



Membership Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2019

I. Call to order

Brad White called to order the regular meeting of the membership of Division 12, MCR, NMRA at 10:00 AM on July 13, 2019 at the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station.

II. Roll call

Dave Ellis conducted a roll call by providing a sign-in sheet

The following members were present: Rob Bennett, Ed Blenner, Dick Bradley, Timothy Clint, Dale Desser, Brenda Desser, Larry Dodge, David Ellis, Lee Farnsworth, Jerry Longo, Chris Mincemoyer, Shorty Parker, Doug Sandmeyer, Bill Schopf, Brad White, and Allan Zehe.

A quorum (at least 10 members) was established with 16 members present.

III. Announcements

Brad W. read through the upcoming events from the *Builder's Plate*: Greenberg Train Show, Jefferson Train Show, and *Empire Junction*, the NER Regional. Chris W. also pointed out that several other events are listed on the website.

Several announcements were made from the Superintendent:

1 Region President Bob Weinheimer will be attending the August membership meeting.

2 Some notes from the National convention: A. a new committee was formed to revamp the NMRA website. B. An increase in annual dues (basic NMRA membership) from \$47.00 to \$50.00 was announced. C. East Coast Circuits is pleased to offer the NMRA members a Convention special. Save up to 50% off on their line of circuits, as well as specials on signals and an HO scale crossing signal combo. Choose from lighted building circuits, traffic light circuits, as well as our NEW Crossing Signal Circuits. This offer expires on August 11, 2019.

3. Update on Buffalo area members: several members from the Buffalo area were planning on meeting with MCR president and hopefully NFR president to help expedite their search for a new home Division/Region.

IV. Business

No questions or comments from members were raised concerning reports published in the *Builder's Plate* this month.

Old Business: Before the meeting and during breaks Lee F. and David E. collected orders and payments for apparel orders. Dave E. also collected registration forms and fees for the Mini-Meet.

For the good of the order: Bill S. brought a photograph, a copy of Shorty's score form, and an article from Railroad Model Craftsman about Shorty P.'s coal dumper.

V. Modeling Question

This month had two modeling questions. One from Dave E. concerned where to locate a second booster to his DCC system: would it be better near the command station or across the room near the enlarged area of the railroad. While members had seen both done, Dick B. suggested that across the room would be better due to the twisted pair of the DCC bus would not have as strong of a signal.

The second question was from Tim C. concerned different natural materials to use as tree armatures. Among the suggested materials were SuperTrees® by Scenic Express, Sweet Annie (*Artemisia annua*), Oak Leaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*), Sedum 'Autumn Joy', and Peppergrass or Candy Tuft with a source at Grande Expressions.

VI. What's On My Workbench (the new title of our Bring and Brag segment!)

Rob Bennett shared four weathered cars, two Accurail and two Bowser. He had used the materials that he will demonstrate in the program to demonstrate quick, yet effective weathering techniques.

Brad White shared the recent installation of a sound decoder and speaker in an HO Erie F3. He also shared a recent *Dispatcher's Office*, the newsletter of the OPSIG, where he has become the "poster child" for aging in the hobby, since they have captured an image of him sitting down to run trains in his recent visit to Michigan for operations.

Doug Sandmeyer shared some On18 equipment: flex track and two locomotives (a diesel and a one cylinder Shay). At least one source of equipment is Shape Ways with a 3D printed Russ Hague design.

VII. Programs

Three different presenters shared some of their favorite weathering techniques and/or products. One common theme was to familiarize yourself with a couple of techniques that work for you by experimenting, and then you should be able to weather structures or rolling stock without spending an inordinate amount of time or money.

Rob Bennett shared some Vallejo spray cans that he has been trying out, and he finds them to be close to airbrush quality without the hassle. He demonstrated the use of Vallejo Acrylic Washes and Ammo of MIG pigments on some rolling stock and small shacks. His favorite colors in each line are listed in the July *Builder's Plate*.

Bill Schopf demonstrated several techniques for weathering structures and provided a handout for members. First, he suggested using an India ink and 91% alcohol wash as a primer or as a final wash. He also showed some techniques for distressing clapboard before priming. Next, he showed ideas for adding paper signs to buildings: ideas for finding them as well as a demonstration for how to sand the back of the paper and how to glue it to the building. Finally, he demonstrated using dry-brushing techniques for walls or signage.

Chris Mincemoyer shared some Pan Pastels and some weathering pencils that he recently obtained from AK Interactive. He demonstrated using Pan Pastels to kill the plastic sheen and new appearance on a black hopper body. Then he showed how just a slight application of a colored pencil could highlight details such as rivets or ladder rungs, blend the white heralds, or add subtle rust effects.

We had twenty minutes at the end to allow folks to try out techniques, but no one stepped up. After the meeting several members came up to officers to suggest that we structure hands-on clinics.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Brad White around 12:50.

Minutes submitted by: David Ellis (Clerk/Treasurer) on 7/17/19

Minutes approved by: BOD electronically on 7/18/19