



THE FLATWHEEL

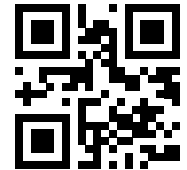
VOL 50 NBR 02 FEBRUARY 2015



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



Tom McNerney's entry in the January contest



Division Four's next meeting will be Friday February 13, 2015

Division website: www.div4.org

Social time starts at 7:00 pm
Business meeting 7:30 pm

February's Meeting
is

Member Appreciation Night
Free Pizza and Soft Drinks

Church of the Redeemer
23500 Center Ridge Road
Westlake Ohio 44145

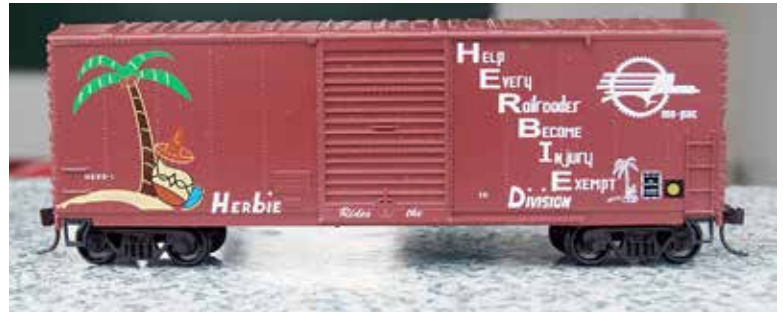
(just east of Center Ridge and Clague)

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Herbie:
Help
Every
Railroader
Become
Injury
Exempt



HERBIE'S RUMBLINGS

Our Module Group has many opportunities to introduce Youth to model railroading – particularly when they hand a controller to him or her and let them run a train. However, our hobby, like stamp and coin collecting, and others, often suffers from the “absentee” situation. We get really interested as youths, but then get to middle and/or high school, where other interests take over (girls, boys, sports, etc.). Then comes college, followed by starting adult life, family, etc. MAYBE we come back to model railroading in our 30’s or 40’s. And, at all times, we are competing with x-boxes and tablets and the like.

An article about Lionel “Wish Books” in the Spring 1997 issue of Vintage Rails included the following comment. “Joshua Lionel Cowen reportedly once asserted that if a boy still liked trains by the age of 16, he would love them for life. Implicit in this statement was Cowen’s realization that certain values, instilled early in one’s lifetime, would not only be resistant to modification later on, but would likely be passed along from generation to generation.”

Perhaps we can’t do anything about the “absentee” years, but we will keep trying by setting up displays and/or layouts at libraries, working with Scouts and Explorers, setting up layouts at shows, personally manned membership tables at as many events as possible, etc., etc., etc. If you have any ideas to fill in the etc., etc., etc., please pass them on to us.

The Board of Trustees will be meeting at the Church of the Redeemer on Tuesday, February 10th. This is a reminder that all members are welcome to attend. At this meeting, we will “finalize” the procedures and costs of two new projects – the DVD lending library and the Fast Tracks “rental store”. We will also be fine tuning a number of By-Law changes that you will soon be asked to vote on.

Don’t forget to start getting out your “Why did I ever buy this” items from the basement or garage and dust them off for our semi-annual auction in March. Frank and Lee will have more info on this at the meeting. This is our member appreciation night, so be sure to bring your appetite.

See you there,

Steve Kaplan
Superintendent
Division 4 MCR

Meeting Minutes 01/09/2015

DIVISION FOUR, MCR, NMRA

Welcome by Steve Kaplan, Division 4 Superintendent.

Steve: Did you all get the Flatwheel? Letters have been sent to members not showing email accounts.

Kudos by Steve to the module group for the great job at the Black River Transportation Center for the Lorain Trains and Trees Christmas Display.

New Members and Guests by Joe Mehalic: Dean Cole is a new member. Several members from the Lorain County Model railroad club were in attendance. Special note, the roster needs to be updated, please review the roster and make corrections and fill in form to be added to this roster. Also visit with Dave Williams to get your picture attached to your name for the roster.

Treasury report – Bruce Bowie – assets are \$55,533.15. Still have some outstanding monies from the national convention due us.

Website / Members Only Section / Swap & Shop – Ben Lanza – Please check it all out.

Future programs/& clinics - Larry Madson – Jerry Kruger will do a program this evening. Member Appreciation night in February will be showing a video or videos.

Auction – the Auction will be in March. Frank Bongiovanni and Lee Sheffield will be the auctioneers for the evening.

Module Group by Scott Benson: next show will be at the Avon Lake Library, always looking for more members. Annual module planning meeting will be January 15, 2015 7 PM at the North Olmsted Library.

Contest by Joe Filipiak, who presented last contest winners. Congratulations to all. Next Month will be any Steam Locos with 4 wheel lead truck.

Spending the Convention Profits, Steve Kaplan led a discussion on some ideas for the proceeds from the convention. There was substantial approval to following ideas:

- Library of How-to DVD's

- Fast Tracks fixtures and supplies

Plea for more committee participation – Company store, Beneficiary committee, Train Show
– may need a backup or one or more trainees

Company Store – Chuck Klein – number of great items are available. New stock will be available in the future.

Presentation of award – Steve Kaplan presented David James with the Bruce Brintnall Membership Award.

Other News

- Bridge opening – Mark Filippell invites the Div. to the unveiling of a new bridge.

Member request for assistance see letter or Steve Kaplan.

Comments for the good of the order.

Adjournment at 8:10 PM

Special BOD Meeting after the main meeting. January 9, 2015

Discussed the quantity of the Fast Tracks products and How-To DVDs for a library.

Motion made by Lee Sheffield not to spend more than \$1000.00 from convention proceeds on supplies, seconded by Bruce Bowie. Motion passed. (Editor's note: Steve Kaplan stated that he would be attending the Springfield Show and meet with FastTracks personnel to discuss ordering appropriate products.)

Adjourned at 8:20 PM

David James
Secretary



Jennifer B. Terry Bridge Unveiled

photo: Steve Kaplan

Division member Mark Filippell displayed his latest masterpiece at the offices of *Western Reserve Partners LLC* on January 12, 2015. Division 4 members were invited. Jennifer ran the first train across the HO scale bridge during the ceremony. It should come as no surprise to anyone that Mark's previous bridges have taken merit awards at NMRA events.

BOD Meetings

February 10, 2015 (next Tuesday)
May 5, 2015

BOD meetings are held at the same place as the general meetings and usually start at 7 pm. Members are always welcome to attend.

The next BOD meeting is next Tuesday.

The Clinic Corner

February 2015 Member Appreciation

Come and join us for pizza and railroad videos. February is for socializing and entertainment.

March

Division 4 Biannual Auction

April

**Paul Chapple – Division 5
“Not Your Father’s Paper Models”**

Working with the new downloadable (PDF) cardboard structure kits.

May

**Randy Dettmer – Division 1
“Covered Hopper Cars--Selection for Duty”**

Covered Hoppers - how to assign the correct car for the correct job. Which type of covered hopper car is appropriate for the industries on your layout. History and background of covered hoppers is discussed. This clinic is geared to anyone that has covered hoppers operating on their layout regardless of time period.

June

**Bruce Bowie
“Operations: A Basic Starter Kit”**

There are many types of operating systems from very simple to highly complex, totally manual to sophisticated computer controlled. The goal of this clinic is show members a simple way to initiate operations on their home layouts and give them the necessary tools to give it a try.

Clinic Presentation Aids

Division 4 has a digital projector available for use by division 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.

phone: 440-934-2643 or email lmadson@roadrunner.com.

Larry Madson



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Head WEST (left) onto E. Bagley Rd.
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Turn left onto Depot St.

Union Depot coupon provided through Joe Kurelic MMR. Offer subject to change without notice.

Yahoo - The Division has a Yahoo group available for members. Send your request to join to dave_wms@sbcglobal.net. It's best to include "Division 4" in the subject line and include your name.

Members of the Yahoo Group receive an email when the Flatwheel PDF has been posted onto the website. The group is private and does not appear on the Yahoo directory.

Uncredited photos: D Williams.

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

Deadline for the next Flatwheel is Thursday February 26, 2015. The deadline is almost always 2 weeks and a day before the next general meeting.

The Flatwheel is no longer mailed.

DIVISION FOUR OFFICERS

Elected

Superintendent

Steve Kaplan (216) 561-1648 spk@skaplanassociates.com

Assistant Superintendent

Lee Sheffield lakeshorenc@yahoo.com

Secretary

David James h (440) 717-1778 c (440) 785-9907

Treasurer

Bruce Bowie in2trains@gmail.com c (419)-602-3584

Trustee East

Fred Obreza chevy5664@sbcglobal.net (216) 587-4419

Trustee Quad County

Jim Moore moorez@aol.com h (419) 684-5833

Trustee West

Dave Williams h(440) 838-4996 dave_wms@sbcglobal.net

Trustee at Large

Larry Madson (440) 934-2643 lmadson@roadrunner.com

Trustee at Large

John Hemsath hemsathj@gmail.com

Appointed

Great Berea Train Show

Mike Oster

Achievement

Bruce Brintnall MMR

Membership

Joe Mehalic

Layouts

John and Tom Hemsath

hemsathj@gmail.com

Contests

David Lawler

Modules

Scott Benson

Historian/Archivist

Frank Bongiovanni

N.O.A.R.S. Representative

Chuck Beargie

Raffle

Mike Klein

Webmaster

Ben Lanza

Company Store

Chuck Klein

Refreshments

Joe Filipiak

Clinics

Larry Madson

Flatwheel Editor

Dave Williams

Contest Corner

conducted by Dave Lawler

The Model Contest for January 2015 was for Non-traditional Tank Cars.

There were 8 entries and 38 votes.

The results are as follows:

1st: Rich Mayich, "Recovery Tank"

2nd: Jim Grell, Heinz Vinegar Tank #213

3rd: Tom McInerney, Backwoods Water Car

The point standings now are as follows:

- 1st: Rich Mayich
- 2nd: George Gelehrter
- 3rd: Dave Lawler
- 4th: Jim Grell
- 5th: Tom McInerney

The February contest is for Steam Locomotives with 4 wheel pilot trucks.

Remember, NO CONTEST in MARCH due to the auction.

The April contest is for hobby shop models and May will feature EMD/GMD diesel locomotives.

Good luck to all,

Dave Lawler
Contest Chairman



Bruce Brintnall MMR Member Award Presentation



David James (left) received the Bruce Brintnall Award for his service to the Division's members from Superintendent Kaplan during the January meeting.

Editor's Notes

I had a 24 hour version of the flu last month over Flatwheel weekend, so everyone was spared much of my input.

I've signed up to attend both the Mid Central Regional Convention as well as the National in Portland OR. My Portland trip will be on Amtrak, which, yes, will cost a small fortune, but I've been passing up long Amtrak trips for 20 years and most likely don't have the luxury of another 20 to think about it. My last long Amtrak venture was with a scout troop to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, which was definitely a trip - talk about herding cats! Some newsletter people write about National conventions as if their members had chains on their legs - the next convention they talk about is always within a couple hundred miles (currently that's Indianapolis). I appreciate that both time and money are involved but don't sell the long distance conventions short if you don't have to. I had a great time in Sacramento and Atlanta, even with relatively little interest in whatever prototypes ran in the areas. The faraway places always give perspective as well as plenty of clinics to increase your knowledge and abilities.

I mentioned on the Yahoo Group that I was thinking about buying a 3D printer. Someone sent me an email reminding me that the materials are still pretty expensive and that shapeways.com offers a pretty good alternative if you supply the design (as well as some nice products already designed by other people). I've instead sunk my money into an Arduino Microcontroller kit from Makershed.com. It's just arrived and looks pretty good, although it lacked the necessary USB cord (I already had one). I had some earlier trouble with Makershed.com, so please check with me before placing an order with them (dave_wms@sbcglobal.net or at the next meeting). I think they mean well but are having some learning issues with customer service. My 31 year career with big computers came out of an interest in using computers to control a layout - which I've never done. I still have my 1975 MITS Altair 8800 solder-it-yourself computer, which was my first attempt (Bill Gates got one too, he was a little more creative with it).

The *Great Northwest in Z Scale* layout featured in the latest *Model Railroader* was on last year's NCR Convention self-guided list in Toledo. It seemed smaller in person.

Dave Williams

Membership by Joe Mehalic

February Birthdays:

Philip S. Bartek	Donald Marcussen
H Bruce Blonder	David S. Neuzil
Dennis A. Brown	John Ochenas III
Journey Carter	Michael A. Oster
Noral Copeland	John Puch
Gary B. Dunn	John P. Rowe
Brian Haas	Encie Super
Thomas F. Hemsath	Chuck Sword
Daniel J. Kovacs	Richard P. Woodward

New Members:

Dean Cole	Solon, OH
Michael Hules	Cleveland OH

Membership Roster and Knowledge Depot

The February meeting is the perfect time for us enjoy a few slices of delicious pizza, and help us update your Membership Roster and Knowledge Depot!

I will have several hard copies of the most current Roster and Knowledge Depot for your viewing pleasure.

If your name is NOT in the **Roster** and you want it to be in the Roster, or wish to make a change to your listing, please fill out the form included in this issue of the Flatwheel and hand it to me at the meeting. Be sure to sign it.

Likewise, if you wish to be in the **Knowledge Depot** and are not, or wish to make a change to your listing, please fill out the Knowledge Depot form included in the issue of Flatwheel and hand it to me at the meeting. Be sure to sign it.

If you cannot make the meeting, you can either email the form to me, or send it to me via US Mail at my address on the form.

The best way to make this hobby more fun is to share it with others!

Being included in the Roster and Knowledge Depot is one way to insure you get to meet other members and help each other along the way!

Thank you!

Joe Mehalic
Membership Chairman
Division 4

Forms are on the following pages

Div-4 Knowledge Depot Form

Please check one: ___ OPT-IN NEW ___ CHANGE EXISTING LISTING

Send your request to **Joe Mehalic**, Chairman of Div-4 Membership via e-Mail or U.S. Mail.

- e-Mail:** automaticstuff@sbcglobal.net **Cell:** 216-849-8616
- U.S. Mail:** Joe Mehalic, 8363 Hunting Drive, North Royalton OH 44133-2231
- If you have questions or suggestions, contact Joe.

Contribute Your Knowledge to “Div-4 Knowledge Depot”

Please make all submissions in writing --- preferably by e-Mail. The copy/paste tool makes it easy for the volunteer entering your data. An e-Mail submission will serve as your signature.

All contributors must list their contact data in the OPT-IN Roster.

Use the Knowledge Depot Category (0-10) definitions at end of the Knowledge Depot listings. Mimic the style of other contributors and be brief. Joe Mehalic will edit your submission and publish after your OK.

0. **Layout Design:** _____

1. **Scenery:** _____

2. **Maintenance (loco, track, etc.):** _____

3. **DC / DCC / JMRI / Electronics:** _____

4. **Op-Sessions:** _____

5. **Proto-Subjects:** _____

6. **Proto-RRs & Societies:** _____

7. **Clubs / Op –Groups / Museum:** _____

8. **RR Occupations:** _____

9. **RR Hobby Business:** _____

10. **Layout Tours:** **Please describe your lay out on a separate sheet.**

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____ / _____ / _____

Div-4 Roster Form

Please check one: _____ OPT-IN NEW _____ CHANGE EXISTING LISTING

Send your request to Joe Mehalic, Chairman of Div-4 Membership via e-Mail or U.S. Mail.

- e-Mail: automaticstuff@sbcglobal.net
- U.S. Mail: Joe Mehalic, 8363 Hunting Drive, North Royalton OH 44133-2231
- Cell: 216-849-8616
- If you have questions or suggestions, contact Joe.

Use the super easy e-Mail method.

An e-Mail submission will serve as your signature.

To appear on the Div-4 Roster,

We minimally need a Yes for item #6 and it would be nice to have a Yes for items 8 & 10.

- Look over the 10 questions shown in the U.S. Mail Section below.
- o Even if you are making a minor change to your existing listing, please answer all the questions.
- o It really helps us to keep both your Div-4 and NMRA-National records up-to-date.
- Open an e-Mail and address it --- automaticstuff@sbcglobal.net
- Make the subject line --- OPT-IN TO DIV-4 ROSTER or CHANGE OPT-IN ROSTER LISTING
- Type in your 10 answers.

Email Example

1. Joe Blow
2. 123 Any Rd
3. Norwalk
4. OH
5. 44857
6. Yes
7. 419-222-9999
8. Yes
9. joe@aol.com
10. Yes

For U.S. Mail, use this section.

Please fill in all blanks.

- Even if you are making a minor change to your existing listing, please answer all the questions.
- It really helps us to keep both your Div-4 and NMRA-National records up-to-date.

To appear on the Div-4 Roster,

We minimally need a Yes for item #6 and it would be nice to have a Yes for items 8 & 10.

- (1) Name: _____
- (2) Address: _____
- (3) City: _____
- (4) State: _____ (5) ZIP: _____
- (6) Show name, county, city, state, and ZIP on Roster YES NO
- (7) Telephone: (_____) - _____ - _____ (8) Show on Roster YES NO
- (9) E-Mail: _____ (10) Show on Roster YES NO

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Layout Tours by John Hemsath

Mark your calendars now for the spring layout tours. All of the layouts on tour were open for the National Convention and the owners did a lot of work to get ready for the convention...and more since then.

Sunday, May 3:

Joe Filipiak
Brian Hass
Grafton Tower

Saturday, May 9:

Bruce Brintnall MMR
Steve Riddlebaugh
John Witt
John Hemsath

We'll share more details as we get closer to May.



Division officers collect their thoughts prior to January's meeting.

Auction at the March meeting! The Seller's Form will be included in next month's Flatwheel.

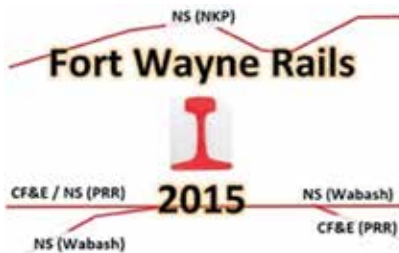
Raffle Report

The February raffle will be another fine medley of great prizes. Once again something for everyone.

The Raffle Dudes

Conventions

MCR Convention - see the flyer on page 16.



2015 NCR Convention
October 29 - November 1, 2015
Hotel Fort Wayne



The 2015 NMRA National Convention
Portland OR
August 23 - August 30, 2015

Upcoming Area Events

Saturday 2/21 **North East Train Society – Swap and Trade Model Meet**
First Church of Christ 422 Mentor Ave, Painesville OH 44077
10 am – 2 pm donation of a non-perishable food item

Saturday 2/28 **TCA Winter Train Meet**
UAW Hall, 5615 Chevrolet Blvd, Parma OH 44130
\$6, \$8 family, children under 12 free 10 am – 3 pm

Saturday/Sunday 3/14 and 15 **NMRA Div 5 Railfest 2015**
10 am– 4 pm \$7 \$12 Two Day Pass \$12 family
Lakeland Community College 7700 Clocktower Dr Kirtland OH 44094
railfest.org

Saturday 3/14 **Railfest Dinner**
Pine Ridge Country Club 30601 Ridge Rd Rt 84 Wickliffe OH 44092
5 pm \$20 Reservation due March 1, 2015
railfest.org for reservation form and information

Sunday 3/22 **Greater Wayne Co. Train and Toy Show (Dalton Show)**
Buckeye Event Center 624 Henry St Dalton OH 44618
10 am to 4 pm
\$5, children 12 and under free www.cjtrains.com

Thursday 3/26 to Saturday 3/28 **The Fine Scale Model Railroader Expo**
Hilton Hotel & Conference Center Scranton PA
various pricing schedules, check modelrailroadexpo.com

As always, double-check the information using an alternate source before setting out.

RAMBLIN'

HOT DIGGITY DOG PAINT MIXER - As the title for my *Flatwheel* submissions infers, my articles will tend to “ramble” and often take different direction than you might have been expecting, given content of the last Ramblin'. This is such an example. In the fall of 2011 my layout at the time was well along the way, giving me time to partake in a side of the hobby I very much enjoy, structure construction.

I have scratch built structures, kit bashed structures, built craftsman structure kits such as Fine Scale Miniatures as well as straight from the box kits. I truly enjoy adding details and weathering, trying to make them as true to life as possible. One aspect however – painting - while obviously very necessary, always presented some frustration to me. Not as you might guess in the quality of my work, although that too can sometimes be an issue, but simply the act of getting the paint ready for the brush, or airbrush.

With a little self-analysis that Freud would be proud of, the basis for my frustration has nothing to do with the paint itself, but rather my lack of patience. I find myself needing to paint a small detail only to find it taking more time to ready the paint, e.g., mixing the lump at the bottom of the jar, than the time to make a couple brush strokes prior to moving on to the next color needed. What a pain in the buttocks! More self-analysis also highlights my Scottish heritage coming to the forefront as I realize I waste more paint in the mixing process than the often very small amount used on the detail. At the cost per ounce of model paint, my Scottish dander quickly rises.

I have used a number of tools over the years to mix paint with sticks and screwdrivers being the most common and actually useful. As a tool junkie, I have of course “invested” in a couple electric mixers as can be found in the Micro Mark catalog. The electrically operated shaker looked very promising when purchased but in actuality, only works well with paint already mixed. Duh. If the jar has the ubiquitous lump in the bottom, you can shake until the engines are back in the roundhouse and there will still be a lump in the bottom. The battery operated stirrer works well to mix paint of any age and consistency. However, if you run the mixer while removing from the jar in order to leave most of the paint in the jar, it can be quite messy. I now own more clothing with paint on them than my bride of 43 years approves of! If you do not operate the mixer while removing it from the jar, then you leave a good deal of that expensive paint on the mixer. Neither option is very appealing. What to do?

With a whisky (not misspelled, but rather the British/correct spelling for single malt scotch) in hand and my engineer’s hat on I started giving the problem some thought. Okay, the issue is the settling of the pigment to the bottom of the bottle. Hmmmmm. Sip. What if I could prevent the problem in the first place? So what I need is a way to rotate the bottles on a frequent or continuous basis. Hmmmmm. Sip. What about a hot dog cooker like you see in gas stations and carnival food stands? Hmmmmm. Sip. Google “hot dog cooker”. That could work, but ouch, the price would reduce whisky funding too much! Hmmmmm. Sip. I wonder if Ebay would have a used cooker in my price range.

After a reasonably brief Ebay search, I actually found a number of used hot dog cookers. The price eliminated some of course, and the size eliminated a number of others. I was looking for a unit large enough to cook mix a fair number of bottles. If you decide to go down this path, the next issue is the cost of shipping. As I eventually found out, the weight of the size unit I was interested in is considerable. Between size and weight, the cost to ship could easily exceed the cost of the cooker itself. Using the Ebay “watch” feature, I kept on the lookout for a while. A few weeks after initiating my watch, I came across a unit that fit my capacity and financial criteria, \$50.



continued on next page

Ramblin' continued

The location was somewhere in Ohio. I contacted the seller indicating my interest and asking where in Ohio he was located, noting I hoped it close enough to be within a reasonable driving distance. It turned out he was 50 miles away, so we made the deal, I purchased it online from Ebay and coordinated a pickup date and time with the seller. I soon had my new hot diggity dog paint mixer in hand!

In conclusion, the attached photos show the unit as purchased and as rebuilt. The rebuild consisted of totally tearing down the unit, necessary to remove the grease from 1 million or so hot dogs! The mechanical and electrical components were in pretty good shape. I had to redo a previous owner's repair of an idler sprocket as he had put it in backwards, causing a hitch in the rollers' motion. I also removed the heating elements from inside the rollers as hot paint is probably not a good thing.

With the unit reassembled, I gave it a try. Eureka! The bottles slowly rotate just like the hot dogs at the corner gas station! I now open any new paint I purchase, add 3-4 stainless steel BB's (used in jewelry cleaning), reseal and place on the mixer. From that point forward when I open the jar the paint is ready for use! I have also experimented with a cheap mechanical timer to reduce the time the unit operates. To date I have found 12 hours on and 12 off still keep the paint well mixed.

With cinders in my eyes,

Bruce Bowie
In2trains@gmail.com



All article photos: Bruce Bowie



Thoroughbred Limited 2015

2015 Mid Central Region Convention

May 14-17, 2015

Lexington, Kentucky

\$99 Super Room, Renovated and Updated Hotel

Charlie Getz Banquet Speaker

Great Tours, Company Store, New Clinics

Contests, OPS, Layouts

Bourbon Cooking, Horse Farms

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Plan a family vacation around this *first-ever* convention in historic, beautiful, laid-back Lexington. Stay a while; see and operate layouts for the first time; relax and enjoy.

Visit the Convention website

<http://thoroughbredlimited2015.yolasite.com/>

Provisions have been made to register electronically on the internet with credit card or to register manually by sending the registrar the registration form via US Mail.

Y'all come and see us!

Rick Cobb, Superintendent

Bruce DeMaeyer, Chairman

Thanks to Oilcan Editor Dave Puthoff for this information.