



THE FLATWHEEL

VOL 50 NBR 01 JANUARY 2015



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



HERBIE'S RUMBLINGS

January 2015

It's a new year – the time when most of us make a bunch of resolutions, and most of them are never fulfilled. At least that's true in my case. -- So, instead of doing that this year, I've made only one resolution– "PROGRESS". I have a long list of things I would like to accomplish, and I RESOLVE to make progress on everything on the list. Some will be completed, some will not – but all will show at least some progress.

We usually recognize when something URGENTLY needs to get done, and we all like to think that we have the ability to prioritize what is and what is not IMPORTANT. Priorities are certainly important in model railroading. How often do we get caught up in the crisis of the moment and put off completing what we were working on at the time? It would be helpful if we were to divide our to-do list into the following four categories:

- Urgent And Important - "Your layout is on fire."
- Urgent And Unimportant - " There is a short in one of your yards."
- Important And Not Urgent - " John has your layout on next month's tour."
- Not Urgent And Unimportant - " The clouds in the background are too dark."

The bottom line is - in life and also in model railroading, manage your priorities.

That said – the "priority" to be addressed at the January meeting is in the third category above. We will be getting the membership's thoughts on some of the uses for the \$20,000 plus that we realized from the Convention. If we go ahead with establishing the proposed DVD library we would probably work out a deal for some them at the Amherst Show (Springfield, Mass) later this month. If we also go ahead with the Fast Tracks set-up, we would like to get it started as soon as possible so that some members could work on their turnouts (and consequently their Civil AP certificate) during the winter months. Of course if individual members have "instructional" DVD's and/or Fast Tracks fixtures that they no longer need, we will accept them as tax deductible donations.

Incidentally, since either or both of these opportunities will probably be a function under the Company Store, we need one or more volunteers to manage them. Don't everybody rush up at once though! Seriously – Chuck will need some help.

Another idea that has been put forth is to use some of the funds to support a Northeast Ohio prototype meet. It is felt that more of our members would be interested in attending one of these meets if they didn't have to drive 6 to 8 hours to get there. The Board will take up many of the submitted ideas at its February meeting.

See you at the meeting -

Steve Kaplan
Superintendent
Division 4 MCR

Division Four's next meeting will be Friday January 9, 2015

Division website: www.div4.org

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

Church of the Redeemer
23500 Center Ridge Road (just east of Center Ridge and Clague)
Westlake Ohio 44145



The Awards Banquet / Holiday Party took the place of a General Meeting in December, so there are no Minutes to be reported.

Membership by Joe Mehalic, Membership Chair

January Birthdays

Ted J. Schultz	Pauline Handmon	William C. Deptowicz Jr.
Jim Barnett	Roy Cavan	George Charlton
Terry Chokan	Joe Dugan	John E. Henning
John F. Janda	Daniel Laszlo	Jeffery A. Martin
Mathew Nickson	Edward R. Nowicki	Timothy J. Radachi
Gary A. Sole	John R. Spencer	Adam Woodie

from Ron Morgan:

Former Division 4 member **Mel Wise** is in a nursing home in Burbank California. He was a good modeler and fine fellow. I am sure he would enjoy a card or two.

Mel Wise
225 Evergreen St. Room 237
Burbank CA. 91505

Modular Group Opens Its Throttles for the Holidays

The Black River International Trees and Trains festival was a great success. They had over 3700 signed-in guests over the 5 weekends. The Division 4 module group provided over 200 hours of staffing, with generally 3 - 4 guys there for each evening.

Thanks to all module group members who supported the activity. - Scott Benson



Larry Madson controls a train in Lorain.



An impressive Lionel display sat in the middle of the Transportation Center. The pictures were taken at opening on December 20th - it got busier soon afterward.

The Modular Group was again invited to participate in the Twinsburg Army Reserve's annual Holiday Party on December 21st. While always a hit with the children, this year's display attracted the interest of many of the adults as well.

Steve Kaplan runs a train for the Army's benefit.



Al Seman and Doug Steiskal work the backdrop (i.e., run trains while talking with observers).



The Clinic Corner

January 2015

Designing Your First Layout Presented by Jerry Krueger

The title says it all.

Clinics Wanted

I need programs for Feb, April, May and June of 2015. Any Division member with an idea for a program subject or wishing to present a program for the 2014 – 2015 season, please contact me.

Larry

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

Raffle

Thanks to all for another fine Holiday Raffle. In no particular order THANKS to Joanne Obreza, Larry Kowicki, Chuck and Linda Klein, Connie and Emil Orenick of *State Tool and Die*, John and Pat Henning, Gary Sole at *Bernie's Bargains*, and last but not least the members of Division 4. Without your participation throughout the year, the raffles would not be possible. In closing come join us at the January meeting for a start of another fine year of raffles.

The Raffle Dudes

BOD Meetings

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

February 10, 2015
May 5, 2015



Porter Library Display

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's display. Porter Library is located southwest of Center Ridge and Dover Center Roads (entrances on both roads) in Westlake.

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 January 29, 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

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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

New Book: *Rails Through West Park*

Last month while at Depot Train and Hobby (4342 W 130th St, Cleveland) I saw a new publication. *Rails through West Park* by Ralph A. Pflugsten & Blaine Hays.

It's published by The West Park Historical Society (www.WestParkHistory.org) and The Northern Ohio Railway Museum (www.trainweb.org/NORM).

Mr. Pflugsten has authored many GREAT books on the West park area of Cleveland, Ohio. They all are worth a place in your library!

Likewise, Mr. Hays is an author of note on local transportation history.

Rails Through West Park is a soft cover book with 99 pages of really rare photos and a very interesting history of the railroads, trolleys and interurban that ran thru this area of Cleveland, Ohio! Images are black & white with many detailed maps included. The images in the book are very good.

Linndale yards of the NYC is a favorite section for me. To the best of my knowledge, many of the photos in this book have not been published previously!

The book is well written, covering railroads, yards, stations and overpass construction. It sells for \$22.95 and is worth every penny!

Joe Kurilec, MMR

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

There was no contest in December.

Remember, points for the 2014/2015 contests continue to accumulate through May.

Current point standings:

1st: George Gelehrter
Rich Mayich

2nd: Dave Lawler

3rd: Steve Riddlebaugh
Jim Grell
Tom McInerney
Joe Kurilec
John Hemsath

The **January** contest will feature Non-traditional Tank Cars; chemical tankers, wine tankers, multi-dome tankers, Pickle cars, vinegar tankers, wood or steel, old or modern.

.....and then:

February: A 4-Wheel Lead Truck Steam Locomotive; 4-2-0, 4-4-0, 4-6-0, 4-6-4, 4-8-2, 4-8-4 or Articulated

March: No Contest; Auction

April: A Hobby/Toy Store, think of it as a memorial for Wings.

May: An EMD/GMD Diesel Locomotive

June: Awards

RAMBLIN'

(photos on next page)

After two years in our new, much smaller home, I am finally in position to start my train hobby back up. I recently finished prepping the "train room". Everything I have ever read says to prepare the room before starting the railroad and I have always taken heed of this sage advice.

In my case, the "train room" is the two car garage. Our two and one half story house has a finished rec room and two car garage on the first floor. The second floor encompasses the main living area. While the garage central wall and ceiling were finished when we purchased the then 10 year old home, the outside walls were unfinished poured concrete. We live 80 feet from Lake Erie with nothing between us and the lake but sand, a break wall and a couple trees, which makes concrete the likely choice for this construction method. Concrete is a great barrier to the elements, particularly northeast storms! However, when the outside temperatures drop to subfreezing, the concrete walls become eight feet high ice cubes. Not a great train room environment. Additionally, there was only one outlet on each of the two sidewalls, again, not many power sources for the trains and small shop space I still need.

The space has heated and cooled air from the house HVAC system pumped in via three ceiling vents. Being somewhat spoiled, and after numerous sketched layout configurations, I opted to design the layout to co-exist with our two vehicles. It will be an approximately 21'x21' L-shaped double deck layout with a narrow leg along the side wall and a deeper leg across the back wall. The two decks will be joined together by a helix or elevator (more to come on this subject in the future).

I first framed the outside walls. I used standard 2x4's on 16" centers. However, given the garage environment, I used treated 2x4's for the sill plates. I then installed two 20 amp circuits along the side wall and back wall where the future layout will be. A total of 20 duplex outlets are in place along these two walls in ten double gang boxes. One duplex outlet in each box is fed by a separate circuit. I fed the two circuits with new GFCI breakers in the main panel.

With the rough wiring completed, I placed 2" thick polyiso foam insulation (R13) between the framing. This was followed with installation of ½" drywall. I opted to place the drywall sheets horizontally, allowing me to use green board drywall along the lower 4 feet and standard drywall on the upper 4 feet. Finishing the drywall came next and confirmed why finishing drywall is well down on my list of preferred activity!

Once finished I primed the new drywall. One lesson learned years ago is to tint the drywall primer the same color as the finish color. This helps both with coverage by the finish coat, but more importantly for me, spotting the flaws in the finish work, something I have come to depend on given my finishing prowess! The existing power distribution panel was used to determine the height of the lower deck. With this height determined, and realizing the concrete floor tapers towards the overhead doors, I marked the lower deck height measuring down from the finished and level (I checked) ceiling. I used blue painter's tape on the green walls to outline the area to be used for the future layout. I then painted the upper area with two coats of blue tinted primer. I have been using the same shade of blue for the past 30 years and still consider it a great shade for a basic blue sky backdrop. The Sherwin-Williams color formula is shown in one the attached photos. I utilize the sky blue primer as the "finish coat" as I find its very flat finish works well for the backdrop, including the future placement of clouds and other backdrop painting.

I purchased, cut to fit, painted and installed 3/4"x4" PVC boards for the baseboards and exterior door trim. My use of treated 2x4 sill plates, polyiso foam insulation, green board drywall on the lower 4 feet and PVC trim allows me in the future to wash down the concrete floor as needed without worry of long term damage to the finished walls.

That's a long "ramble" for my first effort and enough for now. My hope is you may find inspiration in following along with my efforts and thoughts as I build my new railroad. Please feel free to offer constructive criticism of both my communicating and construction efforts as we go forward.

With cinders in my eyes,

Bruce Bowie

In2trains@gmail.com



Bruce's Construction

All photos by Bruce Bowie

Awards Banquet / Holiday Party

The Awards Banquet / Holiday Party was held at the Copper Top Party Center on December 12, 2014. We were honored with the presence of Merlyn Jarman, President of the Mid Central Region. Mr Jarman presented Jerry Krueger with the MCR Directors' Award, citing Jerry's numerous contributions, most notably his leadership of the 2014 NMRA National Convention.



Jerry Krueger (right) accepts the Directors' Award from Merlyn Jarman.

Art Bumpus (left) receives the Division's Dennis F. Novak Award from Superintendent Steve Kaplan.



Bruce Bowie (left) now has the Division's Membership Award for display in his new train room.



Bruce Bowie (L) represented the Division in recognizing Pat and Mike Oster for their continuous efforts in putting the Great in The Great Berea Train Show.





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The 2015 NMRA National Convention

Portland OR

August 23 - August 30, 2015



Nationals after 2015:

2016: Indianapolis, IN July 3 - July 10, 2016

2017: Orlando, FL July, 2017

2018: Kansas City MO

2019: Salt Lake City UT

2015 MCR Regional Convention:

Thoroughbred Limited 2015 May 14-17, 2015

Lexington Kentucky

<http://thoroughbredlimited2015.yolasite.com>

Upcoming Area Events

Snowshoe Train Show

UAW Hall, 5615 Chevrolet Blvd., Parma OH 44130

10:00 am to 3:00 pm \$6, kids under 12 free free parking all gauges

Saturday January 3, 2015

Antique & Collectible Toy Show

Lakeland College, 7700 Clocktower Dr., Kirtland, OH 44094

\$6, Children (6-12) \$2 9 am to 2 pm

Saturday January 3, 2015

Toy Train and Model Railroad Flea Market

McMenamy's Banquet Hall, 325 Youngstown-Warren Rd., Niles. OH 44446

\$5 10 am to 3:30 pm

Sunday January 11, 2015

Model Train Show & Swap Meet

Norwalk & Western RR - Eastern Division

German's Villa, 3330 Liberty Ave., Vermilion, OH 44089

\$4, under 10 free 10 am to 3 pm

Sunday January 18, 2015

As always, double-check the information before setting out.