



THE FLATWHEEL

MAY 2023

VOLUME 58 NUMBER 5



GE AC44C6MJ Taken as it clears the Drawbridge over the Cuyahoga River
In Cleveland Ohio. Near Browns stadium on April 16, 2023

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DIVISION 4

THE NORTH COAST DIVISION

OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE **FRIDAY, May 12, 2023**

Meeting starts at 6:30pm

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WHEN & WHERE WE MEET

The North Coast Division holds 10 meetings a year (none in July and August).

Meetings are on the **2nd Fri-**

day of each month. A social half hour starts at 6:00 p.m. followed by a short business meeting at 6:30. After a short break, a railroad themed raffle and clinic complete the typical agenda. Starting September, 2020, the meetings are held at the **Westlake City Recreation Center**, 28955 Hilliard Blvd, Westlake, 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*.

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

Westlake City Recreation Center
28955 Hilliard Blvd
Westlake, OH 44145



FROM THE SUPER

Greeting from Cab

The Rails to Pittsburgh Convention is just a week away as I am writing my article for the Flatwheel. Looking forward to helping with the promotion of our convention in 2024. I signed up for several tours, clinics and helping with the photo contest. Should be a good time. One key new thing at the convention will be a T-Track display. That idea is growing in the region. Division 1 has gone to completely to the T-Track concept for their N and Ho layouts according to their recent report for the regional meeting in Pittsburgh.

Thanks to Ram Hog Shearer for agreeing to be chairman for the Division 4 T-Track. His display at the April business meeting was very nice. Showed what can be done in a small amount of space.

I want to thank Scott Eastburn for volunteering to take over as Flatwheel Editor in August for the September newsletter. Chuck Shick will be replacing Ben Lanza as the webmaster at the same time.

Speaking of Scott, he should be receiving Master Builder Cars Certificate in the fall and he is currently working on Electrical and Association Volunteer.

The Division 4 North Coast Limited Convention is starting to come together. Jerry Kruger is doing a great job as Chairman. He still needs volunteers for several positions. Please contact Jerry if you would be willing to help.

Speaking of the 2024 convention, time to start getting the layouts in shape to be open for operation or viewing during the convention. I have finished my last scenery project this week and I am now adding signals to the layout for switch indication. Layout is starting to look GOOD! I know several other layout owners are starting to gear up for the convention. How about you? More layouts are always appreciated.

If you haven't signed up for the new NMRA Interchange you might want to do so. I believe it can be useful to the group as a whole. More places to advertise the Great Berea Train Show.

The MCR is still looking for a MCR Contest Chairman. Anyone interested, please see me.

Well, the train is pulling into the yard and this run is over. Until the next time.

Ron



Ron Morgan

MARCH MEETING MINUTES

Division 4, MCR, NMRA Monthly Minutes, Friday April 14th

Superintendent, Ron Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He welcomed new members Mark Pekelnicy and Tom Weber. Visitor Dan Maddox was also extended a warm welcome.

A motion was made by John Hemsath, MMR®, seconded by Chuck Shick to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion was carried by the members.

A Treasurer's Report was given by Greg Noeth. Greg also mentioned that a separate account has been set up for the 2024 Convention.

Old Business- 2024 Regional Convention – Jerry Kruger/John Witt, MMR® – things are progressing right along. Bruce Bowie has got the online registration up and running. Still need to fill a few spots of volunteers. John Witt, MMR® and Scott Benson are working on layout tours and operation sessions for convention. If you'd like to have an ops session or be on the layout tour, let either one of them know.

Pittsburg Convention 2023 – Ron Morgan – Convention is right around the corner. We have 7, possibly more going to be there to represent Division 4.

Job Description – Ron Morgan/ Chuck Shick – Chuck will see who has turned in their job description paperwork and Ron will send emails to those who haven't done so yet.

T-Track – Ron Morgan/Ramhog Shearer – Ramhog has brought in a few examples of T-Track this evening. They are on the back table by the name tags. Please go back and take a look. If you are interested or have any questions about T-Track, Ramhog is happy to assist you.

Division 4 By Laws – Ron Morgan – they are still under review with the hope of finalizing soon.

New Business

Show and Tell – John Hemsath, MMR – brought in his mock up of his theater project and the actual finished product. Please stop by and take a look.

Working on Cool New Projects – Bruce Bowie – told of how he built portals for the tunnel on his layout.

Committee Reports

Flat Wheel Deadline – Chuck Shick – April 26th. If anyone is interested in taking over as Editor please speak to Chuck or Ron.

Membership – Ron Morgan – Please keep all of your information current with the NMRA. Bill Dluback is hurting from a fall. Wife is not doing well. We need some help while he recovers.

Clinics – Jerry Kruger – tonight's clinic is by Jerry and it's about adding details. May will be Brent Repenning, June is Bram Bailey. Looking for fall presenters.

Company Store – Scott Benson – no report given tonight.

Raffle – Bram Bailey – lots of good stuff here, come and buy your tickets.

Module Group – Adam Woodie – no report given.

Layout Tours – John Witt, MMR® – Looking for volunteers to show their layouts for tours. Olmsted Falls Depot & Model Railroad museum will be holding it's annual Spring Open House the last 2 weekends of April.

Contest – Joe Filipiak – March's results for the Yard Office Contest are as follows:

Model – 1st – Joe Kurilec
 2nd – Jim Grell
 3rd – Don Glass

Diorama – 1st – Don Glass
 2nd – Art Bumpus
 3rd – Dave Lawler

Tonight's contest is Open Hoppers, other than coal. Next month is the last contest for this year and it will be Something found on a Military Consist. June Awards will be presented. If you have any ideas for a contest, please submit them to Joe.

AP Awards – John Hemsath, MMR® – nothing tonight.

Comments and Concerns – Ron Morgan – Thanks for coming out tonight.

John Hemsath, MMR® let us know that Scott Eastburn has made 7 cars on working towards an award for this.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Shick

Secretary, Division 4, MCR, NMRA



Chris Shick

NORTH COAST OHIO

DIV-4 Leadership

ELECTED OFFICERS

Superintendent - Ron Morgan, ronalco844@gmail.com

Assistant Superintendent - Dave Williams, dave_wms@sbcglobal.net

Secretary - Chris Shick, chris.shick@hotmail.com

Treasurer - Greg Noeth (216)-789-2086, ginoeth@yahoo.com

Director East - John Janda c(440)-334-0869, jjanda101@gmail.com

Director West - Gary Schaefer, trains.ohio@yahoo.com

Director Quad Co. - Fred Wagner (419)-908-8251, boonedog0219@gmail.com

Director at Large - Brian Haas, haasland@msn.com

Director at Large - Jeff Lauren (216)-798-1896, jflrn@sbcglobal.net

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Great Berea Train Show - David James, c(440)-785-9907

Achievement - John Hemsath MMR®, hemsathj@gmail.com

Layout Tours - John Witt MMR®, john.witt@rexelusa.com

Contests - Joe Filipiak, graftonpotter@frontier.com

Historian/Archivist - Frank Bongiovanni

Raffle - Adam Woodie, woo3482@hotmail.com

Co. Store Manager - Scott Benson, sbenson440@zoominternet.net

Clinics - Jerry Krueger, jakrueg@neo.rr.com

Flatwheel Editor - Chuck Shick, chuck.shick@hotmail.com

Membership - Bill Dluback, billdlub@live.com

Membership - Brian Haas, haasland@msn.com

Modules - Adam Woodie, woo3482@hotmail.com

N.O.A.R.S. Representative - Bill Kovacs

Webmaster - Ben Lanza, blqt@nls.net

Refreshments - Don Glass

Training Day - Gary Schaefer, trains.ohio@yahoo.com

MODULE GROUP

Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

Spring is upon us. As usual this time of year, things quiet down for the module group regarding displaying at events. However, that doesn't mean the module group goes dormant. Currently we are working out the details for the Annual Module Work Party and Cookout. Details regarding this event will be sent out to the members of the module group in the near future.

As always, anyone interested in joining the Module Group, please contact me at woo3482@hotmail.com. I will add you to the module group email list and you will receive all of the latest information regarding upcoming events, operating schedules, etc.

Until next time!

Adam "Hot Box" Woodie



Adam "Hot Box" Woodie

COMPANY STORE

Stop by the Company Store at the May Division 4 meeting!

If you're looking to get a Division 4 shirt or ball cap, the Company Store can help you. The order form is available at the Division 4 website and at our meetings. Email me with your order when I'm not at the meeting.

The Company Store has the FastTracks turnout tools library. We have an inventory of jigs, tools and supplies for use by members. We have HO Code 83 jigs for #4, #5, #6 and #8 turnouts (left or right), #6 Gantlet, and #6 crossovers (single or double). Plus all supplies including the Quicksticks. They will be available at Division 4 meetings, but contact Scott Benson, 440-567-9089, sbenson440@zoominternet.net to arrange to borrow what you need.

We also have our DVD loaning library, mostly covering modeling techniques. DVD loans are free to Division 4 members.



Scott Benson

CONTEST TABLE

The April contest was to present an open hopper car with a load other than coal. The entries showed that a lot of different material can be hauled in hopper cars. The material ranged from apples to snow to iron ore straight from the steel plant in Lorain. What was interesting was not just the loads, but the rail cars used to haul the materials in. Three different scales were represented in this contest. Joe Kurilec's entry took first place in the models. Real iron ore from the U.S. Steel plant in Lorain filled the hoppers from Don Glass for second place and third place went to Scott Eastburn's hopper load. The diorama category saw a neat scene built by Dave Lawler in first place while loading the snow train came in second by Joe Filipiak.

The last contest of the season finds the subject matter being that of a military train or at least a car or engine used in the service of the military. Examples can range from a Navy dockside switcher moving a flat car with a tank to a military hospital train bring back the wounded. The U.S. military was not the only ones with trains. Germany had a pretty impressive artillery piece on rails. A little research on the history of railroads gone to war may well inspire you to submit something for the May contest. I am interested to see what pulls the pin on your idea.



Joe Filipiak

CLINIC CORNER

MAY

Brent Repenning will present May's clinic. Brent will demonstrate using DCC++ and open source programs as an alternative to commercial DCC systems and how to use it for signaling and turnout control. Brent has a small display to demonstrate how it all works.

JUNE

June's clinic will be the history of F units by Bram Bailey

FUTURE CLINICS

May and June clinic slots are filled up. Topics and presenters will be announced in future issues of the Flatwheel. I'm always looking for Clinics. If you have a topic you'd like to present please contact me. If you need help putting a clinic together, let me know and I can help you put one together and help get points toward your AP certificate. If you have a topic you would like to see presented, let me know. I'm hoping to get some people I met at the Indy Regional and St. Louis National to do presentations remotely.

The North Coast Limited 2024 Mid-Central Regional Convention



Planning continues for the 2024 Mid-Central Regional Convention. The dates are May 16th – May 19th, 2024. We have selected the Crown Plaza hotel in Middleburg Hts. as the location for the Convention. They have a nice mix of meeting rooms and ballroom space for hosting the convention. The location on Engle Rd and Bagley Rd right off I-71 will make it easy for everyone to get to from throughout the Region.

We are still looking for members to join the committee and help plan the Convention. If you are interested in helping plan the Convention, please send me an email. We will have at least one, maybe two, Committee meetings before the Pittsburgh Regional to make sure everything is ready for registering people for 2024.

RAFFLE

Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

April's monthly meeting saw the return of the monthly raffle after a two month pause. As always, ticket sales begin at 6:00pm. The raffle will take place shortly after the official business meeting concludes. There is always something for everyone!

Until next time!

Adam "Hot Box" Woodie



Adam "Hot Box" Woodie

What is a Module Layout?

Recently, a request was sent out to provide a description of each of the committees. Also requested, was a description of the duties for each chairman appointed to each committee. I sat down and began to create a list of skills required to make the Module Layout Committee a success. Needless to say there are quite a few. However, before I was able to complete this task, I kept coming back to one question. What is a module layout? That question has a rather complex answer. Some might say that a module layout is a chance to meet up with some friends and run trains. Though this answer is technically correct, I would argue that it really misses the bigger picture. The module layout is so much more than a typical model railroad layout. It is a powerful public relations tool for the entire hobby of model railroading. By displaying the layout at various events, the module group is afforded the opportunity to introduce or re-introduce the hobby of model railroading to the general public. This can be accomplished in various ways such as discussing the hobby with someone who has long forgotten about it, providing information about local dealers / hobby shops in the area, and possibly picking up a new member or two.

As mentioned earlier, the module layout provides members a chance to run their trains. But don't stop there. Otherwise you will miss out on a slew of opportunities. For instance, one could learn or refine a considerable number of skills by constructing one or several modules. Carpentry, electrical, soldering, and scenery development are just a few skills required to complete a module. Another example would be to learn how to properly clean, tune, and weight the equipment for reliable operation.

Finally, a member can also make new friends that have a similar interests or complimentary interests in the hobby. Keep this in mind the next time you attend a layout event. All model railroad layouts are stages and the trains are stars of the show. The viewing public wants to see a good show. As a model railroad ambassador, your duty is to use this public relations tool and to put on a good show.



Adam "Hot Box" Woodie

A Visit to K-10's Model Trains

Scott Benson

On a recent trip to visit our daughter in O'Fallon IL (across the river from St. Louis), I stopped in K-10's Model Trains in Maryville. It's an odd brick-and-mortar model railroad shop – with a warehouse-sized HO layout. Oddities: the shop is only open on Thursdays from 6-9 PM and Saturdays from 12-4 PM; he only takes cash; the owner, Kenny, buys and sells collections, so there was an assortment of used stuff for sale on shelves under and along the layout.

The draw for me was that they have “Adult Volunteer Train Running” during shop hours. And on the third Thursday of each month, they have Operations (which I missed by a week). I went in, talked with the guys for a bit, and got to run a train around the layout. Took my time, with a few derail issues, and ran for about 30 minutes to traverse the closed loop run. It looks like a great railroad to operate on, lots of interesting industries to work. And they welcome visitors to Operations. They sometimes have Sunday Kids Train Running, but that is currently on hold.

Some photos of the layout below. If you're planning a drive through St. Louis, consider including K-10's in your itinerary!! See his website for specific info updates.

















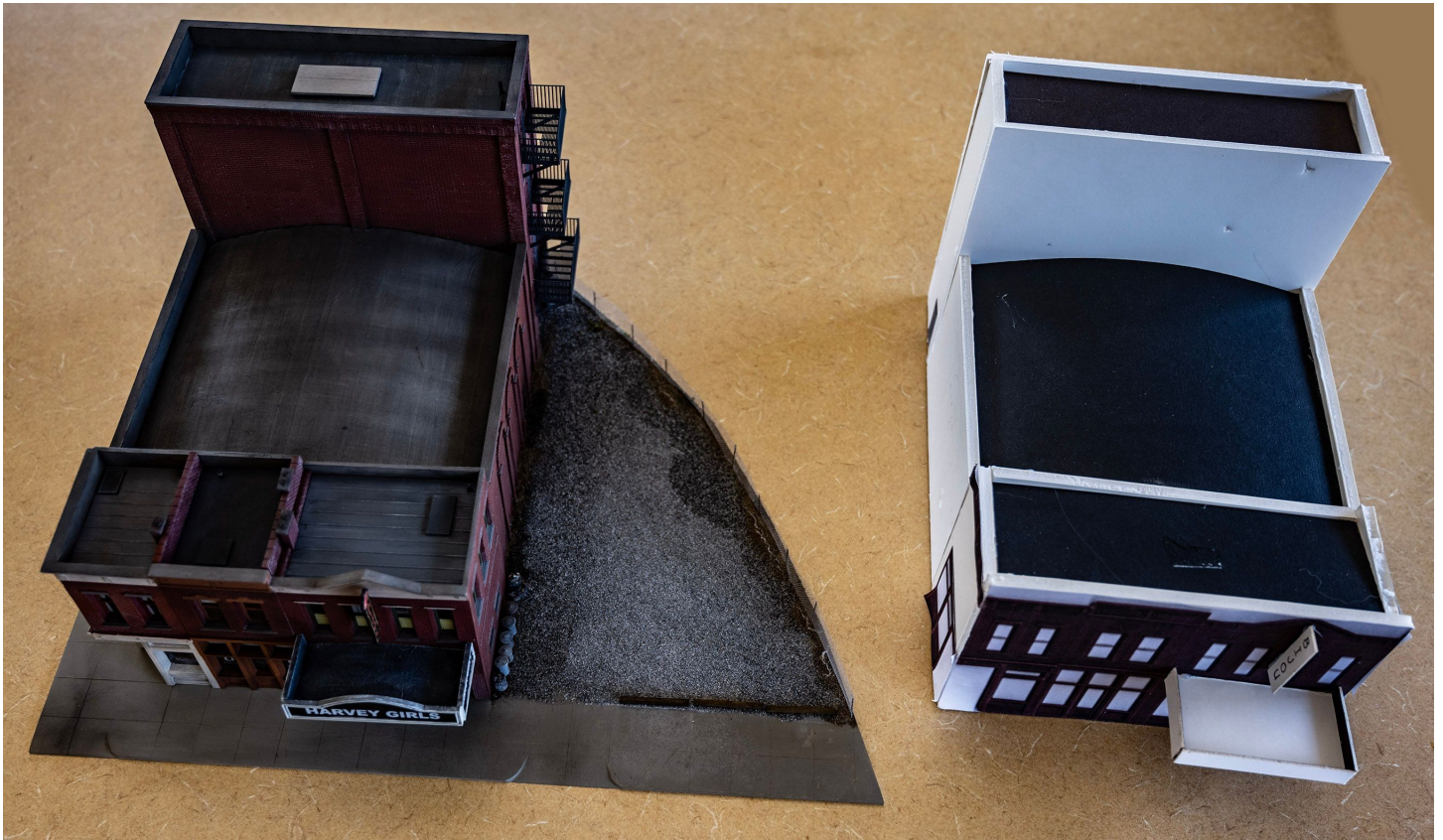
APRIL MEETING PICTURES

Dave Williams









John Hemsath, MMR® - Theater mockup and model.

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ABOUT US

We are Division 4 of the Mid-Central Region of the National Model Railroad Association. (DIV-4 MCR NMRA).

With more than 200 members from Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lorain and Medina counties in the state of Ohio.

The North Coast Division meetings are normally held on the second Friday of the month, to hear guest speakers, share skills, have railroad related clinics, and to share common problems and successes. Many of us get together informally in round-robin sessions to operate and work on each other's layouts, or just talk railroads and modeling.



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**CSX Fostoria Subdivision
Fostoria, Ohio, USA
August 29, 2013**