



*The newsletter of
the Central Indi-
ana Division of
the Midwest Re-
gion, National
Model Railroad
Association*

Volume 43 – Number 4

August – September 2013

Central Indiana Division achieves Non Profit 501 (c) (3) status!

The Central Indiana Division NMRA recently completed an almost 2 year long journey to research, gather information, apply, respond to questions, and revise our Constitution to qualify for the Internal Revenue Services Non Profit Status. This application was made based on the role of the Central Indiana Division NMRA being an educational organization that promotes the hobby of model railroading. Examples of this role are seen in public displays of model railroading done in libraries and other community settings. It is accomplished when we do demonstrations and provide clinics on how to improve our model railroading skills.

What does this accomplish for the CID? There are two main benefits for our organization. If someone wishes to make a donation to the CID or wishes to donate part of their model railroad collection to the CID, they will be able to claim that donation on their federal tax form if they itemize their deductions. The CID will not be able to place a value on the donation unless the donation is a cash donation. The second benefit will be that Central Indiana Division Board Members and volunteers can document mileage expenses when traveling to CID events and can then deduct part of that expense on their taxes. There are specific requirements for this deduction that require each person to research if this is worthwhile for them and they should also likely consult with whoever helps them in doing their taxes to make sure that any deductions are for the appropriate amount. If you thought this article was complex, I'll gladly show you the 501 (c) (3) application!

Tom Cain
CID Past Superintendent

HIGHBALL TO INDY

Info Available At Atlanta Convention



Penny Studley answers questions about 2016 at the Atlanta Convention

Information about the 2016 NMRA National Convention which is being hosted by the CID here in Indianapolis was available at the Atlanta convention. Besides the large display, brochures and stickers with the 2016 logo for name badges were available for attendees. Several members of the CID graciously devoted some of their convention time to help man the booth and their help was greatly appreciated.

- - Directory - -

CID Achieves 501 (C) (3) Status	Pg 1
Highball to Indy Info At Atlanta	Pg 1
Directory	Pg 1
CID Board Directory	Pg 2
Introducing the CID's Social Media for 2016	Pg 3
Layout Tour and Modeler's Meet	Pg 3
Interchange Track	Pg 4
CID 50th Anniversary Car Order Form	Pg 5
Upcoming Events	Pg 6
CID Board Meeting Schedule	Pg 6
Rusty Spike Deadlines	Pg 6
A Counter Weight System	Pg 7
NMRA Arrivals	Pg 7
Electric Trains	Pg 8
Pike Ads	Pg 8
Pike Ads	Pg 9

The **RUSTY SPIKE** is the official publication of the Central Indiana Division, Midwest Region, National Model Railroad Association, and is published at least five times a year just prior to meets. It is sent FREE to all N.M.R.A. members in the C.I.D. and non-members may subscribe for \$6 per year. Articles for publication are welcome for the benefit of the readers and the hobby but cannot be paid for. Submit articles for publication to the Editor; address changes or mailing problems to the Circulation Manager; and advertising or advertising inquiries to the Publisher.

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The Columbus Area Railroad Club is dedicated to serving all those interested in the preservation of railroad history through the use of modeling, photography, artifact preservation, and railfanning.

Memberships are available

We have operating layouts in O and On-30 and we are in the process of building new layouts in HO and N scales. Come and see the progress and our new home!



Public Hours:

Third Saturday of the month except September

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Free Admission

Location:

Johnson County Park
Park Building
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812-343-4800

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Introducing The CID's Social Media For 2016

Coming off a successful 2013 MWR convention, the CID now faces a higher profile challenge. Yes, one convention just concluded in May, but our attention quickly refocused to hosting the national convention during July 2016. When the NMRA arrives in Indianapolis in the summer of 2016, our Division wants to impress everyone with our Hoosier Hospitality during the "Highball To Indy" convention.

Encouraging modelers from around the globe to come to central Indiana for the national convention should be easy. We have a lot of offer, from our central location to popular attractions to impressive layouts to the nation's largest train show of 2016. Keeping the participants aware of "what" and "when" is the key task. Traditional promotional efforts will include features in various publications, direct mailings, posts on Internet sites, and displays at train shows. But social media will also take on greater importance as the convention preparation is ramped-up in 2014 and 2015.

Already, we have a new Internet address to share: www.nmra2016.org

This URL will be the main portal for the 2016 NMRA National Convention and Train Show. Like other host Divisions, we will coordinate information and resources via one dedicated website. Be sure to "save" this address on your browser, as you'll want to access it regularly over the next 3 years.

Modern social media includes Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, RSS feeds, among others. Emerging services will become more popular in the

near future, while some may die-off (think of how common MySpace was a few years back). Social media is in continual flux for persons and institutions

The CID currently has two additional platforms for promoting the 2016 convention, on Facebook and Twitter.

www.facebook.com/nmra2016

www.twitter.com/nmra2016

Just like you bookmark useful websites on your Internet browser, you might want to add these two addresses to your computers and mobile devices. Messages will be posted on these sites as well, almost continuously as we finalize plans for the '16 convention. Plan to use social media and your mobile devices to stay abreast of the 2016 program and activities.

Richard Seymour, Chief Clerk

Layout Tour and Modeler's Meet Still in the Works

Don't give up on two events we hope to offer CID members yet this fall. We continue to look for locations for both the Fall Layout Tour and the Modeler's Meet. Since the Spike will not be a viable form of communication it is our intention to use the CID website to post information on the status of these events. If you don't already have the CID webpage address bookmarked it is:

<http://cid.railfan.net>

We will post any new information as soon as we have it and want to continue to provide you with quality programs.

Your CID Board



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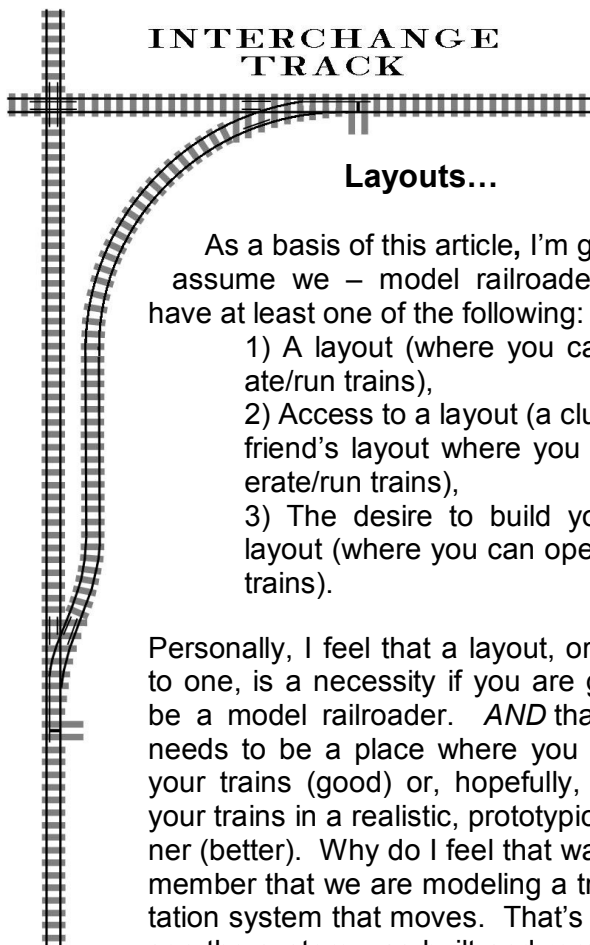
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c/o Keith Clark

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Please be sure and specify car number(s). Bloomington, IN 47404



As a basis of this article, I'm going to assume we – model railroaders – all have at least one of the following:

- 1) A layout (where you can operate/run trains),
- 2) Access to a layout (a club's or a friend's layout where you can operate/run trains),
- 3) The desire to build your own layout (where you can operate/run trains).

Personally, I feel that a layout, or access to one, is a necessity if you are going to be a model railroader. *AND* that layout needs to be a place where you can run your trains (good) or, hopefully, operate your trains in a realistic, prototypical manner (better). Why do I feel that way? Remember that we are modeling a transportation system that moves. That's the reason the system was built and remains - it moves goods from one location to another. If we are to properly represent a part of that system, our models need to be able to move.

So, fellow model railroader, how's your layout? You have started building it, haven't you? Assuming the answer to the last question is "Yes," I'll ask, "You are continuing to work on it, aren't you?" I ask that because we all know a layout is never "finished." Thinking about trying to complete your layout may be daunting, but there are ways to get some work done for the cost of cans of pop and bags of snacks.

Our local group continues to work on four layouts on a round-robin basis. We are fortunate to have work sessions three times per week nearly every week with special sessions from time to time. Two afternoon sessions each week are filled with those of us who are now retired. Based on over thirty-five years of precedent, the group continues to meet one night per week. This evening session draws the most people. Of the four layouts, two are undergoing expansions. Another is well on the way to being "done" with work continuing on the signal system, adding details and structures, with operations not too far away. One layout is fairly new and the group has had a few work sessions there helping with

some scenery and electrical work. This new layout is in the beginning stage of operations and we have provided the bodies to man the trains so the operations system can be tested. There is one other layout that is available from time to time. That layout is being used to further acquaint our members with operations. This system of work sessions seems to work well for our group. We are able to get together to enjoy each other's company and to share our skills with the other layout owners. They accept the help and we accept the snacks. It's a win-win situation.

How can this work for you? It will require a bit of management on your part to set this up for your layout. Have a look around the train room and make a list of what you'd like to get accomplished. Make sure you have adequate supplies (both model railroad and snack) on hand for those jobs and invite some of your model railroad friends over for a work session. Notice I said *some* of your friends. Don't overcrowd your available space. Having too many bodies in the way won't allow folks to move around as they try to get their work done. If you know the abilities of the individuals in your crew, assign duties to each of them based on what they are comfortable doing. If they need to bring tools, let them know ahead of time. Once they are there, remember it's your layout, so if there are specific ways you want things done, let the workers know. It's considerate to let them know before they begin. And listen if the worker has suggestions. They may know better ways to accomplish the task. But you do have final say.

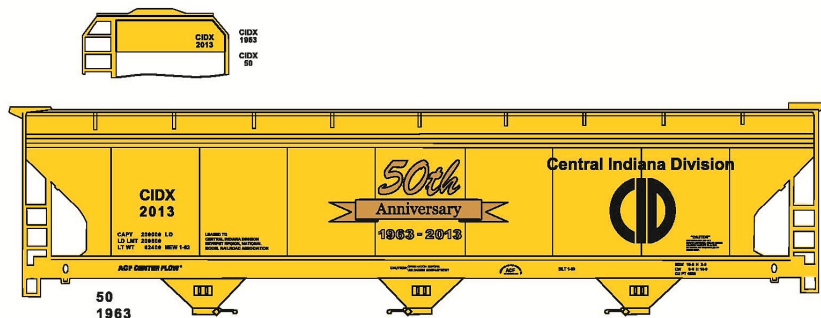
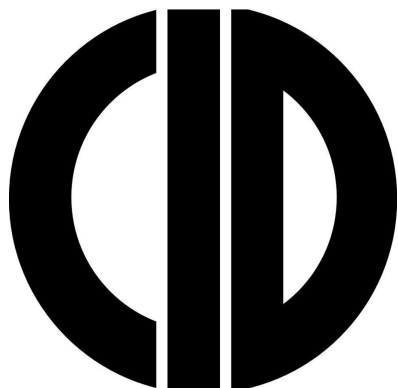
So get your lists of things to do and people to contact together and set up a time to continue the work on your railroad. Making progress on the layout will make you feel good and there's the possibility that some of your workers will go home and work on their own railroad. It's another win-win situation.

As work progresses on your railroad, let us know about it. We, the CID, are looking for (more than) a few good layouts for the 2016 *Highball to Indy* NMRA National Convention. Contact Trainmaster Chuck Tuttle to see about having your layout open for layout tours or operations. catuttle@comcast.net

Eng CID 2013 run extra MP50 to Highball to Indy
"Clear signal at Sycamore Hollow"

Steve Studley
CID, Superintendent
MWR, Vice-President

CID HO Scale Anniversary Car Order Form



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Please allow 2-4 weeks for delivery.

Upcoming Events

– Division Schedule –

Fall Modeler's Meet – Keep watching the CID website for information

Fall Layout Tour – Keep watching the CID website for information

Carmel Library Train Show – November 9, 2013 – Carmel, IN

For more information: trevjn@sbcglobal.net

Danville Train Meet – November 23, 2013 – Danville, IN

Hendricks County Fair Grounds, Danville, Indiana

Dealer Show & Meet – 10am to 4pm - Free Admission

Operating layouts, vendors, door prizes, contests, food and free parking

For more information: John Pancini at (317) 272-3796 or jpancini@indy.rr.com

– Extra Board –

Columbus Area Model Railroad Club 13th Annual Train Show & Swap Meet September 7, 2013 – Edinburgh, IN

Johnson County Park at the Park Office Building, Edinburgh, IN

10am-4pm - Admission is FREE! Meet is held in conjunction with the Heart Nut Festival.

At our swap meet we will have both vendors and individuals selling their wares. There are three operating layouts in the clubroom in various states of completion, four if you include our Z gauge layout - something for everyone.

Besides the activities at our club show, the Indiana Live Steamers will be operating at the park that day, and there will other exhibits and activities of potential interest to CID members and their families.

For more information: Bob Morrison (812) 378-4275

Indianapolis O Scale Fall Train Convention – September 20-21, 2013 – Indianapolis, IN

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For more information: Jim Cantor at (317) 438-5414 or oscaleindy@att.net

Great Train Expo – October 12-13, 2013 – Indianapolis, IN

Indiana State Fair Grounds Blue Ribbon Pavilion

Admission-Adults: \$7.00, Kids under 12: FREE - 10am-4pm both days

For more information: <http://trainexpoind.com>



The Great Train Expo
America's Coast to Coast Train Show

Upcoming CID Board Meetings

August Board Meeting is a closed meeting for board members only.

Date: October Meeting TBA

Location: TBA

Time: 1:30 PM

CID members are welcome and encouraged to attend.
Board members can confirm location and date.

Rusty Spike Closing Dates

Volume 43 Issue #5 – October 6, 2013

Volume 44 Issue #1 - December 8, 2013

Dates are tentative and subject to change.

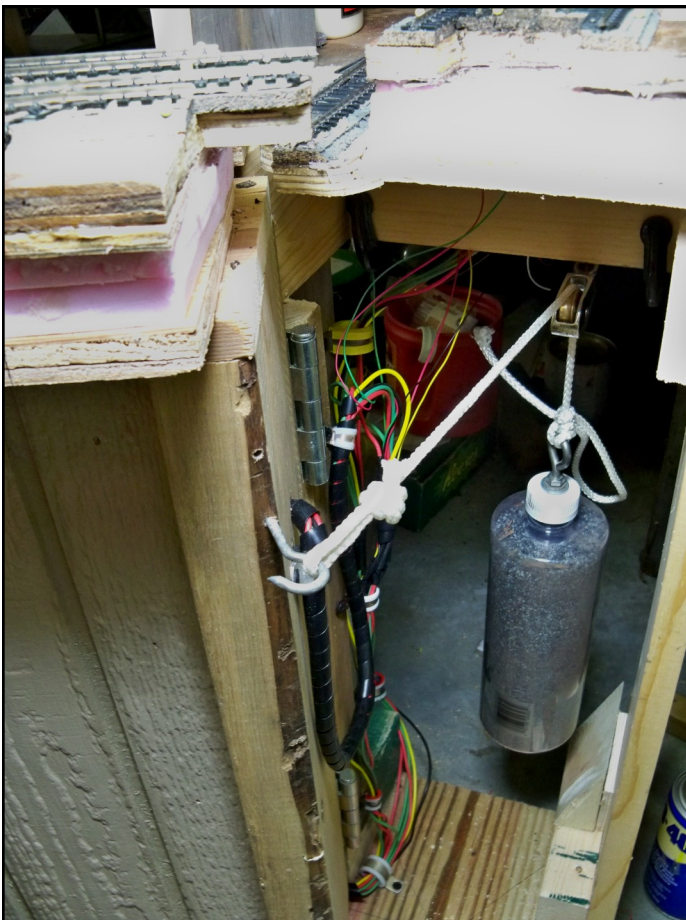
Attention – All notices of club open houses, or other shows & meets will be included in the **Extra Board** only if the official request form is used. This form may be printed off the CID website at:
http://cid.railfan.net/Extra_Board_Request_Sheet.pdf
Fill out the form and send to the address listed on the form. Upcoming deadlines for each Rusty Spike are listed in the Spike or may be obtained from Keith Clark (see pg. 2). Events not sent on the request form cannot be included.

And I thought I was done with the pass through gate.

A Counter Weight System

After I finished my pass through gate, I found that it would stay open and would be hanging in what will be the isle-way. When the gate was hung I thought it was level and it was..... when aligned with the tracks. But after it was free from the support it would swing on open itself.

So as a result I planned a counterweight system that we used on the plywood doors of our tents when I was in Kuwait a few years ago. Using a single pulley, rope, and water bottle, I attached an eye hook to the outside corner of the gate and the pulley from the main support of the gate and filled the bottle with old bolts and nuts. I attached an eye hook to the cap of the bottle. I then added roofing gravel from the gutters to fill around the bolts as added weight and hung it below the pulley.



Newman's counter weight system is shown here. (Photo: Newman Atkinson)

The result was the gate would slowly close back to near closed position where the gate starts to slide onto the guide plate that has a beveled start to it. It then supports the weight of the gate and is ready for the final push into the locked position. This will be

especially great when entering the room for tools and I am not running trains or for guests who might not otherwise know how to close the gate completely. This gate locks in place with a cabinet door magnet and the final push is all it takes to run trains. The bottle I used was just a shade larger than a large water bottle from my pool chemicals. But your gate might do just fine with a large water bottle.

The actual gate, it's operation and the counter-weight can be seen on my youtube page called "shrinehillrail". As you know a model railroad is never truly finished.

Newman Atkinson
SHRINE HILL RAILSYSTEM



NMRA ARRIVALS

CENTRAL INDIANA DIVISION

Robert Larson

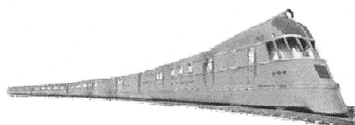
West Lafayette, IN

Overland Models

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The Central Indiana Division of the NMRA wants to welcome these new members. We're happy to have you aboard. If you know any of these new members or happen to see them at a CID activity, please give them a personal welcome.

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Justin L. Grayson, President

naptownrr@aol.com

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Memberships Available



Back Shop

The CID has lined up members with the experience to help solve your problem and are willing to help ALL modelers, whether or not you are a member of the NMRA. We believe that we can help and be of service to you. If you can get your problem or problems solved, you can better enjoy the hobby of model railroading.

Contact: cid_backshop@railfan.net

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Marvin Crim, Superintendent

Electric Trains

While working as a mall Santa, I had many children ask for electric trains. "If you get a train," I would tell each one, "you know your dad is going to want to play with it too. Is that okay?"

The usual answer was a quick yes, but after I asked one boy this question, he became very quiet. Trying to move the conversation along, I asked what else he would like Santa to bring him. He promptly replied, "Another train."

Anonymous



Pictured above is a sample of what our embroidered shirt emblem looks like for the 2016 Convention.

Rusty Spike Vol. 43 No. 4


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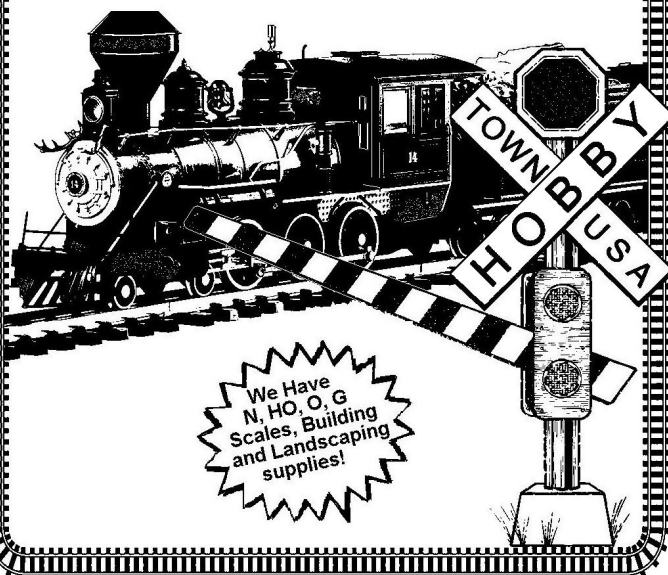
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