



# THE FLATWHEEL



Volume 59

February 2024

Number 2

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Call to T Track



NMRA Contest &  
Achievement Program

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A Special thank you to Dave Williams for providing the photos from our monthly division meetings and activities.

From the Editor: I am pleased to serve Division 4 of the Mid Central Region of the NMRA as Editor of the Flatwheel. My hope is to continue to provide an engaging, entertaining, and educational publication that is a value to our members. I would like to expand what is included each month. I would like to include a Model Builders article, where a member provides a summary of a recent model building project. Another article I would like to add is quarterly layout tour. I would love to hear ideas from you all for additional newsletter offerings.

Looking Forward to Serving, Scott Eastburn

The Flatwheel is published monthly (except during July and August) by Division 4 of the Mid-Central Region (MCR) of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). All comments are welcome. Views expressed in The Flatwheel do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the NMRA, MCR, or Division 4. The Flatwheel is electronically published on the Monday prior to the monthly meeting. Submissions are due no later than the 26th of the prior month, for example, February 26th for the March Flatwheel.



The North Coast Division holds 10 meetings a year (none in July and August). Meetings are on the 2nd Friday of each month. Eight of our meetings are held at the Westlake City Recreation Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd. Westlake, OH 44145. A social half hour starts at 6:00p.m. followed by a short business meeting at 6:30. After a short break, a railroad themed raffle and clinic complete the typical agenda. Two of our meetings are offsite. One is our annual picnic in June and the other is our Membership Appreciation Dinner in December. Visitors are always welcome.

## FROM THE SUPER

### Greetings from the Cab

Greetings from the cab.

Can anyone say PIZZA. The annual pizza membership meeting will be held at the February meeting. This is always a fun time.

The convention committee continues to move forward with plans for the MCR Regional Convention. The various events are starting to come together. There will be 22 layouts that will be open for visitation during the convention and 8 to ten for operation. If you have not signed up for the convention, please do so. The online registration is now available and more convention information is being added to the website. Sign-up sheets to help at the convention will be available at the business meeting starting in February and for the next 3 months.

The division is in need of a replacement for our membership chairman. If interested please let me know. We will have a membership table at the Division 5 train show in March. Help is still needed on both Saturday and Sunday. A signup sheet for help will be at the February meeting.

Just a reminder that all officers and director's slots are up for re-election or election for the new term starting in June of 2024. If interested in running for an officer or director, please see Dave Flebbe, Ben Lanza, or Larry Kowicki. Dave Williams is not running for a second term for assistant superintendent so that position needs to be filled.

The 2024 budget was presented at the January business meeting and approved by the membership. Good job Greg. The annual membership picnic and business meeting is set for **June 8<sup>th</sup> 2024, from 11am – 4pm** at the Northern Ohio Live Steamers in Lester Ohio. Good food, good fellowship and fun train rides. Mark the date on your calendar.

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

Until the next time,

Ron



# CONVENTION NEWS

The North Coast Limited  
2024 Mid-Central Regional Convention

Planning continues for the 2024 Mid-Central Regional Convention. The dates are May 16<sup>th</sup> – May 19<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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 can always use more help. As we get closer to the Convention, we will start signing up member to volunteer during the Convention. We will need volunteers in areas such as Registration, Clinics, Bag Check for Yard Sale and Celebration of Modeling, and Help Desk and man more.

We continue to add layouts for layout tours and operating sessions. There is no greater motivator for working on your layout than committing to be open for a layout tour. If you're interested in hosting a layout tour, please contact John Witt and/or Scott Benson for hosting operating sessions.

We have lots of clinic slots to fill for the Convention. If you are interested in giving a clinic, especially after November's presentation, please contact Jerry Krueger.

And, most importantly, registration is now open. The early bird registration rate is \$90 until the end of the year. Also, while most of us live with in commuting distance of Crowne Plaza, consider staying at the hotel one or more nights. Part of the fun of a Convention is seeing old friends from across the Region and the country. Staying at the hotel gives you the opportunity to socialize late into the evening, telling modeling stories and making new friends instead of driving home late only to wake up early and drive back to the Crowne Plaza. We have an excellent room rate – make the Convention a model railroad vacation.

Jerry Krueger



The model contest table at the January meeting was filled with different sizes and types of locomotives from diesels to steam with custom color and names on them. There were even two camelback steamers there. Thanks to all who brought in an entry. The members votes for their favorite models and dioramas gave Joe Kurilec a first place in models. Second place went to Jim Grell for his entry and third place went to John Hemsath for his camelback steamer which by the way, sounds as good as it looks. The dioramas found John Puch with his diorama in first place. Joe Filipiak took second place and Dave Lawler's entry received third place.

The February contest is a structure of some sort that was or still is found in an engine facility. Round houses are not eligible for the simple reason there just isn't enough room for those big structures for display. Engine houses are okay to enter. Other structures but not limited to these are coaling docks, sand houses, diesel fueling areas, a crew relief building in the yard, ash pits, wash racks, and many other areas that can be found with a little research. Many of these areas can easily fit into the diorama category by just putting a base to your entry and adding some items that would be found around the structure relevant to its purpose. This contest should have a lot of variety to the entries.

If you are looking for a contest with a lot of variety to it, the subject for the March contest is an unfinished project. We all have them! Dig out that locomotive or building that you have put on a shelf twenty years ago and apply your skills to it and finish it. It will make your day when it's done.

What made my day today was when I walked past my cold and still lawn mower and went into the warm house where I will get lost in my railroad projects or maybe just take a nap before I get started.





# 2023-24 CONTESTS

February	Support building in engine facility (no roundhouse)
March	Complete an unfinished project
April	Last car on a passenger train
May	Grab bag of provided parts to build a building

HOW DO I GET STARTED IN THE NMRA ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM?



[CLICK HERE!](#)



# CONTESTS & ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM











# THINK MODULAR

Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

The holiday season is behind us and with it another successful module display at the Wild Winter Lights as well as Trees and Trains. A huge thank you goes out to everyone that made each of the events possible! Things will be rather quiet for module group until March rolls around.

We will once again be set up at the Avon Lake Library which is scheduled for Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The library does a fantastic job advertising for this event. Those efforts along with the "Discovery Zone" located across the hall from the display room generated a considerable amount of attendance at last year's event. With that said, we would like to use this opportunity to reinstate TRAINING Day. We are looking for members to volunteer to bring a model railroad project to work on while engaging with the general public. Please contact Gary Schaefer for those that are interested in TRAINING Day and what type of project you will bring. Tables and chairs will be provided by the library.

Anyone interested in joining the module group, please contact me at [woo3482@hotmail.com](mailto:woo3482@hotmail.com).

Until next time!

Adam "Hot Box" Woodie



Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

January's meeting saw the return of the monthly raffle. Lots of prizes were awarded to those lucky ticket holders! February's scheduling meeting will not have a raffle due to Membership Appreciation night. The monthly raffle will resume at the March meeting. As always there will something for everyone! Be sure to purchase your tickets preferably before the start of the business meeting.

Until next time!

# CLINIC CORNER

## FEBRUARY

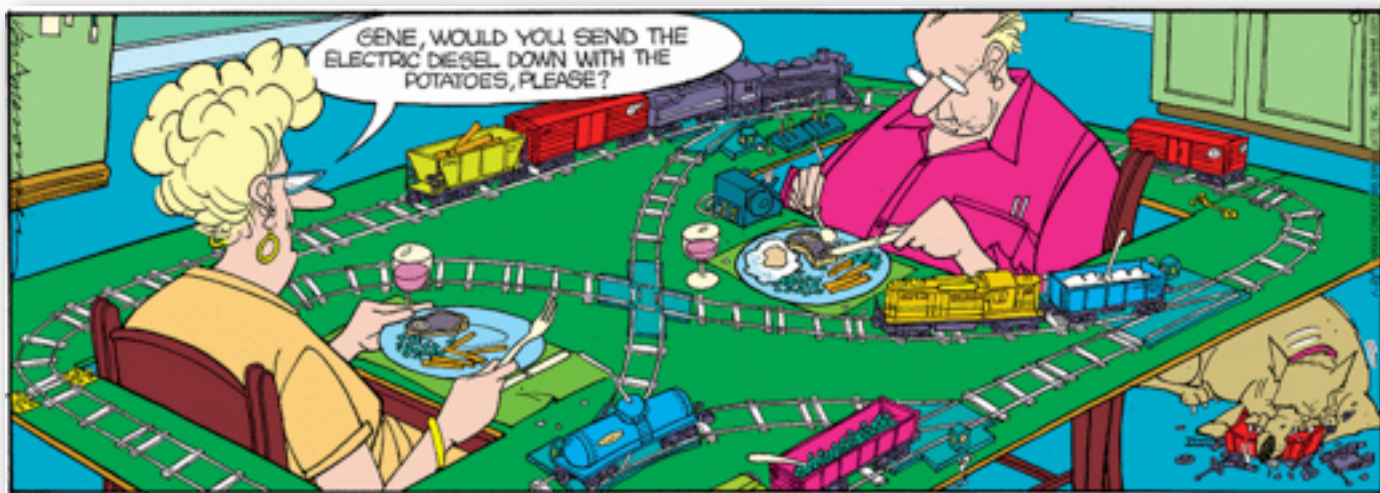
February is member appreciation meeting with pizza provided by the Division. As has become traditional, we will show some videos while everyone enjoys the pizza. I've been searching the internet for interesting videos. There will be no clinic.

## MARCH

With NCL 2024 just around the corner from the March meeting, Joe Filipiak will give a clinic on hosting and attending a layout open house. Joe will discuss how to prepare your layout for an open house and so dos and don'ts of hosting an open house. Joe will also discuss proper etiquette when visiting someone's layout during an open house.

## FUTURE CLINICS

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.





# DIVISION MEETING MINUTES



## Division 4, MCR, NMRA General Meeting, January 12, 2024 Westlake Rec Center

Superintendent Ron Morgan opened the meeting at 6:33 pm. He extended a warm welcome to the members and wished everyone a Happy New Year!

We had only one visitor this evening, Tim Holman. Thank you for coming out.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from November's meeting. The motion was seconded and carried by the membership to accept the minutes.

Treasurer's Report - Greg Noeth - Greg gave a report on the current balances of all accounts.

### Old Business:

New Membership Chairman - Ron Morgan - still need a volunteer to have this important position filled.

Election Report - Dave Flebbe - All current officers have requested to be on the ballot, the only exception is Assistant Superintendent. If you are interested in running for this position, please see Dave.

### New Business:

2024 Budget Presentation - Greg Noeth - Greg went over the budget line by line and explained it. He then took the time to answer any questions.

Gary Schaefer made a motion to accept the Budget. Chris Shick seconded the motion. The Membership passed the motion for the 2024 budget.

2024 Convention - Jerry Krueger - The Convention Team had a planning meeting this past Wednesday. At present time 90 are registered, 70 nights are booked for the hotel, with a target of 110 nights. Rates will drop in increments from there. Everybody...Register...Book Your Rooms. Still looking for clinics. Scott Benson currently has approximately 64 slots available for operations. 1 registration = 1 operations slot, and 19 layout tours. John Hemsath, MMR is taking charge of the models contests, which will run a little differently. Please, get your orders in for T-shirts and cars.

Division 5 Membership Table - Ron Morgan - March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at Lakeland College. If you are interested in working the membership table, please sign up on the sheets at the front table.

Show and Tell - Bram Bailey wrote an article and sent pictures into the magazine with hopes to get word out about our 2024 Convention. He went through the slides for us.

Congratulations to John Janda for winning the Sweepstakes from Class One Model Works. The cars he won are here tonight, come on over and take a look.

Committee Reports:

Flat Wheel Deadline - Ron Morgan - Deadline is January 26th.

Clinics - Jerry Krueger - February is pizza party and we will have train videos. March is a clinic on layout tours, April is open.

Company Store - Scott Benson - absent

Raffle - Adam Woodie - there are some really great items over here. We are back in the swing of things for 2024. Raffle will begin 10 minutes after the close of the meeting. Come get your tickets.

Module Group - Adam Woodie - wrapped up Trees and Trains and at the Zoo. Annual planning meeting is Tuesday, January 16th. We will be doing the Avon Library sometime in early March.

Layout Tours - John Witt, MMR - 2 more layout tours have been added for the convention.

Contest - Joe Filipiak - November's winners of Rail cars serving the meat industry:

Model 1<sup>st</sup> - Jim Grell

2<sup>nd</sup> - Ken Orchard

3<sup>rd</sup> - Joe Kurilec, MMR

Diorama 1<sup>st</sup> - John Puch

2<sup>nd</sup> - Joe Filipiak

3<sup>rd</sup> - Dave Lawler

Next month's contest is: Support Building in Engine Facility (No Round Houses).

AP Awards - John Hemsath, MMR - no awards tonight. John will be hosting an Open House on Saturday, January 27th. This will be the last time to view this layout.

Comments/Concerns - Ron Morgan - Scott Benson's mother passed away Tuesday. Our condolences to him and his family.

Dave Williams is having trouble with the calendar. Please be patient, he is working on fixing it.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried by the membership. Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Shick

Secretary, Division 4, MCR, NMRA

# TRAIN QUIP

**“One stretch of track was so crooked we met ourselves coming back.”**

**- Unknown**

## Final Open House of the Bay Lines

Dear Friends,

Yesterday's open house "Farewell to Bay Lines" went very well. We had 29 Guests. There was a lot of camaraderie and conversation among the Guests, some of whom had never before visited the layout. I was delighted to see so many spouses who also seemed to enjoy the experience. I was on my feet for five hours and my ankle is mighty sore this morning, but it was well worth the effort to share my work with others.

Brother Tom acted as my host on the first floor and I'm very grateful for his help. He found the attached article in today's "Plain Dealer". I hope you'll enjoy it as much as I did.

Barb and I are going to the theatre this afternoon, so the layout demo begins tomorrow. We can't show this house until the train room resumes its role as a bedroom. Tempus fugit! Meanwhile, I have given thought to the next iteration of Bay Lines in Avon Lake. It will be "L" shaped and hang from the walls on brackets. I built the brackets already in my shop here as my new shop will be less than half the size of this one. The era and locale will be the same and my free-lanced operation will be out-and-back switching from a staging yard below pigeonhole car storage on the wall above. Very much like the current layout except no continuous running and not quite so much track. Of course, until the ties hit the ballast a lot can change.

Many folks have offered their help in the process, and I very well may call on them for an hour or two to carry the demoed material from the railroad room to a dumpster outside. We'll see how that goes as I move on. First, I'll pack the buildings, vehicles, rolling stock, locomotives, and the NCE power system. Then I'll cut out and salvage turnouts. Then the real demo begins, and I'll salvage as much bench work as I can use on the new layout, particularly the girders and joists.

Dave Lawler sent the attached photo he took yesterday. I will remember this layout fondly while looking forward to the Phoenix in Avon Lake.

Best regards,  
John





**DIVISION OFFICERS**

Benson	Scott	<a href="mailto:sbenson440@zoominternet.net">sbenson440@zoominternet.net</a>
Bongiovanni	Franklin	<a href="mailto:bongiovanni1@hotmail.com">bongiovanni1@hotmail.com</a>
Dluback	William	<a href="mailto:billdlub@live.com">billdlub@live.com</a>
Eastburn	Scott	<a href="mailto:d4mcrnews@gmail.com">d4mcrnews@gmail.com</a>
Filipiak	Joseph	<a href="mailto:graftonpotter@frontier.com">graftonpotter@frontier.com</a>
Haas	Brian	<a href="mailto:brianhaas86@gmail.com">brianhaas86@gmail.com</a>
Hemsath MMR	John	<a href="mailto:hemsathj@gmail.com">hemsathj@gmail.com</a>
James	David	<a href="mailto:david.j@brtcharter.com">david.j@brtcharter.com</a>
Janda	John	<a href="mailto:jjanda101@gmail.com">jjanda101@gmail.com</a>
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Noeth	Greg	<a href="mailto:ginoeth@yahoo.com">ginoeth@yahoo.com</a>
Schaefer	Gary	<a href="mailto:trains.ohio@yahoo.com">trains.ohio@yahoo.com</a>
Shick II	Chuck	<a href="mailto:chuck.shick@hotmail.com">chuck.shick@hotmail.com</a>
Shick	Christine	<a href="mailto:chris.shick@hotmail.com">chris.shick@hotmail.com</a>
Wagner	Fred	<a href="mailto:boonedog0219@gmail.com">boonedog0219@gmail.com</a>
Williams	David	<a href="mailto:dave_wms@sbcglobal.net">dave_wms@sbcglobal.net</a>
Witt	John	<a href="mailto:wittjab@ameritech.net">wittjab@ameritech.net</a>
Woodie	Adam	<a href="mailto:woo3482@hotmail.com">woo3482@hotmail.com</a>
Glass	Don	No email address





# T-TRAK™

Call for N-Scale T-TRAK Modules!

It's here! The call for N-Scale T-TRAK modules! It is for those N-Scale T-TRAK modelers who will be attending the North Coast Limited convention, hosted by The North Coast Division of the NMRA Mid Central Region. The convention will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Middleburg Heights, Ohio from May 16-19, 2024.

Let Us Know You're Coming!

<https://forms.gle/RkKrdTWxcZetGDUr6>

Useful Links

NMRA Mid Central Region, North Coast Division

<https://www.div4.org/>

North Coast Limited Convention

<https://northcoastlimited2024.org/>

T-TRAK Information

<https://ntrak.org/T-TRAK-Home>

T-TRAK Wiki

<http://ttrak.wikidot.com/>

Questions

If you have any questions, please send an email to both Ramhog Shearer [ramhog5@aol.com](mailto:ramhog5@aol.com) and Frank Trocchia [ftrocchi@yahoo.com](mailto:ftrocchi@yahoo.com).

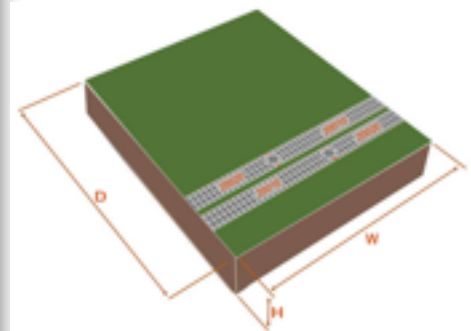
## What Is T Track?

T-Trak is a very simple modular system based on the use of Kato sectional Unitrak. Rather than the linear scenic arrangement found in most N-Trak and One-Trak modules, the focus of a T-Trak module is a small diorama, or rather, a series of small dioramas with common interfacing at the track and electrical joints. Modules must be between 2.75 and 4 inches high and 12 1/8 inch long. The front track must be located 1 1/2 inches from the fascia side of the module to the plastic ballast molded onto the track section. The standard allows for single, double, triple and quad length modules (up to 4 feet long) and may include track from other manufacturers.

However, the mating sections between T-Trak modules must use Kato Unitrack in the arrangement shown in the figure.

Making the modules so small makes construction at the kitchen table or a small portable work bench very easy to do and easy to clean up as well!

<https://www.ntrak.org/T-TRAK-Standards>



© Copyright <http://www.modelbuilding.org>



## Workshop Hacks By Scott Eastburn

Are you looking for workshop storage or functional modeling supply organizers? I have found many economical and creative solutions at discount retail stores like Marshall's and Ross Dress for Less. You can find storage options including turntable storage trays that are easily repurposed for paint storage, weathering powders, and tool storage. Really the possibilities are endless. These options are often priced from 5 to 15 dollars and can even be found for less in the clearance sections. As my wife if shopping for clothes I am in the back of the store looking for Train Room solutions. Below are pictures of a simple desktop storage unit with three drawers and nine slanted slots and a weathering station using a half round acrylic caddy. The desktop storage units are perfect for my workbench and fit neatly under the layout above my workbench. I use empty pill bottles for small part storage and they fit nicely in the slanted slots. I have three placed side by side which provides 27 slots and 9 drawers for small parts storage. The half round acrylic caddy works nicely as a weathering station. It holds all of my Bragdon Weathering powders and my weathering brushes. The weathering brushes are another Marshall's hack. They have a ton of makeup brush sets for 10 to 15 dollars. I simply drilled a couple of holes in the back of the caddy and used two screws to attach it to my work bench. Another storage hack was found at Hobby Lobby. Hobby Lobby has a clearance section in the back of the store. They often liquidate display racks that they no longer use in this section. I found this tube oil paint rack for \$20 and have repurposed it for a paint storage station. It works great for bottled craft paint on the shelves. I keep rattle can spray paint on the bottom. the top provides a nice space for odd sizes and shapes of paint bottles and tubes. It is a great solution for under layout storage of paint. It is just across the aisle from my paint booth which is also placed under the layout. My standard operating procedure is to keep my eyes peeled and imagination keen in every store I visit. There are workshop hacks every where.



The Mid-Central  
Regional Convention  
May 16-19 2024  
Cleveland, Ohio



Early Registration is \$90.00  
through 12/31/2023



[www.northcoastlimited2024.org](http://www.northcoastlimited2024.org)

*Convention Merchandise*

*The North Coast Limited 2024 Convention offers two  
Convention Cars and a Large selection of Men & Women's  
apparel*

*SCHEDULE of EVENTS*

*Layout Tours, Operating Sessions, 4 Clinic Rooms  
(including make & take clinics for a small fee)*

*Celebration of Modeling, Yard Sale, Prototype Tours, General interest Tours,  
Non-Rail Tours*

*More events are being added as the NCL moves closer to the convention date.  
Look for updates on the NCL site!*

*Many Restaurants  
are located  
within walking  
distance of the  
Crown Plaza  
Hotel.*



**EARLY REGISTRATION  
and MERCHANDISE PRESALE  
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(855)797-6733

[www.northcoastlimited2024.org](http://www.northcoastlimited2024.org)



# IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR



## DIVISION ELECTIONS

Elections,

It is Election time again and the Division is looking for Volunteers for Officers. All officers and director's slots are up for re-election or election. If interested in running for an officer or director, write a brief statement about yourself and your Life in Model Railroading and give it to Dave Flebbe, Ben Lanza, or Larry Kowicki. New members are welcome.

Committee Chairman  
Dave Flebbe