



# THE FLATWHEEL

VOL 50 NBR 09 NOVEMBER 2015



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



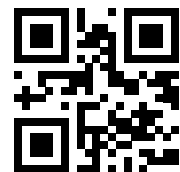
A family watches trains at our Great Berea Train Show.

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

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

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

Division website: [www.div4.org](http://www.div4.org)



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We want to extend a special thank you to our friends from Division 4 who have been so supportive of us as we mourn the loss of our dear son, brother and uncle, Michael. Your presence and your messages are helping to sustain us and bring us some peace at this difficult time. Just as we are grateful that he is safe and no longer suffering from his 25 year battle with MS, we are grateful to have you as part our lives.

Steve and Patty Kaplan  
Meredith and Zachary Glazer  
Rachel, Mara and Kayla Glazer

## from the Assistant Superintendent

This issue of the Flatwheel brings with it some sadness. Steve & Patty Kaplan's son Michael passed away on Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup>. A loss of a son or daughter is one of life's most painful moments. Please take a moment to reflect on our lives and the lives of our loved ones in the wake of such a loss.

As we move into the month of November, National Model Railroad Month, we get back into the hobby. Yard work is winding down and the basement or hobby room gives us a place to relax after a day at work. It also brings us to our next Division event, TRAINing Day. It is being held on Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> at the Black River Transportation Center in Lorain. This is a time for us to show others our hobby and skills. You can present something as simple as building a kit or as complex as building a switch. The module group will be showing off their modules. There will be tables where guests can build a car kit or assemble a building and take it home. We can use people to work at the door or help others show their talents. Our normal monthly meeting will be after TRAINing Day so contact Gary Schaefer to volunteer. Check out the flyer online or in this newsletter for more information.

Our next event of the season is the Annual Awards Dinner on Friday December 11<sup>th</sup>. The dinner will take the place of our normal Friday night meeting. The cost is \$15.00 per person and includes a great dinner featuring Prime Rib. You can still sign up at the November meeting or give me a call to reserve your spot.

And lastly, we will be having a Board meeting on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM at the Church of the Redeemer where we normally meet each month. Our primary topic of discussion will be the budget for the coming year. If you have some input or just want to see how things work in the Division, stop by.

Lee Sheffield  
Assistant Superintendent

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BOD Tuesday November 10, 2015

Church of the Redeemer at 7 pm. As always, members are welcome to attend.

## BOD Meeting Minutes from 10/09/2015

Meeting convened by Superintendent Steve Kaplan. 7:00 PM start

Discussion of the dates of the show. We need to lock down the date.

General discussion of the date of the show. We will ask for the dates for September 17 & 18. This does CONFLICT with the Mansfield Show. A committee will continue to review and look for 1 month, Dave, Lee and Joe K will continue to review and look for alternative dates. (Editor's Note: Issue later resolved, see General Meeting Minutes)

November 10, 2015 is the next regular BOD meeting.

15 members in attendance  
Adjourned at 7:20 PM

David James  
Secretary

## Meeting Minutes for 10/09/2015

Welcome by Steve Kaplan, Superintendent, who opened the meeting at 7:32 PM

Membership chair Bill Ferry asked new members and guests to introduce themselves.

Steve Kaplan invited everyone to meet at Baker's Square after the meeting for conversation.

Treasury report by Greg Noeth: Assets with all accounts \$62,927.24

Great Berea Train Show Reports: Treasurer Greg Noeth stated that we'd had about 2400 in attendance with a gross income of approximately \$35,000. David James spoke on marketing results: great response to the surveys. It appeared at the time of the meeting that the 2016 show might have to be placed on a weekend other than the first full weekend in October due to Fairgrounds scheduling of another event. (Editor's note (11/2/15) based on subsequent information from Secretary David James and others: the organizers of the conflicting event were good enough to move to an alternate weekend at Mike Oster's request. **Our show is now scheduled for October 1 & 2, 2016**) Volunteer recognition – thanks to all that came out to help in this very successful year.

Clinics - Larry Madson - tonight from Bram Bailey on Toronto's PCC Cars.

Field Trip report – David James reported that the Age Of Steam /Warther Museum /Lunch trip had been a great one. Looking for another next year.

Training Day – Gary Schaefer still can use some people to demonstrate techniques, bring stuff to work on for training day. For Training Day flyers, see Bill Ferry.

Awards Dinner – Lee Sheffield – Signup tonight \$15.00 for the night. Friday December 11, 2015. Three entrees: Chicken Alfredo, Prime Rib, and Chicken Marsala.

Module Group – Scott Benson – Will be at Black River the whole month of December as well as the Kirkland Christmas Show.

Contest – Dave Lawler - last month winners Jim Grell, George Keller, Joe Filipiak. George Gelheter & Dave Lawler. Next month contest is truss rod passenger or freight car.

Company Store – Chuck Klein

Raffle - Mike Klein. Great stuff tonight

Layout Tours – John Hemsath – November 7 in Medina area, November 15th in Sandusky area

New Business - none

Other News from Art Bumpus: Andy Speranado has passed away, Associated Editor to MR

Many thanks for your support for the recent Bellevue Train Days from George Keller.

Flatwheel deadline – Dave Williams - November 26th

Comments for the good of the order.

Adjournment 8:15 PM

David James  
Secretary

## Raffle Report

November's raffle will be another exciting one. A fine variety of prizes, something for everyone.

The Raffle Dudes

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## Porter Library Display

The Holiday window at Porter Library will be going in about November 30th. If you have any small dioramas they are always useful, how about some of the contest models? Buildings? Other Items? See Chuck Klein.

---

## Company Store      Chuck Klein, Purveyor

We have the Mid Central Region HO school house kit available. \$49.00. This can be kit bashed into other structures. This is a laser cut kit. Only ( 2 ) FP&E boxcars left \$18.00 each. Division hats \$20.00 ea, Division Patches \$3.00 ea. receive a complimentary past region convention patch with purchase. All four numbers of the N&SS hopper cars still available( \$55.00 for 3 \$20.00 ea.) and we still have a three number availability on the N&SS boxcars ( \$50.00 for 3 \$18.00 ea).

---

## Membership    by Bill Ferry, Membership Chair

### November Birthdays:

Scott Benson

David Davis

Mike Fahler

Donald Golden

Bryan Hinkle

Paul Justy

Jason Kovalchuck

Bob Krueger

Emil Orenick

C Perkins

Steve Prechtel

David Richardson

Douglas Steiskal

Rich Thoma

Joseph Toth

Julie Williams

October CONTEST SUBJECT: Abandoned or Haunted Building  
THERE WERE 15 ENTRIES AND 47 VOTES

1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE: Dave Lawler  
2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE: (tie) Dave Williams, Rich Mayich  
3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE: Bill Kovacs  
Honorable Mention: Tom McInerney

POINT STANDINGS

1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE: Dave Lawler = 7  
2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE: Jim Grell = 6  
3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE: (tie) Rich Mayich, Dave Williams = 5  
4<sup>TH</sup> PLACE: (tie) George Keller, Bill Kovacs = 4  
5<sup>TH</sup> PLACE; (tie) Joe Filipiak, George Gelehrter, Tom McInerney = 3

COMMENTS: This was another great contest with plenty of participation; 15 entries and the entries were clever and very interesting. Thanks everyone.

Our NOVEMBER CONTEST is for any car, passenger or freight, with truss rods. Those are the old time rods, under the car, supported by queen posts and tightened with turnbuckles that kept the car from sagging in the middle before steel underframes were invented. Most cars constructed in this manner were likely out of service by the 1960s. However many cars remained in work train service much later for you modern modelers. Thus, you have no excuse not to enter something.



## The Clinic Corner

by Larry Madson

for November 2015

### **George Keller Building Your First Layout**

George's program will show how to build the framework for a layout using both wood and steel. George will also demonstrate the use of hard foam for the basis of the train board, the positioning of the road bed and the positioning of the track using latex caulk. Wiring for basic DCC will also be discussed. George will have examples of all materials used in the construction process.

### **for December 2015**

No program in December. Please consider attending the annual awards banquet at the Copper Top in Valley City, see below.

### **Clinics Wanted**

Any Division member with an idea for a program subject or wishing to present a program for the 2015 – 2016 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](mailto:lmadson@roadrunner.com).

Larry Madson

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## Division Holiday Party & Awards Dinner

We'll be back at the Coppertop Party Center, 5740 Center Rd, Valley City, OH for our Holiday Party & Awards Banquet. The date is Friday December 11, 2015, which is our normal 2nd Friday meeting date. The cost is \$15 per adult. Please sign up and pay at the November meeting if at all possible, otherwise contact Lee Sheffield to make your arrangements. Special visit by Santa and another great auction. Chicken Alfredo, Prime Rib, and Chicken Marsala. Last year, we gave them the wrong dinner time, resulting in some slightly rare meat. That was our fault, not the Coppertop's, and we promise that it won't happen again. Bring the children. Same DJ!

## Larger Font

By request, the detail level of the Flatwheel has gone from 10 point up to 11 point.

## The Great Berea Train Show: 2015 is in the books

Thanks to everyone who participated in making this another good year at the Fairgrounds. Chairman Mike Oster made his part look easy yet again but for those of us who have stepped forward to replace Mike (and it will take a group of us to do it) know that there's going to be a learning curve ahead. Quite fortunately, Mike will still be on board to answer questions as an advisor.



above: Saturday morning saw a line at opening time and some rain. right: The NMRA table was well staffed throughout the weekend.



## Editor's Notes

For the 3rd month in a row, I was out-of-town during "Flatwheel weekend", and for the 2nd month in a row, had poor Internet service, so sorry once again if I left out a report or announcement. This time it was the North Central Region's convention in Fort Wayne Indiana. If that was an indication of how they put on a convention, you need to sign up for the 2016 Indianapolis National right away (I already have). They had lots of prototype tours, a lot of really great clinics, and some good layouts for both visiting and operating. Everyone was very friendly. The Hotel Fort Wayne seems to be THE destination for a lot of rail conventions (NKPHTS some years back). It may be a little past its prime but they take really good care of their visitors. Most clinics went very smoothly except that the projectors seemed to be having trouble with Windows 10 - the projectors would shut down mid-presentation as if they'd entered sleep mode and restoration was not quick or easy. Every clinic started on time to the minute except one. That clinician showed up early and suddenly realized that he'd left something at home. He came back about half an hour past start time. Then he noticed that someone hadn't brought everything in from his car. Then he couldn't get the computer to work. Finally, he couldn't get the projector to work (and never did). His first words to us? "I model the Penn Central." That didn't seem to surprise anyone. He also later described himself as a perfectionist. He was referring to his models, so that may have been an accurate statement in that context. Interestingly, this guy had some very unique approaches to what he was doing, so he still wound up with nearly full points for his presentation. Another clinic was on 3D printing. Several months ago I mentioned that was planning to buy a 3D printer. Frank Bongiovanni pointed out that the cost of the filament is still on the high side and that I should check into [www.shapeways.com](http://www.shapeways.com) for their printing service instead. I did defer buying the printer on that advice and I'm glad - the clinic presenter only uses Shapeways for his work and said that to get their quality would take at least a \$20,000 used printer.

I visited Keeneland Racetrack during the MCR convention and returned last month for a day of their limited racing schedule. On the way back the next day, I stopped by the town of Canal Winchester just east of Columbus to see the one room schoolhouse that is the basis of the current MCR structure project. It's been moved to a small park and is adjacent to the town's depot in its original location. It's also next to a grain elevator that still contains some of the mechanism used to lift wagons (and maybe trucks) to dump grain. Being a weekday, none of the buildings were open, so I'm hoping to go back (maybe on a tour) during next year's Regional Convention in Columbus.

In the latest *NMRA Magazine*, a recipient of the NMRA's Honorary Life Member award is credited with earning that achievement through his work with Brian Barnt. Does that make Brian an extra-honorary life member?



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Yahoo - The Division has a Yahoo group available for members. Send your request to join to [dave\\_wms@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 November 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

Superintendent Elected  
 Steve Kaplan (216) 561-1648 [spk@skaplanassociates.com](mailto:spk@skaplanassociates.com)

Assistant Superintendent  
 Lee Sheffield [lakeshoreny@yahoo.com](mailto:lakeshoreny@yahoo.com)

Secretary  
 David James h (440) 717-1778 c (440) 785-9907  
[david.j@brtcharter.com](mailto:david.j@brtcharter.com)

Treasurer  
 Greg Noeth [gjinoeth@yahoo.com](mailto:gjinoeth@yahoo.com) (216) 789-2086

Trustee East  
 Fred Obreza [chevy5664@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chevy5664@sbcglobal.net) (216) 587-4419

Trustee Quad County  
 Jim Moore [moorez@aol.com](mailto:moorez@aol.com) h (419) 684-5833

Trustee West  
 Dave Williams h(440) 838-4996 [dave\\_wms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dave_wms@sbcglobal.net)

Trustee at Large  
 Larry Madson (440) 934-2643 [lmadson@roadrunner.com](mailto:lmadson@roadrunner.com)

Trustee at Large  
 John Hemsath [hemsathj@gmail.com](mailto:hemsathj@gmail.com) (440) 871-9676

Great Berea Train Show  
 Mike Oster

Appointed

Achievement  
 Bruce Brintnall MMR  
 Layouts  
 John and Tom Hemsath  
[hemsathj@gmail.com](mailto:hemsathj@gmail.com)

Membership  
 Bill & Billy Ferry

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

Clinics  
 Larry Madson

Refreshments  
 Joe Filipiak

Flatwheel Editor  
 Dave Williams

Training Day  
 Gary Schaefer

## Conventions

### NMRA National Convention

July 3 - 10, 2016 Indianapolis, IN

### Mid Central Region Conventions:

28 April–1 May 2016	Rails to the Capital	Columbus, OH (Div. 6)
2017	Louisville, KY (Div. 8)	
2018	Cincinnati, OH (Div. 7)	

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## Upcoming Area Events

Nov 7, 2015 Division 4 Layout Tours

Nov 7, 2015 Division 5 Layout Tours

Nov 7 & 8, 2015 Dayton Train Show \$6, under 13 free, 11 to 5 on Saturday, 11 to 4 on Sunday  
Hara Arena, 1001 Shiloh Springs Rd., Dayton OH

Nov 7 & 8 (also 12/5&6, 2015) Youngstown Model Railroad Assn Open House 12 to 6 all days  
\$4 donation requested per person YMRA 751 N. Four Mile Run Rd., Youngstown OH

Nov 8, 2015 Training Day

Nov 8, 2015 Greater Wayne County Train & Toy Show 10 to 4 \$5, under 13 free  
Buckeye Event Center, 624 Henry St, Dalton OH

Nov 14, 15, 21 & 22, 2015 Sebring Model Railroad Club Open House 10 to 5 all days \$4, under 12 free  
Sebring Station, 216 East Pennsylvania Ave, Sebring OH

Dec 5 & 6, 2015 Cuyahoga Valley & West Shore Model Railroad Club Open House 11 to 4 \$3 donation, under  
6 free Olmsted Falls Depot, 25802 Garfield Ave, Olmsted Falls, OH

Dec 5, 2015 Marion Union Station Assn Train & Toy Show 11 to 4 \$5, \$12 family, under 9 free  
Marion Union Station 532 West Center St, Marion OH

Thanks to Tom Pescha for providing information for most of these events.

Double check information with a separate source before making plans to attend - dates, times, and cost (etc.) subject to being wrong from the copying process.

# Training Day

As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, this is a Division Four event. It's free and open to the public - in fact it's our chance to share the hobby with everyone. If you can, bring something to work on in front of visitors. You're also welcome to sit on the other side of the table and learn new techniques from someone else (it's for kids, but definitely not just for kids). Check the event's website for more information: [www.div4trainingday.org](http://www.div4trainingday.org)

Sunday November 8, 2015 10 am to 3 pm

BLACK RIVER LANDING & TRANSPORTATION CENTER  
421 BLACK RIVER LANE (UNDER THE BRIDGE)  
LORAIN, OHIO 44052

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## Layout Tours

Division 4 layout tours will be on Saturday November 7 in the Medina area and Sunday November 15 in the Sandusky area. Both have hours of noon to 5 pm. If you are a Division 4 member, you have received an email with names and addresses. Division 5 has invited us to their layout open house on Saturday November 7th as well. These layout tours are offered to NMRA members and their families.

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## Layout Command Control (LCC)

by Dave Williams

Layout Command Control was presented during the National Convention in Portland. Up until today (11/3), I had my own article here describing LCC as I understood it. Then I read the new issue of *Model Railroad Hobbyist* (get it at <http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com> - it's free). Their review of LCC on page 45 covers most of what I had and quite a bit more. [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) also has information, of course.

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## Flatwheel Editor Wins Great Train Show Raffle!

by Dave Williams



photo: Brian Haas

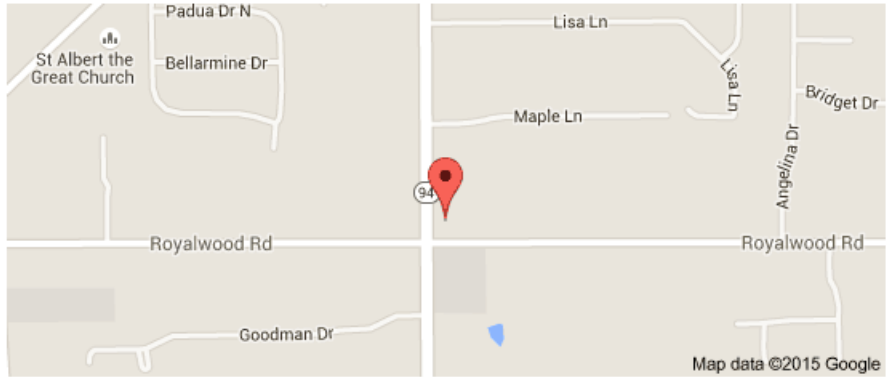
Thanks to Ormandy's in Medina for donating this Lionel trainset for our raffle. Their annual contribution of prizes helps us pay for the electricity during the train show. Thanks also to everyone who was involved in selling tickets, including Brian Haas, who had the job of finding the winner.

Since the set has a Cubs baseball theme, I had hoped that they'd win the World Series and I could sell the set big time. Maybe I should wait until next year.

Someone questioned that an 'insider' won. Folks, the insiders are approached on a regular basis to buy tickets, and we all do, so don't act so surprised. I wasn't directly involved in the raffle, just bought some tickets like everybody else.

On where the set will eventually wind up: lots of good suggestions and no decision as of yet. I briefly entertained the idea of making it look more realistic with a rattle can of black paint but decided that a Black Widow theme complete with working blackout lights wouldn't be right.

## The Hobby House 12613 State Rd. North Royalton, Ohio



All photos provided by Joe Kurilec MMR

Located on State Road, in a house, is the Hobby House. This hobby shop has a good selection of hobby supplies for all types of hobbies!



Once inside you'll find a good selection of Woodland Scenic products, paint and stripwood. It's well worth a trip.



The Hobby House has models for all scales. When there, please look at all of the shelves. You might find that one item that you are searching for! I know, I did, several times!

The owner is very helpful and knowledgeable and will add to your model needs.

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