroad Moments: The 1st thing is turning my oldest son onto math as a youngster with an algebraic equation used to assign power to a train. He is now a civil and construction engineer specializing in building bridges, especially railroad bridges for the Canadian Pacific in Minnesota and Wisconsin under live traffic conditions. The next is meeting and talking with both W. Allen McClelland and Gil Freitag at the 2003 MCoR convention in Olathe, KS. Rita and I also shared a picnic type dinner with Gil and his wife in 100-degree heat at that convention.

What I Hope to Gain: I hope to make more model railroading friends, increase my knowledge and skill levels, possibly earn a Golden Spike and Master Model Railroader designations, and make more model railroading friends (yes, that was meant to be redundant). Oh yes, has fun, too.