



THE FLATWHEEL

VOL 45 NBR 04 APRIL 2011

Newsletter of NMRA MCR Division Four



Art Bumpus Division 4 Superintendent

On Q

Hello everyone. As usual, John and Tom Hemsath had a delightful group of layouts for us to view during March. I am really impressed by the levels of workmanship displayed by our layout hosts. One thing is evident. Layouts currently displayed by division members have a much higher degree of realism than layouts displayed in the past. The division thanks Bruce Brintnall, Chuck Klein, Ben Lanza, Ron Morgan, and Ted Ondrish, for being gracious hosts and opening their homes to division members. These events are great opportunities to ask how the layout owners do various things, including benchwork, scenery, wiring, tree construction, buildings - and the list goes on. THANKS for being open.

Our April meeting is on the 8th. This is our auction night. Bring all the stuff you no longer need or want, or bring money, or bring stuff and money. There are some extremely reasonable prices for merchandise, and 10% of the selling price (paid by the seller) goes to the division treasury. Come and listen to the oratorical skills of Gary Sole and Frank Bongiovanni. At the very least, we will get some laughs.

At the end of April (April 28 to May 1) our adjoining division to the east of us, (Division 5), will hold the Mid Central Region Convention. They have reserved the entire State Conference Center at Geneva on the Lake. Usual fare will include op. sessions, prototype and layout tours, contest model judging, and lots of clinics. It's a really good time spending a lot of time with folks of similar interests. Go to <http://www.mcr5.org/NMRA/index.html> to view the various topics of interest. The convention is even close enough to home for you to commute, if you don't wish to stay at the hotel. Ask any member who has attended a Region Convention about how enjoyable they are to attend.

During the last several years our modular railroad group has grown from a few members to a group of over 25 members. The number of modules is approaching 36. That's testimony to the level of interest with modular railroading among Division 4 members. The group has run sessions at various venue locations. Often, there are run sessions that cover multiple weekends per month. Division 4 members can run on the modules any time. You don't have to be a module owner in order to run on the layout but DCC equipped engines are required. The group is a great ambassador, bringing the message to various other groups about the enjoyment of model railroading. Contact Scott Benson if you would like to participate.

And remember: Never trade steam for water.

Training Day is Sunday April 3, 2011 at St. Christopher's Church, 20141 Detroit Rd, Rocky River, OH 44116. Arrive for setup no earlier than 10:40 am. Help is needed to set up tables as well as sharing your skills throughout the day. This a great opportunity to share the hobby with the community.

Meeting Minutes

General Membership Minutes – March 11, 2011 NMRA, Mid-Central Region Division 4

LOCATION: Church of the Redeemer, 23500 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, OH 44145

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Art Bumpus at 7:46 P.M. Art made two announcements. Mary ‘Sam’ Williams, wife of member Dan Williams, passed away last week. Also, long time member Harold Taylor passed away yesterday. A moment of silence was held in their honor. Harold’s showing will be at the Jardine Funeral Home on Pearl Road Monday. The funeral will be at the Lutheran Church on Rt. 82 at 10 AM Tuesday. Bill Cramer announced the Cuyahoga and Western Railroad Club will have an open house on April 9 &

10. Bill also informed the group the B&O Historical Society has an upcoming Mini-Convention on May 14th in Ravenna. Flyers for both events were available.

Treasurer Rich Tressa has been ill and missed the meeting. Rich reported the next day Division Balance as of Feb 28, 2011 was \$31,200.67. – Sec.

MCR Convention – Matt Cross made a presentation on the Mid-Central Region convention being hosted by Division 5 in Geneva On The Lake. Matt stated they have 170 pre-registered. There will be 25 layouts open. The convention will be trying, in addition to traditional clinics, new Shortline Clinics, 15 minutes in duration with a more informal format. Matt noted 2011 is the 50th anniversary of Division 5.

FLATWHEEL – Deadline for next month is March 24th. A motion was made, seconded and passed approving the February 11 minutes.

There were three young visitors in attendance from the Medina 4H group.

ACHIEVEMENT – Bruce Brintnall presented Scott Benson with the AP certificate for Association Volunteer. Bruce also reminded the membership he is available to judge models brought to the general membership meetings. Please contact Bruce prior to the meeting so he can be prepared to judge your model.

MODULES – The Module Group will have a business meeting Monday, March 14th from 7-9 PM at the North Olmsted Public Library. The group currently has 25-30 members with 25 modules. Upcoming events include the March 27th Wayne County Train Show and the Division’s TRAINing day.

Frank Bongiovanni reported information on the Great Lakes Symposium is in the current Flatwheel. Frank is the Division’s Historian and requested any member with older Division documents to please give them to him for adding to our archives. Frank also discussed the auction to be held at the April meeting. Anyone with items to sell should come early. Forms for buyers and sellers are available on the website. It is highly recommended members print these forms and fill them out prior to the meeting.

TRAINING DAY – Chuck Klein reported a sign up sheet is available for those wanting to participate. Joe Mehalic also has a sign up sheet for anyone wanting to help man the membership table during the event.

LAYOUT TOURS – John Hemsath reported there five layouts will be open Sunday, March 13th.

NMRA, Mid-Central Region Division 4 2014 CONVENTION – Jerry Krueger reported on a meeting held last week by those working on the national convention committee. There are a few committees in need of Chairman. Contact Jerry if interested.

CLINICS – Larry Madson reported the night’s clinic is a video on making molds and casting resin parts. There will be no clinic in April due to the Auction. The May clinic will be put on by Jim Seamens. CONTEST – Dave Lawler reminded the membership the night’s contest is Steam Passenger Locomotives. There will be no contest next month due to the Auction.

Minutes continued from preceding page

The May contest will be Ice Reefers. COMPANY STORE – A few AM coal hoppers remain in inventory. RAFFLE – Mike Klein had a good selection of items for the night’s raffle. CARNIVAL – Mike Oster reported things continue to move along for the 2011 Carnival. Two new dealers have been enrolled, including Canadian vehicle manufacturer, Sylvan. OLD BUSINESS – None NEW BUSINESS – Ormandy’s Hobby Shop in downtown Medina is looking for assistance in completing some track and bridge work on their S-Gauge layout. Art presented a \$250 grant to Northeast Ohio Live Steamer’s. The business meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM. Respectfully submitted, Bruce Bowie, Secretary

Membership by Dennis Whitaker

April 2011 Birthdays:

THOMAS ATHERTON
JAMES A GRELL
STEVE LA CONTE
A J MAZZA
RONALD E MORGAN
STEVE WOLKEN

ROBERT W BUTLER
WILLIAM D KOVACS
RICHARD W MAAG
THOMAS MCINERNEY
JOHN WITT

New Members:

None

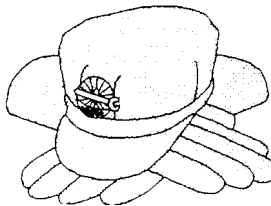
Re-Rail Members:

None

Achievement Report

By Bruce Brintnall

Congratulations to Scott Benson for achieving the Volunteer AP award.



Bruce Brintnall MMR (l) awards Volunteer AP Certificate to Scott Benson during the March meeting.



The Clinic Corner

April - no clinic due to auction

May Clinic

We welcome Jim Semon as our guest clinician for the May meeting. His program will be a slide presentation “Our Trip on Via’s Canadian to Steam Expo” from Toronto to Vancouver in 1986. Time permitting he will show slides of the NKP

A Digital Projector for the Division

The Division 4 digital projector is available for use by division members for presenting clinic programs in digital format. Anyone wishing to present a program in digital format contact Larry Madson. phone: 440-934-2643 or email lmadson@roadrunner.com.

2011 - 2012 Clinic Programs

Any Division member wishing to present a program for the 2011 – 2012 season, please contact me.

Larry Madson

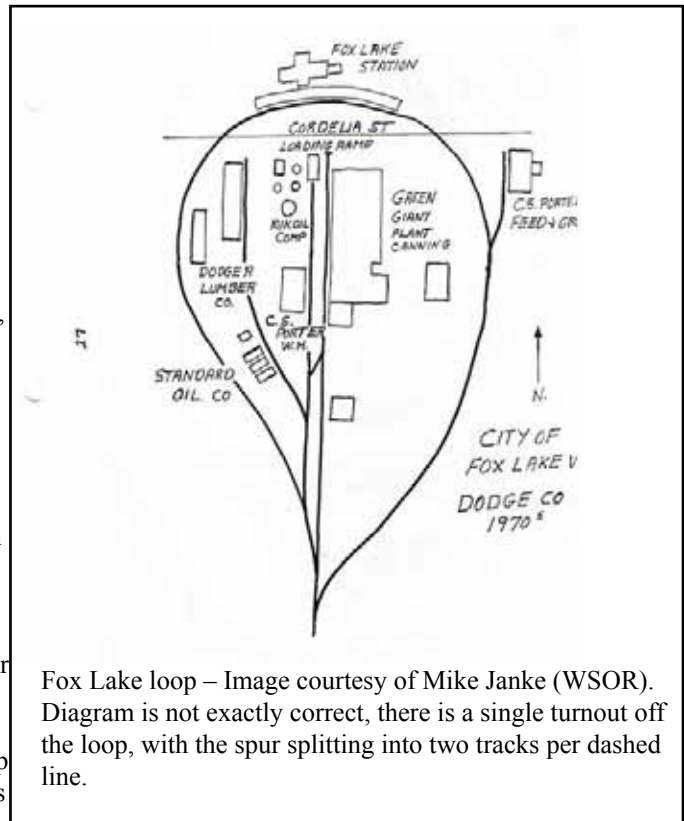
Prototype Modeling on a Modular Layout Return Loop,

Chapter 1: Eureka!!

By Scott Benson

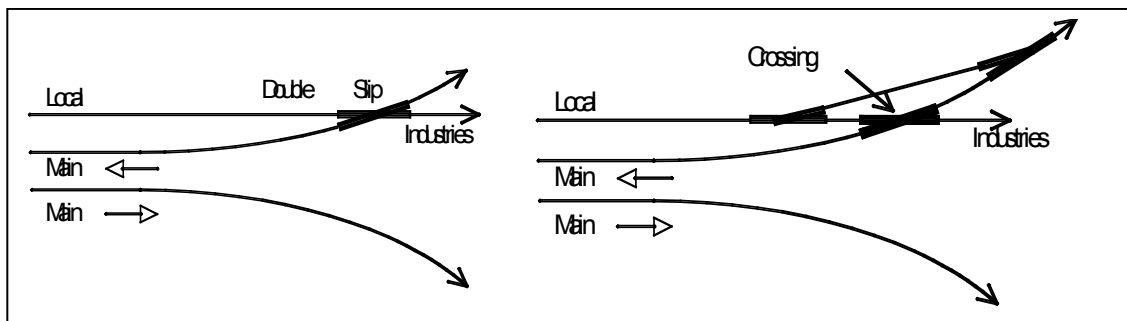
The Division 4 module group has been up and running for a little over three years now. As most of you know, we run our modular layout in a linear dogbone loop. Our loops have a standard radius of 22". For the last couple of years, Larry Madson has provided the loops for most all of our events, his award-winning Carlton module and a locomotive servicing facility that is currently in work. Doug Steiskal also has two 22" loops in work. The standard loops serve us well in many of our events, particularly when we have a smaller layout and space limitations. But David James and I have decided to build additional loops with at least 30" radius to address multiple needs: first, so we are not dependent on one or two guys for every event, and second, to provide the capability to run passenger trains and longer rolling stock for some of our events.

I'd been thinking about what to model for my loop. Then, I received my 4th quarter 2010 issue of "The Milwaukee Railroader", the publication of the Milwaukee Road Historical Association. The magazine featured an article on the Horicon-Portage Line, on the Third District of the Milwaukee Division. This magazine has really nice articles profiling various segments of the Milwaukee Road, and I was looking forward to reading about some Wisconsin prototype ops. Eureka!! On this line are two wyes that lead to loops at Beaver Dam and Fox Lake! The Beaver Dam loop is packed with industries of all sorts; but, all the industries are on spurs off the main loop. On our modular layout, we have a lot of through traffic, and putting switching ops on our loop is just asking for trouble. The Fox Lake loop fits the bill perfectly though; it's primary industry spur comes off the loop right by where the track splits, with most all the industries on the interior of the loop. (See diagram) To top it off, there is a depot on the loop as well! So THAT was it, I'm going to model Fox Lake, Wisconsin.



Fox Lake loop – Image courtesy of Mike Janke (WSOR). Diagram is not exactly correct, there is a single turnout off the loop, with the spur splitting into two tracks per dashed line.

I have one achievement certificate, Association Volunteer, so perhaps it was a bit optimistic on my part, but I immediately began thinking about the Prototype Modeling achievement award. Well, maybe I don't have to work on that immediately, but this module may serve the purpose some time in the future. This brought about two dilemmas. First, our standard 2' x 4' module has three tracks, the front two being the two directions of the mainline loop, the third being a local track. As you can see in the diagram, the Fox Lake loop is a single-track line. So my entry to the industrial area will not match the prototype; I will bring the local track into the interior of the loop. This will be much better suited to our modular layout operations. Second, by agreement, David will do the "left" loop, and I will do the "right". The actual Fox Lake loop is aesthetically better for the "left" loop, putting all of the switching at the front of the layout. But, it is problematic from an operations perspective, as with our righthand-running loop, the train would need to take the loop, then cross from track 1 to the local track 3 to access the industrial spur. Yuck! So I passed an idea by Bruce Brintnall: if I build a mirror image, would that violate the intent of the prototype modeling certificate? The answer: as long as I have a rationale, not a problem. Excellent! This provides better operability, as the train completes the "right" loop, it will pull onto the local track instead of track 2, and be in position to back into the industries (much like Larry's Carlton loop). And it keeps the switching action towards the front of the layout for public interest.



So I am off on my modeling venture. I've already exceeded my modeling experiences in the amount of networking I've achieved. The Fox Lake depot is now a historical society museum, and I tracked down the manager who is eager to help me. Through a couple of Milwaukee Road Yahoo groups, I've gotten in contact with the author of the article, a Wisconsin Southern engineer, and leads to three other articles about modeling Fox Lake. As most of you know, people are very helpful in this hobby!! I hope to keep you posted on the progress of my project, and hopefully the results will be there to inspect at Carnival (at least in some state of completion). In my next chapter, I hope to have permission to share some published photos of the prototype, and will consider what other Achievement Awards I might pursue with this project. I also hope to answer the question: Do I use a double-slip to get from the exit of the loop (which nominally leads onto the second track) to the local (third) track with access to the spur, or a set of turnouts leading to the local, with a hand-laid crossing on a curve? (I've never hand-laid anything!!). Any ideas and information you might offer on my project would be most appreciated (email me at Sbenson440@wowway.com).

Diagrams accompanying this article are used by permission and may be subject to copy-right laws preventing other use or reproduction.

Module Group Update by Scott Benson

A busy spring is gearing up for the Module Group. On March 27, the group displayed at the Wayne County Train Show in Dalton; Training Day on April 3 will be a big event; and then the Elyria NYC Train Station open house on April 16 is a new event for us that is sure to draw a crowd. After 3 events in 4 weeks, we get a breather to prepare ourselves for two May weekends of Thomas the Train at the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, where we'll be set up in the Boston Mills parking lot. This will be an event that engages many of our division members; let us know if you want to help out! In other news, while we're down in Dalton, Larry Madson is going to take a module over to meet with the Division 1 module group for a compatibility check. With Division 1 following our module spec, we hope to have joint events in the future, maybe as early as CVSR/Thomas!

RAFFLE REPORT

Thanks to all who participated in the March raffle. Due to the auction in April there will be NO raffle. However we will have another exciting raffle in May. So bring all your great items to sell and lots of money to buy those great treasures. Bid high and bid often. See you there.

THE RAFFLE DUDES

2011 Mid Central Region Convention

Rails of Ages 1961 to 2011
April 28 through May 1, 2011

Featuring all the standard convention fare: Clinics - Industry Tours -
Contests - Non-Rail Activities - Silent Auction - Awards Banquet - Raffle -
Layout Tours

To be held at The Lodge & Conference Center at Geneva-on-the-Lake
www.TheLodgeAtGeneva.com

Information: Matt Kross, 12049 Sperry Road, Chesterland OH 44026 440-729-3045
www.RailsOfAges.org



Matt Kross gave a presentation during our March meeting

Division 4 Auction

Seller number

Starting Bid

Description

Bid Price

DIV Percentage

Sale Price

Buyer Number

Division 4 Auction

Seller number

Starting Bid

Description

Bid Price

DIV Percentage

Sale Price

Buyer Number

Division 4 Auction

Seller number

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Description

Bid Price

DIV Percentage

Sale Price

Buyer Number

Division 4 Auction

Seller number

Starting Bid

Description

Bid Price

DIV Percentage

Sale Price

Buyer Number

2011 Great Lakes Model Railroad Symposium (GLMRS)

submitted by Frank Bongiovanni

The 2011 GLMRS is an NMRA event co-sponsored by the St. Jo Valley Model Railroad Club. This symposium is about scale model railroading and scale model railroaders. The event is for all scale model railroaders including prototype modelers, proto-freelance modelers, and freelance modelers who strive for realism in both appearance and operation of their railroads. The GLMRS is designed to help you better enjoy and appreciate our hobby and most importantly, to help you become a better scale model railroader through clinics, live demonstrations, and hands-on workshops. The lineup of clinicians, workshop leads, and demonstrators are among the hobby's finest scale model railroaders. Their presentations will be interesting, informative, also entertaining. Be prepared for excitement and laughter!

The 2011 GLMRS will motivate and inspire everyone at the very minimum. Activities will be an enjoyable learning experience for all. You will have the opportunity to increase your knowledge about scale model railroads, how they were built, and how they operate. Live demonstrations and hands-on workshops will provide everyone with the opportunity to learn and practice new skills, modeling methods, and techniques. Activity leaders are all well-known scale model railroaders who have earned their «stripes». Included are Jim Hediger and Tony Koester from Kalmbach Publishing, Mark Belmonte, Ray Breyer, Mike Burgett, Tom Johnson, Dennis Lippert, Maynard Mitchell, Bill Neale, Jim Six, Terry Stuart, Doug Tagsold, Dennis Whittaker, and NMRA President Mike Brestel.

The GLMRS has a new location for 2011. The GLMRS will be held at the National New York Central Railroad Museum in downtown Elkhart, Indiana located on the south side of the former NYC mainline into Elkhart, directly across from the AMTRAK station. We will also include the conference rooms upstairs in the AMTRAK station. Everyone should keep in mind that there are in the vicinity of a hundred trains that pass between the museum and the station every day making for great train watching and photography! The museum itself is home for plenty of railroad equipment on the grounds including a New York Central E8 in the famous two-tone gray lighting stripe scheme and Mohawk 3001, one of the last remaining 4-8-2 steam locomotives. Other rolling stock and cabooses are included in the onsite museum collection. Inside, there is plenty of truly great railroad memorabilia along with a large model railroad and large collection of O-scale model trains. Admission to the museum for both days is included within \$30 registration fee for the GLMRS.

The 2011 GLMRS is a two-day learning experience featuring live demonstrations and hands-on workshops starting at 9:00 AM and running to 2:00 PM at which time the clinics will begin and run to the end of each day (approximately 10:00 PM or later). The facility will open at 8:00 AM and remain open to midnight for those wanting to hang around after conclusion of the scheduled activities to watch trains and socialize (BS). There will be ample time for dinner with good restaurants and fast food establishments within a few blocks of the Symposium. However, we recommend that everyone have a hearty breakfast before arriving at the 2011 GLMRS each day since there will be no formal pause for lunch.

Schedule of Activities

FRIDAY APR 15th

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM-on Workshop

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM DCC Hands Weathering Hands -on Workshop

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Painting and Weathering Structures Demonstration

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Creating Photo Backdrops Demonstration

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fundamentals of Painting with an Airbrush

2:00 PM Dennis Lippert: Building a Freight Car Fleet for Operating Model Railroads

3:00 PM Maynard Mitchell: Modeling Realistic Trees, Rivers, and Streams

4:30 PM Mike Burgett: Modeling the C&O Clifton Forge Division

7:30 PM Bill Neale: Modeling the Pennsylvania Railroad

9:00 PM Jim Hediger (Kalmbach): Double Deck Model Railroads

SATURDAY APR 16th

9:00 AM - 1:45 PM Weathering Hands-on Workshop

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM DCC Hands-on Workshop

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Painting and Weathering Structures Demonstration

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Creating Photo Backdrops Demonstration

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fundamentals of Painting with an Airbrush

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

2:00 PM Terry Stuart: Modeling Pennsy along the Ohio River

3:00 PM Ray Breyer: Scratch building Your Way to Fun & Profit

4:30 PM Tony Koester: The State of Layout Design and Construction Today

7:30 PM Doug Tagsold: Modeling Toledo's Port Terminal Railroads

9:00 PM Mike Brestel: The NMRA Today and Tomorrow

Thanks to everyone who helped staff the Division table at Railfest this year.



Art Bumpus and John Witt ran the table early Sunday afternoon.

Read the Flatwheel online at www.div4.org

Yahoo - The Division has a Yahoo group available for members. Send your request to join to dave_wms@sbcglobal.net. It's best to include "Division 4" in the subject line and include your name.

Members of the Yahoo Group receive an email when the Flatwheel PDF has been posted onto the website. The group is private and does not appear on the Yahoo directory.

We also have an email list to notify you when the Flatwheel is placed on the website. You are no longer required to join the Yahoo Group for this service.

Uncredited photos: D Williams.

The Flatwheel is published monthly (except during July and August) by Division Four of the Mid-Central Region (MCR) of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). The Flatwheel can be mailed to all Division Four members free of charge, however we request that all members with Internet access decline receiving a mailed copy. Subscriptions are available to others for \$12.00 annually. All comments are welcome, however, those views expressed in the Flatwheel do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the NMRA, MCR, or Division Four.

Deadline for the May Flatwheel is Thursday April 21, 2011.

DIVISION FOUR OFFICERS

Elected

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Trustee at Large

Lee Sheffield lakeshorenyc@yahoo.com

Appointed

Carnival

Mike Oster

Achievement

Bruce Brintnall MMR

Layouts

John and Tom Hemsath

Contests

David Lawler

Historian/Archivist

Frank Bongiovanni

Raffle

Mike Klein

Company Store

Tim Sheffield

Clinics

Larry Madson

Flatwheel Editor

Dave Williams

Membership Co-Chairs

Dennis Whitaker/Joe Mehalic

Modules

Scott Benson

N.O.A.R.S. Representative

Chuck Beargie

Webmaster

Ben Lanza

Contest Corner

conducted by Dave Lawler

Contest Corner: March 2011, **Steam Passenger Locomotives**

There were 8 entries and 36 votes cast.

1st	Jeff Lauren	MC&C 4-6-0 #5
2nd	Art Bumpus	B&O 4-6-2 "President Washington"
3rd	Tom McInerney	2-6-0 Locomotive
(tie)	Gary Dunn	4-6-2 Locomotive #152

Point Standings:

1st	Jeff Lauren	8
2nd	Tom McInerney	7
3rd	Art Bumpus	3

Contests for the remainder of this season are as follows:

April: NO CONTEST, Auction Night!

May: 35'-40' Refrigerator Cars (Milk cars are OK too)

June: Awards Presentation at the Annual Picnic

I think the elevated table and improved lighting is a big improvement for the contest.

It sure helps old geezers like me see the models better.

Also, thanks to Bruce Brintnall for his offer to judge Model Contest entries for NMRA Achievement Program points.

An official form will be necessary for your model to be considered. Check with Bruce for particulars.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Lawler

Contest Chairman



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Next meeting:

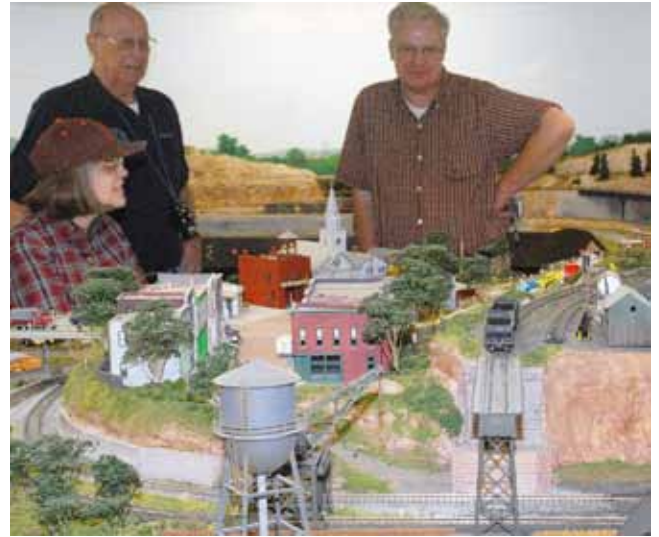
Division website
www.div4.org

Church of the Redeemer
23500 Center Ridge Road
Westlake Ohio 44145

Friday April 8, 2011 at 7:45 PM

Biannual Auction this month!

Form on page 6.



Harold Taylor (left, standing) during last year's open house of his layout.

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FIRST CLASS

Dave Williams
Flatwheel Editor
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