



# THE FLATWHEEL

**DECEMBER 2024**  
VOLUME 59 NUMBER 10



The Santa Maria Valley RR 2-6-2 # 205 was built in 1924 and ran until 1950. It was a display in Santa Maria California until the 1980s when a gentleman in Oregon bought it and, with friends, literally spent half a lifetime restoring it to running condition. In this particular moment, the SJVR 205 is pulling the Santiam Christmas Excursion.

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# DECEMBER 2024

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Please send any articles for the January Flatwheel to:

doleksa@icloud.com

by December 26th

Thank You

# DIVISION 4

## THE NORTH COAST DIVISION



OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2025**

**6:30pm Set Up/Social Time - Meeting starts at 7:00pm**

RailPictures.Net - Image Copyright SpeedShot Train Photography

### 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**

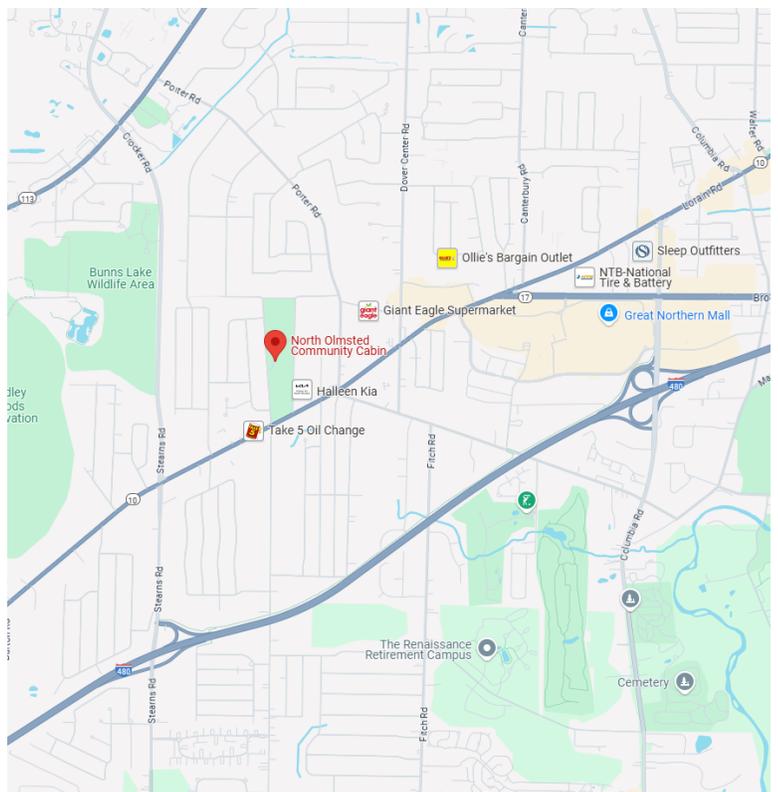
**month.** A set up/social half hour starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by a short business meeting at 7:00. After a short break, a railroad themed raffle and clinic complete the typical agenda. Starting January, 2025, the meetings are held at the **North Olmsted Community Cabin**, 28114 Lorain Rd, North Olmsted, OH 44070 . 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.



# GREETINGS FROM THE CAB

Greetings from the cab.

Thanksgiving is behind us and I hope you all had a great day with family and friends.

The Division 4 Member Appreciation Dinner was very nice. I am already looking forward to next year's dinner. Congratulations again to Chris Shick and Jerry Krueger for receiving the Dennis Novak Award.

Speaking of next year's dinner, I have asked Bert Wisbar to start checking potential venues for next year's dinner. It is nice to change locations on occasion. This doesn't mean we are going to change, just looking at options.

Speaking of options, just as a reminder, starting on January 10, 2025 the division will be meeting at the North Olmsted Community Cabin, part of the senior center, at 7 PM. Set up will be at 6:30 PM. See the map provided in the Flatwheel.

Overall, Division 4 has had a very good year. The modular group was very active, the regional convention was a great time and profitable. The division contests were interesting, along with the meeting programs. I am looking forward to another great year.

Just a reminder, the National Convention will be in Novi Michigan, just outside Detroit on July 14<sup>th</sup> thru 19<sup>th</sup> 2025. This would be about a two to three hour's drive from Cleveland. If you have never attended a national convention before, this would be a great opportunity to do so. The Division 4 modular group is making plans to display at the national train show on Saturday and Sunday as part of the convention.

Also, the biannual Division 4 train auction will be at the February 14<sup>th</sup> 2025 meeting, so start gathering your auction items for this event. Auction entry forms will be available at the January business meeting.

Well, the train is pulling into the yard and another run is over.

That's all I have for this month.

Merry Christmas

Ron



Ron Morgan

# MEETING MINUTES

## **NMRA MCR Division 04 Meeting Minutes for Friday, November 8th, 2024 Westlake Recreation Center, Westlake, OH**

Meeting opened at 6:32 pm by Superintendent, Ron Morgan.

Ron Morgan stated that we will be meeting at the North Olmsted Cabin starting in January.

There was one visitor Frank Trocchia, from Div 1, soon to be Vice President of MCR. Lang James was in attendance as a guest.

A motion from David James was made to accept the minutes from the October meeting. It was seconded by Gary Schaefer. The Division passed the motion unanimously.

Greg Noeth gave the last financial report at Westlake.

### Old Business:

Great Berea Train Show Report – David James – Thank You to all for a job well done. Expenses, Income, and total money to the Division was given. Dave Napp is still having troubles. We made more money this year than the Module group. Most Dealers were very happy.

Appreciation Dinner – Dave Williams/Bert Wisbar – the dinner will be at Parker's in Avon Lake (same place as last year). Set up is at 5:30 pm. If you are not setting up please don't show up till 6:00 pm. This is happening on December 6 th . Everyone is asked to bring a dozen cookies for dessert.

North Olmsted Cabin – Discussion. Meetings will start at 7:00pm. First person needs code to open the building. Everyone else can use the front door.

### New Business:

We will vote on next year budget at the January meeting.

Show and Tell - Erie Lake Railroad documents.

### Committee Reports:

Clinics – Jerry Krueger – Tonight is Spain James. Need January Clinic. Email me.

# MEETING MINUTES

Company Store - Scott Benson - Store is open, we have several train cars for sale. Request for goodies. Let me know if interested in Div-4 Hoodies. Fast Track jigs are available.

Raffle – Adam Woodie – Will start 10 minutes after meeting. Also there will be the Raffle at the Awards Banquet.

Module Group – Adam Woodie – Modules at the Zoo, Winter Lights. Trees and Trains is starting later this year. Annual Planning meeting is on Monday, November 25th . 7:00 at David James’ bus garage.

Contest - Joe Filipiak—Thanks for voting in the National Election. October’s Contest of Abandoned Building Track side:

Model	1st	Joe Kurilec, MMR & Dave Lawler
	2nd	Jim Grell
	3rd	George Gelehrter
Diorama	1st	Dave Williams
	2nd	John Puch
	3rd	Joe Filipiak

No Contest in December, Awards night. January subject is Repurposed Passenger Car No Contest in February, Auction.

Comments/Concerns:

Joe Kurilec, MMR gave an updated report on Mike Oster. He is being moved and Joe will update us with the information once it is confirmed.

David James made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Gary Sole seconded the motion. The Division carried the motion and meeting adjourned 7:18 pm...

Respectfully submitted,

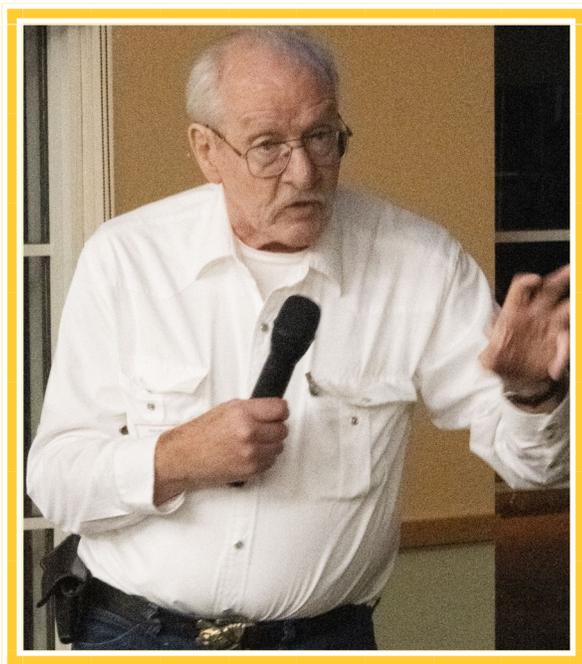
Chris Shick

Secretary, Division 4, MCR, NMRA



Chris Shick

# November Meeting Pictures



Clinician Spain James



Contest Entry 1 - Joe Kurilec, MMR

# November Meeting Pictures



Contest Entry 2 - Jim Grell

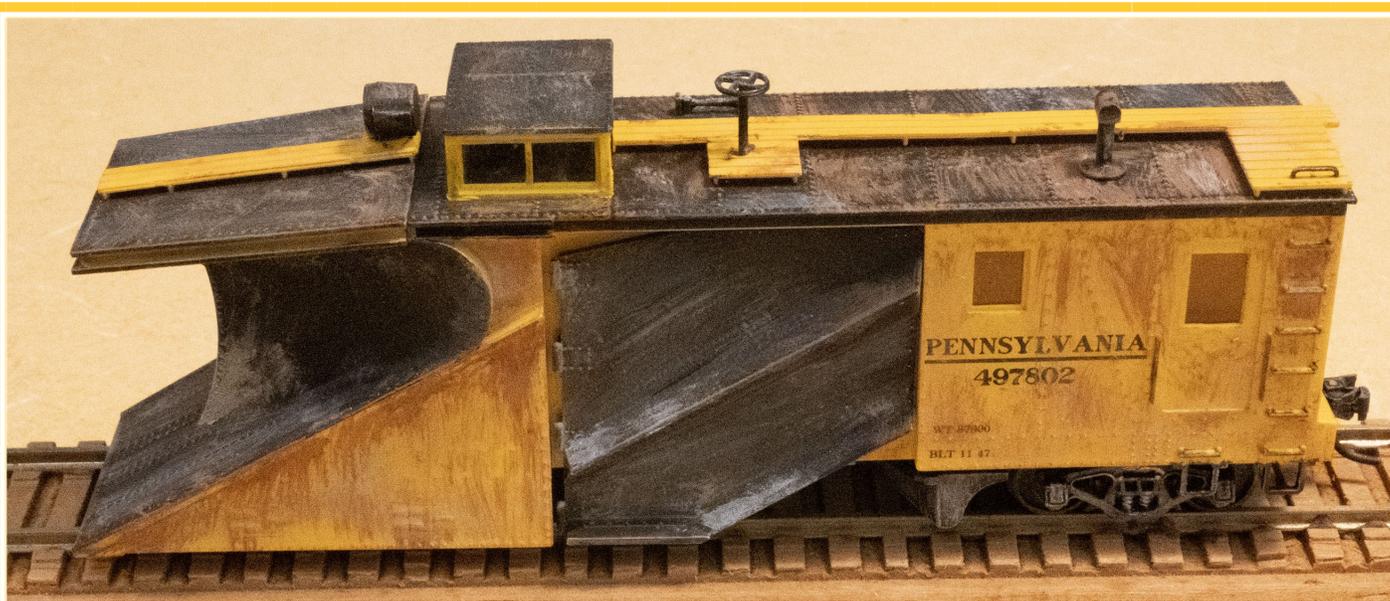


Contest Entry 3 - Dave Lawler

# November Meeting Pictures



Contest Entry 4 - John Witt

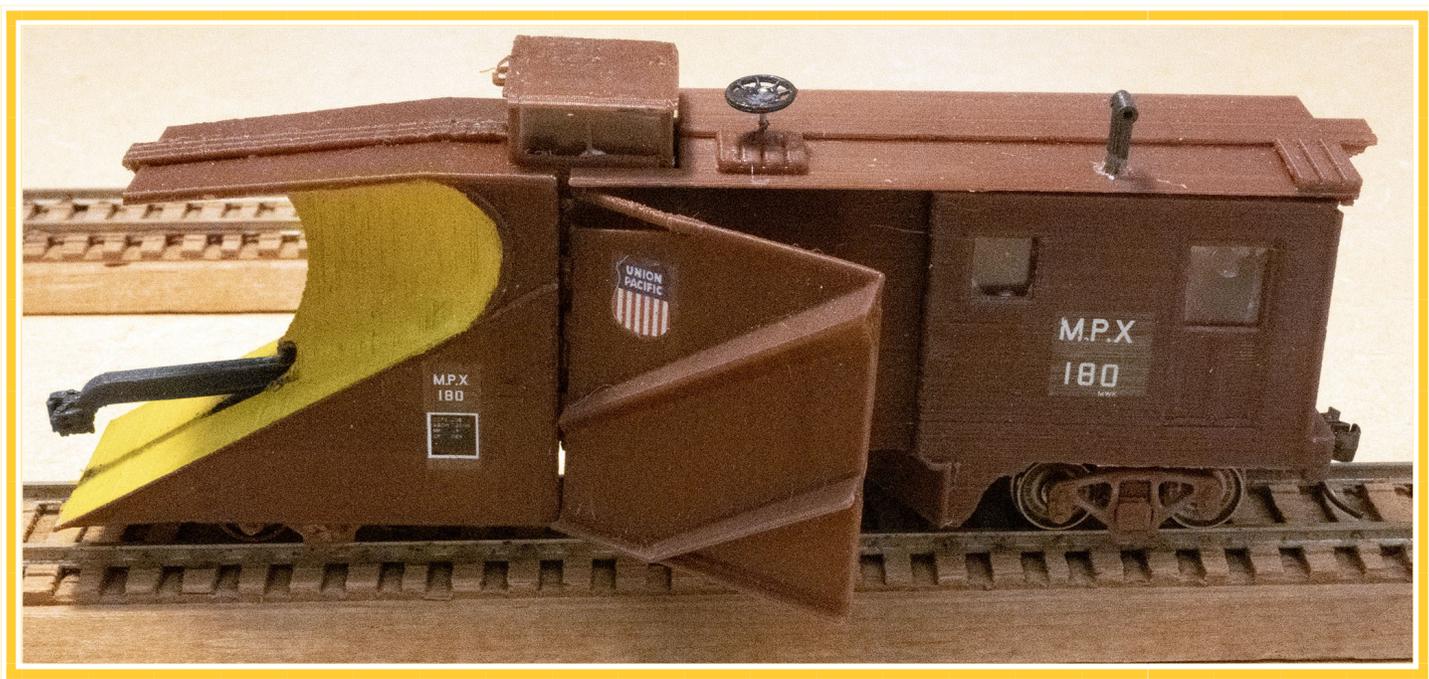


Contest Entry 5 - Brian Hass

# November Meeting Pictures



Contest Entry 6 - George Gelehrter



Contest Entry 7 - Brian Weisman

# November Meeting Pictures



Contest Entry A - Dave Williams

# NORTH COAST OHIO

## DIV-4 Leadership

### ELECTED OFFICERS

Superintendent - **Ron Morgan**, [ronalco844@gmail.com](mailto:ronalco844@gmail.com)

Assistant Superintendent - **Bert Wisbar**, [bert.wisbar@gmail.com](mailto:bert.wisbar@gmail.com)

Secretary - **Chris Shick**, [chris.shick@hotmail.com](mailto:chris.shick@hotmail.com)

Treasurer - **Greg Noeth** (216)-789-2086, [gnoetharch2@aol.com](mailto:gnoetharch2@aol.com)

Director East - **John Janda**, c(440)-334-0869, [jjanda101@gmail.com](mailto:jjanda101@gmail.com)

Director West - **Gary Schaefer**, [trains.ohio@yahoo.com](mailto:trains.ohio@yahoo.com)

Director Quad Co. - **Fred Wagner** (419)-908-8251, [boonedog0219@gmail.com](mailto:boonedog0219@gmail.com)

Director at Large - **Brian Haas**, [brianhaas86@gmail.com](mailto:brianhaas86@gmail.com)

Director at Large - **Jeff Lauren** (216)-798-1896, [jflrn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jflrn@sbcglobal.net)

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

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

Achievement - **John Hemsath MMR®**, [hemsathj@gmail.com](mailto:hemsathj@gmail.com)

Layout Tours - **John Witt MMR®**, [wittjab@ameritech.net](mailto:wittjab@ameritech.net)

Contests - **Joe Filipiak**, [graftonart@gmail.com](mailto:graftonart@gmail.com)

Historian/Archivist - **Frank Bongiovanni**

Raffle - **Adam Woodie**, [woo3482@hotmail.com](mailto:woo3482@hotmail.com)

Co. Store Manager - **Scott Benson**, [sbenson440@zoominternet.net](mailto:sbenson440@zoominternet.net)

Clinics - **Jerry Krueger**, [jakrueg@neo.rr.com](mailto:jakrueg@neo.rr.com)

Flatwheel Editor - **Don Oleksa**, [doleksa@icloud.com](mailto:doleksa@icloud.com)

Membership - **Craig Butler**, [cb519145@gmail.com](mailto:cb519145@gmail.com)

Modules - **Adam Woodie**, [woo3482@hotmail.com](mailto:woo3482@hotmail.com)

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

Webmaster - **Chuck Shick**, [chuck.shick@hotmail.com](mailto:chuck.shick@hotmail.com)

Refreshments - **Don Glass**

Training Day - **Gary Schaefer**, [trains.ohio@yahoo.com](mailto:trains.ohio@yahoo.com)

# MODULE GROUP

Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

The holiday season is upon us! We are currently participating at the Wild Winter Lights Display at Cleveland Metropark Zoo. This will be our 6th consecutive year participating in this event. Come on down with the family to see the lights, festivities, and, of course, see the train layout.

Don't forget that the module group will also be participating in the Trees and Trains located at the Black River Landing in downtown Lorain. This event begins on Saturday, November 30th.

Be sure to come on out and see us at any of the upcoming events. As always, anyone interested in joining the module group, please contact me at [woo3482@hotmail.com](mailto:woo3482@hotmail.com).

Until next time!

Adam "Hot Box" Woodie

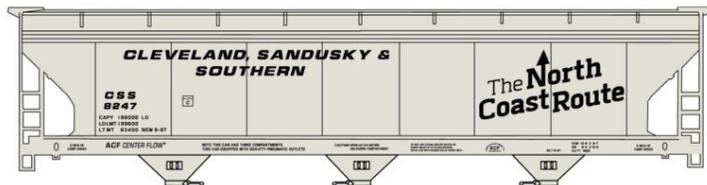


Adam "Hot Box" Woodie

# COMPANY STORE

Convention Cars are available!!

We have the Division 4 convention cars for sale for \$28 each; the Accurail ACF 3-bay covered hopper (3 available) and Accurail 40' boxcar (17 available). These are lettered for the Cleveland, Sandusky and Southern Railroad (the modular layout railroad).



Also available at \$25 each:

The Division 7 Accurail N&W 2-bay covered hopper (3 available, different #'s)



The Division 6 Accurail 41' Steel Gondola lettered for The Buckeye Steel Castings Co (3 available)



I'll have these at the January Division meeting. If you do not plan to attend and want me to hold some for you, please let me know!

Scott Benson

# CONTEST TABLE

Railroads conduct most of their business in the great outdoors so that makes the weather an important factor for the operations of trains. When the weather turns cold and the snow starts to fly, the railroads bring out their snow fighting equipment. The model railroads that were represented by their owners entries in the November Contest show that, they too, are ready to take on the snow storms that may show up on their railroads. There were seven entries of snow fighting equipment that were voted on. The results of the nearly seventy percent of the members present who voted gave first place to Joe Kurilec. Second place went to Jim Grell and third place was awarded to John Witt. The diorama entry winner was Dave Williams with his heavy snow scene. My question to Dave, was there a track under all that white stuff? Thanks to all who entered the contest and to those of you who voted for your favorite entry.

There is no December contest due to the Awards Dinner taking the place of our general meeting. That being said, our new contest in January, at our new location in North Olmsted will be a repurposed passenger car. Repurposed passenger cars can be found as yard offices, or converted to public dinners, or refurbished tourist train equipment. Passenger cars that have been rebuilt into a "private varnish" car can even be found tagged onto the end of a fast moving Amtrak train.

This is about the time I ask for any ideas for next season's contests. Some of the most interesting contests have come out of suggestions from you. Give it some thought and let me know what you would like to see as contest subject matter.

I would like to wish you and yours a joyful and blessed Christmas season and may you find that special something for your railroad under your Christmas tree. I know I'll be checking under my tree to see what Santa left for me.



Joe Filipiak

# CLINICS

## DECEMBER

December is the annual Awards Banquet and Holiday Party. There is no clinic.

## JANUARY

In January we will have friends from Division 6 visit to give a presentation on the 2025 Mid-Central Regional Convention. There will also be a presentation on Galesburg Railroad Days. Galesburg, IL is my family's hometown. It is home to one of the largest classification yards on the BNSF, nee BN, nee CB&Q. Starting in the late 1970s and continuing on to today, it hosts an annual celebration of their railroad heritage. In the late 70s and 80s Galesburg Railroad Days use to attract thousands of visitors to tour the classification yards, see the displays and enjoy all the activities of the weekend. The presentation will a glimpse into those past celebrations.

## FUTURE CLINICS

I'm always looking for Clinics. I'm currently looking for clinics to schedule for the 2024-2025 meeting year. Keep in mind in February 2025 and March 2025 will have no clinic presentation since the bi-annual auction is one month and member appreciation/pizza night is the other month.

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.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Happy Holidays to everyone! Enjoy the holiday season with family and friends. If you have time, volunteer to spread the magic of model railroading at either Wild Winter Lights at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo or at Trees and Trains at Lorain Winterfest.



# RAFFLE

Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

Mark your calendars for the annual Holiday Party / Awards Banquet which is held in the month of December! This event typically includes a great meal, cash bar, good company, and of course the end of the year raffle! For those that have never attended this event, you are missing out! The raffle includes several multi-car sets, gift baskets, art work and, of course, the mystery prizes.

Until next time!

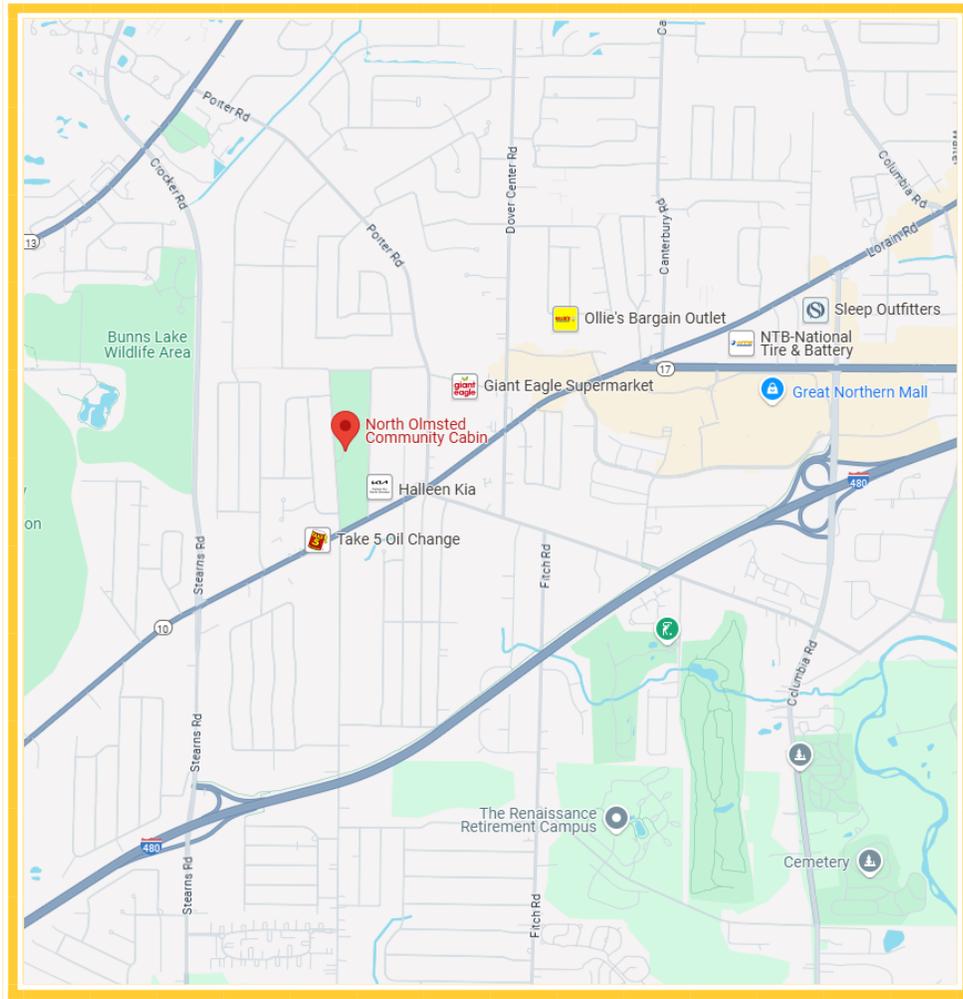
Adam "Hot Box" Woodie



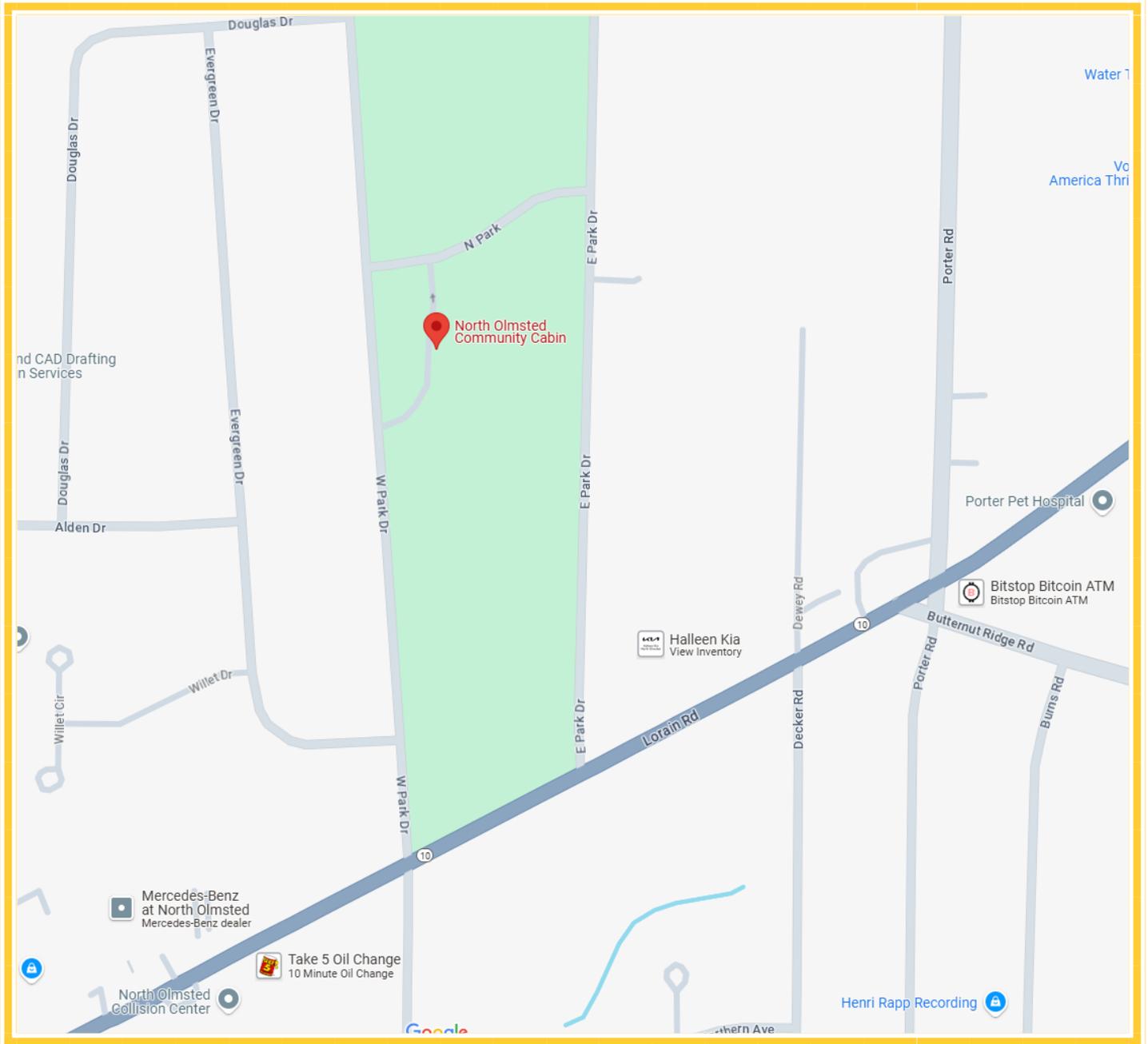
Adam "Hot Box" Woodie

# New Meeting Location in 2025

We are moving to the North Olmsted Senior Center called the Cabin. The address is 28114 Lorain Road, North Olmsted, OH 44070. The contract has been signed and first meeting at the new location will be Friday, January 10th, 2025.



# New Meeting Location in 2025



# Erie Mad River Model Railroad Club Open House

The Erie Mad River Model Railroad Club located at 1309 N. Depot Street, Sandusky, Ohio, is having their annual open houses on the following dates:

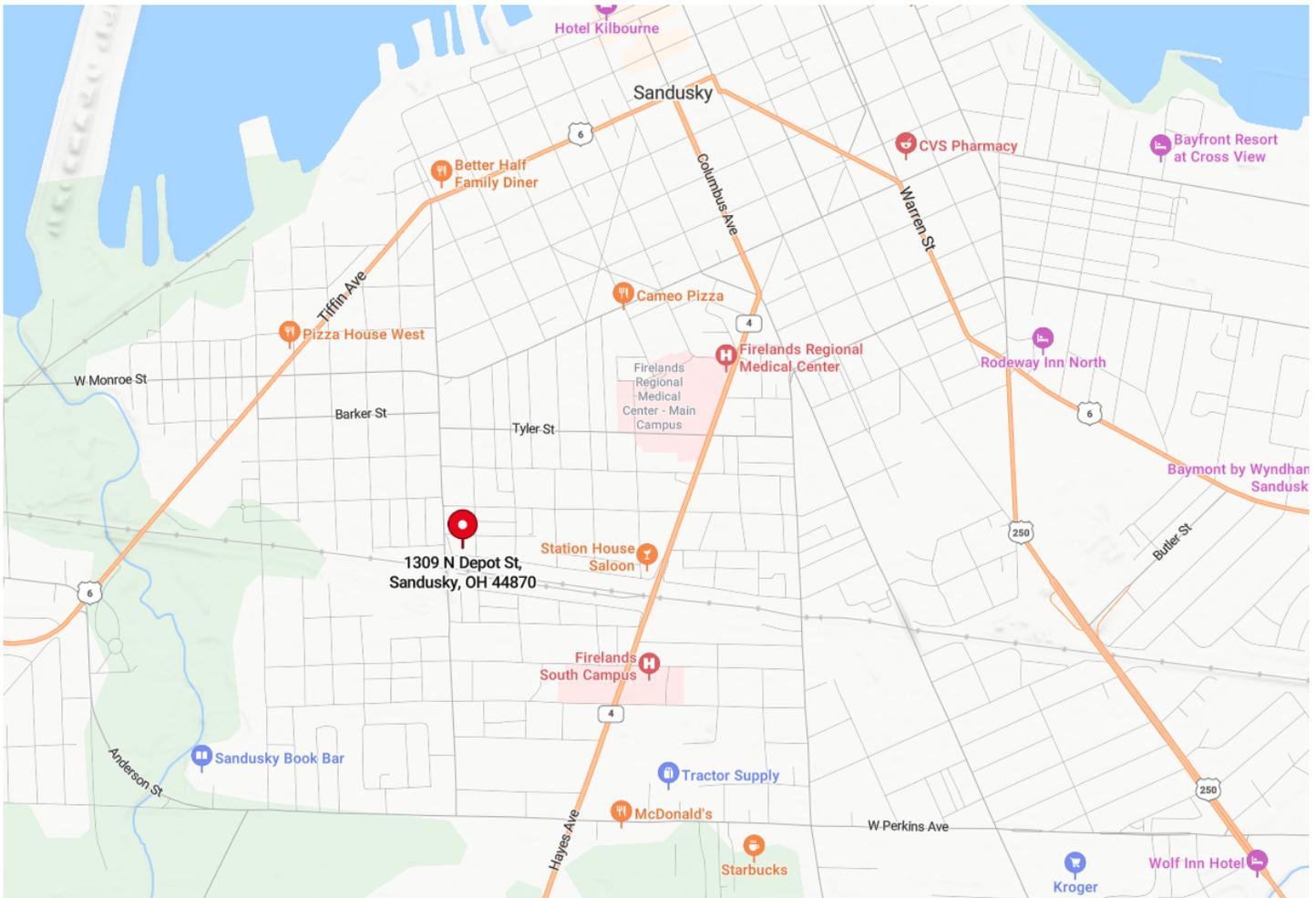
December 7, 2024, from 12:00 to 4:00 pm, and will feature Steam Locomotives.

December 14, 2024, from 12:00 to 4:00 pm, and will feature Diesel Locomotives.

The layout has approximately 95% scenery completed; in some areas, we are redoing the scenery for a better effect.

For more information, please contact:

Robert W. Butler  
Secretary  
(C) 419-271-8885  
(H) 419-625-9356



# Div 4 Website Information

Our division 4 web site is [www.div4.org](http://www.div4.org)

You will enter the HOME page. If you haven't viewed the website, I encourage you to spend some time looking it over.

The first thing to know is if you find something Underlined, it means you can click it and it will take you to that link. To get back to where you were, just click the left arrow on the top left corner of your browser.

You can look down the right side of any page, to click on any of the categories listed to go to that page.

Once you have looked around the web site to find out what information is out there, there is a way to find out what has changed. On the HOME page, just under the WELCOME! line you will find a "Last updated" line with a date. This tells you when the last time updates were made to the website. If you click on that line, you will go to the Update page. This will list any pages that have been updated, and when by date.

On the Update page, you can click on any page listed, and you go right to that page. Again, you can always click the left arrow on the top left of your browser to go back as far as you want to go.

If you find a link that takes you to a different website, you must right click, and choose to open in a new tab. The MEMBERS ONLY site, MCR, NMRA, and the 2025 Convention link all require right clicking and opening on a new tab. This is a security feature to keep people from putting link to fraudulent site without knowing it take you to a different site.

If you ever find information on the [div4.org](http://div4.org) website that is wrong, not current, or a link that doesn't work, please send me an email to let me know. I also try to keep the MEMBERS ONLY site up to date.

Thanks

Chuck Shick, Web Master



Chuck Shick

# 2025 Auction Information

The Division 4 Auctioneers are getting warmed up for this coming year's Model Auction at the February 14, Meeting 2025!

Ron will probably keep the meeting short!

- The Auction Item slips are available online and at the upcoming meetings.
- I recommend using websites for determining value of items (keep in mind that sometimes the prices on websites are overstated.)
- Consider if some of the items you are selling should be grouped together.

Frank, Lee and I will be available the evening of the auction, to answer any questions you might have before you register some items for sale. The three of us will probably also be at the next two events coming up in December and January, if you need to ask us something.

Have a Great Holiday Season,

Gary



Gary Shaefer

# A Visit to New River Gorge National Park

We took an RV trip to New River Gorge at the end of September. In addition to having spectacular scenery, there is much to see of railroad interest. We stayed at The Outpost in Fayetteville, a small RV park, also an outdoor music venue, just a ½ mile hike from the bridge. The National Park was created to celebrate the scenery as well as the significant history of coal mining along the gorge. A CSX mainline runs along the New River throughout the National Park.

Our first railroad site was the (inactive) Nuttalburg coal mining area. We visited the coal tippie next to the river and mainline.



# A Visit to New River Gorge National Park

The mine headhouse is accessible via a trail at the top of the bluff, or from a steep trail from the bottom. A conveyor chute from the headhouse to the tipple remains in place; signage tells that Henry Ford was involved in the design in an effort to make the process more efficient. There is also a trail along the remains of a large number of coke ovens, as well as some building remnants. An interesting feature of this area: if you are not up to hiking down the bluff, you drive 4 miles along Keeneys Creek Road, a one-lane (two-way) narrow, winding, steep, mostly gravel road. We went on a weekday at the end of September, so only encountered a few vehicles coming the other way. A busy weekend in the summer might be different!



# A Visit to New River Gorge National Park

We also visited Thurmond, now mostly deserted. It was a railroad/coal boomtown until the advent of diesel locomotives and the closing of the numerous area mines. As part of the National Park, much is being preserved. You arrive over a two-lane bridge that crosses the New River, one lane for trains, one for vehicles. The main street runs right along the CSX mainline, just across from where the steam locomotives were serviced; the tipple still stands. A coal drag came through just as we arrived. We then walked the main street and up the hill along a side street of mostly abandoned houses. One that wasn't is actually an inn, Thurmond's Historic Guest House. Thurmond is also a stop on Amtrak's Capital, which runs through 3 days a week. How's this for your dream Amtrak voyage itinerary:

Day 1:

Depart Cleveland 3:29 am

Arrive Chicago 8:45 am

Depart Chicago 5:55 pm

Day 2:

Arrive Thurmond 9:56 am

Some number of nights at the Thurmond Historic Guest House. Pack well, there are no stores/services within walking distance!

Day 5:

Depart Thurmond 9:56 am

Arrive Washington DC 6:44 pm

Day 6:

Depart Washington DC 4:05 pm

Arrive Cleveland 2:53 am

We did miss one of the featured sites, Kaymoor Mine. The trail from Fayetteville drops 950 feet in 1.5 miles via stairs and switchback trails, and then you have to go back up! That day was raining and we opted out of that hike! Instead, we took another key feature, the Scenic Drive. The drive starts near the National Park Visitor's Center, takes a mostly one-way road down the side of the bluff, under the bridge, crosses the CSX tracks and New River and climbs back up the other side. Some parking areas at the bottom serves the white water and fishing crowd. Definitely worthwhile! All-in-all, a really nice trip for us!

# A Visit to New River Gorge National Park

We did miss one of the featured sites, Kaymoor Mine. The trail from Fayetteville drops 950 feet in 1.5 miles via stairs and switchback trails, and then you have to go back up! That day was raining and we opted out of that hike! Instead, we took another key feature, the Scenic Drive. The drive starts near the National Park Visitor's Center, takes a mostly one-way road down the side of the bluff, under the bridge, crosses the CSX tracks and New River and climbs back up the other side. Some parking areas at the bottom serves the white water and fishing crowd.



Definitely worthwhile! All-in-all, a really nice trip for us!



Scott Benson

# WHAT'S GOING ON

<p>2024 Dec. 7</p>	<p><b>Marion Union Station Association</b>                  Marion County Fairgrounds Coliseum                  220 E. Fairgrounds St., Marion, OH 43302                  10:00 am to 3:00 pm      Adm. \$5.00/person  <a href="#">Map</a>                      <a href="#">Flyer</a></p>
<p>2024 Dec 7-8, 14-15</p>	<p><b>Model Train Open House</b>                  Youngstown Model Railroad Assn.                  Corner of Raccoon Rd. &amp; Four-Mile Run Rd. Austintown, Oh                  Noon - 6:00 pm      Adm. \$5.00 Donation  <a href="#">Flyer</a></p>
<p>2024 Dec 7-8, 14-15</p>	<p><b>Olmsted Falls Depot &amp; Model Railroad Museum Open House</b>                  25802 Garfield Ave. Olmsted Falls, Ohio 44138                  11 am to 4 pm                      Adm. \$5.00  <a href="#">Flyer</a></p>
<p>2024 Dec. 7</p>	<p><b>Buckeye Model Trains Show</b>                  Ohio Expo Enter - Lausche Building                  Columbus, Ohio                  9 am to 4 pm                      Adm.  <a href="#">Flyer</a></p>
<p>2024 Dec. 8</p>	<p><b>Medina Train and Toy Show</b>                  Medina Fairgrounds, Medina, Ohio 44256                  9 am to 3 pm                      Adm. \$6.00                  Phone: 330-948-4400    <a href="#">Info &amp; Map</a>                      <a href="#">Flyer</a></p>

# WHAT'S GOING ON

<p>2024 Dec. 8</p>	<p><b>Springfield Train Show</b>                  Clark County Fairgrounds                  4401 South Charleston Pike (State Rt. 41) At I-70 Exit 59                  10 am - 3 pm                      Adm. \$5.00</p> <p><a href="#">Map</a>    <a href="#">Flyer</a></p>
<p>2024 Dec. 15</p>	<p><b>Massillon Train &amp; Toy Show</b>                  K of C Hall, 988 Cherry Rd. NW, Massillon, Ohio 44647                  10 am to 3 pm                                      Adm. \$5.00                  Phone Jon Ulbright at: 330-262-7488</p> <p><a href="#">Info &amp; Map</a>    <a href="#">Flyer</a></p>
<p>2025 Jan. 4</p>	<p><b>Snow Dog Train Show</b>                  * <b>NEW LOCATION</b> *                  Cuyahoga Valley S Gauge Association                  Emidio &amp; Sons Expo Center, 48 East Bath Road, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio                  44223                  10 am to 3 pm    Adm.: \$6.00</p> <p><a href="#">Map</a>    <a href="#">Flyer</a>    <a href="#">Webpage</a></p>
<p>2025 Jan. 5</p>	<p><b>Youngstown Model Railroad Assn. Toy - Train Flea Market</b>                  Parish Center                  4490 Norquest Blvd., Austintown, Ohio 44515                  10 am to 3:30pm    Adm. \$7.00                  Phone Rick Austin at: 832-622-8637</p> <p><a href="#">Flyer</a></p>

# HOBBY SOURCES IN OUR AREA



4342 W. 130th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44135  
(216) 252-8880



DCC SALES AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

6910 SOM Center Rd.  
Solon, OH 44139  
Phone 440-248-4599

FRANK FEKO  
Proprietor  
frankfeko@gmail.com

## JASON'S BRASS POLES

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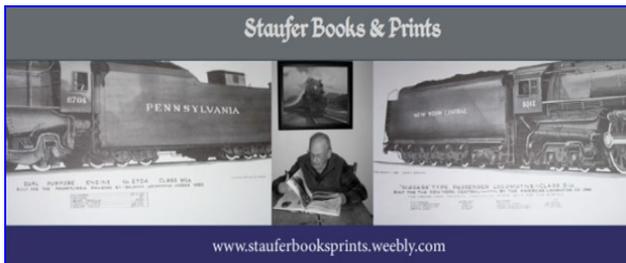
## EASTERN OHIO TRAINS

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[www.easternohiotrains.com](http://www.easternohiotrains.com)



Joe Andrews, Proprietor



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Jim Lewis



*These vendors are members of our own NORTH COAST DIVISION! Give them a try when you need the supplies and services they offer!! - Editor*

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**PLEASE SUPPORT THESE DEALERS!**

# 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

## Happy Holidays



The GECX 24014 caboose was restored and put on display with Christmas lights at GE Transportation's Erie, PA plant for the 2017 Holiday Season.