



JANUARY 2018

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 1



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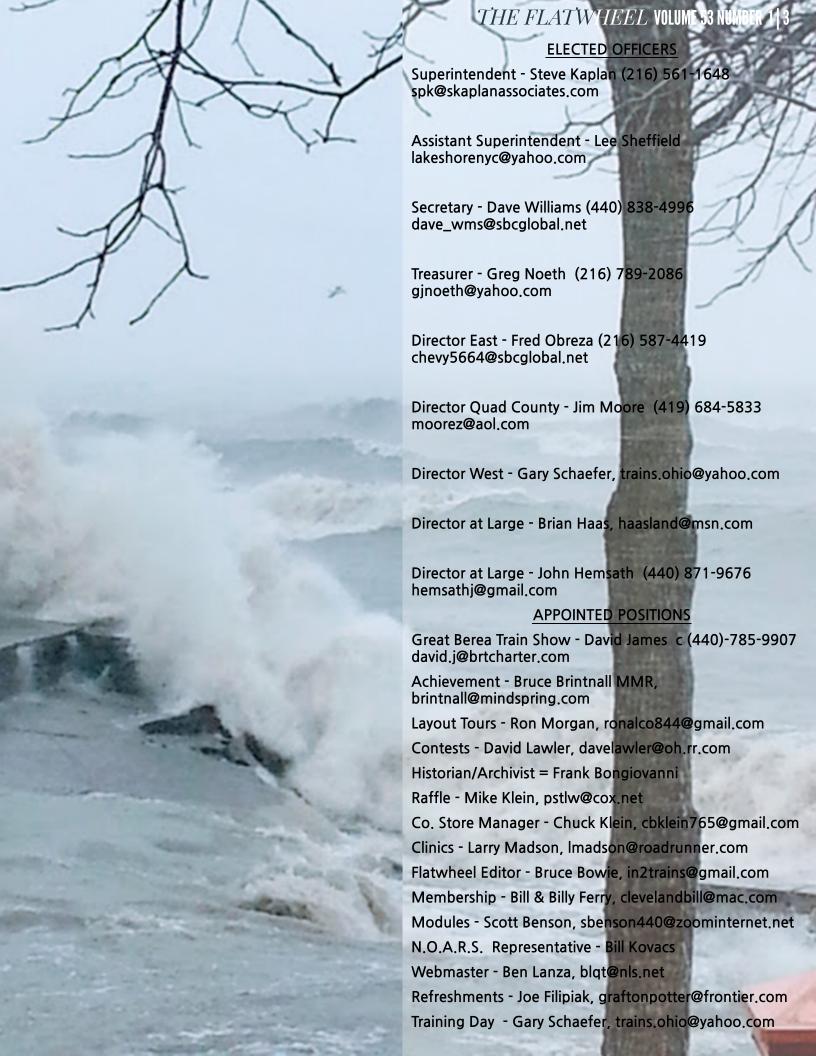
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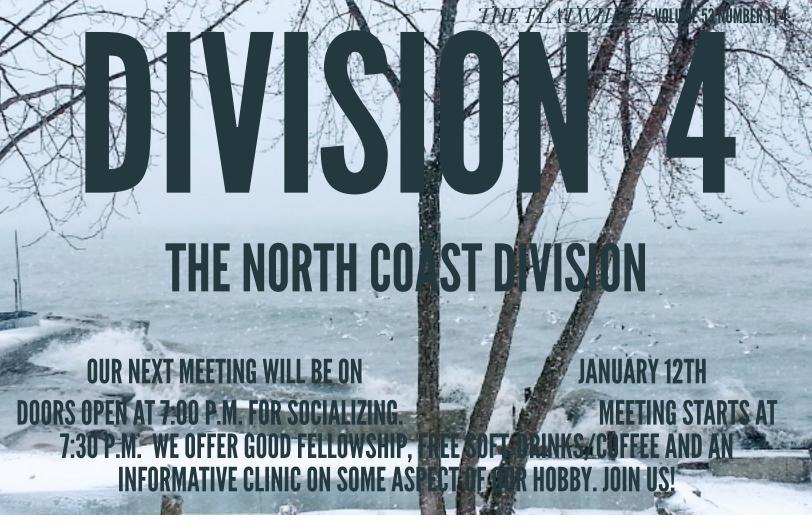
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This month's cover photo was taken on Dave Lawler's layout during the Fall Layout Tours. It is an example of the level of detail a modeler of Dave's high caliber adds to his models.





WHEN & WHERE WE MEET

The North Coast Division holds 10 meetings a year (none in July and August). Meetings are on the 2nd Friday of each month. A

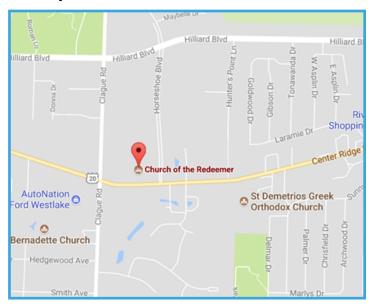
social half hour starts at 7:00 p.m. followed by a short business meeting at 7:30. After a short break, a railroad themed raffle and clinic complete the typical agenda. Meetings are held at the Church of the Redemer, 23500 Center Ridge Rd, Cleveland, OH 44145. Visitors are welcome to attend any meeting.

The Division's newsletter, *The Flatwheel* is published monthly (except during July and August) by Division 4 of the Mid-Central Region (MCR) of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). All comments are welcome. Views expressed in *The Flatwheel* do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the NMRA, MCR, or Division 4.

The Flatwheel is typically electronically published no later than the Monday preceding the monthly meeting. Submissions are due no later than the 26th of the prior month, for example, August 26th for the September Flatwheel.

Uncredited photos courtesy of the editor or staff photographer Dave Williams.

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. The group is private and does not appear on the Yahoo directory.





I spent my first 26 years on this earth living in Perkins Township, just south of Sandusky, including attending Perkins Schools K-12. My first house was in the same Township as well. My wife, also raised in the township, and I then found a home in the Village of Milan we decided would be where we would raise our family.

Relocating to Milan, only 12 miles away, was the same to us as moving to another state. We would not know anyone. Uh oh. I spoke with an electrician working for me at the time who was originally from Norwalk but had moved with his wife to Milan a few years prior. I asked him what it was like to live in Milan. He responded that it was nice but he found it difficult to get to know anyone.

We made the big move and lived there, raising our three daughters, for the next 18 years. However, unlike the electrician, both my wife and I found it easy to get to know people, many of whom are still friends, these many years later.

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So what made the difference between the electrician's experience getting to know people and ours you ask? Let me explain.

My wife and I both shortly after our move became active in local organizations. Key word "active". My wife joined and held office in the

Key word "active".

then separate but equal Jayceettes and I joined and similarly held various offices and chairs in the male equivalent. My wife volunteered for and accepted a position on the Milan Playschool board. A year after moving to Milan, I joined the local volunteer fire department and rescue squad, over time holding every MTFD Association elected position.

The North Coast Division's leadership makes a strong effort to make new members feel welcome. But the moral of the above story is YOU can help make yourself feel part of the organization by taking an elected or appointed position when they become available.

YOU can help make yourself feel part of the organization

Chuck and Mike Klein announced at the November meeting they will be "retiring" in June from the roles of the Division Store Manager and <u>24 YEARS (!)</u> as the Raffle Dudes. It was also announced we are taking nominations for elected positions that will be voted on in the spring. If you would like to feel more connected with the other members, and likely make some lifelong friendships, I urge you to put your hand up. While there is no financial compensation, I

I urge you to put your hand up.

can attest to the value **BRUCE BOWIE** you will receive in return for a little of your time and energy.

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HERBIE'S RUMBLINGS





Help Every Model Railroader Become Injury Exempt

When you receive this, you will only have a few days left to the Porter Library in Westlake (27333 Center Ridge Road), where Chuck and Mike Klein have a two-showcase static display on model railroading. It will be there through New Year's Day. And, you can still catch the final weekend of Trees and t\Trains at the Black River Landing in Lorain.

Those two events are winding down, but the Science of Trains exhibit at the Great Lakes Science Center will be running until February 19th. – either by running trains, answering questions or demonstrating some facet of modeling. This is fantastic exposure for the NMRA and our Division. Wednesday-before Thanksgiving the attendance was 1,182, and Friday-after was 1,364. Some of them glance at us and walk by – most stop to gape and ask questions.

ALSO! - We have received special information from National regarding how to handle the volunteer hours. I will try to get it summarized and distributed soon, but in the meantime, your could maximize your opportunity for volunteer achievement points by being down there at least 4 but better is 8 hours every week This includes those who are demonstrating modeling, or just answering questions about membership and our activities.

Don't forget to get yourself (and your spouse) signed up for the 2018 Regional Convention in Cincinnati, May 17-20. It promises to be a good one with lots of activities.

Please remember to engage the new members and/or

guests in conversation before the meeting, and during the break. They can be identified by a green name tag (or no name tag if they sneak past Bill Ferry).

Don't forget to take home a few DVD's from our library. See Chuck in the Company Store. And, see me if you want to check out a set of Fast Tracks tools. Several members have used them now. We have #4, #6 and #8 turnout kits available. Also available are other turnout fixtures owned by individual members who have agreed to loan them out – these include a #5 turnout, a crossover and a gauntlet track.

See you at the meeting,

STEVE KAPLAN, SUPERINTENDENT THE NORTH COAST DIVISION



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

THERE ARE NO MINUTES THIS MONTH AS WE HAD THE AWARDS BANQUET IN DECEMBER IN LIEU OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING. - EDITOR

Photos by Dave Lawler



Canadian National 2-8-2 #3254



Union Pacific crew change at Alpine, Texas

THIS & THAT

NEVER TOO SOON - "It's never too soon to start learning about model railroading!" - A Facebook post by Bill Neale, MMR, Central Director

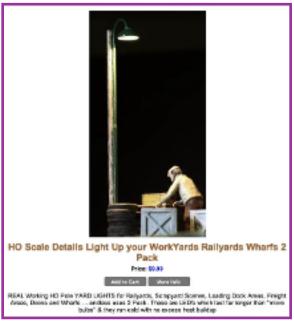


A REALLY GREAT PLACE TO FIND FIGURES AND DETAIL ITEMS - ModelTech Studios has a really

interesting line of items that can be used to a details to that special area of your layout. The one you want visitors to view.

http://modeltechstudios.com/

What I like about ModelTech products is the special figure sets designed for a given business like the "Soda Jerk". These figures and details really can add to a scene. - from Joe Kurilec, MMR



Also available in O scale for \$10.99





World's first dome car wins Trains Preservation Award

http://trn.trains.com/news/

Then search

"Bellevue Dome Car"

MINNEAPOLIS — Trains magazine has awarded its \$10,000 2017
Preservation Award to the Mad River & NKP Railroad Museum in Bellevue, Ohio, for the restoration of the dome on America's first dome car, Chicago, Burlington & Quincy's Silver Dome.



The award was announced at the Heritage Rail Alliance's annual meeting in Minneapolis on Oct. 7.

grant will sponsor restoration of the dome. specifically focusing replacement of trim and plexiglass which have discolored with time. Work on the dome coincides with the museum's effort to restore entire the including reupholstery, carpeting, and window sill work.

THIS & THAT



HO Scale People, Warehouse Worker Bringing in the Load, Finished Set #1

Price: \$11.99

dd to Cart More Info

Ugh....this load is HEAVY. He's pushing a fully loaded freight dolly. This Warehouse or Freight Dock Laborer is busy with today's delivery....back breaking work. HO Scale People that make your scenes stand out. This Set comes Finished in HO Scale



HO Scale People, Warehouse Worker Loading Shipping Pallet, Finished Set #2

Price: \$11.99

Add to Cart More Info

He's Stacking Freight boxes on a pallet to be picked up in today's shipment. Perfect for a Loading dock, Warehouse or anywhere that needs that "In Action" figure touch to bring your scenes alive. HO Scale Detail Finished Set.

The award was made from nearly 40 applicants in this, the 18th year, for Trains' \$10,000 grant.

"Museums and tourist groups submitted a variety of strong proposals from across the country; locomotives, passenger cars, freight cars, archives — we saw it all," says Trains Associate Editor Steve Sweeney. "We chose to support Mad River this year to encourage their efforts to stabilize, then restore the world's first dome car for future generations. That it exists at all is a tribute to early Mad River members who rescued Silver Dome from an uncertain fate in the 1970s."

"The Silver Dome is, without a doubt, the most historically significant piece equipment in our collection and the restoration is sorely needed," says Chris Beamer, Mad River president. "Trains' preservation award has given us a virtual shot-in-the-arm and will take us a long way toward the end goal."

Cyrus Osborn, a General Motors vice president, first thought of the concept of a dome car while riding the cab of an F unit on the Rio Grande through Colorado in 1944. His dome idea was incorporated into the four-car Train of GM Tomorrow, completed in 1947. Meanwhile, the Burlington modified 1940 stainless steel coach Silver Alchemy at its Aurora, Ill.,

MODULE GROUP

Great Lakes Science Center Exhibit CONTINUES!

Division 4 is well represented at the new All Aboard, The Science of Trains exhibit at the Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC). As part of Division 4 support, the modular layout group is providing a 24' dogbone layout and is staffing the layout during GLSC open hours. There is also a table for modeling demonstrations, coordinated by Joe Kurilec, and a table for membership and promotion materials. The opening three days brought 3000 visitors to the museum, most of whom visited the exhibit. The GLSC expects 100,000 visitors over the course of the exhibit through mid-February. The overall exhibit features a number of prototype displays provided by the Midwest Railway Preservation Society, some of Mark Filippell's great bridges, a train ride for children of all ages, and play areas with more wooden floor train pieces than you've ever seen in your life!

We'd love to have more Division 4 members help to staff the exhibit, whether it is to demonstrate modeling techniques, staff the layout, or just interact with the many visitors. Entry and parking for volunteers are free. After any volunteer completes four shifts on staff, GLSC provides them with two guest passes. The GLSC is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10:00am to 5:00pm, and Sundays, Noon to 5:00 pm (excluding Browns home games). Contact Scott Benson or Joe Kurilec to join the team!!!

The module group will have a second layout at the International Trees & Trains exhibit at the Black River Transportation Center in Lorain. Our layout will be between 60 - 70' long. The event opens on November 25, and runs Friday and Saturday evenings, 5:00 - 9:00pm, and Sunday evenings, 3:00 - 7:00pm, through December 30 (excluding December 24). 🕌

> SCOTT BENSON **MODULE GROUP**



Train Sponsors

460-242-8439

Tree Sponsors Become a Sponsor

Special Thanks

When shops. the renamed Silver Dome. re-entered service in 1945 on Chicago Burlington's Minneapolis Twin Cities Zephyr, passengers loved the experience and encouraged the Burlington and about a dozen other railroads to place orders for their own dome cars. And those orders gave birth to an all-new train travel experience that we still cherish today.

Silver Dome passed into Amtrak hands in 1971, but it sidelined was equipment. surplus Mad River bought the car at auction in 1978 and has since placed it under a shed to keep it from further damage.

Mad River officials and Trains will provide updates on dome work on the car throughout 2018.

MORE INFORMATION ON THIS CAR AND OTHERS AT THE MAD RIVER RAILROAD **MUSEUM CAN BE FOUND** AT:

www.madrivermuseum.org

MEMBERSHIP

We wish to send Happy Birthday Wishes to the following members celebrating their birthdays in January:

Roy Cavan John Henning Gary Schaefer

William Deptowicz John Janda Ian Sly
Joe Dugan Jeffrey Martin Gary Sole

Pauline Handmon Edward Nowicki Adam Woodie

MEMBERS: If you look for, but don't find, your birthday in the Flatwheel, it is because the Member Database does not include your birthdate information. If you'd like it to be added, please email Bill Ferry, Membership, at ClevelandBill@mac.com or call (440) 570-2112 and leave a message.

BILL AND BILLY FERRY
MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS





ELECTIONS

If anyone is interested in running for office please speak to Joe Kurilec, Mike Klein, or myself at the January meeting. Nominations close at the February meeting.

Chuck Klein.

Nominating Committee Chairman

RAFFLE

Hello everyone,

Thanks to all who participated in the Holiday Raffle. It was a great one. I would like to thank all those who contributed to this years raffle plus all those who contributed for the last 20+ years. Thanks to Chuck and Linda Klein, Deb Klein, Delaney McCandless, Connie and Emil Orenick of State Tool and Die, Gary Sole and Bernie's Bargains, Pat and John Henning, Bruce Bowie, Bob Kaiser, and many many more. Last but not least all members of Div. 4 who have supported the raffle through the years. January's raffle is another great variety of prizes.

THE RAFFLE DUDES





COMPANY STORE

The company Store has 1 doz. Reefer kits available. Wood sided 2 numbers \$18.00 ea., **Steel sided SOLD OUT!**!. Hats \$20.00 ea. Division Patches \$3.00 ea. The Company Store has handled a number of Division 4 shirt orders. We will order a shirt for you, the store needs the money up front. See Chuck Klein or Larry Madson.

Wanted: new store proprietor as I will be stepping down after the June 2018 meeting.

Wood Side, 2 numbers available \$18 ea.





MCR Schoolhouse Laser Cut Kit \$45 ea.



Division 4 Patches \$3 ea.







SHIRTS WILL BE AVAILABLE
THIS FALL!

Polo's along with both short and long sleeve. Stay tuned.

Division 4 Ball Caps \$20 ea.



FREE DVD'S!

I should remind everyone that we have a library of how to DVD's for member use. A \$10.00 deposit for each DVD rented. \$10.00 returned when DVD returned at next meeting. Check the listing by clicking on MEMBERS ONLY, then VIDEO LIBRARY to see a list of over 120 DVD's!

CHUCK KLEIN STORE MANAGER



	Division 4 Appare	Order Form
Name:		
Street:		
City:	State	Zip
Email:		
Phone:		
Name on shirt:		

Qty	Item	Size (circle)	Price	Amount
	Polo Shirt with pocket	S M L XL 2XL 3XL	\$25.00 \$27.00 \$28.00	
	Polo Shirt no pocket	S M L XL 2XL 3XL	\$24.00 \$26.00 \$27.00	
	Button Front short sleeve	S M L XL 2XL 3XL	\$32.00 \$34.00 \$35.00	
	Button Front long sleeve	S M L XL 2XL 3XL	\$32.00 \$34.00 \$35.00	
	Baseball Cap		\$20.00	
			Total:	

Note: All orders must be paid in full in advance.

For mail orders, send order form and check made payable to **Division 4 MCR/NMRA** to: Larry Madson 37863 N Doovys St. Avon, OH 44011

PRINT THIS PAGE & ALONG WITH FUNDS MAIL TO: LARRY MADSON, 37863 N. Doovy's Street, Avon, OH 44011

January 2018 **Practical Layout Wiring Larry Madson**

For this program, Larry will give an overview of layout wiring for DC and DCC layouts. He will discuss wiring methods including recommended wire sizes, switch (turnout) wiring, reverse loops, wyes and conversion from DC to DCC.

CLINICS

Help!!!! I am looking for programs for October 2017 through June 2018. If any of you would like to share your modeling techniques, know of someone I could contact for a **WANTED** program, or have a suggestion for a program topic, please contact me. If you have contacted me previously about a program, please take time to remind me again.

Larry Madson

Imadson@roadrunner.com

440-934-2643 or 440-864-2305

Division 4 has a digital projector available for use by Division **Clinic Presentation Aids** members for presenting clinic programs in digital format. We now also have a carousel slide projector with carousels. The Division also has a video camera available for program enhancement. Anyone wishing to use the camera or the projectors for their program, contact Larry Madson. 🚂

> **LARRY MADSON CLINIC CHAIRMAN**



CONTEST TABLE

There was no contest to report on for December due to the Awards Banquet. Do not despair however, as there will be a contest in January.

This next contest will feature General Motors (EMD) "F" units (FT, F3, F7, FP7, F9, FP9). Just so there can be no confusion, I've attached a photo of two new Canadian National F3s as typical examples, eh.

For anyone who only has an "E" unit but would still like to enter the contest, take your razor saw and hack 21' off the rear end then stuff a paper towel or old newspaper in the cavity you've created.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone,

DAVE "CHEERIOS" LAWLER CONTEST CHAIRMAN

Canadian National F3's as typical examples for January contest.



2017 AWARDS BANQUET TIE UP

This year's Awards Banquet was held at

Carrie Cerino's

8922 Ridge Road

North Royalton, Ohio

The following photos, taken by *Flatwheel* Staff Photographer Dave Williams, show some of the fun.



Superintendent Kaplan presenting this year's Bruce Brintnall Member Award to Bill Ferry



Superintendent Kaplan presenting this year's Dennis F. Novak Service Award to Joe Kurilec, MMR

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WELL DESERVING WINNERS!!

History of the Dennis F. Novak Service Award from Bruce Brintnall

Dennis Novak was the Superintendent in 1993/4 of our division. He was a guy that did not understand the meaning of the word "NO". If something needed to be done he would find a way of getting it done. He had volunteered the Division to put on the 94 Region Convention. He also said he would co-chair the convention with me. Thanks Denny.

Over the previous years the two of us became very close friends. He helped me get started on my RR. In fact he was here so many days my wife asked him where is luggage was.

One evening in Jan. he said his shoulder hurt but thought he had pulled a muscle at work. After a week it was still bothering him so he went to the doctor's. The doctor dismissed it as a pulled muscle. After two weeks he went back. They decided to put him in the hospital for tests. Results were Leukemia. By March he had pasted away.

I was the first recipient of the award renamed in Dennis' honor. - *Bruce Brintnall, MMR*

2017	Joe Kurilec	1998	Mike Oster**
2016	John Hemsath	1997	Aaron Dupont & Paul Lemermeier
2015	Ben Lanza	1996	Paul Ervin
2014	Art Bumpus	1995	John Ritt
2013	Jerry Krueger	1994	Bruce Brintnall
2012	Mike Oster**	1993	Kevin Novak
2011	Scott Benson	1992	Ken Orchard
2010	Denny Whitaker	1991	Dave Marvinney & John Henning
2009	Mike Klein & Larry Madson	1990	Mike Oster**
2008	Tom Beutler	1989	(not awarded)
2007	Bob Lavinsky	1988	William Gorris
2006	(not awarded)	1987	Raymond Doerhing
2005	Chuck Klein	1986	Albert Mallory*
2004	David M. Williams	1985	William Cramer
2003	Darren Ernst	1984	Lee Vande Visse
2002	Gary Sole	1983	Ron Morgan & Dorothy Mallory
2001	Barb Mickley	1982	Albert E. Mallory*
2000	Roy Reeves	1981	(not awarded)
1999	John Miller	1980	Patiricia Wise & Marie Schroeder

^{*} Recipient of two awards!! ** Recipient of three awards!!!

Bruce Brintnall Member Award

The following list is our current understanding of the winners of this prestigious award. If any member can add to the list it would be appreciated.

2017 Bill Ferry 2015 Gary Shaeffer 2013 Ben Lanza

2016 Dave Lawler & Ken Orchard 2014 Bruce Bowie 2012 Joe Mehalik



Food, food and more food!



Bruce Brintnall and Rick Ulmer sharing a fun story.



The Raffle Dudes thanking everyone for the support they have received over the many years they have "operated" the monthly raffle and the very special Awards Banquet Raffle. Chuck and Mike are retiring from their roles after the June meeting. The Division is looking for one or more members to take up their important positions. Time to step up!



And of course, what is a Christmas time Awards Banquet without one of Santa's helpers to share his North Pole stories with everyone present. (Thanks George Keller!)

2017 TRAINFEST



BY LEE SHEFFIELD ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

One of the biggest train shows of the year occurs in Milwaukee, Wisconsin the second weekend of November. It's called Trainfest. I have had it on my list of places to visit for many years and decided it was time to go.

So I put out the word and four fellow members chimed in, Tim Sheffield, Jeff Lauren, Gary Schaefer and Adam Woodie.

I started looking over maps and locations of things to see along the way and came up with a variety of hobby shops and other places of interest.

First stop while traveling through Chicago was DesPlaines Hobbies on the north side of Chicago. For those of you who travel, Chicago can be an exciting drive. I thought to myself, the weather won't be a factor in early November. Boy was I wrong. During our drive we were treated to the first snowfall of the season and a lot of drivers who forgot how to drive in the snow. Needless to say we were fortunate because most of the accidents were on the other side of the freeway. Call it dumb luck. I did find a couple of icy bridges which gave me the willies but the Honda kept its cool. Anyway, back to DesPlaines Hobbies. It is a great model train shop with the back wall covered with engines and a store full of everything model railroaders could ask for. We managed to find a few bargains.



Jeff Lauren and Lee Sheffield in front of The Choo Choo Diner in DesPlaines, Illinois. Photo by Adam Woodie

After DesPlaines it was time for lunch. While scanning the area with the aide of Google Maps I found a little burger joint called The Choo Choo. What made this place special was when you sit at the counter your burger and fries are delivered to you via a Lionel train running around from the kitchen. It was originally opened in 1951. At first we didn't think we were going to get in because of large number of kids and parents. But people started to leave a few minutes later and we found seats at the counter. So after enjoying our burgers, fries and handmade milk shakes we headed north



Gary Schaefer in his element at The Choo Choo Diner. Photo by Adam Woodie

Next stop was Walther's home and warehouse in Milwaukee. We arrived about two hours before closing due to the weather and loads of traffic. Seems a lot of people commute between Milwaukee and Chicago and it was compounded due to the weather. Because

Trainfest was going on Walther's was having a mystery sale. You drew a colored poker chip from a box that was good for a discount between 5 and 20% off the marked prices. One of our group pulled out a red chip (20% off) and got to pay for everything to take advantage of the discount. Don't worry, we each payed him for our purchases. They have a neat show room with a large operating HO layout for displaying the various products they sell and a small closeout section.



Walthers in Milwaukee. Photo by Adam Woodie Note the gang attacking in single file formation.

For dinner, I had this grand idea of going downtown and eating at one of the local German restaurants that Milwaukee is famous for. Well that didn't work out. We were met with huge crowds and \$25 parking. And the Bucks were not even in town! So, we headed for the hotel and settled for an Applebee's.

Saturday morning, we were off to the show. We found a local restaurant for breakfast along the way and after arriving at the show we parked and found our way to the exhibition hall. We had our tickets in hand and got in line with about 30 other people, not bad for 25 minutes to show time. By the time we got in at 9 AM there were at least 500 people lined up behind us with more standing in line for tickets.

Once we got inside it was Model Railroad nirvana. Manufacturers, dealers, vendors, train layouts, it was all there. Two hundred thousand (200,000) square feet in one huge hall! By comparison our show occupies

roughly 60,000 square feet in four buildings. And on the other end of the spectrum, the show in Springfield, Mass is 335,400 square feet. Needless to say, the show was packed.

A lot of families with kids in tow attend this show. The WISE Division of NMRA puts on this show with a scant 130 members and a whole lot of volunteers from other organizations. Overall, I thought it was a great show. Their fact sheet quotes an average show attendance at 17,000 persons, down from their peak year of 23,467 persons in 2010. We were all pretty tired after spending the entire day at the show. We closed it down at 5:00 PM and went to dinner.

Next to our hotel was a local steak house where we had a taste of a local favorite, deep fried cheese curds. And I have to admit, they are pretty good.

After a good night's sleep it was time to hit the road. We went back to the local restaurant we found Sat morning and had a good breakfast.

With our tummy's and gas tanks full we headed for Rochelle Railroad Park in Rochelle, Illinois. For those of you who don't know, Rochelle Railroad Park is the 1st dedicated railroad park which others have modeled theirs after, such as the Fostoria Iron Triangle, Deshler Railroad Park etc. It is built between the double track diamonds of the Union Pacific and BNSF They have a covered pavilion. railroads. restrooms and the customary gift shop along with a couple of small locomotives on display. If you are in the western Chicago area I highly recommend a visit. Upon arrival BNSF was completing some track work next to the diamonds. About a 1/2 hour later they finished and the flood gates opened. Immediately two UP trains rolled through and then a special treat, a UP train with the Salt Lake City Olympics 2002 engine on the point. And a couple of BNSF trains after that. snowing and cold and we had one more hobby shop to visit on our way home so we hit the road.



Tim Sheffield, Gary Schaefer, Lee and Jeff Lauren at the controls at Rochelle Railroad Park. Photo by Adam Woodie

The last hobby shop we visited was Lombard Hobbies on Chicago's west side. Lombard's is very much like DesPlaines Hobbies with wall to wall trains. It is first and foremost a model train shop. They have loads of older Atlas and Athearn Genesis engines that I thought were long gone and they have a great website too, so take a look. And then it was homeward bound.

Overall it was a good trip. The show was pretty good although I can't say I would go every year. If you like seeing a lot of train layouts, then it's the show for you. Layouts are what bring in the families for the entertainment value. There weren't many bargains to be had but it is checked off my list of places to visit for now.

If you are in the Chicago area then a visit to the Choo Choo Diner is a must and stop by DesPlaines Hobby's as it is only a mile and a half away.

I pulled into my driveway about 10 PM wore out after driving most of day in snow and rain. I am just getting too old to drive at night in the rain.

Believe it or not, maybe there can be too many trains in a weekend. No Way !!!

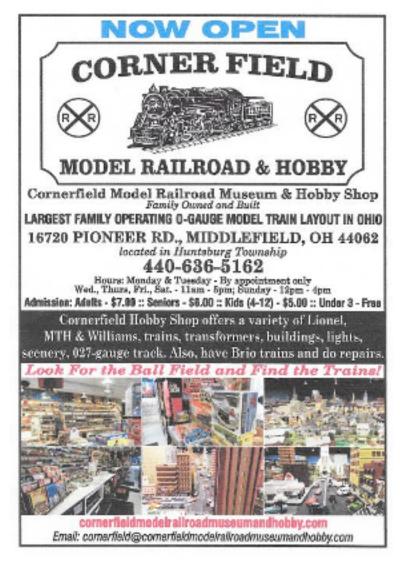
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A TRIP TO THE CORNER FIELD MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM



BY SCOTT BENSON PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

The Corner Field Model Railroad Museum and store opened on November 3rd.



My buddy and I were up for a road trip, so we headed out to Huntsburg, Ohio, just north of Middlefield.

The museum was the personal O-Gauge layout of owner Tom Elesh and his family. They've decided to open it up to public!

The layout is approximately 30' by 70' feet and is in a building behind the house. This is not a Lionel tubular-track layout (nothing against that!), but features Gargraves track and equipment from a variety of prototype-oriented manufacturers; so the look is modern and high-end. There were 4 or 5 trains running, including nice 40' long freight trains.

Scenery is complete and extensive. Many scenes are animated and there are push-buttons around

the layout to activate others.

The small store serves the O-Gauge community, with a selection of scenery and supplies.

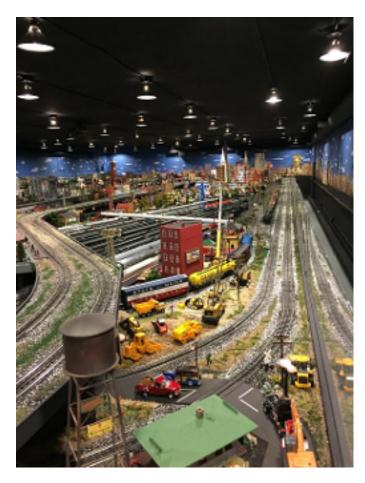
The owners were super-friendly and we had a nice conversation about model railroading with them.

We had lunch at the Corner Café, a few miles south

in Middlefield, which is a classic country Mom & Pop joint with good cooking!

Along with all the other fun stuff to do in Amish Country, this would be a great outing for Division 4 families!

www.cornerfieldmodelrailroadmuseumandhobby.com





I thought this is an interesting and fairly neat blog and with **MOW** equipment by

Dave Ables, out of New

Jersey . - David James



I'm sending this blog excerpt to friends and acquaintances who are into operations and/or modeling scenes. This model railroad and blog are the work of Dave Ables, an outstanding modeler photographer who lives Jersey. I've not seen this done on model railroads nor operations sessions, and thought it interesting. Should you want more information about Dave, his railroad, or blog, Bill Linson. contact linson.bill@me.com - Editor

Posted: 16 Jun 2017 05:34 AM PDT

A critical part of prototype rail operations on any railroad is 'maintenance of way' (MOW) - the employees that work to keep the track, signals, bridges, buildings, and electrical services in a state of good repair. Railroaders don't just run trains, or man the towers and dispatcher desk. My whole railroad career has in fact been on the maintenance side of the railroad, so I am familiar with the equipment and people that do this critical work.

As operations on the Onondaga Cutoff have matured we have added some MOW activity, taking tracks out of service for maintenance. This adds variety and challenge to the sessions as well as providing a job for one or two guys. Here is a photo essay of recent track maintenance at an operation session.

Early in the morning of Friday June 10, 1994, Track Supervisor Jacob is on his hi-rail pickup ahead of the ballast tamper, rolling east from Onondaga Yard into CP

CONRAIL'S ONONDAGA CUTOFF -MODELING

HTTP://ONONDAGACUTOFF.BLOGSPOT.COM/

BY R.G.DAVE

THE FLATWHEEL VOLUME 53 NUMBER 1 | 25



280. He has copied a 'Form D' - essentially a track warrant under the NORAC (Northeast Operating Rules



Advisory Committee), authorizing him to be in charge of that track so that he can move the equipment to the work site.

Once the equipment is moved to the work site, it is joined by a fleet of other vehicles adjacent to the track that work together to repair the track structure, in this case by replacing ties and tamping the ballast to level the rails. While the work occurs on Track 2, Track 1 is busy handling trains in both directions. Here ML-403 comes upgrade around a boom truck and the ballast tamper doing their thing.

We turn to watch ML-403's locomotives blast past another boom truck laying out ties for spotting.

TV-13 works west later in the day behind three big GE's based out of Selkirk. The engineer sounds the horn and rings the bell, following the rules, as he passes various maintenance vehicles and approaching CP 277.

After the work is complete, by late afternoon, the track



gang has cleared up. They give the track back to the dispatcher for use with a speed restriction for the first few trains over the freshly tamped area, then remove



the restriction once the track has settled under the



weight of revenue trains. The gang ties up all their equipment back at Onondaga Yard and heads for a well-earned few beers at a local tavern!

Modeling the maintenance of the railroad is something we can all do at operating sessions to add variety and give some credit to the railroaders that few enthusiasts pay much attention to.

This is a photo of a running Z

scale train I put inside a fake

pumpkin I carved. I didn't get

this together in time for the

'Structure in a Jar' contest, but I

wanted to share it with the

group anyway via a Flatwheel

submission. - Rick Ulmer

THE HALLOWEEN EXPRESS!

The train is a Z scale Marklin European 0-6-0 steam switcher and Halloween boxcar running on Rokuhan track. The pumpkin is the size of a deflated basketball, lit by 2 yellow LEDs.

Just goes to show there is ALWAYS room for a layout!





MARKETING OUR HOBBY



PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

THE FLATWHEEL VOLUME 53 NUMBER 1 27

Greetings to all,

I'd like to share a few marketing and public relations events that I have taken part in over the past month.

Gail Bonsor from the Lorain Tourism Committee invited me to go with her to speak at a couple local events. At the end of November, we went to The Lorain Senior Center and spoke to 30+ attendees of the group. I brought several models and spoke a little about my railroading history and interests, Division 4 and our events, and model railroading in general. My "then and now" discussion on how the hobby has evolved drew lots of comments and questions.

On December 14th Gail and I went to the Lorain Lions Club Luncheon. This was a more condensed version as I was on about a 25-minute clock. Again, it was a good-sized crowd. My presentation had some of the same topics as the senior center, but I went into more detail about Division 4 and the module group. Many of the attendees said that they already attend The Great Berea Train Show and that they were definitely interested in our other events: TRAINing Day, Trees & Trains, and the Great Lakes Science Center. At the end of the luncheon TRAINing Day raffled off a car kit.

Both events were very enjoyable, and I feel that many new people were introduced to who and what Division 4 is all about.

Lastly, last week a reporter from The Morning Journal was going to be in Lorain to do an article on Trees and Trains. Lee Sheffield and I were there to run trains and answer any questions. We made the front page of Sunday's paper! Here is the link to the online version.

http://www.morningjournal.com/general-news/

20171223/international-trees-and-trains-light-up-lorain

BTW We have also gotten a lot of interest in Division 4 at The Great Lakes Science Center and at Trees and Trains. I must also thank Larry Madson for hauling the steel mill out to Lorain this year. It has been a big hit!

Have a Happy and Safe New Year's!





Subject: Lorain Lions Presentation

From: lionkencromer@gmail.com To: trains.ohio@yahoo.com

Date: Sunday, December 17, 2017 11:21:17 AM

Gary,

Thanks again for joining us on Thursday and for the very informative presentation on model railroading. We all enjoyed it very much and many are planning to visit the Black River Landing show and, personally, I'm taking my grandsons down to the Great Lakes Science Center to see the exhibit on trains.

Attached is the picture of you and Gall Bonsor in front of our banner Thursday.

Lion Ken Cromer Lorain Lions Club Ohio Lions District OH-2

Email: lionkencromer@gmail.com

PH: 440-371-1028



International Trees and Trains light up Lorain

By Kevin Martin, The Morning Journal, Photos by Eric Bonzar

POSTED:12/23/17, 7:41 PM EST | UPDATED: 2 DAYS AGO

The Trees and Train display at Lorain's Black River Landing is a celebration of the International City's locomotive history with some seasonal twists.

For the past six years the display in partnership with the Lorain Growth Association and the Lorain Port Authority have welcomed guests to Black River Landing at the Transportation Center, at 421 Black River Lane, where the space is filled with numerous Christmas trees and different train displays.

"Seven years ago, the Port Authority asked the tourism council of the Lorain Growth Corporation to do something with this building in the wintertime," said Gail Bonsor, who coordinates the exhibit for the Lorain Growth Association's Tourism Council. "We're an international city and this is a train station which was basically built to have a train go into Cleveland."

Since opening its doors on Nov. 30, Bonsor said more than 2,100 people have come to partake in the display, which runs until Dec. 30.

Train enthusiasts Rich and Helga Papay have been displaying their holiday train set since the beginning.

Rich has been collecting trains for about 30 years and revels in the opportunity to unveil the set for the public to enjoy. Helga decorated the display customizing it with a greenhouse, adding a merry-go-round and a hotel adding to the festive spirit of the exhibit.

"The Christmas display is at least 12 years old," Rich said. "I wore out the first train. This is the second one. I had to make bridges tall enough for Santa Claus to go underneath."

The Transportation Center with the help of the Lorain Port Authority also features mesmerizing trains running around the wall near the ceiling, with each car sponsored by local organizations which help provide



Gary Schaefer, left, and Lee Sheffield, of the National Model Railroad Association's Mid-Central Region Division 4, keep an eye on their train set as it makes its way along the tracks Dec. 19, 2017. The International Trees and Model Train Display will run through Dec. 30 and is open from 5-9 p.m., Dec. 29 and 30. It is free and open the public.

Eric Bonzar — The Morning Journal

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For this year's display, the tourism committee decided to place all of the international trees in the middle with train displays on the outside.

collection of trees includes the Lorain International Tree covered with different flags representing different nationalities in the community. A special commemorative tree marking the centennial anniversary of the Lorain Lighthouse in addition to a Lorain history tree covered with picture snippets reminiscent of downtown Lorain in the winter in decades past which shaped the city's identity including ice skating on the Black River.

Gary Schaefer and Lee Sheffield of National Model Railroad Association Mid-Central Region's Division 4 returned. The group with more than 200 members cover Lorain, Cuyahoga, Medina, Erie and Huron counties in promoting model railroading.

"For me, I enjoy interacting with the people," Schaefer said. "One thing I will say about our group as opposed to some of the other groups that are out there, we don't just sit and watch the trains go around and round, when we have our big layouts we follow the trains around and we engage our people. It's nothing for us to hand a throttle over to a kid and say, 'here, want to control the train' and let them go."

Their module display consists of several small portable sections of track that put together spanned the length of the Transportation Center. The group provides a detailed look at locomotive history and the science of trains.

"If you look at our modules and if you look at model railroading, you have it all. You have the science, the electronics and constructing all this, and you have the arts," Schaefer added. "You can then take it a step beyond and go into history and economics and how it rose."

The group will be holding a free "TRAINing Day" event next November at the Transportation Center to give anyone the opportunity to learn about constructing and operating model trains.

The International Trees and Model Train Display will run through Dec. 30 and is open from 5-9 p.m. on Dec. 29 and 30. It is free and open the public.







EARN THE ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER CERTIFICATE - **PART 2**

BY JOE KURILEC, MMR

THE FLATWHEEL VOLUME 53 NUMBER 1 | 32

Earning AP points at the Great Lakes Science Center program "All Aboard, The Science of trains":

PART 2

Part one of this article ran in the Dec. 2017 issue of the *FlatWheel*.

As of November 25, 2017, Steve Kaplan contacted Frank Koch, NMRA Executive Assistant Manager for the AP.

Frank was able to increase the points earned for members because of the length of GLSC railroad show.

Anyone interested in the Association Volunteer award can contact Steve or myself for details.

Many Division 4 members are earning Volunteer Achievement points every month!

Division Officials, BOD Members, Editors, Committee Heads, Committee members, Boy Scout Merit Badge Advisor, members that give Division clinics and member of the modular group, all earn points for the Volunteer AP!

Below are the general requirements for ALL AP categories.

Category 9, below, shows the points earned each month for the title you are working under. A simple Volunteer Working Record form is used to keep track of your months and points earned for service.

These can be downloaded from the NMRA website.

https://www.nmra.org/education/achievement-program

Part two of the AP gets you a simple general idea of what you need. Part three will be in a future issue of the *FlatWheel* with all of the needed forms.

To our BOD and Chairmen,

Joe is doing a great job of showing just how easy it is to get the Association Volunteer AP. "Leadership By Example" is a mantra I have always believed in. So, let's show all our members how easy this AP certificate is by doing it ourselves! - *Editor*

These can be downloaded from the NMRA website. https://www.nmra.org/education/achievement-program

Requirements

Basic to each Achievement Program category are specific requirements pertinent to that category. The following requirements are pertinent to all categories. Each member who has been granted an Achievement Certificate must:

- Have completed all of the requirements for that category.
- Be a current NMRA member at the time of requesting certification.
- 3. Request certification on the official AP Statement Of Qualification form (SOQ) and submit two copies to the AP Manager of the Region (By way of the Divisional or Area Manager.) in which the menber currently resides. Note: Any member who resides outside their "Home" Region, for less than six months of the year, and who participates in the second region's contests, or has Merit Judging done there, but wants the certificate credited to the "Home" Region, can submit the SOQ to the second region's AP Manager with explanations.
- Submit a typed or legibly printed SOQ and the required supplementary attatchments. Note: Association Official, Association Volunteer, and MMR Categories specifically provide that the SOQs may be initiated by others.
- Include on or with the SOQ all of the following:
 - Evidence of technical or service accomplishment.
 - Attachments of all supplementary material necessary to fully meet the stated requirements of the category.
 - Attachment of Merit Award Certification forms if required.
 - Certification by the Regional Manager.

Category 9 - Association Volunteer - 60 Certified Time Units Completed Statement of Qualifications						
<u> </u>						
General Manager - National Committee 4 Units per month						
Manager - National Committee 3 Units per Month						
Member - National Committee 2 Units per Month						
Manager - Regional Committee 2 Units per Month						
Member - Regional Committee 1 Unit per Month						
Official - Division 1 Unit per Month						
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Manager - Division Committee 1 Unit per Month						
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□ Me	mber - Divisi	on Boan	d 1/2 Unit per Month			
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5			4 pages) 1 Unit per Issue - Library Filing Requirement			
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			Contest 2 Units per Contest			
Щос	ficial Judge - I	Division	al Contest 1 Unit per Contest			
Boy Scout Merit Badge Advisor 1 Unit per Month Plus a bonus of a unit per						
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$\square_{\mathbb{N}_2}$	itional clinic g	iven bey	ond the first time given - 3 Units per presentation			
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BY ADAM WOODIE
PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

THE FLATWHEEL VOLUME 53 NUMBER 1 | 35

Remember the first time you laid eyes on a train set? Perhaps it was your father's train set that he would set up around the Christmas tree every year. Maybe you received a train set as a gift from Santa at a young age. As for me, I found some boxes of HO scale model trains that my father owned when I was five and played with all of them for hours. At the age of eight, I was given a Tyco brand HO scale train set as a birthday present, which cemented my passion for model trains. I always enjoy sharing that passion, which is why I was really excited to work on the following project.

A couple of months ago, my uncle Danny contacted me to ask for my opinion on purchasing a train set for his grandson, Charlie, as a Christmas present. Charlie is five years old and is fascinated with trains. His favorite thing at the Medina County Fair is the 4H train layout that is displayed every year. I am told by his parents that it's nearly impossible to pull him away from the layout, which is why they go into that building last! Remembering how much I enjoyed playing with trains at that age, I suggested that instead of purchasing a train set, why not just build a layout? I already had most of the materials needed to build the layout, so acquiring the rest of the items should cost less than a typical train set would cost. Anything else that was needed was purchased at a couple of model train shows at very reasonable prices.

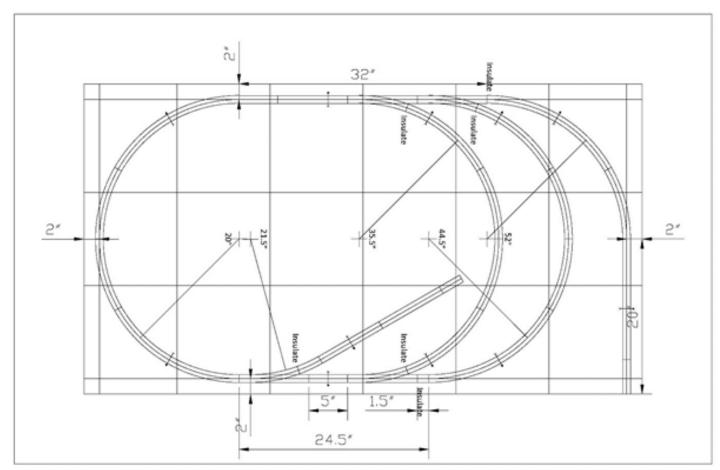
My uncle thought that was fantastic idea and gave me the requirements of the layout, which are as follows:

- The outside dimensions should be 40" wide by 72" long so that the layout would fit under Charlie's bed.
- The track work must be nearly perfect to minimize the chance of a derailment.
- There would need to be a road for Matchbox cars.
- Some kind of basic scenery would be needed to cover the plywood.

With these specifications in mind, I put together a basic train layout using 18" radius curves and

Atlas Snap Switch tracks as shown on the next page.

The layout was designed to allow the train to be assembled on the outside spur. The train can then be sent to travel around the layout, or the cars can be switched out on the inside spur. The design requires the locomotive to use the run-around track in order to switch out the cars on the spur located inside the main part of the layout.



Most of the track used is flex track. This minimizes the number of track joints, which can be a source of derailments and electrical conductivity issues. We also included a couple of re-railer sections of track to assist in setting up the train on the outside spur and on the main line track in the event of derailment.

My uncle and I decided that the layout should be wired for DC control. The track diagram shows the locations of the track feeders and the insulated rail joiners. Each of the five isolated sections of track (except for the inside spur) has a minimum of two sets of feeders for power. Once the bench work, roadbed, track, and wiring were completed, it was time to begin working on the scenery.



Keeping with the request to install a road and hide the plywood, I constructed a road using Woodland Scenics

Smooth It plaster and road system. I also used Woodland Scenics Mold-A-Scene to build up the areas around two buildings adjacent to the railroad spur. The rest of the scenery was created with Woodland Scenics fine turf and ground foam products.

I wanted to make sure that the layout didn't look like a vast flatland. So I used Styrofoam and Sculptamold to build up an area in one corner of the layout as a hillside. Nearly eight inches of space was left between the foot of the hill and the edge of the road to allow plenty of space for some future buildings.

Below is the photo of the finished layout, ready for Christmas. Hopefully, Charlie will enjoy playing with the layout as much as I enjoyed building it with my uncle.



GREAT LAKES SCIENCE CENTER PROJECT

BY JOE KURILEC,

NOTE: VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED UNTIL **MID-FEBRUARY!**

Myself & Jerry Krueger are part of a team that is putting together a display at the GLSC (Great Lakes Science Center) presentation All Aboard: Trains. The event will run from 11-3-2017 to 2-18-2018.

Our Division 4 modular layout is to be used. A dog bone set up is requested. Model railroad items in all scales will be on display along with real railroad items. These models will be of railroads that served or are serving the Cleveland, Ohio area.

This is a GIANT undertaking for **Division 4!**

We NEED volunteers to staff the module, set up modeling events (building RR items of ANY type) and any other "PR" that YOU might want to do!

Parking will be covered!

This is a FOUR month event running 6 days a week between 10AM and 5PM.

First: The Railroad show "All Aboard, Trains" opens to the public Friday, Nov. 3 2017 and runs till Sunday, Feb. 2, 2018.

You will be required to have a Division ID badge and or a Division 4 shirt.

I need to put together a "schedule" of DAYS/DATES, TIMES that you are willing to volunteer.

One time during the event OR as much time as you can spare.

This is a VERY SPECIAL event that the Division is LUCKY to be part of!

We all need to promote the future of the hobby of model railroading!

Contact me with your needed volunteer time or questions.

Joe Kurilec, MMR

jkurilec@earthlink.net

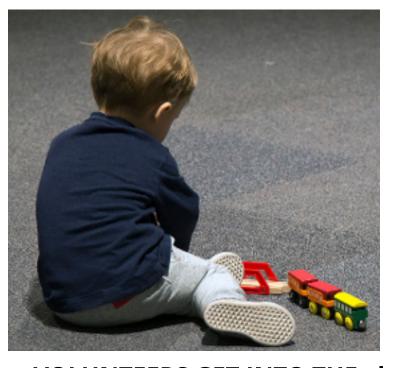
440-243-2337 PLEASE leave a voice mail!





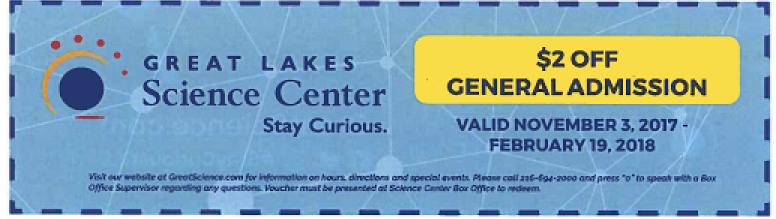








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ALL ABOARD! The Science of Trains

November 3, 2017 -February 19, 2018

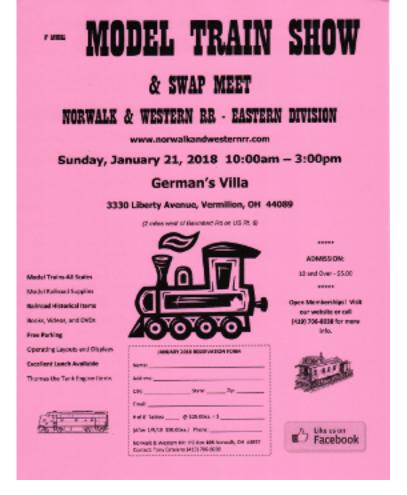
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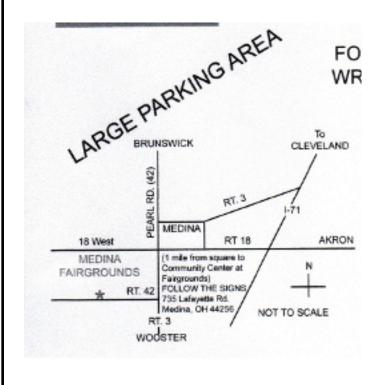
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Medina County Community Center

Medina Fairgrounds

735 Lafayette Rd.

Medina, OH 44256





Denny's Trains will have its second

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Sunday, February, 11, 2018 in The Fairhaven Hall

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Admission 10-3 \$5 under 12 free

3-4 Admission FREE!!!

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If you are looking for tupperware, fishing lures, plants, coins, star

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This show <u>WILL</u> have several operating layouts and over 100 tables of quality train-related items.

DEALERS - 8 ft. tables \$25 - Saturday set-up 4PM - 8PM Sunday set-up 7AM - 10AM

There will be limited drive-in access to unload

Dealers must stay completely set-up until 4PM
For more information, contact Dennis Breese at 419-606-7934
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March 2018 PLEASE PRINT		wywern water or over with a two mee equicalons per emisitor	Seiling flems - Table cost \$25,00 each
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Non-Rail Luncheon and Saturday Banquet



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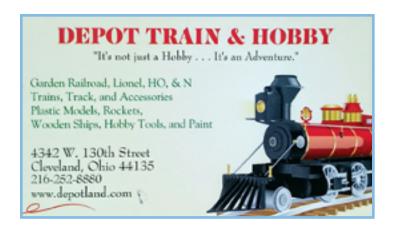
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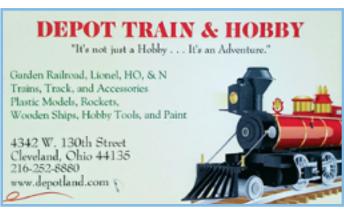
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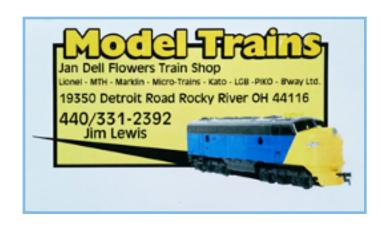


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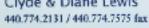
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See Scott Benson's article on his visit to this shop on page 22

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DIVISION 4, MCR, NMRA

The North Coast Division

The North Coast Division holds 10 meetings a year (none in July and August). Meetings are on the 2nd Friday of each month. A social half hour starts at 7:00 p.m. followed by a short business meeting at 7:30. After a short break, a railroad themed raffle and clinic complete the typical agenda. Meetings are held at The Church of The Redeemer, 23500 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, OH 44145. Visitors are welcome to attend any meeting.

The Division's newsleter, *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). All comments are welcome. Views expressed in *The Flatwheel* do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the NMRA, MCR, or Division Four.

Uncredited photos courtesy of the editor or staff photographer Dave Williams.

The Flatwheel is typically electronically published no later than the Monday preceding the monthly meeting. Submissions are due no later than the 26th of the prior month, for example, August 26th for the September Flatwheel.

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. The group is private and does not appear on the Yahoo directory.

Another example of beautiful modeling you missed if you did not participate in the fall 2017 layout tours!

This from Dave Lawler's gorgeous ONTARIO SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY Ltd. railroad.



