TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT

Notice of Intent to Update Several Recommended Practices

By Rutger Friberg

During the past year the NMRA DCC Working Group has been actively reviewing several topics to enhance DCC. These include Service Mode Decoder Lock, adding more functions, investigating a streaming mode protocol for updating the software in decoders, asymmetrical DCC, enhancements in DCC plugs, and enhancements to Bi-Directional DCC.

Two of these topics have reached the point where member comment is needed. These topics will result in proposed enhancements to RP-9.2.3, RP-9.3.1 and RP-9.3.2. These RPs are available for member comment on the Technical Department portion of the NMRA website or directly at www.dcc.info. To be considered, member comments must be received by June 15.

**Topic 0307122—Service Mode Decoder Lock (update to RP-9.2.3).**

As discussed in the January issue of The Bulletin, this proposal allows for a simple method for entry-level users to program decoders while the decoders remain on the main portion of the layout. The method involves a new instruction to tell decoders that are not to be changed to ignore the subsequent programming commands.

**Topics 0309301 & 0309302—Update to Bi-Directional Transmission.**

In 1993 the NMRA approved two new RPs to enable decoder-initiated data transmission. During implementation several key enhancements were proposed in order to increase backwards compatibility, simplify the approach, and to increase the transmission speed in order to be able to transmit more data. These updates are included in a revised version of RP-9.3.1 and its companion Tech Note.

The updates to the transmission method specified in the revisions to RP-9.3.1 necessitated an update to the data protocol contained in RP-9.3.2. The new proposed data protocol allows for two windows to transmit data and increases the future expansion possibilities. The proposed revision is included in a revised version of RP-9.3.2.

Versions of the suggested improvements to all three RPs are now available for member comment.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

New Modeler Award Added to National Contest

By Ray Bilodeau
Deputy Contest Manager

This year’s national convention in Cincinnati will feature a contest just for beginners. The James L. Teese Memorial New Modeler Award will be presented to a first-time modeler earning the highest score among all first-time entrants in the judged contest. The award is sponsored by the Mid-Eastern Region.

The award recognizes Teese's contributions to the regional and national organizations. An accomplished modeler, he won awards at national and regional contests and was MMR #190. He was a well-respected contest judge who gave sound advice and encouragement to beginning modelers.

To be eligible for the Teese award a member must never have entered an NMRA-sponsored judged model contest at either the regional or national level, must be a current member of the NMRA and cannot be a professional model builder. The Mid-Eastern Region and its representative, or the national contest manager, will present the winner a plaque and a cash award of $25.

If you’re one of the many “kinda-afraid-to-enter-a-contest” modelers out there, you may want to take a look at this contest. And, yes, there really is a cash award along with a plaque! Remember the only requirement is that you fill out the NMRA Contest Entry Form and Judge’s Scoring Sheet that are available at www.nmra.org website.

So build a model and keep notes of your progress—this helps when you fill out the paperwork. Include a photograph or two if you are dealing with a prototype. You might also want to show how you made castings, fabricated parts and other items if these better explain how the model was built.

One last thing: if you wish to enter the model contest and cannot be in Cincinnati for the convention, you may submit your entry by proxy. Have a friend bring your model and paperwork to the contest room on Monday or Tuesday. Judging will take place for the national convention contest on Wednesday. Awards will be handed out on Thursday morning at our awards ceremony. If yours is the winning model it will be photographed and placed on the nmra.org website and perhaps make it into Scale Rails. Good luck!

Education Department Contacts

JAN WESCOTT, Director, e-mail: educate@HQ.NMRA.ORG
RAY BILODEAU, Asst. Director, e-mail: educateasst@HQ.NMRA.ORG
PAT HARRIMAN, AP Program, e-mail: achiev@HQ.NMRA.ORG
MARTY VAUGHN, Contest Program, e-mail: contest@HQ.NMRA.ORG
RICHARD FLOCK, JCP Youth Program, e-mail: jcp@HQ.NMRA.ORG
CLARK KOONING, MWTM Program, e-mail: mwtm@HQ.NMRA.ORG
In Memoriam
We wish to bid farewell to our members and friends who have reached the end of their journey. Our sincere sympathy is extended to the members of the families they left behind. For the month of January 2005.

Bonnie Brinistville, Cleveland, OH
Evans A. Peever, Brick, NJ
Robert H. Stackpole, West Paterson, NJ
James D. Alexander, Hesperia, CA
P. M. Harvey, West Sussex, England
Ernest W. Spurr, Colorado Springs, CO
W. B. Kaselius, Meggen, Switzerland
Francis L. Cason, Washington, DC
Keith R. Parker, Silverdale, WA
James R. Nicholson, Staten Island, NY
Charles House, Sterling Heights, MI
Leslie M. Barstow, Harrisburg, PA
Loren A. Long, Bandon, OR
Tony Caputo, New York, NY

Achievement Program

NMRA AP Certificates
Report for February 2005
*Indicates first Certificate of Achievement

Golden Spike
Ed Breemen, Louisville, KY
Ralph Bracewell, Louisville, KY
Mike Berry, Louisville, KY
Bruce A. Gohrosh, Louisville, KY
Gary Metcalf, Louisville, KY
Ron Montgomery, Louisville, KY
Joe O’Gara, Louisville, KY
Ray Roman, Louisville, KY
Bob Widman, Crestwood, KY
Jane Clark, Damascus, MD
Bob Van Zant, Issaquah, WA
Gary Frost, Camillus, NY
Michael Shanahan, Toftly, NY

Master Builder - Motive Power
None this month

Master Builder - Cars
J. Stephen Sandifer, Meadows Place, TX
Gary Metcalf, Louisville, KY*

North Central
Alan D. DelMonte, Maumee, OH
Charles A. Gilbert, Waterville, OH
James A. Moore, Sandusky, OH
Jim Postelwait, Sylvania, OH
Bill Hendrick, Shepherd, MI
Ronald Kurtz, Alanson, MI
Greg Balmas, Harrison Twp., MI
David Cook, Birmingham, MI

Thomas Lakes Region
Andrew Hegstad, Stillwater, MN
Phyllis Gorecki, Spicer, MN
Terry Sanford, Rochester, MN

Pacific Northwest
Dana Rudko, Vancouver, BC

Niagara Frontier
Peter Coleman, Ottawa, ON
Jim E. Stark, Scarborough, ON
Wayne G. Roth, Pickering, ON
John B. Manson, Kinburn, ON
John Butler, Horseheads, NY
David Goodhead, Whithy, ON
Bruce K. Rogers, Grand Island, NY

Golden Spike
Ed Breemen, Louisville, KY
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Mike Berry, Louisville, KY
Bruce A. Goerch, Louisville, KY
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Ron Montgomery, Louisville, KY
Joe O’Gara, Louisville, KY
Ray Roman, Louisville, KY
Bob Widman, Crestwood, KY
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Gary Frost, Camillus, NY
Michael Shanahan, Toftly, NY

Master Builder - Motive Power
None this month

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Gary Metcalf, Louisville, KY*

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David Cook, Birmingham, MI

Thomas Lakes Region
Andrew Hegstad, Stillwater, MN
Phyllis Gorecki, Spicer, MN
Terry Sanford, Rochester, MN

Pacific Northwest
Dana Rudko, Vancouver, BC


Life Members
Andrew Y. Bochat, Fort Leonard Wood, MO
Kevin Goodman, Lynchburg, VA

Foreign and APO
Staffan Ehnbom, Lund, SWEDEN
Carsten Moller, Hamburg, GERMANY
Alexandre Ramos, Curitiba, PR

Northeastern
Anthony Carpentier, Manhasset, NY
Paul Fainet, Remuera, NZ
Stefano Vienas, Astoria, OR
James A. Vliet, Freeport, NY
Ernest Ames, Franklin, MA
David Ankener, Plympton, MA
Loren Batchelder, Mansfield, MA
Jimmy Collins, Wakefield, MA
Caleb Q. Dyer, Evert, ME
Martin Fleischamana, Ashland, MA
Lloyd Price, Concord, MA
Chegol Schaffel, Sharon, MA
John Stoffan, Berlin, MA
Charles Stevens, Hingham, MA
Daniel Temple, Marlborough, MA

Matthew, Zennie, Dover, MA
Chris Hughes, Piscataway, NJ
Victor Luppe, Guttenberg, NJ
Kenneth Louis, Newark, NJ
Charles G. Sensale, Hewitt, NJ
Daniel DeLany, Manchester, CT
John R. Gamm, Glastonbury, CT
Robert Hawley, Stratford, CT
Henry Pierce Warwick, RI
Jean H. Harra, N. Blenheim, NY
Douglas A. Laremore, Guiderland, NY
Joseph McTeer, Alhany, NY
Michael D. Rubin, Neck, NY
Jeremiah K. Ross, III, Buxton, ME
Jeremiah K. Ross, III, Buxton, ME
Paul Brasky, Kingston, NY
Christopher P. Curcio, Bloomingburg, NY
Peter A. Pincznera, Monroe, NY
Bernard Duerst, Syracuse, NY
Harold Nicholson, Lebanon, NY
Richard S. DeWolfe, Montpelier, VT
Jim E. Stark, Scarborough, ON
Wayne G. Roth, Pickering, ON
John B. Manson, Kinburn, ON
John Butler, Horseheads, NY
David Goodhead, Whithy, ON
Bruce K. Rogers, Grand Island, NY

Master Builder - Structures
Gary Metcalf, Louisville, KY

Master Builder - Scenery
Gary Metcalf, Louisville, KY
Richard Boggerie, Noblesville, IN

Master Builder - Prototype Modeler
None this month

Model Railroad Engineer - Civil
Carl Lester, College Station, TX

Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical
David Poquette, Whitefish Bay, WI
Edward O’Rourke, Syracuse, NY

Chief Dispatcher
Bill McPherson, Rowlett, TX
David Greer, Lexington, KY
Darrell Logan, Grove City, OH
Al Warren, Ames, IA

Association Official
Richard Briggs, MMR, Grove City, OH
Bruce A. Gohrosh, Louisville, KY
Janice Wescott, Henderson, NV

Association Volunteer
Robert Dawson, Louisville, KY
Bruce A. Gohrosh, Louisville, KY
Gary Metcalf, Louisville, KY
Ron Montgomery, Louisville, KY
Joe O’Gara, Louisville, KY
Bob Boonstra, Madison, WI
Dave Rickaby, Marinette, WI

Model Railroad Author
Bob Frankrone, Louisville, KY

Master Model Railroader
None this month
Midcontinent

Stephen Davis, Tulsa, OK
Mark Reemer, Overland Park, KS
Byron T. Collier, Shawnee Mission, KS
William C. Price, Topeka, KS
Andrew T. Bocah, Fort Leonard Wood, MO
Edward A. D'Sousa, St. Louis, MO
Gus Hell, Clayton, MO
Mark Hell, Clayton, MO
Tom Hessel, St. Louis, MO
Jim McIntosh, Germantown, OH
James Gnagy, Jr., North Canton, OH
Aaron Glover, Brookfield, OH
William R. Butler, Jr., Greenville, PA
Marlin Keck, Allison Park, PA
Bruce R. Light, Cincinnati, OH
Steve Smegner, Coppell, TX
Mark Weber, McKees Rocks, PA
Walter Griffin, Pleasant Lake, IN
Max Foster, Lewis Center, OH
Gerald Michael, Lebanon, OH
Neil C. Rothe, Cincinnati, OH
Stuart C. Cleveland, Laurel Springs, N.J.
William R. White, Newton, IA

Mid-Eastern

Jeffrey Davidson, Jacksonville, NC
William P. Freeland, North East, MD
Dean D. Proper, Beautifort, NC
James C. Spang, Bishopsople, MD
Stuart C. Cleveland, Laurel Springs, NJ
Keith T. Coors, Denver, CO
Michael E. McAndrew, Norristown, PA
James Reilly, Franconia, NH
Richard A. Bourgerie, Noblesville, IN
James Brothers, McCordsville, IN
Max R. Buell, Noblesville, IN
Charles R. Davies, Shelbyville, IN
Tim C. LaMar, Lafayette, IN
Nathan Pelton, Carmel, IN
John Sage, French Lick, IN
Carl Johnson, Champaign, IL
Richard, Groveling, Glenview, IL
Herbert Kleisch, Skokie, IL
Paul D. Tanzar, Evanston, IL
Alan Brunham, Palatine, IL
David A. Srenski, Green Bay, WI
Craig E. Eddler, Hampshire, IL
Ray Handel, Lond, IL
Glenn C. Pruett, Maple Park, IL
Dave D. Scharnhor, Quincy, IL
Sid G. Wilson, Quincy, IL

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Alan Brunham, Palatine, IL
David A. Srenski, Green Bay, WI
Craig E. Eddler, Hampshire, IL
Ray Handel, Lond, IL
Glenn C. Pruett, Maple Park, IL
Dave D. Scharnhor, Quincy, IL
Sid G. Wilson, Quincy, IL

Membership Thermometer

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William E. Hoeger, Murphy, NC

British

Donald Westerman, St. Helens, ENGLAND
N. Bowyer, West Midlands, ENGLAND
A. H. Binne, Glasgow, SCOTLAND

Sunshine

Eugene Tresect Jr., Inversess, FL
Harry L. Trubshuj Jr. Jacksonsille, FL
Thomas R. Young, Palatka, FL
Gary R. Grundy, Longsboat Key, FL
William H. Snell, Tampa, FL
Gary G. Searle, Plant City, FL
James R. MacGilliver, Boca Sound, FL
David R. Shepdr, Palm Beach Gardens, FL
David M. White, Stuart, FL

Pacific Southwest

Nick Condos, San Diego, CA
Lisa Lapain, Gonzay, Carlsbad, CA
Rachel Drago, Oceanside, CA
Ernest H. Grabe, San Diego, CA
Terry E. Luft, Whittier, CA
Eric D. Polk, Lakewood, CA
Kenneth Weinberg, South Pasadena, CA
George M. Felgisc, Tucson, AZ
Pam Weathers, Tucson, AZ
David Weathers, Tucson, AZ
Tim Ford, Vista, CA
George G. Gragg, Redondo Beach, CA
Tom E. Hirsh, Banning, CA
John Kinkele, Las Vegas, NV
JC Myer, Hemet, CA
Robert E. Trebes, Escondido, CA

Australasian

Roger Weal, New Berrima, NS, AUSTRALIA
John Sands, Chifley, AC, AUSTRALIA
Michael Holian, Melton, VJ, AUSTRALIA
Bob Powell, East Oakleigh, VJ, AUSTRALIA
Bob Farquar, Repton, NS, AUSTRALIA
Ken House, Greenwith, SA, AUSTRALIA
Mike Warburton, Elizabeth, SA, AUSTRALIA
Bruce Czerniec, Baulkham Hills, NS, AUSTRALIA
Scott Humbley, Austral, NS, AUSTRALIA
Bill Baggett, Dorrigo, NS, AUSTRALIA
Norm Mitchell, Moorool, NS, AUSTRALIA
Russell Pharrmester, Coff Harbour, NS, AUSTRALIA
Jim Sowter, Toornina, NS, AUSTRALIA