

The Semaphore

A publication of the 2nd Division of the Pacific Northwest Region of the NMRA

Welcome back to The Semaphore!

In years past, the Division published a regular newsletter, The Semaphore, and sent it to members via the US mail. We have decided to restart our newsletter but in an email format, and on an as-needed basis. We will use this platform to share longer format articles with you. In this issue we will share our impressions of the event held last weekend in Salem. The next issue might be you sharing an update on your layout or a nifty trick you've learned. We are open to working with you and hearing from you, so don't hesitate to tell us what you think and what you'd like to see. But most importantly, don't hesitate to share your knowledge and interests. And remember, for every page of text and pictures you contribute in this safe environment, you will get one point towards your Author AP certificate, and be better prepared for writing on a larger scale. As we said, right now it is an as-needed publication, but if enough of you want to try your hand at sharing, we could turn this back into a regular publication.

- *Richard Kurschner, editor pro-tem*

February Event Report

Report and photos by Richard Kurschner

The 2nd Division of the PNR held an unusual afternoon event on the 16th of February. While there was some competition with the SP&S swap meet up in Vancouver, there were still many members in attendance at the Salem get together. If you weren't there, you missed several interesting speakers and layout tours!



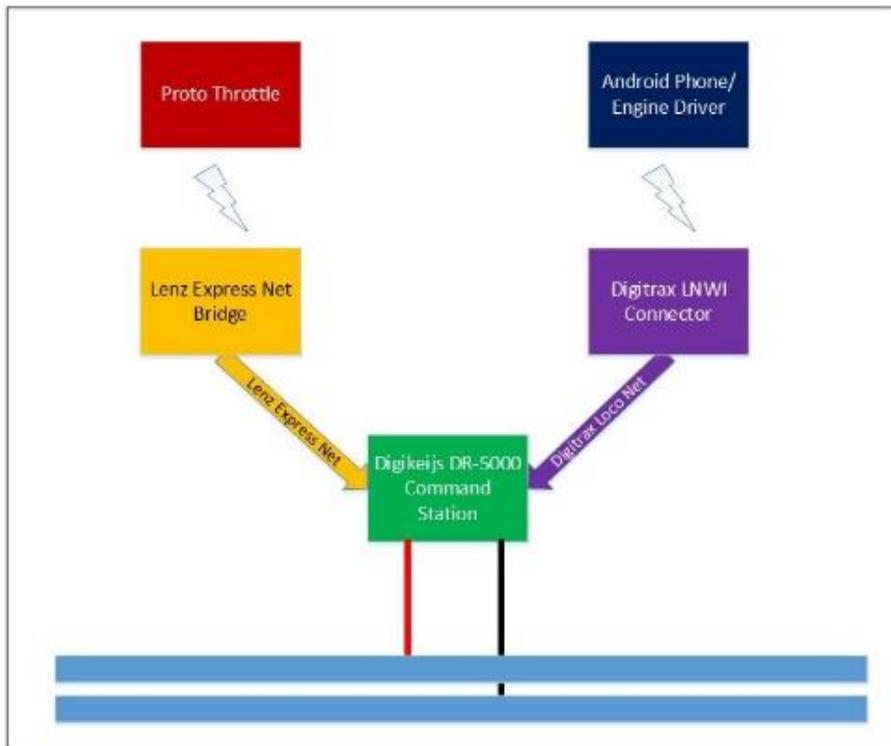
Joe Brugger giving air brushing tips

First up was **Joe Brugger** giving a clinic titled "Air Brushing 101". Joe has a long resume of painting engines and cars for himself, for other modelers, and for clubs in the area. His talk covered the types of sprayers and paint feeds, options for supplying air, and even the use of "rattle cans". I never knew that you could use nitrous oxide ("laughing gas") as a propellant. That sounds like a great way to start out as you won't care if you make mistakes while learning! Besides giving an excellent overview of the equipment needed and the basic techniques, he presided over a wide-ranging Q&A session that even kept our experienced members engaged and learning.



Jeff Shultz introducing Stan Townsend and his Steamtown presentation

Next **Stan Townsend** told us about every model railroader's dream: the time he got paid to build a model railroad! It seems that back in the mid-90's, the US National Park Service wanted a working diorama of the Lackawanna RR engine facilities at Scranton, PA for display at the Steamtown National Park. They let the contract to build this to a small Salem, Oregon company where Stan worked at the time. In due course, Stan was named the Project Manager overseeing the design and construction of the model. Stan shared with us his memories, in-progress photos of the roundhouse and shops area, the more than forty steam locomotives they had to build or modify, and their custom cast caboose kits.



Digikeijs-LocoNet-XpressNet conguration

Our illustrious Superintendent, **Jeff Shultz**, then showed us one of his locomotives running up and down a section of flex track. Ho hum you say? Well, he was using one of Iowa Scaled Engineering's Proto-Throttles connected via a Lenz XpressNet Bridge to a command station. Still nothing special? Well, he then handed his cell phone to Larry Nunn who proceeded to run another locomotive on the same track using the Engine Driver app. Yeah, yeah, you say, that's basic DCC you say. Actually, Jeff had the Engine Driver app running through a Digitrax LNWI module connected to the command station. In other words, two incompatible wireless throttles were using two incompatible DCC throttle busses to successfully run

locomotives on the same track at the same time. This was all thanks to the new Digikeijs DR-5000 command station that is designed to support multiple buses from independent vendors. All-in-all it was a very convincing demonstration.



Jeff showing off his new Dash-9

Jeff ended his time by providing an "open the box" demonstration of Scale Trains' new Rivet Counter GE Dash 9-44CW. Emerging undamaged from well-designed packaging, he placed it on his test track and proceeded to fire it up. The model appears to be an excellent reproduction with very nice sound. The box even includes rotating bearing caps for the axles, if you wish to install them.



Jerry Boudreaux explaining his benchwork construction

Our last presentation was by **Jerry Boudreaux**. He gave us an update on his AT&SF Pasquinel Subdivision layout. Jerry has his layout in a 1200 square foot addition to his house, and from personal experience, I can assure you it is a very nice layout indeed. The layout is proto-freelanced, set in Arizona in 1968 and based on the AT&SF practices. Besides a photo update on the layout, he shared his benchwork construction method that uses nothing but 3/4" plywood built up as traditional L-girder construction. The Corvallis club is also using this method. It is very nice to need only a single type of lumber and that the lumber is dimensionally stable to boot.

The day ended with members heading off to open houses at the Polk Station Railroad Club in Rickreall and at Jerry Bourdeaux's home. In all it was a very enjoyable afternoon. If you didn't attend, you missed a great session. We hope to see you in April!

Notes from the Caboose

What did you think of February's meet? The meeting was an experiment and the board does have a question for you: what were your thoughts about having an afternoon meeting? Did that work well for you? Or would you rather start earlier? Please let us know at board@2ndpnr.org.

The next scheduled event for the 2nd Division will be on April 13th at 10:00 at the Garden Home Rec Center. We are still firming up the presentations, but we will definitely be voting to ratify our new bylaws. Please do make every effort to review the proposal (on our home page, <http://2ndpnr.org>), and then come to the meeting to voice your opinion and cast your vote.

Don't forget that we are looking for candidates for two of our Director positions and for our Assistant Superintendent position. If you are interested, or even just curious, don't hesitate to drop an email to the Nominations committee: Craig Larson (clarsen1125@gmail.com) or Richard Kurschner (secy@2ndpnr.org).

Maybe you don't want to be a Director, but still want to help out? We are looking for a volunteer to be the editor of this newsletter. This is a great opportunity to connect with the members, and another chance to talk and write about your favorite hobby.

We hope you have enjoyed this new Semaphore. Please don't hesitate to share your ideas with us. I'll close with a few more pictures from February's meet. Talk with you on the next run!

- *Richard Kurschner, editor pro-tem*



SP modelers are familiar with snow sheds, but this is a rock shed on Jerry Boudreaux's ATSF Pasquinel Subdivision HO scale layout.



Jeff Shultz's Digikeijs DR-5000 (top) with the Lenz XpressNet and ProtoThrottle Lenz/NCE receiver, the ProtoThrottle, and a Digitrax LNWI connected via LocoNet.



Joe Brugger had an assortment of airbrush supplies, accessories and finished models on display.



Stan Townsend built and detailed this custom cast caboose kit as part of his work on the Steamtown National Park display his company created.