



THE FLIMSY

NMRA Division 2 Newsletter

July 2017

From the Editor

Greetings. It was my turn to host the meeting in July and the meeting report is on the next page. It seemed to go quite well and I was pleased with the attendance.

Members also got the chance to have a look at my HO scale layout based on the Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad (DME) - or plywood central as it is sometimes called! It was quite chilly in the garage but glad that people wanted to take a look.

I'd like to encourage members to consider hosting a monthly meeting when next year's roster is being worked out. We have members who host every year and this is all very well. My preference is to host every couple of years.

The meetings follow a similar format, although this doesn't have to be the case. And the host can give a talk or presentation on a wide array of subjects, or not say much at all. As my meeting demonstrated, there were no bells and whistles with my relatively short presentation of my visit to the NMRA regional convention in Ames, Iowa in May. And the catering doesn't have to be too sophisticated either. So, come December, think about putting your hand up and volunteering to host a meeting in 2018.

Brad

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At the July *Show and Tell* we saw this lovely HO scale NSW two road carriage shed by Ian Barnes (Photo: Ian Barnes).



July 2017 meeting

The July meeting was at Brad's place. Nineteen members were present, including two new members to the Division who travelled all the way from Bateman's Bay. Welcome Ian and Matt. Also attending was former Div. 2 Superintendent, Viv Brice, now residing in sunny Queensland. Welcome Viv to the cold of Canberra!

John Gillies gave a summary of recent ARC activities. The rules of association are currently being reviewed, mainly in response to the requirements of NSW Fair Trading. The 2017-18 NMRA membership renewals are now due. The Pacific Director's position will be vacant in 2018 and there are three nominations, including our own Div. 2 Superintendent Dion Koch. One key ARC discussion was around the desire of the organisers of the Australian Narrow Gauge Convention to become an NMRA AR Special Interest Group (SIG) which will be discussed further at the next ARC meeting. Another outstanding matter for the ARC to discuss further after the 2017 NMRA National Convention in Orlando concerns AR responsibility for transportation costs of the layout Smuggler's Cove to the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento after a previous AR President committed the AR to pay these costs. Concern was raised as to why members should have to pay for this.

Div. 2 does not have a current membership list and most people in attendance supported an updated list. John Gillies confirmed that the NMRA had a privacy policy in the [Executive Handbook](#) that covered membership lists. Most members thought a current membership list would be very helpful. Ian commented that the Eurobodalla Model Railway Club had a membership list and there hadn't been any problems - same for the Canberra N scale group. Brian said that the ACT Model Railway Society did not have a list available to members but it hadn't been a problem. John Gillies will amend subject to individuals agreeing to be on the list.

Show and Tell was next (reported on next page), followed by Brad's report on the NMRA regional Convention in Ames, Iowa, in May. There were several clinics, contests and judging, a model train show, a convention dinner, and six layout visits. The mine visit and the [Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad](#) were the two prototype events. Overall, a good venue with accommodation, some good presentations but timing could have been better (often clashed with other events) and needed more layouts to see, even if we had to travel further to see them.

The NMRA regional convention dinner in Ames, Iowa, was well attended and enjoyable (Photo: Alan Saatkamp MMR)



Show and tell

Jack began proceedings with six recently constructed NSW RU grain hoppers built from Silvermaz and Trax kits. Jack painted and weathered the grain hoppers using Vallejo paints. He used acrylic primer in panzer grey as the base (Jack kindly supplied the photo at right).

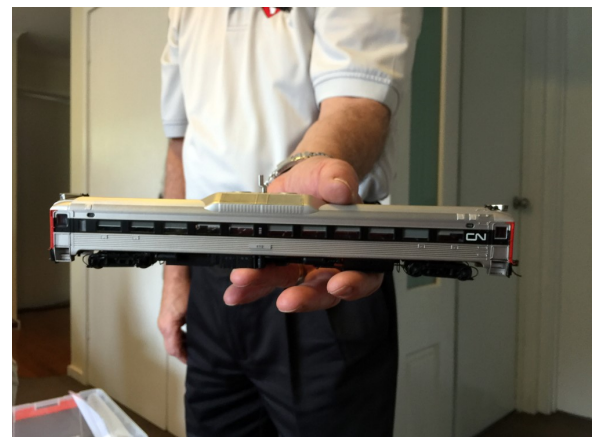
Brad showed the group the two HO scale structure kits he won at the Chinese auction at the NMRA regional convention he attended in Ames, Iowa. The first kit (pictured) was the "Flowers by Terry" building, and the second was the Rix 150' modern highway overpass.

John Gillies, recently back from his trip to the US, also brought an item he won at an RPM meet raffle : a Tangent Models 8000 gallon GATX tank car lettered for "Diamond Chemicals".

Stephen O'Brien had picked up some paintbrush pens while on a trip down the south coast to Bermagui where he spotted an art shop to check out. They are available at Eckersley Art Supplies in Canberra.

Ian Barnes brought along his HO scale scratchbuilt NSW two road carriage shed (see photo on page 1). He cut his own timber for the model and used a jig to also cut the corrugated iron into scale sheets. He used chef-quality Alfoil and made his own HO scale corrugations. Wellbond white glue was used for assembly, while superglue was used for the roof ridge.

Matt showed us his Broadway Limited (BLI) HO scale Canadian National USRA light Pacific steam locomotive. This loco has sound, including additional functions F10-28 that can add different sounds to the chip such as station announcing. The coal in the tender also goes down in prototypical style, albeit it reloads itself without the need for a coal stage! Matt also brought along an HO scale Budd rail diesel car (RDC) in Canadian National livery made by Rapido models. Fifty HO scale Rapido Budd RDCs for Australia's Commonwealth Railways were produced and made available in Australia if you can find one.



Member's layout - Brad Hinton

Brad's layout occupies both sides of a double garage. The layout is currently single deck but with an incline to a second deck which is yet to be constructed. The layout is based on the Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad (DME). The DME was formed in 1986 after the Chicago and Northwestern (CNW) sought to abandon trackage in south-west Minnesota and South Dakota. The model railway is based on a formerly closed CNW branchline from Sleepy Eye (on the DME) to Marshall (on the Burlington Northern), with further branches to Redwood Falls, and Watertown via Ghent. I invented the extension of the line west from Marshall to Brookings, South Dakota. If I had the skills and time, I would have modelled the real line from Waseca (MN) to Brookings.

The layout is operational using the NCE digital command control (DCC) system. The wiring of the layout was a huge job - droppers to every piece of track feeding into a bus that snakes its way around the layout. There are six power districts utilizing PSX circuit breakers. David Low was a huge help soldering the feeder wires to the track while yours truly tried to make sense of everything with spade connectors, terminal strips, and 3M insulation displacement connectors (better known in the hobby as suitcase connectors). It all works which is testament to the fact that DCC only needs two wires - just hundreds and hundreds of them!

Winter is not a particularly enticing time for the layout as the temperature can sink as low as zero. The Aldi air conditioner takes about an hour or so to get enough heat in the garage for relatively comfortable working. I was therefore pleasantly surprised when a number of members from the meeting ventured into the garage and suggested I put together an operating night to test out the track plan and all the electrics. This was something I wanted to do, but later on when I had tested everything myself. I need to put some mock-up buildings in place for the industries and to write up an operating sequence of trains. The feeling was that I should invite members for a test run to put the layout through its paces and see how everything works in practice, even if it will be less than perfect. A suggested time for the op. session was September or early October. Stay tuned.

A DME train prepares to leave staging (aka Brookings, SD) to head east to Sleepy Eye via Marshall (Photo: B. Hinton)



From the internet

Back for this issue of *The Flimsy* are some more inspiring videos on model railroads from Youtube.

[Virginia Midland Shops](#) is a series of layout videos about this freelance HO scale layout. There is plenty of useful information about the layout and its construction. The host takes a little time to get used to but I like the authentic feel to his presentations

Similarly, [Seaboard Central](#) is another freelanced HO scale model railroad with plenty of layout information and how-to videos.

One more freelanced model railroad in HO scale is the [QNE Railroad](#). The QNE Railroad Youtube channel has some great examples of model railroad operation, as well as layout runs, and industry information. A recent example is the series on scratchbuilding a modern steel transload facility.

Lastly, [Apartment Model Railroader](#) shows us what can be achieved in HO scale in a relatively small space.

If you have a favourite Youtube video, blog site, or website, please let me know. In particular, contributions showcasing quality N scale, O scale, or narrow gauge model railroads are encouraged!

What is this steam locomotive (at right) and where is it currently located? (Photo B. Hinton)

Buffer stop

David Low was the winner of the May-June issue's mystery photograph.

David correctly identified the open wagon as a South Australian Railways (SAR) OW wagon that was located at the National Rail Museum (formerly Port Dock Railway Museum) in Port Adelaide, South Australia.

The less than car load (LCL) containers on the OW were unlikely to have travelled on this wagon on the SAR during revenue service.

The mystery photo for July (right) should have a few of you reaching for your thinking caps. However, you might take a clue from Brad's report on his trip to the USA for the regional NMRA Convention in Ames, Iowa.

I look forward to your responses!



The last say....coming up!

There are a number of model railroad events coming up over the next few months that members should be aware of. The [Malkara Model Show](#) is on again this year on 5-6 August - it's a great cause and worth a visit. Later in the month, on the weekend of 26-27 August, there is the [AMRA Victoria Model Railway Exhibition](#) at Caulfield Racecourse.

In September, there is the [National N scale Convention](#) (7th-10th) and the [NMRA Australasia Convention](#) (16th-17th), both of which are in Adelaide. Next we have the [AMRA Sydney Model Railway Exhibition](#) at Liverpool on the Labor Day long weekend of 30th September - 2nd October.

And the big one next year is the [NMRA National Convention](#) in Kansas City, USA, from 5-12 August. I was lucky enough to have a few days in Kansas City on my recent US trip where my friend, Alan Saatkamp, showed me around a number of beautiful layouts. I also met some really great people - special thanks to Chuck Hitchcock, Doug Porter, Mike McLean, Stephen Priest, and Bill Hirt. Stephen Priest was also at the NMRA Convention in Ames spruiking the 2018 NMRA National Convention which should be a terrific event. I 'd like to be there next year - we will have to wait and see. And don't forget [the NMRA regionals](#) either!

Brad

NMRA Memberships are due - renew now!

NMRA memberships are now associated with the financial year (July-June). Please renew as soon as possible to keep your membership current.

The next meeting

John Gillies will host the August meeting. Dion will send out an email with the meeting details to Div.2 members in the preceding week.

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Info on the NMRA National Convention 2018 at the regional NMRA convention in Ames, Iowa (Photo: A. Saatkamp)

