



THE FLIMSY

NMRA Division 2 Newsletter

February 2018

From the Editor

Greetings.

The February meeting had a good discussion about the format of the monthly meetings and whether members wanted to change anything. Nobody wanted to make any changes and in fact reinforced the importance of presentations.

Stephen Walker said that a talk of some kind at the meetings was a key reason to attend and I agree. The talk can be on a rail or model railroad topic, presented in any form, and by anyone for that matter (not necessarily the host). As Stephen's demo at the meeting showed, the talks do not have to be long or computer-driven.

Brad

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Stephen Walker models the Burlington Northern in N scale. Here 4068 switches passenger cars (Photo: B. Hinton).



February 2018 meeting

The February meeting was held at the home of Stephen Walker. There were twelve members in attendance. Div. 2 Superintendent Stephe Jitts welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a few more meeting hosts to complete the calendar for 2018. Hopefully, he will get a positive response in the coming weeks. There was no ARC meeting report at the time, although I include it “after-the-fact” as an adjunct below. The NMRA elections were on and members were reminded to vote. There was mention of a new Public Officer being required and Stephe was considering the position. Jess reported that she was unable to check out the hall she had mentioned last meeting.

There were a couple of interesting discussions. One, as mentioned on page 1, was about the format of the meetings. The second discussion was initiated by David Low about his quest to research the products and freight car movements on the lower Main South of the NSW rail system in 1972. Whilst David had managed to obtain much information from published railway sources, some of the detailed specifics were missing and he wanted this information for an upcoming talk in Sydney in April. Those in attendance thought it interesting enough for David to consider such a talk/discussion at a future meeting.

Host Stephen Walker gave us a wonderful talk with his box of tricks (photo below) about his set of steps for all freight cars on the layout: body-mount #1015 Kadee couplers, change all wheels to metal wheels with low flanges (Fox Valley preferred), weather trucks and wheels with paint and chalks based on prototype photos, and add coupler platforms and cut levers to the model. Steve favours *Blagdon Enterprises* chalks as they stick well enough without an overcoat of flat clear gloss. He sometimes uses washes, still favouring his remaining *Floquil* BN green paint diluted with thinners. He now also uses *Vallejo* water-based paints. Artist medium gauche (e.g. burnt sienna) from [Daley Rowney](#) are also used. Steve likes *Italiari* paint brushes. He has also tried decals for rust streaks and graffiti with good effect.

A wonderful afternoon tea provided by Steve’s wife, Lorraine, topped off a terrific afternoon. A big thank you to Steve and Lorraine for the afternoon delights. At the same time, we also got to run some trains on Steve’s layout which was a lot of fun.

John Gillies summarised the ARC meeting from Tuesday 20 February. Div. Supers were requested to encourage members write articles for “Mainline”. Don’t forget articles earn the member points towards his/her AP awards. Members should have received their invitation to attend the 2018 convention on the Gold Coast this coming September. It was resolved not to increase membership fees for this year.



Show and tell

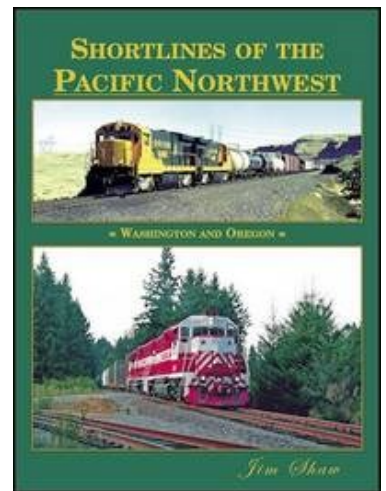
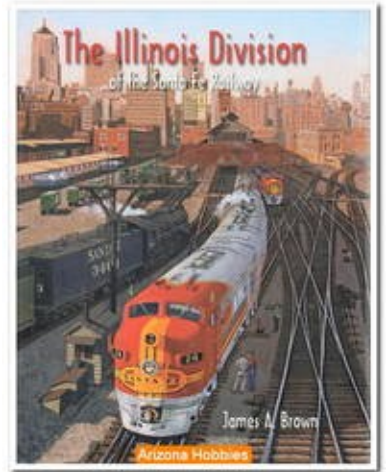
Matt Waterreus brought along his recently purchased book, "The Illinois Division of the Santa Fe Railway" published by the Santa Fe Historical Society. It is a weighty book with plenty of information and some great photos.

John Martin also had some books - two in fact. The first was "Shortlines of the Pacific Northwest" which looked at a number of interesting prototypes in this part of the United States. The second book, in the same series, was "Shortlines of the Intermountain West". Both books also had plenty of information and some good quality photos of interesting shortline trains.

Jess brought along a handbuilt turnout for her O scale (1:48) layout. She used the Fast Tracks jig and commercial sleepers. The turnout ties were from Mt. Albert. She used Micro Engineering code 70 rail. Unfortunately, my photo did not come out to illustrate this nicely constructed turnout.

Apologies for no photo to Robin Foster who came to *Show and Tell* armed with his nicely constructed curved trestle. He used 36" Shinohara track on the wooden decking of the trestle. Robin constructed the trestle using Mr Sticky Stuff yellow glue; a product that I was not aware of.

David Low brought along two folders with train numbers and times for both the Up and Down Main Southern Line. After a great deal of research, David had put together this information for the sequencing of trains on his "Goulburn" layout. They are based on the 1972 NSWRT timetable and feature a wide range of passenger trains, including the *Spirit of Progress* and *Southern Aurora*.



Another photo from Steve's layout showing a common rural scene with an old-style grain elevator (Photo: B. Hinton)



The Burlington Northern once shared a long-time contract with LMX Leasing over their use of B39-8 units which lasted well past the BN-Santa Fe merger into 2005. Here an LMX unit heads up a manifest freight out of the yard. In the lower photo, grain cars await their turn for loading prior to pick-up by the BN for the trip to the Pacific coast (Photos: B. Hinton).



The last say....

I was reflecting on the meeting at Stephen Walker's place from February and why that meeting was such a good meeting. These observations are my own and obviously reflect my personal preferences so they may not be representative of all those who were there. Also, Steve's meeting environment is not one everybody can necessarily replicate either. And perhaps having just twelve attendees made everything less crowded.

The meeting was outside on a lovely day. It was at a table that we all could sit around which made conversation and discussion easier. The meeting ran smoothly and efficiently. Discussion came naturally and provoked interest among all of us there. Steve's talk was not long but it certainly was practical. The talk was almost like a specific "show and tell" with Steve's box of tricks illustrating everything he was talking about.

The afternoon tea was lovely with the usual heated pastries and some sweet biscuits on the side. There was room to sit and talk over afternoon tea, or revert to the garage to see trains running on the layout. All in all, it was a very pleasant afternoon.

Brad

The next meeting

There is no March meeting.

The Canberra Model Rail Expo

The Canberra Model Rail Expo is on 24-25 March and this provides an opportunity to see some layouts, talk "shop" with other model railroaders, and to check out what the commercial vendors have to offer.

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Stephen has mellowed enough to even allow UP power on the layout! (Photo: B. Hinton)

