



# THE FLATWHEEL

VOL 49 NBR 10 DECEMBER 2014



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



## HERBIE'S RUMBLINGS

December 2014

Here we are, approaching the end of the year. First of all I want to thank all of those who have kept me out of trouble during this first six months of my term. This coming year promises to be more fun and educational. As a result of last month's budget presentation, the Board has started receiving suggestions for the use of the excess funds realized from the convention. So far, suggestions have included:

- 1) Developing a library of "how-to" DVD's (examples: weathering, casting, trackwork, scenery, etc.).
- 2) Purchase of a selection of Fast-Tracks fixtures, tools and supplies. (Accompanied by demonstrations before some of the meetings).
- 3) More field trips like the last one. We are already looking into a trip to the Ages of Steam Roundhouse.
- 4) Donations to someone's favorite historical society. This last one could easily get out of hand, as our membership encompasses supporters of at least 10 historical societies.

The first two suggestions item would probably be added responsibilities for the company store. In any event, please keep those suggestions rolling in. The Board will make some decisions and/or recommendations, and get back to you.

If you plead nicely to Bruce, he may still be able to get you into the Awards dinner on the 12<sup>th</sup>. REMEMBER! There is no December meeting – we will be stuffing ourselves on prime rib at the Copper Top.

Thanks to all of you who had your layouts open last month. I actually managed to get to each one, and picked up some new ideas from some.

I notice that the January contest is "something different" in a tank car. At the Lakeland Show on the 14<sup>th</sup>, I saw a flat car with an army tank mounted on it – I was tempted, but remembered that Lawler is bigger than me so I chickened out. I do expect to see some innovative examples though.

Also - Start getting some of the stuff off of the shelf (and dusted off), for the upcoming auction in March.

The module group has a layout at the Black River Transportation Center every weekend from last Saturday through December 28<sup>th</sup>. (See pages 4 and 5).

Please remember - new members can easily be identified by their name badge – it will be GREEN. When you see someone with a green name badge, please introduce yourself and make him or her feel welcome. Our goal is to keep them coming back for more.

Hoping to see you at the Copper Top,

Steve Kaplan Division 4 MCR Superintendent

Division Four's next meeting will be Friday December 12, 2014

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

Annual Awards Banquet / Holiday Party  
CopperTop Banquet Facility  
5740 Center Road (aka Route 303, on the south side)  
Valley City OH 44280



Starts at 6:30 pm, with dinner at 7 pm

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## General Meeting Minutes

Meeting for NMRA Div 4, November 14, 2014

Opened at 7:40 PM

Welcome by our Superintendent Steve Kaplan

Membership – Joe Mehalic – Visitor -Aaron Wheeler – HO modeler. Jerry Kruger will be helping the committee on the roster.

Layout tours – John Hemsath tours will be this month, this Sunday and next Saturday.

Contests – Dave Lawler - this month's contest was for models made from drinking straws, some great models were entered. Last month's contest was dump trucks. Great models. January contest is unusual tank car.

Module Group – Scott Benson, we will be showing over the next month including at the Black River Transportation in Lorain. This event is all through the month of December. Still waiting to hear about the World's greatest Hobby show in Columbus in February 2015.

Clinics – Larry Madson- Tonight's clinic is all about Ethanol plants by Ron Morgan.

Treasurer Bruce Bowie's report includes the budget discussion. Assets – \$59,503.03, we have received disbursements from the NMRA National Convention of about \$17,000.00. More disbursements from the committee are expected as the books are completed. Bruce presented the budget as normalized budget. Steve also spoke about some of the big ticket items or tours that we can do. We welcome your input about tours or other grants that we can do. Talk to any of the board directors. The following groups are being awarded the following Grants from the Division 4. It was moved to accept the budget by John Hemsath and seconded by Tim Sheffield. Discussion was received by the Group, and then voted on by the membership, motion was passed.

Friends of Harbor Towne	Medina 4H Club
Module Groups	Erie Metro Live Steamers
Northern Ohio Live Steamers	Holiday museum club
Burning River N Scale	Ability Works in Huron County – Radio Scanner.

Lots of room still for the December Awards Dinner to be held December 12, 2014. Sign up DEAD LINE IS November 30, 2014. Call, email, carrier pigeon, Fed ex or Pony express to Bruce Bowie.

Good for the order, Veterans Day recognition for our membership of those who served our country. Thank you.

Adjourned at 8:25 PM

David James

Secretary

## December Birthdays

David Anderson	Robert Orlando
Russell Conser	John Pesuit
Michael Drops	Lee Soule
Frank Feko	Charles Spencer
John Hemsath	Stephen Twarogowski
Patricia Henning	Michael Vollmar
Charles Klein	Dennis Whitaker
William Kostka	Jeff Winer
Jeffrey Lauren	Joseph Witouski
Scott Mc Kee	Ed Woskowicz
Marcia Mehalic	

## New Members

Daniel Brush	Parma, OH
Anthony Karr	Parma, OH

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## Raffle

Ladies and Gentlemen, It is that time of the year again when it is time to celebrate at the Awards and Holiday Banquet. Once again we have a "RAFFLE EXTRAVAGANZA". Many great prizes to be had and once again "The Henning Picture" . Come and join the fun. See everyone at the banquet.

The Raffle Dudes

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## Transitions

Due to current employment constraints, Membership Co-Chair Tom Beutler and Company Store Chair Tim Sheffield have had to step down from their positions. Joe Mehalic will assume all Membership Chair duties and Chuck Klein will take over the Company Store. Tim is able to remain (very) active with the Division but is often scheduled to work on Friday evenings. The Division thanks Tom and Tim for their service, and Joe and Chuck for taking on new responsibilities.

## 2014 AWARDS BANQUET in December

Note: This event requires advanced reservations to attend. This notice is intended to provide information to those who have signed up. As mentioned in the Superintendent's column, there may be a few remaining places, so contact Treasurer Bruce Bowie at 419-602-3584 or email him at in2trains@gmail.com. Be ready to provide: number of adults, number of children, and childrens' ages - if he can accommodate you.

This year's banquet will be held in lieu of a regular meeting on Friday, December 12th at the

CopperTop Banquet Facility  
5740 Center Road (aka Route 303, on the south side)  
Valley City OH 44280

The enjoyment and camaraderie will start at 6:30 PM followed with a buffet dinner at 7 PM.

This year's main entrees will be PRIME RIB and BAKED HERB CHICKEN. Yes real PRIME RIB! Dinner will include salad, rolls, butter, soft drinks and coffee. The Division heavily subsidizes this event so all this for only \$15 per adult with children 16 and under FREE! WOW!!

This year we will have a cash bar with spirits of your choosing. Also this year, we will have a DJ for your listening and dancing pleasure.

Recognition for outstanding members will be made and as usual, we will have an amazing raffle. (Treasurer - I personally know Mike Klein has been collecting special raffle prizes all year just for the banquet. Thanks Mike!)

This is a family event with free gifts for children, so bring your kids and grandkids! The Division is in contract negotiations with Santa and depending on a successful negotiation, we are hopeful he will be on hand to present the gifts!



photos: Ron Morgan



The Division's Modular Group will have a layout on display weekends at the Black River Transportation Center in Lorain. The layout's presence is in support of the International Tree & Model Display. The event is open to the public and Division members are welcome to participate with the layout. Times and location are on the next page. Late word from Scott Benson and Lee Sheffield indicated that the first Saturday attendance over 1000 people, with Sunday being a bit quieter. Thanks to Ron Morgan for providing these pictures.

### BOD Meetings

February 10, 2015  
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.

## ***International Tree & Model Train Display***



Sponsored by  
Lorain Growth Corporation  
Tourism Committee  
Lorain Port Authority



Join the fun and enjoyment  
of the Christmas Season.



**Black River Transportation Center**  
421 Black River Lane  
Lorain, Ohio 44052

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC**

***Donations Appreciated***

**November 29th—December 28, 2014**

**Fridays 5:00 P.M.—9:00 P.M.**

**Saturdays 4:00 P.M.—9:00 P.M.**

**Sundays 3:00 P.M.—7:00 P.M.**

You, your family and friends are invited to participate in the International Tree and Model Train Display. We encourage you to bring a little of your Christmas to others by decorating a tree that shows your customs and expressions of Christmas joy.

Send us an e-mail:  
[gbonsor44089@yahoo.com](mailto:gbonsor44089@yahoo.com)

Flyer provided by Steve Kaplan. (one picture was omitted due to size limitations)



There were 63 people at the November meeting, which was impressive considering the road conditions that night. There were about 63 stories about the drive (professional bus driver David James used the turnpike for a longer but better trip than those of us trying I-480 and Clague Road). Here's hoping that the meeting nights during the actual winter will be less bothersome!

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 Friday December 26, 2014. The deadline is almost always 2 weeks and a day before the next general meeting. (A day later this time to avoid being on Christmas.)

The Flatwheel is no longer mailed.

## DIVISION FOUR OFFICERS

Elected

Superintendent

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

Assistant Superintendent

Lee Sheffield [lakeshorenyc@yahoo.com](mailto:lakeshorenyc@yahoo.com)

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Bruce Bowie [in2trains@gmail.com](mailto:in2trains@gmail.com) c (419)-602-3584

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)

Appointed

Great Berea Train Show

Mike Oster

Achievement

Bruce Brintnall MMR

Membership

Joe Mehalic

Layouts

John and Tom Hemsath

[hemsathj@gmail.com](mailto: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

Tim Sheffield

Clinics

Larry Madson

Refreshments

Joe Filipiak

Flatwheel Editor

Dave Williams

## The Clinic Corner

### December 2014 No Program

Please join us for Awards Banquet to be held at the Copper Top Restaurant. See details on page 4.

### January 2015

Watch the website for the announcement of the January 2015 program.

### Clinics Wanted

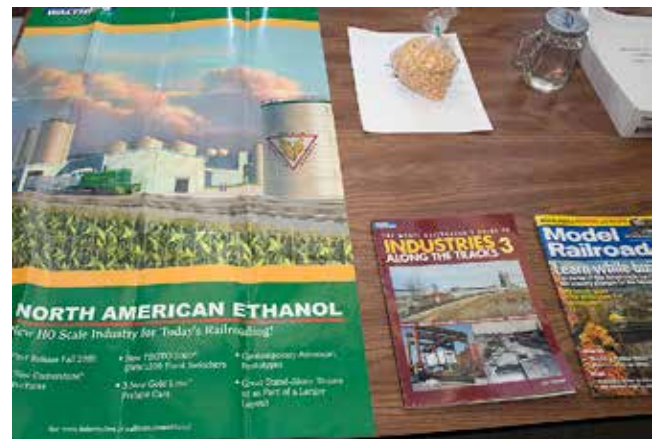
I need programs for Jan, Feb, April, May and June of 2015. Any Division member with an idea for a program subject or wishing to present a program for the 2014 – 2015 season, please contact me.

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](mailto:lmadson@roadrunner.com).

Larry Madson



Ron Morgan's November clinic covered all that he's done to model a large ethanol complex on his layout.



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12:00–9:00 pm

440.243.6169  
 30 Depot Street  
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Located 1/6 miles from the Fairgrounds.  
 Head WEST (left) onto E. Bagley Rd.  
 Turn right onto Front St.  
 Turn left onto Depot St.





If you haven't made it to an annual Sebring Open House, think about making plans for next year. It's definitely worth the trip.

## Editor's Notes

My reference last month to Marnostat and TruScale was of course a salute to Frank Bongiovanni, who's been able to explore some of the slightly less travelled paths in model railroading. The Marnostat was a fancy rheostat for controlling DC train speed and TruScale produced one piece sections of milled wood ties and trackbed. Both were kind of like Cadillacs, at least to a kid running Docksidies and Hustlers on loose snap track.

Of other items of years gone by, one of my favorites was the Aurora Model Motoring set that I got for Christmas one year. I think the manufacturer's original intention was just to have cars driving the speed limit in both directions, and intelligently waiting for the train. Yeah, that didn't last too long. We soon found out how fast those cars could go, and how fast their motors burnt out.

Thanks for approving the Flatwheel budget. While we're not mailing anymore, I still have to print off a couple of proof copies during the setup process.

Dave Williams



## Contest Corner

conducted by Dave Lawler

Here are the results for the November Model Contest: Made With Straws

There were 5 entries and 32 votes.

1st: Rich Mayich "Strawbridge"

2nd: (tie) George Gelehrter, welding pipe,  
Dave Lawler, flue rack

3rd: Joe Kurilec, straw diorama

Here are the current point standings:

1st: George Gelehrter, Rich Mayich

2nd: Dave Lawler

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



There will be NO CONTEST in December so all you model builders can attend the awards banquet.

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.

Good luck,  
Dave Lawler



# 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>

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## Open House and Show Schedule for December

Information on these events has been given to us. No endorsement is implied. Please double-check dates/times/locations through a second source, especially when long drive times are involved. (There be possible typos in these waters Matey)

Dec 6/7: Youngstown Model Railroad Club Noon - 6:PM [www.ymra.org](http://www.ymra.org) for a map  
751 N. Four Mile Run Rd  
Austintown OH 4451

Dec 7: Medina Model Railroad & Toy Shows 10 am to 4 pm \$6, under 12 free  
Medina Co. Community Center, Medina Fairgrounds, Medina OH

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## Board Meeting Minutes for November 11, 2014

Opened at 7:10 PM

Joe Mehalic is now the Membership Chair.

The board is looking for a Beneficiary Chair to assist families in the best disposition of model railroad items after a Division member passes on.

Bylaw revision – Chuck Klein - a review was done. And a few items will need to be changed. All revisions will be minor. Further discussion will take place at the February BOD Meeting.

Discussion of the budget. Adjustments were made to the proposed budget. The final budget will be presented at the November 14, 2014.

Grants for this year. Each module group at the Show will receive \$100. The following grants were also \$250 to the Burning River N Scale Group, Vermillion preservation society \$100.00, \$500 to the Medina 4-H Group, Erie Metro Live Steamers \$500, Northern Ohio live Steamers \$200, Radio Scanner to Ability Works about \$300, Northern Ohio Trolley Museum \$300. (editor's note: the \$250 to the Burning River N Scale Group is directed toward helping that group purchase a new trailer).

Adjourned at 8:46 PM

David James  
Secretary