

SWITCHING SESSION John Draftz <u>izdraftz@cox.net</u>

Based on feedback from guests, an operations segment is part of our open meet. The goal of the 2-day segment is to give guests/members experience switching cars on a branch following prototype procedures, i.e. not moving cars by hand. The segment would be challenging enough so that veterans of operations meets would still enjoy participating but simple enough for those learning what operations is all about.

The Adobe Yard has 2-car cuts ready for spotting on a branch. On the branch are two other cars to be brought to the yard. Additionally, there is one car on the branch that is to be moved from point A to B. Since crews work with only five cars, it enables smaller engines to be used. An added "wrinkle" to the switching is that it is done in "dark territory", i.e. the signals are off on the branch thus crews must use radio communication while switching.

The segment (or switching session) is Tuesday and Wednesday of the meet from 9–5. The branch is otherwise open to anyone. There is a safety/orientation briefing at 8:00 am Tuesday and Wednesday.