



**Three Lakes Model Railroad Club**  
**Volume 2, Number 2**

**1<sup>st</sup> 100% Club in Wisconsin**  
**Feb 2011**



### **More thoughts about going from DC to DCC:**

*by R.G. Blocks*

Last month Three Lakes Turn had the handout for the clinic “Wiring Your Layout” to be given on Feb 27<sup>th</sup> at our home, 1162 Medicine Lake Lodge Road, Three Lakes, WI. 54562. We’ve welcomed the Rhinelander Railroad Association folks to join us if they need a bit of a refresher or want a layout tour. The plan is to start with the tour, then stop for coffee and cookies. Folks that want to go home early are free to depart before school starts. Our class will include a bit of a review of the first class on wire itself.

Below, are several articles and books that you may find handy to help glean a better understanding of the topic as we go from Classic wiring to Digital (DC to DCC). Read ahead: it costs little to be informed. This is sort of a supplemental handout.

In our short time together I’ll attempt to show you how to wire a layout for AC or DC and how to insert DCS or DCC. Our home layout, from the onset is designed, to allow both old (classical) and new (digital) in an either – or arrangement. It allows great flexibility but has some inherent risk. Thus, before deciding to run in a particular mode you must insure only the right equipment is on the tracks. The smell of train smoke should not involve burning motors.

Meanwhile, visit <http://www.nmra.org/standards/candi/index.html> to begin your personal review of NMRA conformance and inspections. It will provide insight into

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where all the various items and terms you've been concerned about were actually defined.

*Below: I've italicized the books and articles I personally found most rewarding:*

### **Refer to at least the following articles in NMRA's Scale Rails:**

*Mar 2007 pg 38, Using State of the Art Electronics to Enhance Operations by Dr Bruce Chubb (Bruce and his wife have been an inspiration to model builders for many years. RGB)*

*Feb 2008 pag17, A Case for Using High Frequency Filters on a DCC Layout, by Didrik A Voss, MMR (This article provides an insight into the notion that perfection just isn't so. RGB)*

*Aug 2008 pg10, Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical Certificate, by L Wolohon and P Richardson, both MMR's. (Good read describing what NMRA thinks you need to know. RGB)*

### **Refer to at least some of the following articles in Model Railroader Magazine:**

*Jan 2005 pg 90, Power Districts for Digital Command Control, by Paul Chandler*

*July 2005 pg 88, ABCs of Consisting, by Mike Polsgrove*

*Oct 2005 pg92, Adding the sound of Steam, by Mike Polsgrove*

*May 2006 pg 88, Downloading new Sounds for a LokSound decoder, by Mike Polsgrove*

*Feb 2007 pg 90, Installing Decoders in HO Scale Locomotives, by Mike Polsgrove*

*Aug 2007 pg 80, DCC and sound for an Atlas O RS-1, by Mike Polsgrove*

*Jul 2009 pg 70, Adjust Motor Performance with back-electro-motive-force control, by Mike Polsgrove*

*Dec 2009, pg 76, Digital Command Control and Turnouts, by Mike Polsgrove*

*Jan 2010, pg 78-, Tips to convert a layout to DCC, by Mike Polsgrove*

*Mar 2010 pg 72-, Controlling locomotive lighting, by Mike Polsgrove*

*Apr 2010 pg 62-Wiring a Small layout for DCC, by Dick Christianson*

*May 2010 pg 71, Understanding Configuration Variables, by Mike Polsgrove*

*June 2010 pg 72-, Simplified yard control panels with DCC, by Mike Polsgrove*

*Aug 2010, page 66-, Understanding Power Districts, by Mike Polsgrove*

*Nov 2010, pg 68, What is DCC, by (Mike Polsgrove)*

*Dec 2010 pg 46-, How sound decoders work, by Mike Polsgrove*

### **Very nice (readable, informative, understandable) books on DC and DCC are:**

*"How to Wire your model railroad", 5<sup>th</sup> Ed, wiring made simple and clear for everyone, by Linn H Wescott, copyright, 1950, 1953, 1959 by Kalmbach Publishing Co. Milwaukee, WI USA. (This is an old one but is timeless. You'll learn fundamentals and organization. RGB)*

*"Practical Guide to Digital Command Control" by Larry Puckett, copyright 2008, Carstens Publications Inc., ISBN 978-1-59073-012-6*

*Model Railroader Books, "The DCC Guide" – how to select and use your command control system, copyright 2007 by Don Fiehmman, pub by Kalmbach Books, ISBN 978-0-89024-676-4*

## Pause in Antigo:

*by R.G. Blocks*

We've driven by many times; however, last month stopped at the Langlade Historical Society. A C&NW 2-8-0 "Consolidation" Steam Engine 440 restored by the volunteers of the Antigo Railroad Organization has been catching our eye since restoration started in 2005. The Historical Society docents and archivist were hospitable and informative. This is a place we should revisit.

In 1892 the C&NW took over the Milwaukee, Lakeshore & Western RR then having served Antigo from 1880. Three hundred Antigo residents worked for the C&NW in 1940. Offices, shops, roundhouse, rail yards between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> streets and very active freight and passenger service made C&NW the towns largest employer.

Steam served Antigo from 1880 to 1957, a period of seventy-seven years. Diesel powered passenger service continued to 1971 and freight lasted until 1982. Thus, Antigo was served by rail for 101 years.



The Antigo "Consolidation" restoration was originally a UP engine saved for posterity. The 2-8-0 engine design either evolved from a 0-8-0 Pennsy (PRR) switch engine design with addition of a fixed front axle (by PRR shops) or it evolved from the popular 2-6-0 and thus a Baldwin design.

Both design history stories take place in about 1866 to solve the need for a heavy freight engine

after the Civil War. The Baldwin "Consolidation" proved to move twice the load at half the cost of earlier steam engine designs. It was however quite slow. The last 2-8-0 was built by 1915.

All good things do come to an end. The first full carload refrigerated rail shipment took place in 1851. Ice was used for cooling a specially insulated boxcar. The first truly successful refrigerated railcar design arrived in 1878 a product of Swift and Company. Railroads, already heavily invested in stock cars, for live loads, feared the refrigerated design would obsolete their investment. Swift, ran much refrigerated traffic into Canada to move finished meat product east. Armor Meats followed suit. By 1890 the idea of ice cooled shipments of meat and produce became the norm.

Wisconsin ice trade was big business in the latter decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Ice cutting companies setup icehouses for shipment of ice to population centers like

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Milwaukee and Chicago where large brewery, milk and meat operations depended on refrigeration. Antigo had such an icehouse and refrigerated railcar loading dock.



The Langlade Historical Society has a wonderful room on the second floor with considerably well-documented rail memorabilia. In the corner of one display cabinet is a commercial kit model of an icehouse and dock inspired by the Antigo ice-trade.

a fine project to begin perhaps on some cold winter day.

Today, while browsing thru one of the commercial publications I found such an ice platform. I started to think how it might be

You might find inspiration for your model-railroading project by stopping in Antigo. I sure did. Good luck.

### **Members of the TLMRC :** *(as of January 10, 2011) : (removed July 2011)*

Please note: The NMRA has requested (in July 2011) that all lists of members no longer appear in publications of the various clubs within its purview. Thus, in keeping with the desire of the senior body we have eliminated all lists of members in past written publications (done in July 2011) and will avoid publishing lists of members in the future.

All publications prior to July 2011 will be purged of any member name lists by August 2011.

We regret if such publication caused anyone a problem. If so, we'd like to hear of it. As of July 30, 2011 there have been no reports of problems of the membership.

Respectfully, ed.

## **Railroad Happenings: or semi local coming events..**

February 20, 2011-WISE Division Meet-Country Springs Hotel  
Waukesha, WI [www.wisedivision.org](http://www.wisedivision.org) “Wiring Your Layout”, by R.G.  
Blocks, P.E. 3PM

February 19-20, 2011- Mad City Model RR Show- Alliant Energy Center-  
Madison, WI [www.nmra-scwd.org](http://www.nmra-scwd.org)

February 27, 2011 – “Wiring your Layout”, by R.G. Blocks at 1162  
Medicine Lake Lodge Road, Three Lakes 3PM. [www.tlmrc.org](http://www.tlmrc.org)

March 5-6, 2011- Traintime 2011 Model Train Show- MSOE-1025 N.  
Broadway Milwaukee, WI Free Admission

March 5-6, 2011- High Wheeler Train Show- Harper College- Palatine, IL  
[www.highwheelertrainshow.com](http://www.highwheelertrainshow.com) Or [www.foxvalleydivision.org](http://www.foxvalleydivision.org)

March 13, 2011- Metro Model Railroad Club Show- Circle B Recreation  
Center Hwy 60 Cedarburg, WI- [www.metrorrclub.org](http://www.metrorrclub.org)

March 26, 2011 10 AM Rhinelander Railroad Assn, DCC Clinic at  
Rhinelander Library 106 N Stevens St 10 AM – Noon, Instructor: Paul A  
Wussow, 715-546-3791 [PaulWussow@WindyPines.net](mailto:PaulWussow@WindyPines.net) (joint meeting)

March 26, 2011 10 AM – Noon Three Lakes Model Railroad Club, DCC  
Clinic at Rhinelander Library 106 N Stevens St Paul A Wussow, 715-546-  
3791 [PaulWussow@WindyPines.net](mailto:PaulWussow@WindyPines.net) (joint meeting)

April 9-10, 2011- 10th Annual Model Train Show- Menomonie Middle  
School Menomonie, WI Info Call: (715) 505-4044

April 15-17, 2011- NMRA Midwest Region Annual Convention-  
Madison, WI Info at: [www.nmra-scwd.org/Badgerland](http://www.nmra-scwd.org/Badgerland)

April 30 & May 1, 2011- Titledown Train Show- Shopko Hall-  
Green Bay, WI Info at: [www.ttsoblcc.com](http://www.ttsoblcc.com)

May 14, 2011- NMRA Winnebago Division Annual Spring Meet  
Neenah, WI



## View from the Tower

*by P.A. Wussow*

Winter time has provided opportunities to spend time in railroad rooms. Roger Blocks has presented a pair of presentations on the wires we should be using under our layouts of any scale or gauge. As we apply the information we have learned and work on layouts that allow multiple train operations on our layouts we will explore DC, DCC and other methods of control of our trains.

Roger has invited us to visit his layout and see what he has done with his O scale layout and the control system he uses to operate a number of trains in different districts.



In the next few months we have a chance to look into the digital command control systems first exploring just what do and how they operate our trains and later getting into some details of systems and manufactures looking at their advantages and disadvantages.

I will provide some printed handouts for you to review and have a head start on where I will be

going in my workshops in March and later.

Because there are many other aspects of our hobby than train control please let me know if there are areas that you wish to explore, like scenery, backdrops or buildings in plastic and wood. I know from our conversations around the CHOo ChoO Store that there are members with knowledge to share on many topics of interest to our club and others in the area.

As we look to the summer and an influx of guests to the North Woods we may wish to give a little thought of what the club could do in demonstration our hobby to the larger population and our visitors.

Anything from tables at the picnic grounds to modular operations that will promote the hobby and get dad and Grandpa to take out the train set and have some fun with the “Kids” will add to our group and to the fun.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Rogers this month.

Paul Wussow your Superintendent of the Three Lakes Model Railroad Club