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





Grafton Tower was open during our recent layout tours. While the levers no longer control routes, the room gives a good impression of how everything worked when the tower was active.

Division Four's next meeting will be Friday June 12, 2015.

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

Church of the Redeemer 23500 Center Ridge Road Westlake Ohio 44145

(just east of Center Ridge and Clague)

There are no meetings in July or August.

2015-16 Contest Schedule on page 6!

Division website: www.div4.org



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Herbie:

Help Every Railroader Become Injury Exempt



HERBIE'S RUMBLINGS

June 2015

I am pleased to announce that Greg Knoeth has been appointed Treasurer to fill the remainder of Bruce's term. Thanks to Bruce for ten years of active service as officer or Trustee – hopefully you'll get back in there after a well-earned hiatus.

I am also pleased to announce that the Board has approved the purchase of a microphone system, including a lavaliere one for "he (me) who keeps forgetting to speak into it".

The Mid-Central Region convention was 2 weeks ago in Lexington, Kentucky. I counted 18 members of Division Four there -- the rest of you really missed out on some great clinics and tours. Next year the convention is in Columbus – start making plans now.

Highlights at Lexington also included an open session (as well as the banquet address) with Mike Brestel, former NMRA National President, where he explained some of the goings-on at the national level, including the three visit limit now being imposed on non-member visitors. You have all had a chance to read about it in the last several NMRA Magazines – it is first and foremost an insurance issue. Mike summed it up in one sentence – "The insurance company is charging the NMRA a rate for 19,000 people – not 24,000". Our Division has not been one of the more serious violators of this policy, which has been in effect for a long time, but we will begin enforcing it, Mike pointed out that every study and poll has resulted in the realization that if someone doesn't join after three visits, they will not be joining. If you have further questions, I will be happy to discuss them with you at the June meeting.

At the recent Board meeting, it was decided to have a page (or two) of business card sized ads for every locally owned and operated hobby shop in the Division's area. (Of course, this will only cover ones of interest to model railroaders.) Additionally, Joe Kurilec has taken up the task of writing a short article about each one, to be published in the Flatwheel over the coming year. We all need to support these local dealers, or they won't be around when we need them.

Joe Mehalic has informed us that he is stepping down as Membership Chair. I have a write-up of what is involved. Please contact me at 216-533-4319, or talk to me before the June meeting (I get there by 6:30) if you are interested

Our annual Holiday and Awards Dinner will be at the Coppertop on Friday, December 11.

We have temporarily pulled back on the proposed by-law changes – to correct some problems with what we had thought to be routine boilerplate (i.e. – nobody read that part). We will re-present them at either the June or the September meeting.

The Painesville Railroad Museum will be hosting the 2015 Lincoln Funeral Train 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 6 and 7. Division 5 is a sponsor of this event. The flyer is inside this Flatwheel. If you can volunteer some of your time, please call Bob Orlando at 440-539-4041. Otherwise, we still hope to see you there.

Start thinking about subjects you would like to have for next year's clinics and relay them to Larry Madson.

See you at the meeting.

Steve Kaplan Superintendent - Division 4 MCR

Meeting Minutes May 8, 2015

Welcome by Superintendent Steve Kaplan at 7:30 PM

New Members – Rich Balor, who models the Nickel Plate in HO scale.

Treasurer's report - \$52,275.36 in assets. Thanks to Bruce Bowie for his ten years of service, welcome to new Treasurer Greg Noeth Achievement Award - Bruce Brintnall MMR gave award to John Hemsath, Master Builder - Scenery Certificate

Larry Clinics – Randy Dettmer (Division 1) talk about Covered Hoppers, next month will be Intro to Operations by Bruce Bowie.

Field Trip to Ages of Steam will be September 12, 2015

Picnic will be announced soon, later July (Picnic Will Not Happen in 2015)

Awards Dinner is booked for December 19, 2015 at the Cooper Top but Steve needs to check on the Friday date December 11 (Date is reset to this)

Contest – Dave Lawler – next Month is Awards for the season.

New business – There will be a vote on the changes to the Bylaws at the next meeting in June.

Actions of the BOD – discussion on etiquette during meeting, by-law updates, purchase of a wireless microphone for use during meetings, field trip.

Frank Bongiovanni – Div. 6 will have an auction of Mr Smith's Collections later in the fall; Norfolk and Western Historical Society convention is June 17-20 in Marion Oh

Other News.

Training Day – November 8, at the Black River Transportation Center. Chair Gary Schafer is looking for anyone interested in doing a clinic.

B&O mini Con is at the Black River Transportations Center May 16, 2015

Adjourned at 8:12 PM

Respectfully submitted

David James, Secretary

Company Store

Chuck Klein, Proprietor

For those members who have an interest in the Nickel Plate Railroad: *The Nickel Plate Historical Society* will be holding a National Convention in Cleveland in 2017. If anyone is interested in its planning, please see Chuck Klein. This is not nearly as big a task as what we did for the NMRA National Convention.

The Company Store sold some of the hopper cars and boxcars at the Regional Convention in Lexington. The inventory is getting smaller, so if you have some interest in purchasing, visit the store at the next meeting.

N&SS hoppers	\$ 20.00
N&SS box cars	\$ 18.00
FP&E box cars	\$ 18.00
Division hats	\$ 20.00
Division Patches	\$ 3.00

Congratulations to John Hemsath for earning his *Master Builder: Scenery* certification.

BOD meeting of May 5, 2015

Welcome to Greg Noeth as the new treasurer.

Letter that was sent to our members to find the Flatwheel. Every effort has been done to get the word about the Flatwheel to the members that do not have emails.

By-laws of the division have been revised. The bylaws will be published on the web site. All members please read and there will be a vote at the general meeting. There have been changes and approved by the board. Motion to accept Per article 7, paragraph 3 of bylaws. Motion by John Hemsath second by Bruce Bowie. Motion passed. Motion to pay the typist \$50 by Chuck Klein second by Dave Lawler. Motion passed.

Motion to buy a wireless mic up to \$400.00 by Fred Obreza seconded by Dave Lawler. Larry Madson will review the system and purchase the necessary equipment. Motion passed

Hobby shop ad space. This will be designed and installed into the Flatwheel to help promote local hobby shops.

Division field trip to Ages of Steam will look for the date in September. Trip will be \$25.00. Paid seat to be reserved. Also need to look into a trip to Scenic Express, Greensburg PA.

Picnic for the division. Lee will look into the site for July and Steve will work the details for the awards dinner in December.

Training Day Sunday November 8. Meeting will before the next general meeting.

Next board meeting will be in the Division's west. Jim Moore will make arrangements.

Adjourned at 8:18

David James, Secretary

Raffle

Hello everybody, June's raffle will be another fine variety of prizes, as always, something for everyone. Stay tuned for more theme raffles in the fall and winter. The holiday raffle proves to be another fine raffle as well.

The Raffle Dudes

The Clinic Corner

Larry Madson

June 2015 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.

Have a wonderful summer, see you in September!

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.

The May 2015 Model Contest featured EMD/GMD Diesel Locomotives. There were only three entries and 38 votes cast.

!st: Rich Mayich, (again no surprise here) BL-1 Repair Diorama

2nd: George Gelehrter, NKP GP-7, Great paint and weathering.

3rd: Dave Lawler, NAR GMD-1, the homely Canadian.

Here are the final point standings for the year.

1st: Rich Mayich, 24 points

2nd: Dave Lawler, 14 points

3rd: George Gelehrter, 13 points

4th: Jim Grell, 9 points

5th: Joe Kurilec, 7 points

We had some great models entered this year and the contests were quite entertaining, but I'd sure like to see more entries in each month. Remember, just for entering you get 1 point. There are normally seven contest during each season so you could realize a total of 7 points even if you did not win a single one and that may still place you "in the money" at the end.

So, for everyone losing sleep wondering what next season will bring, the exciting list of contests for 2015-2016 is on the next page, suitable for framing, or more appropriately, placing above your modeling area.

Editor's Notes

Despite being slowed a bit by some minor malady, I had a great time at the Regional Convention. I attended a clinic on using *Signals by Spreadsheet*, which avoids a lot of the complication of programming with a simple interface to handle layout signalling. Unfortunately for me, the clinician (Gerry Albers) also favorably mentioned the *Raspberry Pi* computer as a really good potential interface (with the programming complications), and I ordered one as soon as I got home. It's a real computer that uses your existing keyboard, mouse and monitor for just \$35. Besides network and WiFi capabilities, the board has about 20 I/O pins that you can control. The computer is very small. Its usual language is called Python, which I'm trying to learn now. The name Python is a humorous and lighthearted reference to Monty Python. The language itself is neither humorous nor lighthearted at all. Coincidentally (or not), I'm celebrating the 40th anniversary of my first attempts to control trains with a computer - my Altair 8800 is in a box around here somewhere after dying during a memory upgrade operation, back when such events required a soldering iron.

Bruce Bowie is still shown as Treasurer on page 8 since the official transition is still in progress at publication time. Thanks for your time in office Bruce, and welcome onto the Board Greg.

Contest Schedule for 2015-2016

September: My *Favorite Caboose* or *Favourite Van* if Canadian.

October: A *Haunted/Abandoned Building*, just in time for Halloween.

November: A *Truss Rod Car, Freight or Passenger*,

For modern era modelers an old work car could be used.

December: **No Contest:** so everyone can attend the Awards Banquet.

January: An *On-Line Structure, 2" x 4" Maximum*.

Think of something you can build on the end of a 2x4.

February: My *Favorite Truck*.

Motor vehicle, not a set of freight car wheels.

March: A **Locomotive From a Cleveland Area Railroad**.

Steam, electric or diesel. (NKP, NYC, PRR, B&O,

Big 4, W&LE, Lake Terminal, N&SS etc...)

April: A *Freight House*.

Many towns had one -even tiny Kipton, Ohio. Go ride the LS&MS bike trail and see for yourself.

May: A Grain Car

Any era from a converted wooden box car to a

big modern cylindrical.

Membership

By Joe Mehalic, Membership Chair

New Members

Rick Fowler Flat Rock, OH Glenn E. Morrical Shaker Heights, OH

June Birthdays

Charles J Beargie Harold R McCarty
Franklin V Bongiovanni Paul J Novak Sr
Bruce A Bowie Leonard R Scherry

Robert Boyle Howard A Speidel

Allen Clever Dennis Super
Joseph J Filipiak Richard Tessa
George Gelehrter Leonard Wendorf

July Birthdays

Joseph E AndrewsDennis K RomainMichael C KleinDavid A SiegfriedJoe MehalicJames B StevensonBill PerryDavid M Williams

August Birthdays

Arthur Bumpus M C Kolenich
Thomas J Businger Jerry Krueger
William H Cramer Glenn Pryor
Richard M Dalanno Timothy Sheffield
John R Hudacko David H Shute
Robert L Kaiser James R Wenter
Stephen P Kaplan Paul Winslow

A note from Joe

After nearly four and a half years of holding either the Chairman or Co-Chairman of Membership position for Division 4, I want to announce that at the end of June I will be giving up my post to the next in line. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting both long-time and new members throughout this time. It has been a privilege to serve. I am committed to helping the next Membership Chairman master the position.

A special thanks to Denny Whitaker, who put so many of the membership tools in place, as well as all of the members who always stepped up to man the Membership Table when asked. THANK YOU It's time to build some models!



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 August 27, 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 lakeshorenyc@yahoo.com

Secretary

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

david.j@brtcharter.com

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 Modules
David Lawler 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

Refreshments Joe Filipiak

Larry Madson

Flatwheel Editor Dave Williams

2015 Mid Central Region Convention Lexington, Kentucky



Awards: Mike Klein (above, center) accepted the 1st Place Traction award on behalf of brother Chuck. John Hemsath (below, right) received the 1st Place Non-revenue award. Additionally, Jim Grell received a merit award. The awards presenter is Dick Briggs MMR.





Steve Kaplan (above) formally accepted his new role as Mid Central Region's President.



A really big steel mill received Best-of-Show.



There were a variety of non-rail activities available as well. A few of us visited nearby legendary Keeneland Racetrack.



Chuck Klein's winning Peter Witt car.



John Hemsath's Rail and Tie Car.

photo: John Hemsath



Conventions



The 2015 NMRA National Convention

Portland OR August 23 - August 30, 2015



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

Upcoming Area Events

Saturday-Sunday June 6-7. 2015 **Lincoln Funeral Train** Painesville Railroad Museum see flyer in this issue

Wednesday-Saturday June 17-20. 2015 **Norfolk & Western Historical Society Convention** events at Marion Station; lodging at Holiday inn Express on US 23 (both in Marion OH) see www.nwhs.org

Thursday-Sunday September 3-6. 2015 **Steel Mill Modelers Meet** Olgebay Resort in Wheeling WV see www.smmsig.org

Thanks to Tom Pescha for providing some of this information.

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

Mid Central Region's Schoolhouse Kit

As announced in the latest Kingpin, the Mid Central Region is in the process of releasing a one room brick schoolhouse kit made by Mountaineer Precision Products. The prototype was in Canal Winchester Ohio but seems typical of 19th century schools throughout the rural Midwest. Some of these structures are still in use today for farm equipment storage (the directions say that the Canal Winchester school has been moved and preserved.) The HO scale kit was initially available for sale at the Regional Convention and will be generally available in the near future (final price and distribution are still in discussion).



Cover of the box



Kit parts. The white pieces in the upper left corner are styrene overlays containing the brick pattern.

Martha Newberry Award

The Martha Newbery Award is presented each year during the Mid Central Regional Convention for a structure best representing the excellence and attention to detail that typified Martha's buildings. Martha was nationally known for her doll house miniature work and that style was evident in her railroad structures as well. The winner is chosen by a group of Division 4 members selected by the Superintendent. The structure may be either a standalone entry in the Structures category or part of a diorama. It may follow prototype plans meticulously or be completely freelanced (with strong authenticity). Interestingly, we tend to pick models not otherwise receiving awards, which probably means that we're acknowledging quality in a different direction than everyone else. This year's winner was Pat Gerstle with the S scale building pictured below. Our records indicate that Pat is a member of Convention host Division 10. Thanks to everyone who participated in the selection.



Martha Newberry Award winner Pat Gerstle and his S scale model.







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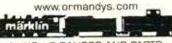


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