



THE

FLATWHEEL

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FROM THE SUPER

Greeting from Cab

The February Div. 4 Auction went very well and was a good time. Big thanks to those who worked on the auction crew. There was some very spirited bidding at times. I hope everyone had a good time I know I did. Looking forward to the next one.

The March meeting will be pizza night. Because this is Lent several extra cheese only pizzas will be ordered. Will fix the scheduling issue next year. ROOKIES! There will be a brief meeting before the pizza arrives. **There will be a contest but there will not be a raffle.** Scott Benson will have the company store for purchases. Jerry Krueger is in the process of putting together a program.

I signed up for the new NMRA Interchange. I believe it can be useful to the group as a whole. More places to advertise the Great Berea Train Show.

The MCR is still looking for a MCR Contest Chairman. Anyone interested, please see me.

The Rails to Pittsburgh is looking for more members to sign up for the MCR Regional Convention. I am sure they would appreciate your consideration and support.. I have registered and am looking forward to attending.

The Rails to Pittsburgh Convention has a need for additional contest room judges. If you be going to the convention, and have model judging experience, or would be willing to be a judge, this would be a great opportunity to learn how to do it for the 2024 convention in Cleveland! If interested contact the contest chairman at contest@railstopittsburg.com

Speaking of conventions: Jerry Krueger is moving forward with plans for the 2024 MCR Convention. A committee is being formed and there are several key spots still open. More information on the convention and help requirements will be forth coming. See Jerry if you would be interested in helping.

Members from the Division 4 that went to Springfield Mass. for the train show at the Big E had a good time. The steel mill models were a big hit. If you have not attended this train show, put it on your list of things to do. Awesome show.

Well, the train is pulling into the yard and this run is over. Until the next time.

Ron



Ron Morgan

NORTH COAST OHIO

DIV-4 Leadership

ELECTED OFFICERS

Superintendent - Ron Morgan, ronalco844@gmail.com

Assistant Superintendent - Dave Williams, dave_wms@sbcglobal.net

Secretary - Chris Shick, chris.shick@hotmail.com

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

Director East - John Janda c(440)-334-0869, jjanda101@gmail.com

Director West - Gary Schaefer, trains.ohio@yahoo.com

Director Quad Co. - Fred Wagner (419)-908-8251, boonedog0219@gmail.com

Director at Large - Brian Haas, haasland@msn.com

Director at Large - Jeff Lauren (216)-798-1896, jflrn@sbcglobal.net

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Great Berea Train Show - David James, c(440)-785-9907

Achievement - John Hemsath MMR®, hemsathj@gmail.com

Layout Tours - John Witt MMR®, john.witt@rexelusa.com

Contests - Joe Filipiak, graftonpotter@frontier.com

Historian/Archivist - Frank Bongiovanni

Raffle - Adam Woodie, woo3482@hotmail.com

Co. Store Manager - Scott Benson, sbenson440@zoominternet.net

Clinics - Jerry Krueger, jakrueg@neo.rr.com

Flatwheel Editor - Chuck Shick, chuck.shick@hotmail.com

Membership - Bill Dluback, billdlub@live.com

Membership - Brian Haas, haasland@msn.com

Modules - Adam Woodie, woo3482@hotmail.com

N.O.A.R.S. Representative - Bill Kovacs

Webmaster - Ben Lanza, blqt@nls.net

Refreshments - Don Glass

Training Day - Gary Schaefer, trains.ohio@yahoo.com

MODULE GROUP

Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

Things have been rather quiet during the first two months of 2023. However, the module group will be participating in two events during the month of March. First up will be Model Railroad Days at the Avon Lake library. This event will be held on Saturday, March 4th from 9:00am to 5:00pm as well as Sunday, March 5th from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Tables and chairs will be provided by the library. We will have plenty of space if anyone is interested in joining the module layout and would like to work on a model railroading project during the event.

Next up is Railfest which is hosted by Division 5 of the Mid-Central Region. Said event will be located at the Lakeland Community College on Saturday, March 18th and Sunday, March 19th. The event will run from 10:00am to 4:00pm both days.

As always, anyone interested in joining the Module Group, please contact me at woo3482@hotmail.com. I will add you to the module group email list and you will receive all of the latest information regarding upcoming events, operating schedules, etc.

Until next time!

Adam "Hot Box" Woodie



Adam "Hot Box" Woodie

COMPANY STORE

Restocking the Company Store is in progress! Hope to see you at the March member appreciation meeting where you'll find some good stuff!

If you're looking to get a Division 4 shirt or ball cap, the Company Store can help you. The order form is available at the Division 4 website and at our meetings. Email me with your order when I'm not at the meeting.

The Company Store has the FastTracks turnout tools library. We have an inventory of jigs, tools and supplies for use by members. We have HO Code 83 jigs for #4, #5, #6 and #8 turnouts (left or right), #6 Gantlet, and #6 crossovers (single or double). Plus all supplies including the Quicksticks. They will be available at Division 4 meetings, but contact Scott Benson, 440-567-9089, sbenson440@zoominternet.net to arrange to borrow what you need.

We also have our DVD loaning library, mostly covering modeling techniques. DVD loans are free to Division 4 members.



Scott Benson

CONTEST TABLE

The military and railroads have a lot in common in the way they function. Nothing moves without orders and those orders are carried out by the troops. In the case of railroads, the orders are carried out by the train crews. The command post for the railroad is the yard office where train crews assemble and receive their "orders" for the day. The size of the yard and the railroad itself can determine the size of the yard office. A short line railroad with a small yard can have a shack or an old coach set off its trucks for a yard office or a large yard like CSX's Willard Yard with a modern two story building complete with locker rooms for the crews.

The March model contest is a crew yard office. If you have not started yet, that's okay, I haven't either. I have gathered up some pieces and parts and I will have a structure for the contest. I am in hope that you will have one put together for the contest too.

The April contest is an open hopper car purposed for something other than coal. The last contest of the season is the May contest of something that would be found on a military train consist. Well, troops, we have our orders, so let's get a roll on it.



Joe Filipiak

CLINIC CORNER

MARCH

March is Member Appreciation Night. As is tradition, I will have some railroad related movies to show while everyone enjoys their pizza.

APRIL

April's clinic will be a follow up to John Hemsath's clinic last October. The April clinic will be about super-detailing kits and RTR locomotives and cars. Adding detail to your existing, older fleet of locomotives and rolling is easy to do. It makes for a good one or two evening project.

FUTURE CLINICS

May and June clinic slots are filled up. Topics and presenters will be announced in future issues of the Flatwheel. I'm always looking for Clinics. If you have a topic you'd like to present please contact me. If you need help putting a clinic together, let me know and I can help you put one together and help get points toward your AP certificate. If you have a topic you would like to see presented, let me know. I'm hoping to get some people I met at the Indy Regional and St. Louis National to do presentations remotely.

The North Coast Limited 2024 Mid-Central Regional Convention

Planning continues for the 2024 Mid-Central Regional Convention. The dates are May 16th – May 19th, 2024. We have selected the Crown Plaza hotel in Middleburg Hts. as the location for the Convention. They have a nice mix of meeting rooms and ballroom space for hosting the convention. The location on Engle Rd and Bagley Rd right off I-71 will make it easy for everyone to get to from throughout the Region.

Committee members are working hard to get us ready to register attendees at the 2023 MCR Regional Convention. We hope to have sample of convention shirts and convention car(s) to show people the Convention.

We are still looking for members to join the committee and help plan the Convention. If you are interested in helping plan the Convention, please send me an email. We will have at least one, maybe two, Committee meetings before the Pittsburgh Regional to make sure everything is ready for registering people for 2024.

RAFFLE

Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

Since the March meeting is membership appreciation night aka pizza night, there will be no regularly scheduled raffle. You will have to wait until the April meeting for the all the raffle fun to resume.

Until next time!

Adam "Hot Box" Woodie



Adam "Hot Box" Woodie

JOHN WITT—MMR #707

(reprinted from the NMRA Magazine)

JOHN WITT

EARNs MASTER MODEL RAILROADER #707

I come from a railroading family — more precisely, a Milwaukee Road family from Portage, Wisconsin. My great-great-grandfather, August Witt, was in the mechanical shop. I have a turn-of-the-century photo (1898) of him with a 4-4-0 engine on the Portage roundhouse turntable. August's son Charlie also worked in the shop, and his son George was an engineer on the *Hiawatha* passenger trains.

On my grandmother's side, my great-great-grandfather was John W. Blossingham. His family was on the operations side and included his sons and cousins. John started as a dispatcher in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and worked throughout the state, ending up in Avery, Idaho, on the Milwaukee Road Pacific Division.

My father, Herb Witt Jr., joined The Milwaukee Road part-time prior to graduating from high school. His cousin, Albert Blossingham, taught him to be a telegraph operator at the Portage station. On third shift, Dad would re-send telegrams to local stations under the watchful eye of Albert.

When World War II started, my dad joined the 721 Railroad Battalion and shipped out in 1942 to India to help the British in Pakistan move critical supplies from ships to the front lines in Burma. Dad was a proud member of the CBI (China, Burma, and India) Army group.

Dad returned from the war in late 1945 and rejoined The Milwaukee Road. He was a station agent up and down the line near Portage and, finally, West Allis, a Milwaukee suburb. Dad left the railroad in 1954.

As a child, I received trains for Christmas: first, an American Flyer, then a Revell HO 0-6-0 steam engine. Dad and I built some running layouts and had hours of fun!

When my wife Connie and I moved to Ohio, I started building Campbell buildings and LaBelle car kits. I started a layout in house number one, moved some of it to house number two, and some to house number three (the last house!).

Throughout the moves, I have stayed with my fictional layout — The Copper Peninsula Railroad — which is located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP). The Keweenaw Peninsula is at the top of the UP and runs from Copper Harbor at the northeast tip down to Hancock at the ship canal in the middle.

My layout is set in 1895 to 1910 and uses 4-4-0s, 0-6-0s, and Heisler steam locomotives, along with **“Roundhouse” old-timer cars (34-and 36-footers)**. **Copper is king on this layout, with** lumber and fish also shipped. Historically, the mines in this area accounted for most of the copper used in the USA, with 23 active mines going as deep as a mile below Lake Superior.

My Copper Peninsula RR moves freight from Hancock to Calumet to Eagle Harbor and Copper Harbor. We also move some commodities to L’Anse, just to have interconnections to Lake Superior and Ishpeming, and the Milwaukee Road.

I enjoyed building the layout but never really held operating sessions. Trains were DC and mostly circled the layout. I continued to be a “lone wolf” modeler until my friend Brian Barnt encouraged me to join the NMRA (Division 4) and convert to DCC.

My Master Model Railroader[®] story does not start with trains in my childhood — it starts with moving forward from a basement layout to joining the NMRA and Division 4. Lots of people helped me along my journey.

First, I needed to convert my engines to DCC. Frank Feko and Larry Madsen really helped me understand how to install and program the DCC decoders.

Then I joined the Module Group, whose primary focus is to expand the hobby to others while having the maximum amount of fun running trains! The entire team is very supportive and welcoming of new module modelers. Scott, Adam, Lee, Gary, Jeff, Bill, David, Tim, Steve, John, Jerry, and several others helped me with module ideas and signed me up for many fun hours of running trains for the public.

Then I began entering model-building contests, encouraged by Joe Filipiak. When I compared my models against some of our really great modelers like Jim Grell and Dave Lawler, I knew there was more to learn. John Hemsath encouraged me to get started down the MMR[®] path and try to achieve a few awards. (The paperwork was daunting!)

I began by upgrading my home layout, fixing trackwork, adding a turntable, completing and putting signs on buildings, then adding more trees for scenery and building interior lighting. Then I started on the specific categories.

Now that the eight MMR[®] achievement units are complete, I am a Master Model Railroader[®]. The next area to learn is operations, with the help of John, Joe, Brian, Larry, Gary, and Ron.

There is always more to do and learn. Thanks to all who helped me along the journey.

Feel free to ask me to help you achieve more from your modeling and have more fun!

Certificates Earned John Witt, MMR #707

Master Builder – Cars

Master Builder – Structures

Master Builder – Scenery

Model Railroad Engineer – Civil

Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical

Chief Dispatcher

Association Volunteer

(reprinted from the NMRA Magazine)

TREE SESSION

Bruce Bowie

The EBT v3.2's crew has been making trees for the past few work sessions. The photo shows the result of the most recent session. This batch were made mostly from Super Trees along with a few made from harvested landscape plants. The branches were spray painted with varying shades of green. El cheapo hairspray was heavily applied and while still wet, different colors of leaf material was lightly sprinkled. Thanks to my regular crew members; Gary Dunn, Fred Wagner and Jeff Gray, along with well known hobby magnate, modeler and friend Gary Sole.



Bruce Bowie

FEBRUARY MEETING PICTURES

Dave Williams











WHAT'S GOING ON

<p>2023 - March 4</p>	<p>Independence Train Show - KD Trains LLC The Independence High School Fieldhouse 6001 Archwood Rd. Independence, Oh 44131</p> <p>10 am - 3 pm Adm. \$7.00</p> <p>Phone: 216-642-0692 Email: kdtrains@att.net</p> <p>MAP Flyer</p>
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<p>2023 - March 5</p>	<p>Eric Model Train Show</p> <p>Rainbow Gardens - Waldameer Park, PA 10 am to 4 pm Adm. \$5.00 Phone: 724-992-2035</p> <p>Info & Map Flyer</p>
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<p>2023 - March 5</p>	<p>32th ANNUAL WESTERN RESERVE TOY and COLLECTIBLE SHOW WESTERN RESERVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 3851 U.S. Rt. 20 East Collins, Ohio 44826</p> <p>9 am to 3 pm Adm. \$3.00</p> <p>Map Flyer</p>
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<p>2023 - March 5</p>	<p>Akron Train & Toy Show</p> <p>Emidio's & Sons Expo Center 48 East Bath Road at State Road Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223</p> <p>9:00 am - 4 pm Adm. \$4.00 Phone: 330-724-5253</p> <p>Map Flyer</p>
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<p>2023 - March 18-19</p>	<p>Div. 5 Railfest - Model Railroad Show</p> <p>Lakeland Community College 7700 Clocktower Dr., Kirtland, Ohio 44094</p> <p>10 am to 4 pm Adm. \$8.00 Phone Jim at: 440-357-8890</p> <p>Info & Map Flyer Dinner</p>
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2023 - March 18

Div. 5 Railfest - Dinner

Painesville Railroad Museum (aka NYC Painesville Depot)
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077

5:30 pm

Adm. \$24.00

Guest speaker will be: TBA

This dinner is open to anyone who is a railroad enthusiast
not just our Railfest vendors.

Phone Tom at 216-470-5780

2023 - March 24 - 25



Militaria Collectors Show at Lakeland (Dean Becker)

Lakeland Community College, Kirtland, Ohio 44094

Fri. 4 pm to 8 pm, Sat. 9 am to 2 pm Adm. \$5.00

email: lakelandmilitariashow@gmial.com

Phone: 440-525-7529

[Info and Map](#)

[Flyer](#)

2023 - March 25

Train Collectors Association - Spring Train Show

UAW Hall 5615 Chevrolet Blvd., Parma, Ohio 44130

10 am to 3 pm Adm. \$6.00

Phone John Twarog at : 330-273-6404

2023 - April 2

Medina Train and Toy Show

Medina Fairgrounds, Medina, Ohio 44256

9 am to 3 pm Adm. \$6.00

Phone: 330-948-4400

[Info & Map](#)

[Flyer](#)

2023 - April 2

Youngstown Model Railroad Assn. Toy - Train Flea Market

Parish Center

4490 Norquest Blvd., Austintown, Ohio 44151

10 am to 3:30pm Adm. \$7.00

Phone Darrel Balakoff at: 330-718-1057

[Flyer](#)

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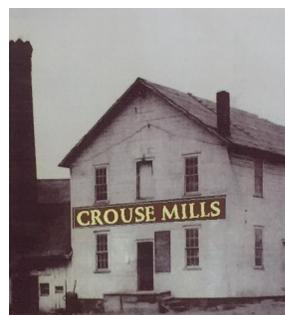
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ABOUT US

We are Division 4 of the Mid-Central Region of the National Model Railroad Association. (DIV-4 MCR NMRA).

With more than 200 members from Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lorain and Medina counties in the state of Ohio.

The North Coast Division meetings are normally held on the second Friday of the month, to hear guest speakers, share skills, have railroad related clinics, and to share common problems and successes. Many of us get together informally in round-robin sessions to operate and work on each other's layouts, or just talk railroads and modeling.



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**CSX Fostoria Subdivision
Fostoria, Ohio, USA
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