



# THE FLIMSY

NMRA Division 2 Newsletter

November 2017

## From the Editor

Greetings.

The last meeting of NMRA Div. 2 for 2017 will be held this coming Saturday, 16 December, at the home of Stephe Jitts MMR. A separate email has already been sent out . Please RSVP to Stephe to let him know whether you are coming or not.

Div. 2 Superintendent Dion Koch resigned from the role early December so the position is now open. We thank Dion for his past efforts and wish him the best for the future. The meeting this Saturday will discuss our options for moving forward, including the annual call for meeting hosts for 2018.

I hope to see you there.

*Brad*

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John Martin hosted the November meet and showed off his two MRL layouts - an SW1500 in action (Photo: J. Gillies)



# November 2017 meeting

John Martin hosted seven members who travelled from Canberra to Oak Flats for the meeting. Div 2 Superintendent Dion Koch was unable to attend, as was your erstwhile editor, so John Gillies opened the meeting.

John G briefly discussed the outcomes of the 7 November Australasian Region Committee meeting including the upcoming ARC Executive elections in March and that nominations close on 30 November. The election for the NMRA Pacific Director position will also be conducted in early 2018. As part of developing the draft 2018 AR budget for ARC consideration/approval at its first 2018 meeting on 6 February, he will be analysing AR income and expenditure trends by category, along with bank account fluctuations over the previous 6 years. This will be used to assist consideration of whether the AR can absorb the increased USD 2.36 per member Australia, Britain, Canada & Europe (ABCE) Agreement payments to NMRA HQ agreed by the NMRA Board during the 2017 Orlando National Convention. With the AR paying on USD 10.00 per member at present, the ABCE increase could become be USD 3.20 (or a 32% increase) per member.

The ARC also agreed that Div Superintendents advise details of any members not receiving the regular NMRA HQ e-Bulletin and Turntable emails. Of those present at the meeting, only Tony Payne is not receiving these emails and John G has advised Tony's correct email address to the Membership Officer so HQ records can be updated. If anyone else (excluding recently joined members) isn't getting these routine HQ emails, please advise Dion. There was also some additional discussion of the Adelaide N Scale and NMRA AR Conventions.

Div 2 has some new and rejoining members; membership will shortly be 38 members. Mention was also made of the Div 2 Christmas Party being held at the Harmonie German Club in Narrabundah on 9 December commencing at 1800. Please don't forget to provide your advice of attendance to Dion by no later than 1 December.

John Martin provided an interesting and comprehensive presentation on modelling some of MRL's diesel locomotive fleet, the vast majority of which were acquired second and third hand from other railroads. John has a great eye for fine detail and described how he adds any missing detail items such as windshield wipers, lift rings, grabs, MU cables, etc. as part of the initial detailing process using his own and the many available online photos. John also uses the same photos to ensure that the locomotives he models correctly reflect the individual details of the locomotive being modelled.

John pointed out that while MRL may have various types of locomotives, none of the second and third hand locomotives are identical, as all exhibit different details and sometimes placement of detail parts along with variations in paint schemes.

This results in a very interesting and visually different locomotive roster. The MRL SD45 fleet is illustrative with locomotives sourced from 11 different railroads (N&W, BN, SP, SSW, ATSF, D&RGW, Guildford/Springfield Terminal, SLSF, PC SCL and CNW) with variations in short hoods, fan types, winterization hatches, lights, horns, trucks, brake cylinder placement, beacons, antennas and a number of other details. John has a great assortment of SD45s and other locomotive types as seen in some of the photos.

John advised that he doesn't have a spray booth and paints his locomotives with Tamiya aerosol spray paint cans using many thin coats which results in excellent coverage without obscuring the attached detail parts. John often double masks his locomotives around paint separation lines which results in a smooth level surface for decal application and later weathering. John's models are very well done as seen in the photos.

John has two layouts. The first layout is 12' by 9', and the second is 8' by 6'. The larger layout features a twice around the room up and over track plan with a locomotive servicing facility, yard and several industries to switch along with an operating signalling system based on Rail Logic equipment. (<https://www.logicrailtech.com/>). The smaller layout has a once around the room oval with a smaller number of industries. Both layouts operated flawlessly and some visitors enjoyed operating trains which showed that you don't need a huge layout to have lots of fun when operating a layout.

John and Shirley provided a delicious afternoon tea and all the visitors agreed they'd had a great time at the meeting .

Thank you John and Shirley.

# Show and tell

Wal Pywell brought two recent Kalmbach Publishing book purchases which were circulated with interest. Tony Koester's "Modeling the Transition Era" provides an in-depth look at the time period (and most popular modeling era) when railroads were changing from steam locomotives to diesel during the 1940s and 1950s. As many of us know, Tony Koester is a noted subject expert and prolific author for Kalmbach Publishing. Tony still writes the "Trains of Thought" column in *Model Railroader*.

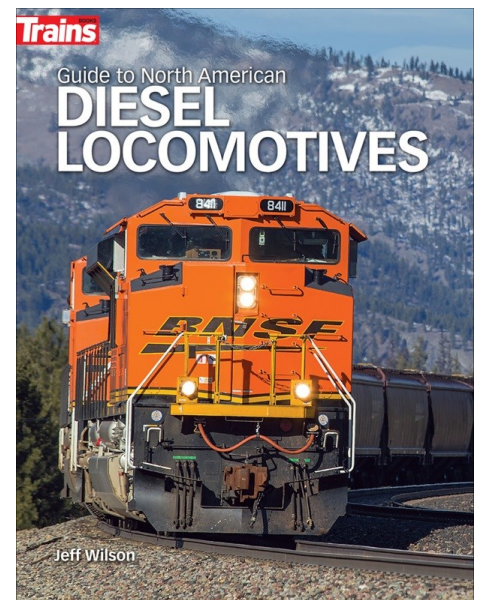
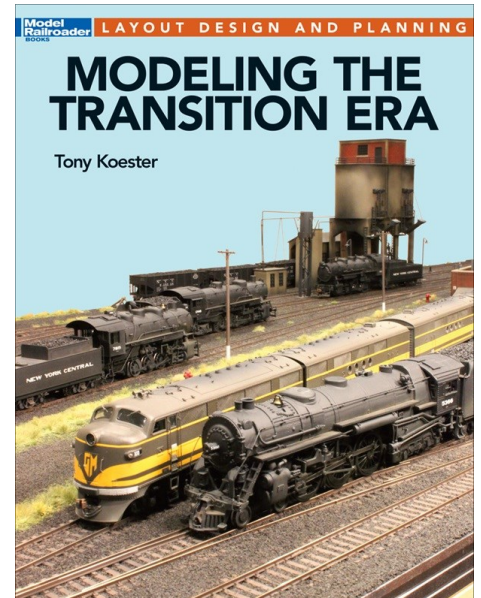
Jeff Wilson's "Guide to North American Diesel Locomotives" is a 350 page book covering the subject from the 1930s to today, with copious photos, spotting details and as-built model roster by railroad. It contains a lot of information of interest to US diesel modellers.

Both of these books can be purchased directly from Kalmbach Publishing and would make ideal Christmas presents.....

Stephen O'Brien displayed a Cygnett GoStick Bluetooth Selfie Stick + Tripod with a pan head, removable phone holder, Bluetooth shutter release buttons for iPhone and Android, plus removable handle and small tripod for greater model train photography flexibility. Stephen purchased it JB Hi-Fi where it is currently selling for \$59.95.

Check the GoStick out from: <https://www.jbhi-fi.com.au/phones/Phone-Accessories/cygnett/cygnett-gostick-bluetooth-selfie-stick-tripod/735459/>

John G brought the Chicagoland RPM Conference program and the event's Mini-Kit. The kit is from *Centralia Workshops* and is a 40' 1937 AAR box car built by Pullman-Standard in 1944-45 for the Chicago Great Western (CGW) with proprietary car builder's ends. The Conference program included 8 pages of prototype and model information about these 250-strong box cars.





More trains from the layout of John Martin showcasing some of his diesel loco collection (Photos: J.Gillies)





Mystery photographs: A couple of photos to really stretch the grey matter (Photos: B. Hinton)



## Buffer stop

Jack Childs narrowly beat Peter Dinham to the punch for last month's mystery photo. Jack correctly identified the loco as a St. Lawrence & Hudson SD40-2 running for Canadian Pacific (on the former Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern). It will take some investigation to determine the locomotive and location of this month's mystery photos. Hint: the location is a town on the DME (now CP) in Minnesota.

I look forward to your responses.

## The last say....

As we wind down to Christmas and the New Year it is always good to reflect on what we achieved through the year to set the scene for what the new year promises.

I'd like to say that my own model railroad went ahead in leaps and bounds. However, it was more like a spurt here and a spurt there. Other modellers seem much more prolific: Rob Nesbitt powers along with his structures for his Wagga Wagga layout and manages to keep his blog up-to-date as well. Brian and Fran work away on their SAR O scale empire. Stephe continues his monthly operating sessions. David Low has almost finished his home layout based on Goulburn in the early 1970s - just the roundhouse to go, David!

But whatever you've been working on, and no matter how much has been accomplished (or not), the new year offers us so much potential to do better. And that's what I keep in mind each year at this time - I can do better and accomplish more than the year that has passed.

If we can do that, then progress is assured.

As the December issue will probably be sent out early January, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a successful New Year.

*Brad*

## The next meeting

The next meeting will be held at the home of Stephe Jitts on 16/12/17.

**Start time will be 1pm.**

An email has already been sent out with the address and Stephe's email for RSVPs.

We will be looking for meeting hosts in 2018 so please consider putting your name forward.

## The Flimsy contact

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A key source of information and inspiration for John Martin's MRL layouts was this book (Photo: R.J. Gillies)

