



# THE FLATWHEEL

VOL 46 NBR 03 MARCH 2012



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

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## Art Bumpus, Division 4 Superintendent On Q

Hello to everyone. Our next Division meeting is Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. The modeling contest will be your favorite branchline or way freight train. You can enter steam or diesel, with a maximum of five units, including the locomotive. If you model steam, the engine and tender count as one unit. The clinic for this meeting will be given by Chuck and Mike Klein. They are rolling out a new clinic about the Cleveland Transit System (CTS). Chuck and Mike's dad worked for CTS as a streetcar operator. You can count on some of the program being drawn from information the "kids" learned from their dad.

I would encourage all of you to attend the upcoming Regional convention, *High-Line to Pittsburgh*, on April 26th to 29th. The Pittsburgh crew always put on a well run convention, so you're assured of having a great time. There will be operator sessions on Thursday evening, with at least 8 layouts that will host sessions. A good number of layouts will be on tour Sunday. Add in all the clinics and prototype field trips and you'll find a smorgasbord of activities sure to satisfy any model railroader. For more information and registration forms, go to: [highlinetopittsburgh.org](http://highlinetopittsburgh.org)

Continuing with the planning of my Spruce Creek Railway, some additional criteria for my Givens and Druthers included:

A 50% compromise between scenic realism (lots of scenery with minimum track) and operation (lots of track and switching with minimal scenery), and

Walk around operation.

So we now have a criteria set with which to start track planning. From this point, I drew 8 to 10 different track plans fitting the footprint of my basement. Each plan was discussed with a friend, going over strengths and weaknesses. In the design process, I employed a rule that real railroads use. That rule is that the location of track and sidings is an economic issue for the railroad. It costs money for a railroad to add additional spurs, build turnouts, etc. So the modeler needs to keep in mind that, to enhance realistic operation, adding tracks is a business decision for the railroad.

With that in mind, a track plan was finalized and construction began. Next month I'll go into some of the unforeseen aspects of building the railroad that did not have adequate planning (lessons learned).

In the meantime, never trade steam for water.

## February General Meeting Minutes

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

Superintendent Art Bumpus welcomed everyone as he called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. Art noted this is the annual Membership Appreciation meeting and his goal to have the business meeting completed by the time the pizza arrives at 8:15 PM. The Treasurer reported assets of \$36,191.<sup>58</sup>. Several visitors were introduced.

Dennis Whitaker and John Hemsath reported an idea they are working on that would add layout ownership to the mentor's list. This would allow all members willing to share their layouts with other members a way to acknowledge they are open to visits, even those members uncomfortable with having their layouts on layout tours.

Art reminded all in attendance are welcome to join a group of members that go to a nearby Baker's Square after the monthly meeting for coffee, dessert and/or fellowship. During the pizza break, Al Halvorsen will have a photo slide showing. Next month's clinic will be the Klein brothers presentation on the Cleveland Transit System. The Flatwheel deadline is February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Contest Chair Dave Lawler introduced a new ballot process for future contests. The night's contest was stock cars. Last month's contest on personal vehicles and pickups winners: 1<sup>st</sup>-Jim Grell, 2<sup>nd</sup>-John Hemsath, 3<sup>rd</sup>-Dave Lawler. Show-N-Tell included a photo album of the 4H club's efforts. There were also some N and HO scale weathered cars on display. Two "dummy" SD40-2 were available for \$10 each. An historic film made by the NKP will be donated to the archives at Cleveland State University. Next month's contest will be branch line trains, no longer than five units including locomotive and caboose. The April contest is a diorama built on a 3" diameter peanut butter jar lid. Dave presented the mid-year contest awards, including Wing's Hobby Shop gift certificates and plaques: 1<sup>st</sup>-Jim Grell, 2<sup>nd</sup>-Bryan Harko, 3<sup>rd</sup>-George Gelehrter tied along with Dave Lawler. The recent photo contest winners were presented ribbons and included: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place wins by Bill Kovacs. Five 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners tied with Bill: Al Halvorsen, Dave Lawler and Joe Filipiak with two 3<sup>rd</sup> place showings.

Jerry Krueger will be attending the Michiana Symposium, traveling by Amtrak, to Elkhart, IN. Any members wishing to attend should contact Jerry for details.

Gary Sole, along with nominating committee members Mike Klein, Paul Novak, Sr. and Paul Novak, Jr. presented a slate of candidates with all position having the current holder willing to continue for another term with exception of the Secretary. David James was nominated for Secretary. The floor was opened for other nominations. With no further nominations, a motion was made to elect the full slate by acclamation. Motion passed. (It was pointed out later in the meeting the current Treasurer cannot currently be elected as he has term limited. See below for a recommended amendment made by the BOD that will correct this error – sec.).

Chuck Klein reported the annual Trustees meeting was held prior to the start of the regular meeting with all trustees in attendance. No issues had been brought to the trustees prior to the meeting. The trustees discussed the proposed Martha Newbury Award with all supportive of the idea. The trustees also discussed some past awards that have not been awarded for a long period of time. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

John Hemsath reported there will be layout tours in the western area of the Division on Saturday, May 5, between 12-5. More information will be in the Flatwheel. The Company Store continues to have a supply of AM hoppers and convention boxcars. Mike Klein had an excellent raffle including a framed EBT picture and State Tool and Die cars.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – The BOD is recommending the bylaws be changed such that the Treasurer's elected position no longer be term limited to two terms and an annual review of the finances be performed by an ad hoc committee appointed by the Superintendent. A motion was made reading:

Article III: Officers, Paragraph 3 to read as follows:

1. No elected officer, except for the Trustees **and Treasurer**, shall serve more than two consecutive terms or parts thereof in the same office. **A review of the financial books shall be done on an annual basis by an ad hoc committee appointed by the Superintendent.** The duties imposed on the officers shall be the usual and customary obligations and such others which may be prescribed by these rules.

Changes shown in bold and underline.

Discussion followed for consideration the Secretary position be similarly changed. No consensus was made and the motion passed it first reading as shown. A second reading will be made at the March meeting. Once approved, election of the Treasurer will need to be redone allowing current Treasurer Rich Tressa to run for a 3<sup>rd</sup> two year term.

It was noted Joe Polefko has had some serious illness and we wish him well. Len Sherry continues his rehab in Akron.

The business meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Bowie, Secretary

## Membership by Dennis Whitaker

### March 2012 Birthdays:

LAWRENCE P MADSON  
HARRY LEVER  
PAUL R (BUD) SPIERLING  
BRYAN HARKO  
RICHARD E ULMER  
ERIC G NEWBERRY

LOUIS R FALK  
DONALD STETTIN  
MICHAEL BAHNTGE  
DAVID C JOHNSON  
JEFFREY H GRAY  
RALPH PESHEK

### New Members:

None

### Re-Rail Members:

None

## REMINDER TO MEMBERSHIP TABLE VOLUNTEERS AT THE 2012 RAILFEST SHOW AT THE LCC IN KIRKLAND.

There will be a change to the Membership Table setup at Railfest this year. Rather than having our own Membership Table, we will be sharing the table in the lobby with the Division 5 members. This is a great way to get to know one another, as we'll be working together a lot more as we move closer to the 2014 National in 2014. Going forward, the Division hosting a show will supply one Membership Table at their event, and we will be jointly manning the table to promote the NMRA.

Those who volunteered for the upcoming Railfest show should report to the Membership Table in the lobby for their free wrist band. I want to thank everyone for volunteering and wish you the best recruiting year ever!

Saturday, March 17th;  
10-12 Ben Lanza and Fred Obreeza  
12-2 Joe Mehalic and Bob Kaiser  
2-4 Lee Sheffield and Chuck Baad

Sunday, March 18th  
10-12 Dave Williams

Thank you and see you at the show!  
Joe Mehalic  
Div 4, Membership Co-Chairman

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## RAFFLE REPORT

Thanks to all who participated in the February raffle, it was another success. The March raffle will be another great raffle. The March raffle will have a substitute Raffle Dude, treat him well. Will see you soon.

The Raffle Dudes

# Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet-Valley Forge

(submitted by Brian Harko)

March 23-25 Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet-Valley Forge at the Desmond Great Valley Hotel, Malvern, Pa  
.Registration \$35 Prototype clinics, vendors' room, model display room, Friday Op Sessions, Sunday layout tour. Contact Paul Backenstose, at [PRRpaul@aol.com](mailto:PRRpaul@aol.com), 610-269-2763, or visit [www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org) for details

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## Upcoming BOD Meetings

March 27, 2012  
May 29, 2012

## Railfest 2012

Lakeland Community College in Kirtland on March 17th and 18th, 2012

Check [www.mcr5.org](http://www.mcr5.org) for details

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## So You've Been Thinking About Starting a Module?

By Scott Benson, Module Chair

Here's some info that may help you decide. The group (well, mostly Larry) puts together kits for the regular 2' x 4' straight modules. The standard kit comes with all wood parts pre-cut, all hardware, wiring harness, DCC cab bus cable and panel, skirt and clamps. The specs, design and assembly instructions are posted on the division website; click the word "Modules" at the top of the modules page to get a copy. Also posted (on a link at the bottom of the page) is the pricing for the kits and kit components. The cost of the standard kit is \$128. If you are adventurous, you may want to cut your own wood to the spec dimensions and purchase kit components. Some kit elements really need to be purchased, such as the wiring harness that has to meet our standard specs.

With kit in hand, you're ready to go. After a couple hours of assembly, you have a framework and sub-roadbed. Beyond complying with some high level standard specs, you're free to design and build whatever interests you. Well, grade changes are pretty difficult in this format, so that may be a restriction on you. Many of us have put together two or three modules that always go together in the same order to give us more space to model our objective scene.

The costs of each module are completely borne by the module owner, from the module kit, to track and turn-outs, to scenery. Oh, and the trains too. The only elements owned by the Division are the DCC system and other accessories needed to support the overall layout. The modules can be integrated into your home layout as well.

Interested? Contact Larry Madson for more kit information, or contact any members of the group with your questions. Check out our event schedule on the website. Next up, we'll be at the train shows at Dalton on Mar 25 (with our friends from Division 1) and Medina on April 1. See you out there!

*A brief update on Scott's own module work appears on page 8.*

## The Clinic Corner

### March 2012 Program

Presented by

Chuck and Mike Klein

#### Cleveland Streetcar Memories

For our March program, Chuck and Mike Klein will present a story about Cleveland streetcars (trolleys). A little history but about the Clifton Blvd. and Detroit Ave lines. Their father Bernie was a motorman and motorcoach operator on these lines from the Rocky River Station. Relive a little nostalgia of the 1950's and maybe some of your early memories of your own neighborhood even if it wasn't in Cleveland.

#### Clinics Wanted

Any Division member wishing to present a program for the 2011 – 2012 season, please contact me. I am looking for programs for the April, May and June meetings.

#### 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](mailto:lmadson@roadrunner.com).

Larry Madson

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#### Radon in Your Basement? by Dave Williams

OK, first, if your opinion of radon gas is that it's all a government conspiracy, like Area 51, landing a man on the moon, or the ever popular fluoride in the water, move on (remember, I get a lot of your emails – I know how at least a few of you think). I bought a radon test kit years ago and let it collect well-meaning dust (like a lot of kits on my shelf) rather than collecting samples. I finally bought another test kit, just in case the first one was too old, and gave it a try. The kit costs around \$10 but it'll cost you another \$30 or so for the lab to evaluate it and email you the results. That way Home Depot and the lab share in the profits – are conspiracy guys still reading? Move on I say! Anyhow, my readings came back as 4.9 and 5.1 – a little over the “up to 4 is OK” level. I thought about fixing the problem myself with a couple of big fans and open windows but decided that modeling could become (more) difficult, and woodworking downright slippery in the ensuing arctic conditions. I finally broke down and called a company to come out. For a little over \$1000, they installed a 4 inch pipe from a hole in the floor of my basement to a stack on my roof with a fan to send out all that nasty radon. Where does it go? Does it ascend toward the heavens to form new star? Or does it just land on my neighbor's labra doodle? Who cares? All I know is that I'm not going to breathe it in the basement anymore. No “conditioned air” (hot or cold) is thrown to the skies, although I think I lost a couple degrees to the under foundation ventilation.

According to the government, radon gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer – and if you don't smoke, that means it's your number one chance at getting it. Think about running a test if you spend much time downstairs.

Site of use: <http://www.epa.gov/radon/>. Also, I'm not trying to advertise any one service, but to possibly save you some trouble; the company I used was All Ohio Radon Services from Akron, and I can't imagine better work if that's the way you need to go. My latest reading is 1.4, time to dust off some of those kits and breathe easy again.

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#### From the Division 11 newsletter (The Keystone Corridor) March 2012, Clerk's Report:

Publisher Bob McKay presented a bill for \$90 postage. Treasurer Bob McKay reminded Publisher Bob McKay that there is a standing motion that the newsletter people can buy postage as needed. Publisher McKay remarked that he was aware of that but did not wish to spend money without directing attention to it.

We can only hope that Reverend Fr. Bob McKay was on hand to offer a prayer for the sanity of the Publisher and Treasurer. We suspect that he was. If you know Bob from the Regionals, you can picture all of this taking place. -ed.



Pizza at February's Member Appreciation Night.

Read the Flatwheel online at [www.div4.org](http://www.div4.org)

Yahoo - The Division has a Yahoo group available for members. Send your request to join to [dave\\_wms@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 February Flatwheel is Thursday March 29, 2012

## DIVISION FOUR OFFICERS

Elected

### Superintendent

Art Bumpus (440) 526-9184 [abumpus@cox.net](mailto:abumpus@cox.net)

### Assistant Superintendent

Jim Moore h (419) 684-5833 [moorez@aol.com](mailto:moorez@aol.com)  
c (419) 370-3007 fax (419) 684-7030

### Secretary

Bruce Bowie [in2trains@gmail.com](mailto:in2trains@gmail.com)  
c 419-239-8115

### Treasurer

Rich Tressa (440) 572-9245 [rictre@hotmail.com](mailto:rictre@hotmail.com)

### Trustee East

Steve Kaplan (216) 561-1648 [spk@skaplanassociates.com](mailto:spk@skaplanassociates.com)

### Trustee Quad County

Gary Dunn (419) 625-0413 cell (419) 504-8090  
[trainguy@bex.net](mailto:trainguy@bex.net)

### Trustee West

Chuck Klein (440) 845-4915 [cltrn@aol.com](mailto:cltrn@aol.com)

### Trustee at Large

Larry Madson (440) 934-2643 [lmadson@roadrunner.com](mailto:lmadson@roadrunner.com)

### Trustee at Large

Lee Sheffield [lakeshoreny@yahoo.com](mailto:lakeshoreny@yahoo.com)

Appointed

### Carnival

Mike Oster

### Achievement

Bruce Brintnall MMR

### Layouts

John and Tom Hemsath  
[hemsathj@gmail.com](mailto:hemsathj@gmail.com)

### 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

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

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

DIVISION 4 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
JANUARY 31, 2012

LOCATION: Strongsville United Church of Christ

Superintendent Art Bumpus was absent due to an illness. The meeting was called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM by Assistant Superintendent Jim Moore. Elected officers in attendance: Jim Moore, Bruce Bowie, Rich Tressa, Steve Kaplan, Gary Dunn, Chuck Klein, Larry Madson and Lee Sheffield. Chairpersons in attendance: David Lawler, Dave Williams, Dennis Whitaker, Joe Mehalic, Scott Benson, Ben Lanza, David James and John Hemsath.

The Treasurer reported assets of \$36,191.06 as of 1/31/2012. The minutes for the October 25, 2011 BOD Meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS –The meeting schedule this year includes a regular meeting the second Friday in June with a picnic to be planned for July or August. A picnic venue is still being determined. Ideas are welcome from all members. Currently the Treasurer’s position is restricted to two, two year terms. Rich Tressa has offered to stay on as Treasurer. This will require a change in the bylaws. A recommendation will be made to the general membership at the first opportunity to revise the bylaws Article III: Officers, Paragraph 3 to read as follows:

1. No elected officer, except for the Trustees **and Treasurer**, shall serve more than two consecutive terms or parts thereof in the same office. **A review of the financial books shall be done on an annual basis by an ad hoc committee appointed by the Superintendent.** The duties imposed on the officers shall be the usual and customary obligations and such others which may be prescribed by these rules.

The recommended changes are shown in bold and underlined.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Dave Lawler reported the mid-year contest awards will be presented soon. The end of the year contest awards will be presented at the June meeting. Scott Benson reported the module group has applied for a slot at the upcoming Grand Rapids National Convention as well as the iHobby Show to be held this year at the IX Center the week following Division 4’s Carnival. Some issues with the Xmas Connection are being looked in to for this year’s show. Scott suggested the Division consider a “Xmas” themed layout might be a good thing to do for shows such as the Xmas Connection. David Williams noted the cost of postage has just gone up making the hardcopy Flatwheel more expensive to mail but we have also seen an uptick in the number of members opting for the electronic version, greatly helping to reduce the work and cost of generating the monthly newsletter. Joe Mehalic is working with Division 5 on an effort to have a joint table at our respective shows, making manning easier and allowing for the rental of an additional table. Denny Whitaker reported he has made the necessary changes to the Division Roster to align with the new NMRA privacy rules. An idea was presented to add to the mentor listing those members who have a layout they are willing to show to individual members. John Hemsath reported layout tours will be held in the western area of the division on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Ben Lanza reported it would cost between \$20-\$30 dollars per month to add a members only secure portion to the current website. It was noted Division 5’s newsletter often carries information from the National and we might want to consider it going forward. Larry Madson has programs lined up for the next two months but is looking for programs for April, May and June. A clinic on basic electricity for model railroaders has been requested. A clinic on soldering techniques was another idea mentioned.

NEW BUSINESS – Denny Whitaker noted we are now up to 88% of the members providing email addresses for the Division Roster. Gary Sole and Mike Klein are looking for candidates for the upcoming elections. Please contact them if you are interested. A discussion on the annual gifting was tabled. An idea for a committee to contact members that are ill was discussed without reaching a consensus. The Annual Awards Banquet will be scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in December at the same location as this past year’s banquet.

The meeting adjourned again at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce Bowie, Secretary

## An Update from Scott Benson

Modular Group Chairman Scott has reported on his return loop construction plans in previous Faltwheels. Here's an update that he sent out:

***Roadbed is going down. Handlaid crossing is mostly done. Still sorting out what to do with roadbed/sub-roadbed on the central foam section. Trackwork starting soon!!***

photos: Scott Benson





**Contest Corner** conducted by Dave Lawler

The February 2012 Model Contest Report: Railway Stock Cars

There were 7 entries and 56 votes.

- 1st Dave Williams, Blackstone HOn3
- 2nd Jim Grell, NYC double deck car
- 3rd (tie) George Gelehrter, ACL car.  
Steve Riddlebaugh, PRR converted box car.  
Dave Lawler CPR 36' car



Point standings after our first contest of the second half are as follows:

- 1st Dave Williams, 4 pts.
- 2nd Jim Grell, 3 pts.
- 3rd George Gelehrter, Steve Riddlebaugh and Dave Lawler, 2 pts. each.

The March contest is for branch line freight trains of no more than 5 total units. A locomotive and four cars, including a caboose (if applicable). A diesel locomotive is one unit. A steam locomotive with tender(s) is one unit.



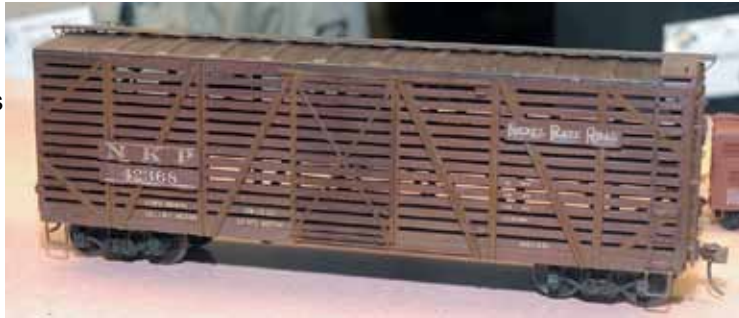
Editor's note: Now pigs will fly. Thanks for your votes. I had a great car to start with out of the box, so I suspect that if everyone started with the same kit, I might not have placed as well. I think the margin must have been narrow since there were a lot of great entries. Anyhow, I guess I should take this as a sign that I should shift gears and try a little harder at serious modeling - why I joined the NMRA in the first place. Thanks for the push.

# THE FLATWHEEL

VOL 47 NBR 03 MARCH 2012

Newsletter of NMRA MCR Division Four

An entry in February's  
Stockcar contest.



Next meeting:

**Friday March 09 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](http://www.div4.org)

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

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