



The Semaphore

July/August/September 2022

A publication of the 2nd Division of the Pacific Northwest Region of the NMRA
Greg Baker, editor

Notes from the Headend

Jeff Shultz

I've just returned from an exciting week in St. Louis, Missouri where I attended the first in-person NMRA National Convention and National Train Show since 2019, Gateway 2022. Membership Chair Larry Nunn (who is also my father-in-law) and I traveled to St. Louis together and we had a lot of fun. For followers of Ken Patterson's What's Neat and [What's Neat this Week](#) video podcasts, yes, we ate at Sugarfire BBQ (I went three times actually... it was only a couple blocks from the convention hotel).

The clinic coordinator kept a full slate of clinics running remarkably smoothly, recruiting attendees to present clinics or sub-in for clinicians were unable to attend due to sudden illness or airline cancellations. Layouts were open for tours by either tour bus or self-drive tours, and the LD-SIG held its traditional LD-SIG layout tour on Wednesday.

There were three layouts located in the convention space. The first was a modular HOn3 layout presented by the St. Louis and Illinois Mudhens. Video of the layout can be seen at <https://youtu.be/bnt9yLnC-mw>. The second layout was assembled by local FreeMoN modelers and was used throughout the convention for an introduction to operating sessions. A video of it is at <https://youtu.be/M0loCiaqx0A>. The SIG room was busy, with the LD-SIG, OP-SIG, Civil War SIG, and Steel Mill SIG's all having displays. Additionally, the LCC-SIG had an operating demonstration of the new NMRA standard that featured [TCS's new CS-105](#), two versions of [Logic Rail Technologies'](#) new LCC Fast Clock, and several [RR-CirKits](#) products. The O scale Kings had the third layout in the convention space in the SIG room with a 2-rail O scale modular switching layout. There were about 800 registered attendees of the convention this year.

The National Train Show was held in the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, Illinois. While smaller than previous NTS venues, it was full of manufacturers, vendors, and layouts, many of which I photographed or videoed. I was there representing Joe Fugate's [Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine](#), and Larry worked for MRH as (in his words) "a booth babe" for the show. I spent money, oh yes, I did... and that doesn't include the TCS CS-105 DCC/LCC command station and the B-106 booster that I ordered. I should have them to show at our next meet – and then I'll be installing them on my layout.

For photos, video, and some commentary on the Gateway 2022 convention and the National Train Show, see my posts on the MRH website at <https://forum.mrhmag.com/post/jeff-shultz-index-12218248>

And with that – I want to invite everyone to attend our next in-person meet, either in-person or virtually, at the Wilsonville Library on September 17th – see below for more information. Please bring any models or in-progress projects you'd like to show off to the division. And as always, if you would like to present a clinic or virtual layout tour (either live by Zoom or on PowerPoint) at

2nd Division Website: <https://2dpnr.org>

2nd Division Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PNR2ND>

2nd Division YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWMrJ-wg0pHqoke3px4F66g>

a future 2nd Division meet, please contact me – as well as supporting your division, it may be worth AP Volunteer or Author credit.

Upcoming 2nd Division Meeting & Clinics

By Greg Baker

The board has decided that instead of constantly changing locations of the meets, we will be meeting at the Wilsonville Public Library for the remainder of 2022.

The next meeting will be September 17th 2:30pm to 4:30pm.

[Wilsonville Public Library \(Oak Room-Southside\) 8200 SW Wilsonville Rd, Wilsonville OR 97070](https://www.wilsonville.gov/locations/oak-room-southside) IN PERSON and potentially live streamed for those who would like to watch from home. We will have some general organization updates followed by two clinics. Make sure to check out the Facebook page for our most up to date information <https://www.facebook.com/PNR2ND/>.

Blue Box Build-Off

By Greg Baker

The BOD has given the green light for a new Division Activity! At the September and October meetings we will have a bankers box or two of HO scale shake-the-box kits, mostly Athearn blue box. We invite everyone to take one of these kits home and build something out of it! You can build this kit as is, but do not let the kit constrain your creativity. If you want you can kitbash it into a totally different car, turn it into a restaurant or other structure, super detail the car to match a prototype, maybe even make it a different scale? The options are endless!

The 'Rules':

- 1.) Must Attend either the September or October meeting in person to choose your kit.
- 2.) Picking the kits will take place during breaks and AFTER the meeting.
- 3.) Choice of kit will be first come first pick, if we run out of kits we will allow people to use their own stash of kits, but the goal is to use the donated cars first.
- 4.) You must bring your completed creation to the November 19, 2022 meeting in Wilsonville and give a brief presentation (5 minutes or less) about what you did.
- 5.) At least 50% of the original kit must be used in your creation.
- 6.) Voting will be conducted by non-participating board member(s). The judging will be on judges' preference, not using merit criteria for this activity!

Everyone will you have a new creation to add to your layout, or a new car to add to your train. The 'winner' as chosen by the judges will also walk away with a gift certificate from one of the local hobby shops!

If you have any additional questions or comments, please direct them to Greg Baker at mountaingoatgreg@gmail.com

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Searching for a Secretary

Jeff Shultz

With the election of Richard Kürschner to PNR Vice-President (Congratulations, Richard!), 2nd Division lost a very important role – the division secretary. First up – this is worth AP Volunteer credit. Interested? Basically the job involves keeping the Division Superintendent on track during board meetings (most of which are on Zoom) and filing our business registration with the Oregon Secretary of State each year. Since Richard led the process of rewriting our [bylaws and creating our policy manual](#) during his tenure on the board, everything you need to know is found in there. If this interests you, please contact me at jeff@2dpnr.org

Notes from the Caboose

Upcoming 2nd Division Meetings

- September 17th 2:30pm to 4:30pm
- October 15th 2:00pm to 4:00pm
- November 19th 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Join us at the Wilsonville Public Library and feel free to bring a friend!!

Upcoming Railroad Events

- A Fall Swap Meet and Train Show, Saturday September 10, 2022, 10:00am to 3:00pm, Three Rivers Mall, Kelso WA. Event will be on the south end of the mall, early bird \$10 9:00am to 10:00am, \$5 general admission. (www.lkrtrains.yolasite.com)
- Great Model Train Swap Meet, September 24, 2022, 9:30am to 2:30pm Battle Ground HS Gymnasium 300 W Main St Battle Ground WA 98604, \$10 at 9:00am, \$5 Regular after 9:30am, \$3 students, under 6 FREE with adult.
- Bridgetown RPM, Saturday October 1, 2022, 9:00am to 4:00pm, Portland Airport Shilo Inn 11707 NE Airport Way Portland Or 97220, \$20 to participate (www.brpmm.com)
- Lewis County Model Railroad Club Show and Swap Meet October 8 & 9, 2022, Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm Sunday 10:00am to 2:00pm, Blue Pavilion SW Washington Fairgrounds 2555 N National Ave Chehalis. WA 98532. \$5 admission, kids under 10 FREE!
- Prairie Line Experience, 2023 Pacific Northwest Regional Convention, May 10-14, 2022. Comfort Inn & Suites Downtown Tacoma, 2611 East E Street, Tacoma WA, 98421. Registration and hotel information at <https://pnrtacoma2023.org/>

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- What am I missing? (if you have other events you are aware of, Club Meetings, Swap Meets, Operating Sessions, Round Robin groups, etc. please email them to me and I will add them to newsletter.) mountaingoatgreg@gmail.com

High Greens all the way!

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