



THE FLATWHEEL

VOL 50 NBR 08 OCTOBER 2015



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



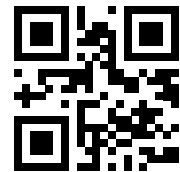
September's caboose contest brought out the biggest and the most entries.

Division Four's next meeting will be Friday October 9, 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



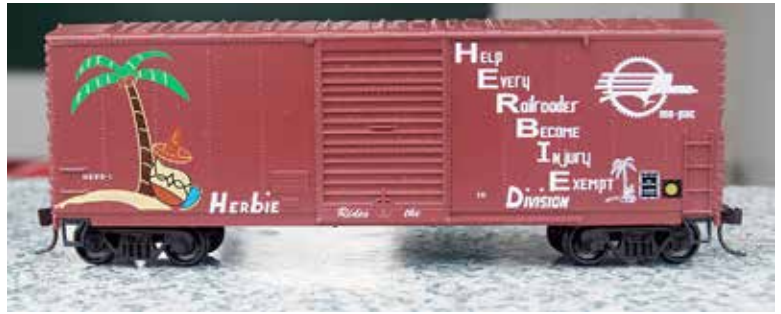
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Herbie:

Help
Every
Railroader
Become
Injury
Exempt



HERBIE'S RUMBLINGS

October 2015

It's Show Time – This weekend is our Great Berea Train Show, and it takes a lot of volunteer hours by all of us to make it great. Ben Lanza has forwarded you a list of who has signed up and where we need help. Please review the list and let me know where you can help. (open positions are also shown on page 7 -ed.) E-mail me at spk@skaplanassociates.com or call me and leave a message on 216-561-1648. We especially need help at the back gate and raffle ticket sales for both days, and almost everywhere on Sunday.

Our Show Publicity Committee – David James, Bill Ferry and Gary Shaefer have been hard at work using Social Media as well as our previous methods to get families into the show. We will be surveying attendees as to how they heard about us this year, to assist us in where we get the biggest bang for our bucks.

Those of you who are interested in joining the team to take charge of the Show for future years should let me know so that we can help you learn during this one.

I had to back out of the trip to the Age of Steam, but everyone I have talked to has made me very sorry I missed it.

Training Day is set for Sunday, November 8th. Please get with Gary Shaefer at the meeting to discuss how you can participate. Our annual Holiday and Awards Dinner will be at the Coppertop on Friday, December 11.

See you at the SHOW!.

Steve Kaplan
Superintendent - Division 4 MCR

Meeting Minutes from September 11, 2015

Welcome by Superintendent Steve Kaplan. Meeting opened at 7:30 PM

Membership – Bill Ferry – guest introduced : Willie Marport

Treasurer’s report – Greg Noeth: Division assets \$49,800.00

Clinics- Larry Madson – tonight is Achievement Award enticement talk by Bruce Brintnall MMR and Frank Bongiovani, followed by Frank’s presentation on the Winding Gulf Branches in WV. Next month will be on Toronto Light Rail by Bram Bailey.

Achievement Awards - Bruce Brintnall – Master Builder of Cars award to John Hemsath

Field Trip will be September 12, 2015, open to all at this time.

Awards Dinner is booked for December 11, 2015 at the Copper Top – Lee Sheffield will be taking signups next month.

Contest – Dave Lawler – good turnout for this month on cabooses. Many thanks.

Company store – Chuck Klein – “mule named sally”, lots of stuff,

Raffle – Mike Klein– lots of great stuff for raffle tonight, “so inclined”

Layout Tours – John Hemsath - Nov 7 and Nov 15, look for details in the Flatwheel.

Train Show –Looking for volunteers, Dave James gave a report on the marketing. Looking for key volunteers to take on the show.

Training Day – Gary Schaffer - November 8, at the Black River Transportation Center. Gary is looking for anyone interested in doing a clinic. Collecting door prizes. Sign up or call Gary to do projects.

New business – a better microphone system system for the meetings debuted in September.

Other News:

Don Glass invitation to a hobo Stew at his caboose next Saturday September 19 6:00 PM.

September 26 Railfest in Fostoria Ohio at the new park.

Adjourned at 8:22 PM

Respectfully submitted

David James
Secretary



John Hemsath (right) receiving his
Master Builder of Cars Achievement Certificate
from Bruce Brintnall MMR, Achievement Program Chair.

Raffle Report

October's raffle is a another fine variety of items. Something for everyone.

The Raffle Dudes

Company Store

We have had some members take advantage of the DVD rental library. Make a \$10.00 deposit then choose the DVD you want. When the DVD is returned, you receive your \$10.00 deposit back. We also have some DVD's from National NMRA at no charge to rent - just provide your name, membership number, and phone number.

Chuck Klein

Membership by Bill Ferry, Membership Chair

October Birthdays

John Buettner
James Burkhart
Michael Casey
David A Flebbe
Neal S Gearhart
David E James
Rolf Krotseng
David R Lawler
James A Moore
Joanne Obreza
Larry L Potts
Anthony L Smith
Trev Smith
Robert Z Varga

The September contest was for "My Favorite Caboose". There were 23 entries and 46 votes cast. That's right, 23 entries! Now that's a contest! Just about everybody must have a favorite caboose and here are the results:

1st: Jim Grell, B&O I-5

2nd: George Keller, NKP caboose

3rd: Joe Filipiak, BIG B&O caboose

Hon. Mention: George Gelehrter, Espee Railroad Police car
Dave Lawler, Ontario Southern baggage van

I've modified the point system to permit contestants to accumulate more points toward the final tally. Instead of a four points I'm using a five point system to include "honorable mentions" in each contest. Thus: 1st=5, 2nd=4, 3rd=3, H. M.=2, all other entries get 1.

The October contest is for abandoned or haunted buildings just in time for Halloween. These can be small dioramas if you wish.



The Clinic Corner

by Larry Madson

Part of the September clinic featured Bruce Brintnall MMR and Frank Bongiovanni discussing judging. Bruce Bowie was good enough to submit a scratchbuilt structure to be the subject of the discussion. The clinic did not cover specific point assessment for this model, but covered what was necessary to receive points in each category. Frank continued the evening with a clinic on his research into the Winding Gulf Branches in West Virginia.



Frank and Bruce talk about the importance of providing - judges with the right amount and content of written information..



Bruce Bowie's critiqued store.

October 2015 Bram Bailey "The TTC PCC Story "

This is the story of Toronto Transportation Commission's PCC trolley cars that served the city from 1939 until 1996. Many of these cars came from cities familiar to us, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Louisville, Kansas City and Birmingham. The program defines each of the 15 classes of PCC cars they had, gives tours of the car houses in operation in the late 1960's and all the lines upon which they operated from the '60's to the '80's.

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.

Larry Madson

The Great Berea Train Show

Cuyahoga Co. (Berea) Fairgrounds, Bagley Road about a mile west of I-71

Open to the public on Saturday October 3 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday October 4 11 am to 4 pm

Work Days for members are Friday through Sunday, October 2-4, 2015, This is our annual fund raiser for the Division. Your volunteer hours during this show pay most of the Division's bills and help the Division support related groups as part of our 501(c)3 status. Your hours are, in effect, your Division dues. Check the sign-up sheets at the September meeting for open positions. If you can't make the meeting, call any officer to let them know you're looking for an assignment. And if you can't do that, come to fairgrounds and ask where your help is needed. Division members who do not contribute a minimum 4 hours of volunteer time are reminded that they need to buy an admission.

Help is still needed in these areas:

Saturday

6:45 am - 10:00 am	Building Person
9:30 pm - noon	Raffle Ticket Sales
noon - 3:00 pm	Back Gate
noon - 3:00 pm	Raffle Ticket Sales
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Front Gate - Wristbands
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Back Gate
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Membership Table
3:00 pm - 5 pm	Raffle Ticket Sales

Sunday

6:45 am - 10:00 am	Building Person
10:45 am - 1:00 pm	Back Gate
10:45 am - 1:00 pm	Membership Table
10:45 am - 1:00 pm	Raffle Ticket Sales
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Back Gate
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Membership Table
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Raffle Ticket Sales

A few of these positions, notably Sunday's Back Gate, have NO volunteers.

The positions shown here needed to be filled first but there are some others that could benefit from an extra person or two. Please check the lists on Friday.



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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 October 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

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

Assistant Superintendent
Lee Sheffield lakeshoreny@yahoo.com

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

Treasurer
Greg Noeth gjinoeth@yahoo.com (216) 789-2086

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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 (440) 871-9676

Great Berea Train Show
Mike Oster

Appointed

Achievement
Bruce Brintnall MMR
Layouts
John and Tom Hemsath
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

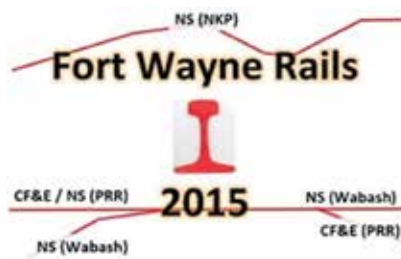
Clinics
Larry Madson

Refreshments
Joe Filipiak

Flatwheel Editor
Dave Williams

Training Day
Gary Schaefer

Conventions



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

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)

Upcoming Area Events

October 3-4, 2015 (Sat/Sun)	Great Berea Train Show (see information elsewhere in this issue)	
October 10&11, 2015 (Sat/Sun)	Cincinnati Train & Trade Show Lakota West High School, 8940 Union Center Ave, West Chester, OH 45069 \$7, children under 12 and scouts in uniform free	11 am to 5 pm
October 12, 2015 (Monday)	Painesville Depot Pasta Dinner Stadium Bar and Grill, 8330 Tyler Blvd, Mentor OH 44060 \$10 This is a fund raiser for the depot.	5 pm to 8 pm
October 17, 2015 (Sat)	Railfanning Day & Caboose Christening Painesville Railroad Museum, 475 Railroad St, Painesville OH 44077 No price indicated. Restored caboose christening at 3 pm	10:00 am to 5 pm
October 31, 2015 (Sat)	Cleveland 2 Rail O Scale Train Meet Lakeland Community College (Gym), 7700 Clocktower Dr, Kirtland OH 44044 \$7, children under 12 and active military with ID free	9 am to 2 pm
October 31, 2015 (Sat)	How to Build a Model Railroad: Division 5 Lakeland Community College (Gym), 7700 Clocktower Dr, Kirtland OH 44044 free	11 am to 5 pm

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

Double check information with a separate source before making plans to attend - most of these events will have flyers available at the Great Berea Train Show.



Celebrate National Model Railroad Month! DIVISION 4 TRAINING DAY November 8th

Greetings fellow members of Division 4! I know everyone's minds are on The Great Berea Train Show, but our TRAINING Day event is right behind it. I hope you all are thinking about what you are going to bring to work on and show off your skills and knowledge!

Additionally we need some help with a few other tasks throughout the day.

- **Pick up coffee, donuts, and orange juice for us (you will be reimbursed) (this could be a couple people)**
- **Help out at the membership table**
- **Help greet guests and direct them to sign register and sign up for drawings**
- **Help with the prize drawings**
- **Help with set up and tear down**

This is just what we have right now. If you are interested in any of these tasks please send me an email and don't forget to check out our TRAINING Day website and Facebook page.

<http://www.div4trainingday.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/Div4TRAINingDay>

Thanks,

Gary

trains.ohio@yahoo.com or trainingday@div4.org

Al's Trains and Hobby LLC
708 Broadway Ave.
Bedford Ohio



Al's hobby shop is located in the heart of downtown Bedford, right around the corner from the W&LE station. Going to Al's is well worth the trip!

All photos Joe Kurelic MMR



When you enter the store you will be greeted by shelves filled with many train supplies. Al has a good supply of Lionel trains & structures. He also is a Lionel repair station and does other repairs including DCC installs.



Al's has a very good supply of N scale train items along with many other hobby items. When there, take time to look at the items hanging on the wall or on the shelves. There are a lot of older items that you don't see too often!



In the back room you'll find a good selection of Woodland Scenic products, paints and stripwood.

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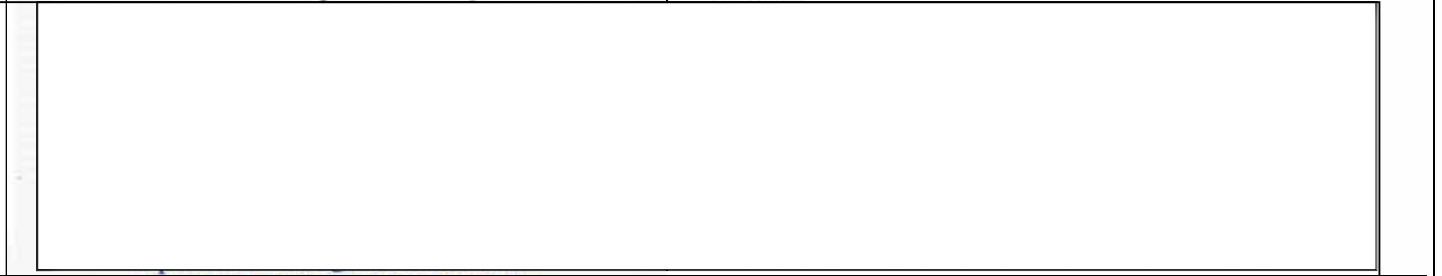
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RAMBLIN'

MOTIVATION – Have you ever gone on the Division's layout tours, viewed a truly outstanding layout and asked the owner how long it took him to build it? And when he answers, you ask yourself, how come he could do it in what seems to you so little time while your dream layout still sits in boxes after years of careful planning. Or maybe you have progressed to some table structure and a couple pieces of track but still years away from a functioning model railroad?

Don Hanley, Assistant Editor of *Model Railroad Hobbyist* (available free at model-railroad-hobbyist.com), in his September 2015 editorial discusses this issue. Don provides a few answers along with the time tested methodology of problem identification and solution.

I have built six model railroads in my lifetime and embarked on number 7 August 1st. The first five efforts all shared similar fates to varying degrees, i.e., failure to complete (as defined as all trackwork operating, some scenery and building present) even after a number of years' efforts. With much enthusiasm I would spend a reasonable time planning before buying materials and getting out the tools. Then along the way I would bump in to many of the reasons Don identifies to slow down or quite often stop working for months on end.

So what changed with layout number six and now number seven to speed me along the timeline to having a nicely scened and operating model railroad? Layout number six was a large, 20'x40', layout that I was able to complete with all track and scenery installed in a little over four years. The number one driver of this newfound enthusiasm was the establishment of a crew along with regular work sessions. In my case, the crew was made up of 6 regulars and 1-2 occasional helpers. We determined early on that Friday nights would work most often for most crewmen. We also agreed to lay off for the summer months, much as our Division does. Post supper time also seemed best, so Friday nights other than the 2nd Friday each month, we all knew where we would be. I was, and continue to be, very, very fortunate to have a highly skilled and diverse crew that brings skills I either do not possess or possess in very limited quantity. Your crew size might vary, but even a crew of one can help motivate you.

Obviously, more man-hours per week equals more work accomplished for the same time period. But having a crew brings much more to the final outcome. In order to take advantage of your crew, you must pre-plan the work to be accomplished at the next work session. In my case, I always had enough manpower for two crews and often three. My pre-planning had to include finding work in three physically different locations along with the necessary materials and tools. Also to maximize the work to be accomplished, I fabricate pieces so they are ready for installation with the extra hands available Friday night. I cannot over emphasize how the knowledge of a crew showing up in a few days pushes you through those low energy moments we all have from time to time.

Another major reason for procrastination is boredom of a seeming non-ending phase of construction or possibly technical difficulty certain stages of building a layout bring to an owner. Again, what you find tedious your crew can help you push through. Their diversity in skills will also offset your weak areas. I know. I am an engineer by profession so drawing to me means straight lines and right angles. One of my crew is a highly skilled artist that I recently called upon to "help" paint the clouds on the backdrop on my new Kettle Creek Railroad. In this case, "help" is defined as bringing him a milk shake on my way back from lunch with another non-artistic crew member while he stayed and painted 30 lineal feet of backdrop clouds! We felt bad until we realized he probably enjoyed the solitude while painting more than when we sat on stools watching and BS'ing while he painted!!

I recall reading years ago another hobby editorial on this same subject where the author suggested putting aside a few minutes every day to work on your layout as a solution. Consider if you worked only 30 minutes every day, you would put over 180 hours in a year's time on your layout even as a one man crew. That is a lot of hours. I think on its own this suggestion is easier said than done. I know personally I often come home from work to find I have sat, read, napped and all of a sudden it is supper time. I am now coming home and heading to the layout area to get things ready for Friday night and the crew's arrival.

Clutter in the work area slows me down and I have anecdotal evidence this is an issue with many of us. During our recent day trip to the Ages of Steam roundhouse I spoke with an unnamed (F.B.) member. He has spent years planning his dream West Virginia coal hauling railroad. I have not seen his layout, but based on his comments, it sounds as though his table and the floor area around it are covered with accumulated treasurers to the point he can barely walk into the space. He certainly cannot work in these conditions by himself, let alone with a crew to help him. I went through the same problem in our new home. My railroad materials and hobby tools were taking up so much space in the layout area I could not build the table. First I managed to negotiate space for the train "shop" in another area of our home. Then after some tough personal soul searching I sorted the remaining materials into two piles; 'MUST KEEP' and 'SELL, DONATE or THROW AWAY'. The MUST KEEP items I further sorted into two piles; 'NEED FOR PHASE I CONSTRUCTION' and 'NEED FOR PHASE II CONSTRUCTION'. Phase I materials include those items I will need in the early construction such as bus wires, lights, etc. Phase II materials include scenery, rolling stock, locomotives and buildings that will only be in the way until there is a layout to put them on. I then rented a small, 5'x8' storage locker and placed Phase II items there. I will bring them home when the table is completed. The non-MUST KEEP items were disposed of one way or another. I now, finally, have room to build my layout!!

Don in his editorial discusses having a deadline for energizing your layout construction efforts. This is another great motivator. As mentioned above, I started working on the new layout August 1st. A week or so later I attended an OP session at a friend's layout. John Hemsath was there as well. During a break in the action, John approached me and indicated he was putting together the Division's fall layout tours, including one out my way. John was familiar with my last railroad and had heard I had started building the new one. He

continued on the following page

Ramblin' continued from previous page

asked if I would consider being on the November tour. I quickly did the math and realized he was talking about only 3 ½ months from the time I had blue paint on the walls to Division members stopping by to see the progress I have made! I responded with a strong YES! Why? Motivation. If my crew showing up each Friday night is not enough to get me out of my armchair this should definitely get me moving.

So now you have my thoughts. Stop by in November to see the latest iteration of the KCR and see if my words are backed up by my actions. Or better yet, take some/all of them to heart, finish reading this addition of the *Flatwheel*, get up and get moving on your railroad!

With cinders in my eyes,

Bruce Bowie

In2trains@gmail.com

Editor's Notes

A few lines on the Portland Convention:

The Amtrak trips in both directions were a lot of fun. Expensive to be sure but I figured that I'm not getting any younger, so better do it while I still can. (There were people in their 90's on the train - more power to them.) Going through the 8 mile long Cascade tunnel was an experience - definitely not some place you'd want the engine to stop.

One point for future reference - be careful of the "convention chosen" secondary hotels. The #3 choice was a 45 minute bus ride from the convention and there were plenty of other hotels in the immediate area. Obviously the committee had to go with a hotel that could hold a large block of rooms, probably at the convention rate.

I think the Mid Central Region had a pretty good showing considering the distance, with at least two members each from divisions 4, 5, 7, and 11 that I know of. I saw Mike Holm from division 2 as well, and Bob Weinheimer from 9. Bob gave a couple of clinics during the week.

I received a lot of very positive comments concerning our 2014 convention, including a decent number from people who didn't know that I was from the Cleveland area - so credit to everyone who worked that convention. Incidentally - same situation at this past weekend's Nickel Plate convention in Buffalo.

Looking forward to seeing everyone this weekend.