



## **55 Boy Scouts Complete Railroading Merit Badge and Do a Good Turn at November 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Division Train Show!**

Thirty-six Scouts on Saturday and another nineteen Scouts on Sunday completed the six-hour class, to bring the total number of Scouts earning the Railroading Merit Badge sponsored by Division 3 of the National Model Railroad Association to 825! These Scouts were from twenty Troops from Germantown to Sidney and Beavercreek to Eaton, Ohio. Congratulations to Zachary Raleigh of Troop 26 in Miamisburg on Saturday and Thomas Cheney from Troop 395 in Tipp City who had the highest test grade in their respective classes.

The requirements for Railroading Merit Badge emphasize Railroad safety and prototype operation. Model railroading is still part of the call and I had collected many different types of rolling stock and motive power in G, O, O27, HO, N, and Z scales to assist in the teaching this aspect of the class.

The Scouts were shown the video used at the 2001 National Jamboree to introduce the Railroading Merit Badge. This is an excellent video produced through the cooperation of Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railroad, Operation Lifesaver, and the Boy Scouts of America. Through the course of the day, the Scouts worked through eight requirements to complete the merit badge. A few of the Scouts had interest in trains, model railroading or had ridden on a train but the majority of the Scouts had little experience with railroading.

The prototype portion of class dealt with the signals and communications used today, whistle or horn signals, car types, unit trains, how the diesel engine works, departmental organization, scale vs. gauge, reading a timetable, and railroad safety. The highlight of the class was the construction of an HO scale boxcar provided by the Division of the NMRA. During lunch and after the class the Scouts could tour many of the model railroad layouts in the Ballarena or visit the vendors at show. I appreciate the cooperation of the layout owners with these newcomers to the hobby who don't fully understand the hobby and it's etiquette.

Probably the single greatest highlight of this class for me was the number of food items the Boy Scouts collected for the Northwest Fish Food Bank in Englewood. The summary of items we collected are as follows:

	Saturday	Sunday
Canned Goods	94	94
Boxed Goods	35	28
Miscellaneous food items	39	14
Daily Total	168	136

**Grand total = 304 food items**

Many thanks to the Scouts for doing this Good Turn for those less fortunate. All of this would not have been possible without the help of the following individuals and businesses:

**Nick Folger** for arranging the donation of space for the class from Hara Arena

**Don Kriegbaum**, for instructing the Scouts on the cleaning and lubrication of a model locomotive and track cleaning. You ought to see the Scouts eyes when they learned how to pop the top off of locomotive! **J. Hedge** for publishing this article in the Callboard.

**Ron Dietrich** for donating his back issues of railroading magazines so each Scout could take a couple home.

**Jim Higgins** from Operation Lifesaver who shared information on railroad safety and provided a safety video and lapel pins and flyers for the class.

**Bill Ford** for providing RR cars so the Scouts could learn 10 different car types. Bill has donated the VCR to the class **Bill Garlow and United Christian Church** for providing me a sound system and wireless microphone.

**John Reck** a *great* friend and fellow Scouter from Covington, Ohio, who helped with paper work, kit construction, set up and tear down, and all the little odd jobs. John actually volunteered for each class the division has conducted knowing what he was getting into from previous experience! Quite frankly, I would not have been able to run the class so smoothly without his help and previous experience and I always know with him on board the class will succeed.

**Mark and Laurie Combs** for making arrangements for a video projector to be used each day to show Videotape furnished by Operation Lifesaver and the BSA.

**Larry Zeller and Division 3 Members** who helped the boys with the reading of the timetable and kit construction.

**Jim Klinsick and Dan Melton** who donated an S Gauge Gondola and track for the Scale vs. Gauge portion of the class. (I'm sorry if I misspelled your name as I had trouble reading Larry Zeller's handwriting who sought the donation) **Several of the Scout Leaders** Michael Montgomery 318, Jody Malone 344, Tom Schaffer 169, Randy De Vilbiss 29, Scott Cochran 280, Al Teeters 490, Rick Chaney 395, Brian Yancy 48, Ray Dukes 268, Dave & Irene Crawford 268, Phil Dettweiler 395, Steven Akers 66 and Derwin Sanford 66. Who helped in sorting and packing food, grading tests and building the kits during the class. **Dave**

**Hickinbotham of DLH Locomotive** for rustling up HO kits to be used to recognize outstanding scouts and selling them to us at discount so we do not have to charge the Scouts for the class.

**Mary**, my wife, for allowing me the time to prepare for and teach the class as well as act as my personal secretary and taking all those messages from Scouts and trying to answer their questions. She also helped gather, load and unload the materials needed for the class as well as transport the food donation to the Northwest Fish Food bank.

If you have any Model railroad or railroading items you would like to donate to the next class to be used as gifts for the Scouts that excel please contact me at [Jeepfunatic@yahoo.com](mailto:Jeepfunatic@yahoo.com). With support like this the class can only get better. In trying to thank everyone, I'm sure I missed someone, but that is the chance you take when you try to acknowledge a bunch of great people in our hobby. As you can see we had a good crew and a good time, but the best thing was to over fifty young men learning about railroading and seeing the pride in their faces as they completed their kits and earned the Railroading Merit Badge. Thanks to all of you for your help as well as the Scout leaders and parents that supported this event as it would not have come off without you.

In Service to Scouting and our hobby.....

Kirk Perkins

Railroading Merit Badge Counselor