



The 400



North Shore & Western Division, Midwest Region, NMRA

September 2009

Greetings from Your Super

By Jim Spice

Hello everyone and welcome to another season of entertainment and education at the North Shore & Western Division. Where has the time gone? It seems like we never did get summer! And now it is almost Labor Day! There have been a few "off season" happenings within the Region and we will talk about these at our first Division meeting. But, one item I need to address is our joint meet with Fox Valley. As you all should be aware, we will have joint meets with Fox Valley on October 11th (us there) and in February (them here).

The October meet is going to be a field trip to the Pullman Museum. More details can be found starting on page 2, so I will not elaborate on that here. What we do need to know from our NS&W members is how many are going to attend. Here's the deal. The Division will pick up the bus fare for any members wishing to come but the entrance fee to the museum (\$17.00) will be the responsibility of the members.

We need your commitment and your money no later than our September 27th meeting. This is so we can have an accurate head count and get the tickets purchased through Fox Valley. If you are interested in attending this function, we need your money ASAP. See page 3 for payment details. Also, remember this trip will be in lieu of our October monthly meeting.

Of course, as usual, I have begun my yearly groveling for clinics. If any of you have or know of someone that has a clinic, please...please get in touch with me. I have scheduled Jim Osborn to give his clinic on "Decoder Pro" for our September 27th meet. See "Introduction to DecoderPro" on page 4 for a description of Jim's clinic.

Lastly, for anyone not "in the know," construction of the new library is well underway and parking has changed. You may want to get to the library a little early to check out where we are supposed to park.

Well that's about all I have for now, check the schedule on page 7 for our meeting dates, times, place and contest categories. I hope to see you all at our events!

This Month

Sunday, September 27, 2009
Clinic: Introduction to DecoderPro
Contest: Favorite Summer Project

Inside This Issue

	<u>Page</u>
Pullman Museum Field Trip	2
AP Notes	3
Introduction to DecoderPro	4
2010 National Convention	5
Contests	6
2009-2010 Schedule	7
Meet Dates/Times/Place	8

Pullman Museum Field Trip

By David Leider, Fox Valley Division

Our joint meet between the Fox Valley and North Shore and Western Divisions will feature a trip to Pullman, to take part in their 36th Annual Historic Pullman House Tour.

One weekend each year Pullman residents open their homes to the public for the annual Historic Pullman House Tour. These 120-year-old landmark homes range from executive mansions to 14-foot wide worker's cottages to multi-unit apartments, all with a charm and uniqueness that is part of the Pullman experience. Tour homes are chosen to present a cross-section of the different types of housing in Pullman and the many ways that homeowners blend the past and present in their historic homes.

What is Pullman and what does it have to do with railroading?

In 1879, George M. Pullman, President of Pullman's Palace Car Company, purchased 4,000 acres of land south of Chicago. He decided to develop a model community, a total environment, and superior to that available to the working class elsewhere. By so doing, he hoped to avoid strikes, attract the most skilled workers and attain greater productivity as a result of the better health, environment and spirit of his employees.

Pullman realized the necessity of building his town so it would have accessibility to the big city markets and railroad connections throughout the entire country. The 4,000-acre tract selected for the site lay along the western shore of Lake Calumet, approximately 13 miles directly south of Chicago. It was essentially open prairie and marsh land linked to Chicago and the southern states by the Illinois Central Railroad and to the world by Lake Calumet's connection to Lake Michigan and the St. Lawrence River. Solon Spencer Beman, only 27 years old at the time, was hired as the architect

for the town and Nathan F. Barrett as the landscape architect. Construction of the town was executed by Pullman employees. Structures were made of brick, fashioned from clay found in Lake Calumet, at a brickyard built south of the town for this purpose. Pullman shops produced component parts used throughout the building of the town. This project was one of the first applications of industrial technology and mass production in the construction of a large-scale housing development. The town of over 1,000 homes and public buildings was completed by 1884, less than four years later.

The first resident moved into the town on January 1, 1881. Each dwelling was provided with gas and water, access to complete sanitary facilities and abundant quantities of sunlight and fresh air. Front and back yards provided personal green space, while expansive parks and open lands provided larger, shared ones. Maintenance of the residences was included in the rental prices, as was daily garbage pickup. The Hotel Florence, named after Pullman's daughter, was also erected that year. Hundreds of visitors, from as far away as Europe, toured the model industrial town.

By 1885 the population was 5,000. In 1889 Hyde Park Township (which includes Pullman) was annexed into the City of Chicago through popular election. The majority of Pullman residents voted against annexation. The Pullman Land Association continued management and maintenance of town properties. In 1892 the original Market Hall building was destroyed by fire. A new Market Hall building and surrounding Market Square residential buildings were designed by Solon Beman and erected the same year.

In 1896 the town of Pullman was recognized as "The World's Most Perfect Town" at the International Hygienic and Pharmaceutical Exposition, held in Prague. The Town of Pullman was but fifteen years old. George M. Pullman died the following year, succeeded by Robert Todd Lincoln as president of the

Pullman Company. A year later the Illinois Supreme Court ordered the Pullman Company to sell all the property not used for industry, including the residential properties that comprised the town. The population of Pullman was 8,000. All the residential property was sold by the following year and has been privately owned ever since.

In 1960 Pullman was threatened with demolition as the Roseland Chamber of Commerce recommended clearing the area from 111th to 115th Streets for an industrial park. A neighborhood World War II Civil Defense Organization was reactivated to fight the demolition. Out of this the Pullman Civic Organization was formed. In 1969 South Pullman received State of Illinois landmark status. The District included all the original housing from 111th to 115th Street, including factory buildings north of 111th Street to 109th Place along Cottage Grove Avenue. In 1971 the entire Pullman district, from 103rd to 115th Streets, received National Historic Landmark District designation.

The Historic Pullman Foundation purchased the Hotel Florence in 1975 and began an extensive restoration and opened it to the public. In 1991, the State of Illinois purchased the Hotel Florence and Pullman Factory buildings, establishing the Pullman State Historic Site. Tragedy struck December 1, 1998 when an arsonist set fire to the factory site, destroying the majority of the Clock Tower structure. A 1910 factory building on the site was subsequently demolished due to the extensive damage sustained in the fire. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency spent \$3.4 million on post-fire stabilization of the buildings. The tower and clock were rebuilt and installed on site in late 2005.

We will be taking a bus on Sunday, October 11, 2009. There will be 2 pickup/drop off points: Regency Square, Euclid and Quentin Roads at 9AM and Old Orchard Shopping Center, Old Orchard Road and Lawler Street, the northwest

corner right off 94 on Old Orchard Road at 9:30. We should return to Palatine about 5. The homes are open from 9 to 5. The historic Florence Hotel, with exhibits will also be open, as well as the clock tower. I was told that several former Pullman employees attend and bring displays or reminisce about the old days.

This should be a fun day for all. I have been there before, about 20 years ago. It was very interesting, both as a modeler and historian. It does involve a lot of walking, as the houses are spread over several blocks. There are restaurants and neighborhood taverns nearby for sustenance.

Any NS&W member, who wants to participate in this field trip, must prepay the \$17.00 admission fee no later than our meet on Sunday, September 27th. To prepay, make your check payable to NS&W in the amount of \$17.00 and either mail or give it to Jeff Jarr so that he has it by the 27th. Jeff's address is 4946 N Kostner Ave, Chicago, IL 60630.

AP Notes

By M. David Johnson, NS&W AP Coordinator

On the NMRA website I read that "the Achievement Program (AP) is a travel guide, to help you on your journey through the world of model railroading. The AP also provides incentive to learn and master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading."

Each member who completes all the requirements in a given category receives a Certificate recognizing his or her accomplishment. And, when a member fills out the Statement of Qualifications form for the Certificate, he or she signs the following agreement: "I certify...that I will agree to assist other members in this subject whenever

possible, whether or not they are participants in the Achievement Program.”

Now, you don't have to hold an AP Certificate to help another model railroader. That happens all the time. But the member, who has an AP Certificate in the area where you would like some help, has demonstrated skill in that area and may be an especially good source for the help you're looking for.

Here in the NS&W Division, our Superintendent, Jim Spice, holds the Association Official, Association Volunteer and Golden Spike Certificates.

Our Assistant Superintendent, Don Cook, holds the Master Builder – Structures, Master Builder – Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical, Chief Dispatcher, Association Volunteer, and Golden Spike Certificates.

Eric Bronsky holds the Author Certificate.

Walter Feret holds the Master Builder – Motive Power and Association Volunteer Certificates.

Jim Goettsche holds the Association Official Certificate.

John Perry holds the Association Volunteer Certificate.

Wally Zinke holds the Master Builder – Motive Power and Association Volunteer Certificates.

In addition, there are almost 500 AP Certificates held by other members of the Midwest Region and almost 6,600 held by members of the NMRA as a whole.

If you're looking for some advice, information, suggestions, etc. on a particular project or task, please contact me (mdjohnson@worldnet.att.net or 708-476-6882) and I'll try to connect you with an AP Certificate holder who can help.

Meanwhile, it's my goal to see many more members of the NS&W qualify for AP Certificates in as many categories as possible. Also, any member, who has built a layout of any kind, or even just a module, has a good chance of qualifying for the Golden Spike Award. In addition, many of you may also have accomplished the work necessary to qualify for other AP Certificates. All that may remain is to complete the paperwork.

But paperwork is something many of us try to avoid whenever possible. It certainly may not be something we think of as part of the “fun” of model railroading. Good News! I actually enjoy paperwork. If the necessary paperwork is all that's keeping you from completing the requirements for an AP Certificate or the Golden Spike Award, drop me an email or give me a call. I may be able to help.

And, if you've never built a layout or a module, think about giving it a try —a 2x4' module or a 1x8' switching layout could be enough to meet the “Model Railroad Setting” portion of the requirements for the Golden Spike Award. Can you envision the NS&W as the first NMRA “All Golden Spike” Division?

Introduction to DecoderPro

Jim Osborn from the Fox Valley Division will take the mystery and complexity out of DCC decoder programming. His clinic on September 27th will provide an introductory discussion and a hands-on demonstration of the DecoderPro software. You will leave the meet with enough information to get started using the system. DecoderPro is a public domain software application written and supported by the Java Model Railroad Interface (JMRI) group. The software and any necessary support is available free of charge to those wishing to use it for non-commercial applications.

2010 National Convention

By Ken Jaglinski, Vice Chair, WISE Division



We can make this the best National Convention ever! In July 2010 we are going to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the NMRA in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the location where it all began back in 1935, by hosting the national convention. The committee has been hard at work for over a year now getting things organized and final plans are falling into place. We want to break attendance levels for recent national conventions and we can do it with your help! Our focus has not only been to present a solid group of layouts, prototype tours and clinics but we have placed great emphasis on the General Interest program.

If you've never been to a National Convention of the NMRA, now is the time to come. We are planning a rip-roaring Midwestern good time for all. On Sunday evening we are going to kick off the week with a Beer and Brat Fest (a Milwaukee favorite) at Zeidler Union Square Park, just a stone's throw away from the convention site and hotel. I can hear the um-pah-pahs now!

Some of you may not have felt comfortable attending a national convention because you don't know anyone else attending. Never fear, at Brat Fest we will match you up with three other

attendees during an ice breaker. You may get to know some interesting people, get new ideas about the hobby, and find someone to pal around with during the week.

I challenge the other Divisions in the Midwest Region to consider bringing a group to the convention. Charter a bus or take AMTRAK to Milwaukee as a group. This will lower each person's overall transportation costs and increase the fun factor. So will there be a bus originating in Chicago, Glenview or Waukegan?

Don't come alone! Bring your spouse, significant other, your family or a friend along. They don't have to be NMRA members and you don't have to railroad every minute. There are lots of fun things to do in Milwaukee. We will have garden, shopping and site-seeing tours as well as general interest clinics for non-rails. There will be a special event every evening consisting of a dinner cruise on the Milwaukee River and Lake Michigan, a dinner social at the Milwaukee Public Museum, the Ladies Luncheon at the Wisconsin Club, a Sunset Zoofari at the world renowned Milwaukee County Zoo, a dinner train trip on the East Troy Electric Railroad and a Milwaukee fish fry at historic Turner Hall. You can also find adventure at the Harley Davidson Museum, the Milwaukee Art Museum, the Eisner Museum of Advertising and Design, the Mitchell Park Domes, Discovery World and Pier Wisconsin, the Betty Brinn Children's Museum and on the Schooner Denis Sullivan. There will be free musical entertainment at "River Splash" and "Jazz in the Park" or you might take in one of our ethnic festivals or "Bastille Days". We also have the Milwaukee Brewers baseball team that plays at Miller Park with its retractable roof so the team plays and the fans are comfortable rain or shine! If you feel lucky, take a trip to the Potawatomi Casino. All of these attractions are in walking distance or a short bus ride from downtown.

As you know it takes a lot of VOLUNTEERS to run a successful national convention. We need your help to make the Milwaukee convention a show stopper. Attendees want to come to clinics offered by local clinicians that cover topics related not only to general modeling but to the railroads famous in the area. So those of you out there that can put on these types of clinics please e-mail Skip Meracle at qnmeracle@aol.com and let him know you're ready.

Not a clinician, then we can use you to help with the clinics, at the tour desk, in the contest room, in the auction room, leading a prototype or layout tour, helping with the audio visual equipment or at 100 other jobs. You can work one four hour shift, a whole day, or several times during the week. Remember this convention reflects on the Wisconsin Southeastern Division and the Midwest Region, so let's get it done right! If you can volunteer your time please e-mail Al Lederman at n9rxd@sbcglobal.net.

If you have a layout that you would like to display at the National Train Show (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) at the Midwest Airline Center then e-mail Harry Grieshaber at grieshab@gmail.com and we will pass this information on to the NMRA person in charge.

If you don't have a computer, write me a note outlining what you might want to do and/or how much time you can devote. Send this to Ken Jaglinski, 863 E Birch Ave, Whitefish Bay, WI 53217 and I will pass it on to the appropriate committee.

Visit our web site www.nmra75.org to keep abreast of what will be happening as we move closer to July 2010. We look forward to meeting you and working with you to help our fellow railroaders enjoy their trip to Milwaukee. Come and see what it's all about!

Contests

By Don Cook

Our first contest for this season is Favorite Summer Project (Any Category). For a complete list of this year's contests, see the 2009-2010 Schedule on page 7. Remember, we have prizes for first place!

Contest rules are as follows:

1. Any NMRA member can enter a model in a contest.
2. Models must be entered with the Contest Chair before the meet begins.
3. Entry can be a kit, kit-bashed or scratch built model. Out of the box models (brass, etc.) must be at least painted and lettered by the entrant.
4. All work must be your own.
5. First place models from prior North Shore & Western Division, Midwest Region or National model contests are not eligible.
6. Supplementary information such as plans, photographs, etc. may accompany the model.
7. Entrants should be able to answer questions regarding construction techniques, etc.
8. First, second and third place will be decided by popular vote.
9. The Contest Chair will count the ballots.

While models entered in contests must be complete, you can display "Show & Tell" models at any meet. "Show & Tell" gives you an opportunity to display work-in-progress, which can be an inspiration to others.

**North Shore & Western Division
Midwest Region, NMRA**

2009-2010 Schedule

(As of August 29, 2009)

Date	Clinic	Contest	Other
2009			
Sep 19-20	No Clinic	No Contest	Modular Layout Southland Show Richards High School Oak Lawn
Sep 27	Introduction to DecoderPro By Jim Osborn	Favorite Summer Project (Any Category)	
Oct 11	No Clinic	No Contest	Joint Meet w/Fox Valley Division Field trip to Pullman Museum
Nov 14-15	No Clinic	No Contest	Modular Layout Trainfest Wisconsin Exposition Center West Allis
Nov 22	To Be Announced	Non-Revenue Cars (Caboose, MOW, Etc.)	
Dec 12-13	No Clinic	No Contest	Modular Layout Glenview Public Library Sat: 10 am-5 pm; Sun: 1-4 pm
2010			
Jan 24	To Be Announced	Steam Locomotives	
Feb 28	To Be Announced	Passenger Cars	Joint Meet at North Shore & Western Division
Mar 6-7	No Clinic	No Contest	Modular Layout High Wheeler Show Harper College Palatine
Mar 28	To Be Announced	Diesel & Heavy Electric Locomotives	
Apr 25	To Be Announced	Freight Cars	
May 23	To Be Announced	Structures	Annual Meeting of Members Election of Officers

Again this season the Fox Valley Division and the North Shore & Western Division will combine for two meets. On Sunday, October 11, 2009, the Fox Valley Division has arranged a field trip to the Pullman Museum. On Sunday, February 28, 2010, the North Shore & Western Division will host the Fox Valley Division at the Glenview Public Library.

Except as noted under "Other," meetings are held on Sundays from 1:30-4:00 pm in the Maynard Room of the Glenview Public Library at 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, IL. The library opens at 1:00 pm. Contest entry is from 1:15-1:30 pm. From time-to-time layout tours follow the regular (non-module) meets from 4:00-6:00 pm. Members who have clinic ideas or who want to host a layout tour should contact Jim Spice, 10141 Yorkhouse Road, Beach Park, IL 60087-2405; (847) 662-7267; jimjet2@comcast.net.

2009-2010 Season

Dates

Place

2009

2010

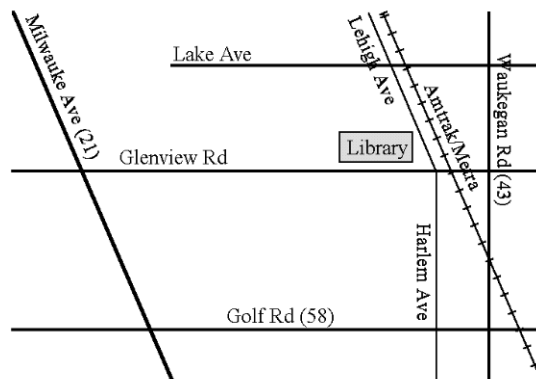
September 27
October 11
November 22
December 12-13*

January 24
February 28
March 28
April 25
May 23

**Modular layout.*

Meeting Time: 1:30–4:00 pm
Library opens 1:00 pm
Contest entry 1:15 pm

**Glenview Public Library
1930 Glenview Road**



**North Shore & Western
C/o Bert Lattan
145 Heathrow Ct
Lake Bluff, IL 60044-1922**