



THE FLATWHEEL

VOL 46 NBR 01 JANUARY 2012



Official newsletter of Division Four, Mid Central Region of the National Model Railroad Association.

Art Bumpus, Division 4 Superintendent On Q

Our next meeting date is Friday, January 13th. Following our short business meeting there will be a clinic on making trees presented by several Division members. This is an opportunity to see several different methods for modeling trees for the layout. Whether you build a module or a layout, trees are an item that need to be replicated in quantity. Our modeling contest this month is non commercial trucks or cars. These too are items that modules or layouts require in quantity.

Congratulations go out to Denny Whitaker and Scott Benson for the awarding of the Dennis Novak Service Award. Both gentlemen contributed great time and effort for the Division and are given this award to recognize those contributions.

I would like to mention that our Module Group displayed and operated in Twinsburg Reserve Armory last month, for the benefit of our Reserve military and their families. Anything we can do to lift the spirits of those who protect us in a troubled world deserves mention. Thanks go out to Scott, our Module Group leader, and to Dave Williams who shot the photos in this issue of the Flatwheel.

Last month, I recounted how I went about developing the concept and planning for my Spruce Creek Railway (a wholly owned fictitious subsidiary of the B&O Railroad). The writings of John Armstrong highly influenced the design. Developing "Givens and Druthers" I came up with three areas for consideration: (1) Size attributes of the railroad. This is usually a political event between I want more and she wants less. I wish you good luck on this one. (2) Environmental attributes of the railroad. This includes consideration of how do I move the furnace or go around it, ductwork issues, hot water tank location, washer and dryer and things of that sort. (3) The railroad itself. This includes things like where is it geographically located, what does it do, what era does it operate, how do you want it to visually present it, your preference for continuous running or switching operation.

Next month I'll go into more detail on the three points previously mentioned. You will notice we still haven't started a track plan. Not to worry; getting to the point of being able to draw a track plan is a journey toward "plausible reality".

That's it for this month.... Remember, never trade steam for water.



Porter Library Display

Division trustees Chuck Klein and Steve Kaplan managed to fill two display cases in Westlake's Porter Library with a fine display of borrowed model railroad items. Thomas the Tank Engine on the the lower level was a big hit with the smaller children, and we hope the NMRA information on the upper shelf was of interest to potential members.

There are no Meeting Minutes to report in this issue.

CVSR Polar Express

The annual Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad's Polar Express featured this steam loco shell on a tractor assembled and driven by Division member Ken Orchard. It pulled Santa and Mrs. Claus in their sleigh on a road parallel to the real train (child filled) in Pennisula Ohio. The photographer was required to wear an elf hat and continuous smile while in the area.



Membership by Dennis Whitaker

January 2012 Birthdays:

JIM BARNETT
WILLIAM C DEPTOWICZ
ROBERT GLAZE
PAULINE HANDMON
JOHN FRANCIS JANDA

ROY CAVAN
JOE DUGAN
ALECK J HALVORSEN
JOHN E HENNING
JOHN T KERR

RAYMOND LITTEN
EDWARD R NOWICKI
J TED SHULTZ
JOHN R SPENCER

JEFFREY A MARTIN
TIMOTHY J RADACHI
GARY A SOLE

Transferred to Div-4:

R W BREITZIG
PAULINE HANDMON
PAUL R (BUD) SPIERLING

CHAGRIN FALLS
OBERLIN
OBERLIN

From Mid-Central Region, Div-5
From Northeastern Region, Div-14 Metro North, New York
From Northeastern Region, Div-14 Metro North, New York

Re-Rail Members:

HAROLD MICKLEY
STEPHEN M TWAROGOWSKI

CLEVELAND
MEDINA

Div-4 Membership --- 2011 Review

Div-4 Membership grew in 2011 thanks to the efforts of (1) the many members who staffed the membership recruiting tables at various train shows and (2) our Module Group members who demonstrate the skills and camaraderie of our members. Here are the facts:

Action	2011	
January 1, 2011	201	
New Members	+16	Names shown in applicable Flatwheel
Re-Railed Members	+8	Names shown in applicable Flatwheel
Transferred In	+3	Names shown in applicable Flatwheel
Transferred Out	-2	Tom Beutler to Div-1; John F. Bauer to Div-1 (later killed in auto accident)
Deceased	-4	Harold R. Taylor (March 2011); Jimmie Crile (Apr 2011); James A. Mondak (May 2011); Martha Newberry (Nov 2011)
Didn't renew	-10	Hopefully, they will Re-Rail in the near future.
December 31, 2011	212	

Members Participating in the Div-4 Roster	1/1/2011	12/31/2011
Allows at least name, county, city, & ZIP in Roster.....	99%	99%
Provides telephone number or e-Mail address in Roster	55%	71%
Helping other members through Roster's Knowledge Depot	Didn't Exist.....	21%

E-Mail --- Not For Everyone – But Can Reduce Div-4 Copying & Mail Expense	1/1/2011	12/31/2011
Members who no longer get The Flatwheel via U.S. Mail	25%	37%
Members with valid e-Mail addresses	72%	83%
Members who stated they don't have e-Mail.....	Unknown.....	5%
Members who have chosen to remain silent on whether or not they have e-Mail.....	Unknown.....	12%

If you would like to (1) convert your subscription to The Flatwheel from U.S. Mail to e-Mail, (2) add your e-Mail address or telephone number to the Div-4 Membership Roster, or (3) help other members through the Div-4 Knowledge Depot, contact Denny Whitaker at denny7710@roadrunner.com or 440-487-0950.

Editor's Notes

I've received my DVD edition of Model Railroader 1934-2009. I'm impressed at sophistication of the magazine's initial approach was to the hobby, including topics on prototype fidelity and operation (as well as the expected articles on 110 volt layouts in damp basements or backyards).

Lesson learned: Downloading the latest map updates to your GPS just before going out of town may be a good idea, but keep a backup of the previous maps and test your GPS right away. My Tom Tom froze up solid when leaving Tampa airport in the dark and I had to actually stop and ask someone for directions. Fortunately I had my laptop with me (to work on the Flatwheel of course) and Tom Tom had required a backup which I reloaded at the hotel.

Upcoming BOD Meetings

January 51, 2012

March 27, 2012

May 29, 2012

Railfest - Volunteers Needed

March 17/18, 2012. The Division table will need volunteers for 2 hour shifts. Save a \$7 admission by donating your time. Contact Joe Mehalic or any Division Officer.

Awards at the Awards Banquet

(more Banquet pictures on page 7)



Superintendent Art Bumpus presented Pat and Mike Oster with an award for their ongoing efforts in managing the Division's primary fundraiser, The Carnival of Model Railroading annual train show. As Art pointed out, not much else could happen if it weren't for the Carnival.



Dennis Whitaker received the 2010 Dennis F. Novak Service Award for his tireless work as Membership Chair.



Scott Benson received the 2011 Dennis F. Novak Award for work as Modular Layout Chair.

Both Dennis and Scott have been instrumental in attracting both public and potential member interest and understanding of the NMRA and the Division.

Twinsburg Armory December 18, 2011



On Sunday, December 18th, the Modular Group was asked to set up at the Twinsburg Armory for their Unit Family Day. Units involved were the 256 Combat Support Hospital, the 371 Minimal Care Detachment, and the 848 Forward Surgical Team. Donna Borowski was the event coordinator.



A turkey dinner was served to everyone, and the layout received steady attention throughout the afternoon (except for a brief bit of competition from an red-suited old man with a white beard passing out gifts). Engineer hats were given to us to pass out to the children.

Division members attending were Doug Steiskal, Bill Kovacs, Scott Benson, David James, Lee Sheffield, Ken Orchard, Charles Spenser, Joe Mehalic, Jeff Lauren, Bill Cramer, John Janda, Larry Madson, and Dave Williams.



Twinsburg Armory continued -The veterans in our Division had the pleasure of exchanging stories with the troops. At one point I heard three different such conversations going on along the layout. Above is former submariner Ken Orchard (r) comparing notes with a former 101st Airborne trooper.

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 place 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 Flatheel do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the NMRA, MCR, or Division Four.

Deadline for the February Flatwheel is Thursday January 26, 2012.

DIVISION FOUR OFFICERS

Elected

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Bruce Brintnall MMR

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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

MCR Regional Convention
Pittsburgh PA (Division 2)
April 26-29, 2012

NMRA National Convention
Grand Rapids MI
July 29-August 4, 2012

Holiday Awards Banquet

This year's banquet was held at Michaud's Party Center in Strongsville. It featured good friends, good food, a lot of raffle prizes, and a visit by Santa.



Dear Santa,

I just wanted to drop you a note about an event I attended last weekend. The event was a Christmas Dinner for the Army Reserve troops stationed at the armory in Twinsburg, Ohio. The group I belong to set up a model railroad display for the kids of the troops. Throughout the day kids of all sizes were amazed and entertained by watching and operating the trains on the layout. And when I say kids of all sizes, I mean as small as three and as big as 30. Yes, even the older kids enjoyed watching the trains run around the layout. I sit back and say kids because the very troops attending, have sacrificed their lives to help defend our country and countries of others could be my sons or daughters. Many have young children of their own and they were the most well behaved children I have met. Here are children that have been raised by one parent while the other proudly serves in the military and yet they would say please and thank you without Mom or Dad having to suggest it. I was sitting back and watching a young man operate a train while others patiently waited their turn. And when he was finished he handed the throttle off to the next child and gave him or her all the instructions on working the throttle correctly. No fighting or yelling. So many single parents blame the world around them for how their children behave but here we have proof that it can work if you want it to. That is why I am writing this because I would like you to make sure these kids get that special gift when you visit. These kids have already made sacrifices in life so please see what you can do.

Thank you,

A proud member of the Module Group

P.S. Santa, be sure you take care of the young man that walked up to the table and proudly told us he not only wants a train for Christmas he wants a RailKing. Here is a future model railroader in the making.

David James,

Thank you for setting up this event for the Module Group. It was a golden opportunity to help those who have helped all of us back here in the states. It was the most enjoyable module group outing I have attended.

Merry Christmas

Modular Layout – 2011 Year in Review

Scott Benson, Chairman

The Division 4 Modular Layout activities exceeded all expectations in 2011. The layout was displayed at 18 different events covering 28 days during the year, from train shows and library displays to feature events at the division Carnival, Christmas Connection, and new this year, Thomas the Train days at Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. Division 4 members staffed these events for 1180 hours of volunteer hours (and that doesn't include set-up and take-down), with 31 different modules displayed during the year. Three modules made their first appearances on the layout this fall, provided by Jeff Lauren and Charles Spencer. Nice work guys; we can't wait to see some of the other members' modules that are in work! The Steel Mill was displayed at 4 events this year; we had Medina 4H participation in our layout at one event; and we had our first joint event with the Division 1 module group.

December was particularly busy. We displayed at the Medina Train Show and Lakeland Toy and Train Show, and for the first time had completely different modules displayed at two consecutive events. As the module display continues to draw interest, Division 4 gets invited to more and more events. Broader participation will allow us to continue at, or beyond, the pace we saw in 2011. Finally, the year ended with a terrific event, as we were invited to display at the Twinsburg Army Reserve for their Holiday Family Day. Our 50' layout was a big hit, with everyone from toddlers to Colonels enjoying talking with our members and running trains. It was great to give back a little to those who give so much for our country.

Kudos to all the Division 4 members who have helped make 2011 the success it was. Looking forward to 2012, planning is in progress for our participation in the National Train Show in Grand Rapids, we hope to go back to Thomas at CVSR, and more joint events with Division 1 are in work. We plan to have a group meeting in January. If anyone would like to take that opportunity to start participating in this Division activity, please contact me for meeting information (also to be posted to the website).

Modular Group Planning Meeting

January 11, 2012 6:45 pm to 8:45 pm at the Middleburg Hts Library, 15600 East Bagley Rd, just 1/2 mile east of I-71.

Contest Corner

conducted by Dave Lawler

November contest winners: please remember to bring your models to the January meeting.

2012 Upcoming Contest Schedule

- January: Automobiles or pickup trucks; for personal use, no commercial vehicles.
- February: Stock cars; any era, railroad type, not NASCAR.
- March: Branch Line/Way Freight Train: Steam or diesel era, maximum 5 units including the locomotive.
- April: Diorama on a peanut butter jar lid (3" diameter), any subject, any era.
- May: 6 axle (C-C) diesel locomotives: Any manufacturer, era, freight or passenger.

The Clinic Corner

Brian Haas's sedum trees at Training Day.



January 2012 Clinic Trees – Trees – Trees!!

Presented by Joe Filipiak, Brian Haas, Dave Lawler and Tom McInerney

Join us on Friday January 13 for an evening of making trees! Joe Filipiak, Brian Haas, Dave Lawler and Tom McInerney will conduct a hands-on demonstration of several methods of making trees. If you have ever wanted to learn how to make realistic trees, this is the program for you!

Clinics Wanted

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

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.

Larry Madson

Bob Glaze, the father of well known model railroader Brad Glaze passed away quietly at home on December 19th. Bob was well known to many of us who were active in the division and the original modular railroad during the 1970's. You may recall Bob was a big supporter of Brad's modeling activities, built a home layout with him and helped build, maintain and carry Brad's module to countless module meets.

Bill Cramer

RAFFLE REPORT

Ladies and Gentlemen, The Holiday Raffle was another huge success. Thank You's go out to Pat and John Henning for once again donating the picture, which has become a long standing tradition. Thank you to Connie and Emil Orenick from State Tool and Die, long time supporters of The Holiday Raffle and also many monthly raffles as well. Thank You to Linda Klein, who also has been a long time supporter with the ladies baskets. Thanks to Bernie's Bargains for their many years of support and Thanks to Mr. And Mrs. Robert Kaiser for their years of support. Most of all Thank You to the Division 4 members, with out your support through out the year, these raffles would not exist. January starts another great raffle year.

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Newsletter of NMRA MCR Division Four



Next meeting: **Friday January 13, 2012**

Church of the Redeemer
23500 Center Ridge Road
Westlake Ohio 44145

Social time starts at 7 pm
Business meeting 7:30 pm

Division website: www.div4.org

A Visit with the Troops and their Families

Division Four was honored by a request to display our modules for the U.S. Army Reserve's Unit Family Day at the Twinsburg Armory. More on page 5.

A 501(c)(3) Non Profit Educational Organization
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