



THE FLATWHEEL



Volume 59

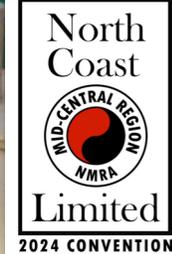
May 2024

Number 5

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Railroader
MAGAZINE

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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.

This month comments will be brief.

I want to thank the membership for allowing me to serve this awesome group for another term. We have a very good division and I am proud to be part of it. I want to thank Dave Williams for all his support over the last two years as assistant superintendent and to welcome Bert Wisbar as the newly elected assistant superintendent. I am really looking forward to another term of office.

The convention committee continues to move forward with plans for the MCR Regional Convention. We are just weeks away from the convention and overall things are starting to come together nicely. A few loose ends to finish up, but overall, we are almost good to go.

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 to help at the convention is also available on the convention web site. **Please take the time to sign up to help. There are few empty slots that need to be filled. This is our convention and your support is necessary in order to make it successful! Don't just belong, participate.**

The annual membership picnic and business meeting is set for **June 8th 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. **Remember, this will be a regular business meeting as well as a picnic. Remember, the picnic is for members and their family's **only** due to insurance issues.**

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 May 16 – 19, 2024



The North Coast Limited 2024 Convention will be arriving soon. If you have not already registered, you will want to make sure to register soon and book your hotel room. Your hosts, Division 4, The North Coast Division, have full array of activities you can do during your visit to Northeast Ohio. Some of the Convention highlights include:

AWARDS & RECOGNITION BANQUET

The Convention is capped off on Saturday evening with the Awards & Recognition Banquet. Our Banquet speaker will be Mr. Pete Poremba, Executive Director of the Jerry and Laura Jacobson Foundation, dba Ages of Steam Roundhouse Museum. Pete will be talking about how is interest in model trains growing up lead to an over 40-year career in railroading and to him being named Executive Director of the Foundation to carry on Jerry Jacobson's legacy for Ages of Steam Roundhouse. You do not want to miss Pete's presentation.

OPERATING SESSIONS

The schedule of Operating Sessions as been posted to the NCL 2024 website. Most operating sessions are on Thursday evening with a few more on Friday evening. Sign up for operating sessions is on a first come – first reserved basis and is done through the NCL 2024 Registration portal. We have eight different layouts hosting operating sessions with over 50 operating positions. Host layouts vary from large home and club layouts to small home layouts.

PROTOTYPE ACTIVITIES

Among the Prototype Activities happening during NCL 2024 are open houses at the Midwest Railway Preservation Society and the Northern Ohio Railway Museum. Midwest Rail is located in the former B&O roundhouse in the Flats industrial section of Cleveland. They have ongoing efforts to restore various pieces of rolling stock as part of their mission. MRPS will be hosting two tours on Saturday morning, The Northern Ohio Railway Museum is located about 30 minutes south in Seville, Ohio, an easy drive down Interstate 77. NORM has an interesting collection of trolley and interurban cars on display and being restored. NORM will be open Saturday morning from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM will rides at 11:00 AM.

VOLUNTEERS

Every convention needs volunteers to help make sure everything runs smoothly. NCL 2024 is no different. We NEED volunteers during the Convention to help with things such as registration check-in, bag check, contest room monitor, Yard Sale room monitor, clinician check and more. We are trying out a new way of signing up volunteers using the SignUp Genius website. The following link [Div 4 MCR NMRA: North Coast Limited 2024 \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com) will take you to the website so you can sign up for one of the volunteer times. If you have difficulty with SignUp Genius you can always email me directly.



CONVENTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The following areas still need to be covered for the convention.

We are very close to our manpower goal.

Thursday 05/16/2024 7 PM to 9pm

Bag Check 1 person.

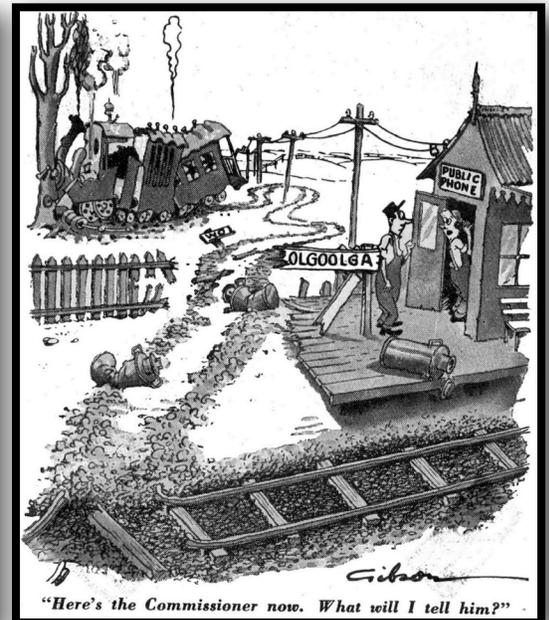
Celebration Room 1 to 2 people.

Friday 05/17/2024 3 PM to 5 PM

Registration Desk 2 people.

Saturday 05/18/2024 10 AM to Noon

Bag Check 1 person.

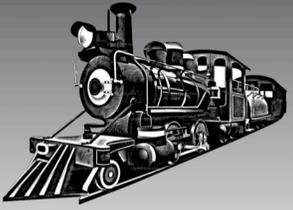




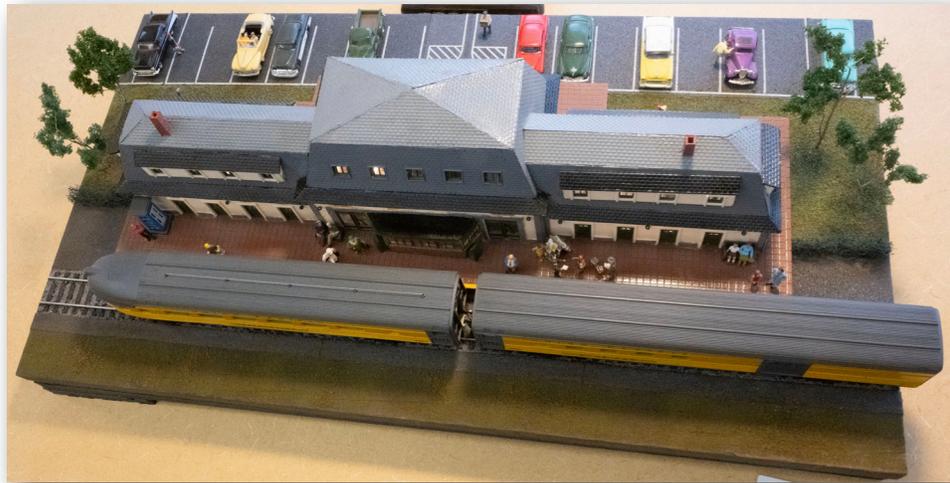
The second to the last contest of the season proved to be a popular one with the members. There were twelve entries in the contest. The subject was the last car on a passenger train. The models that were brought in were all great. I found it hard to pick just three winners. Thank you to all who participated and voted for your favorites. First place in the model contest went to Jim Grell. Ken Orchard's entry took second place while the model entered by John Witt was voted third place. There were two entries for dioramas with both of them showing trains stopped at stations. The diorama with autos, people, trains and more people surrounding a neat station which was entered by John Puch won first place. Joe Filipiak's country station with a campaign stop came in second place.

The best may well be the last contest of the season due at the May meeting. "The contest in a bag". There were about a dozen and a half bags given away. I can't wait to see what unique projects will show up at the contest tables in May. The May contest marks the end of this season's (2023-2024) contests. The points for participation and placing will be tallied up and prizes and awards will be given out at the June meeting in Lester, Ohio at the North Coast Live Steamers location. The last item of business at the May meeting will be the announcement of next season's contest subject matters. I guess I need to stop monkeying around now and catch the last train to Clarksville where I will find some refreshments in that last car on the passenger train.





CONTESTS & ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



HOW DO I GET STARTED
IN THE NMRA
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM?



CLICK HERE!

2023-24 CONTESTS

May Grab bag of provided parts to build a building



THINK MODULAR

Module Update

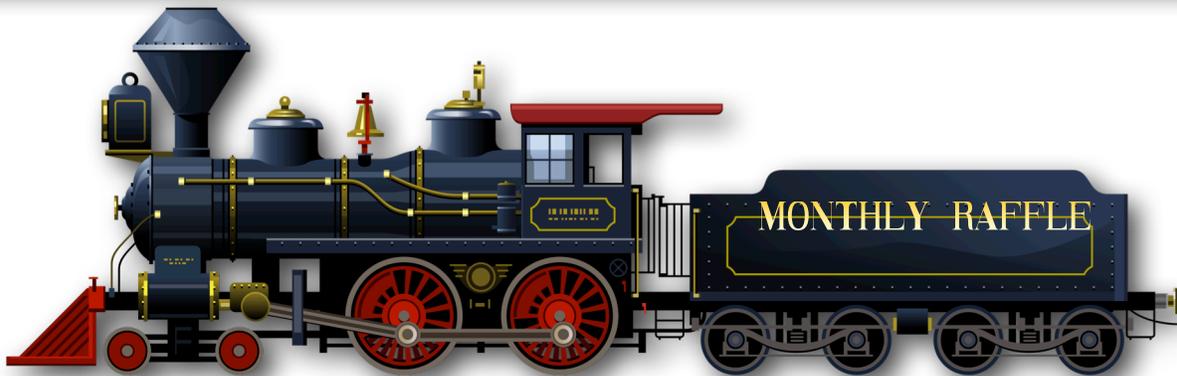
Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

April was a rather quiet month and May will not be much different for the module group. After the Regional convention is complete, I will be sending out an email regarding the upcoming annual work party.

As always, anyone interested in joining the module group, please contact me at woo3482@hotmail.com.

Until next time!

Adam "Hot Box" Woodie



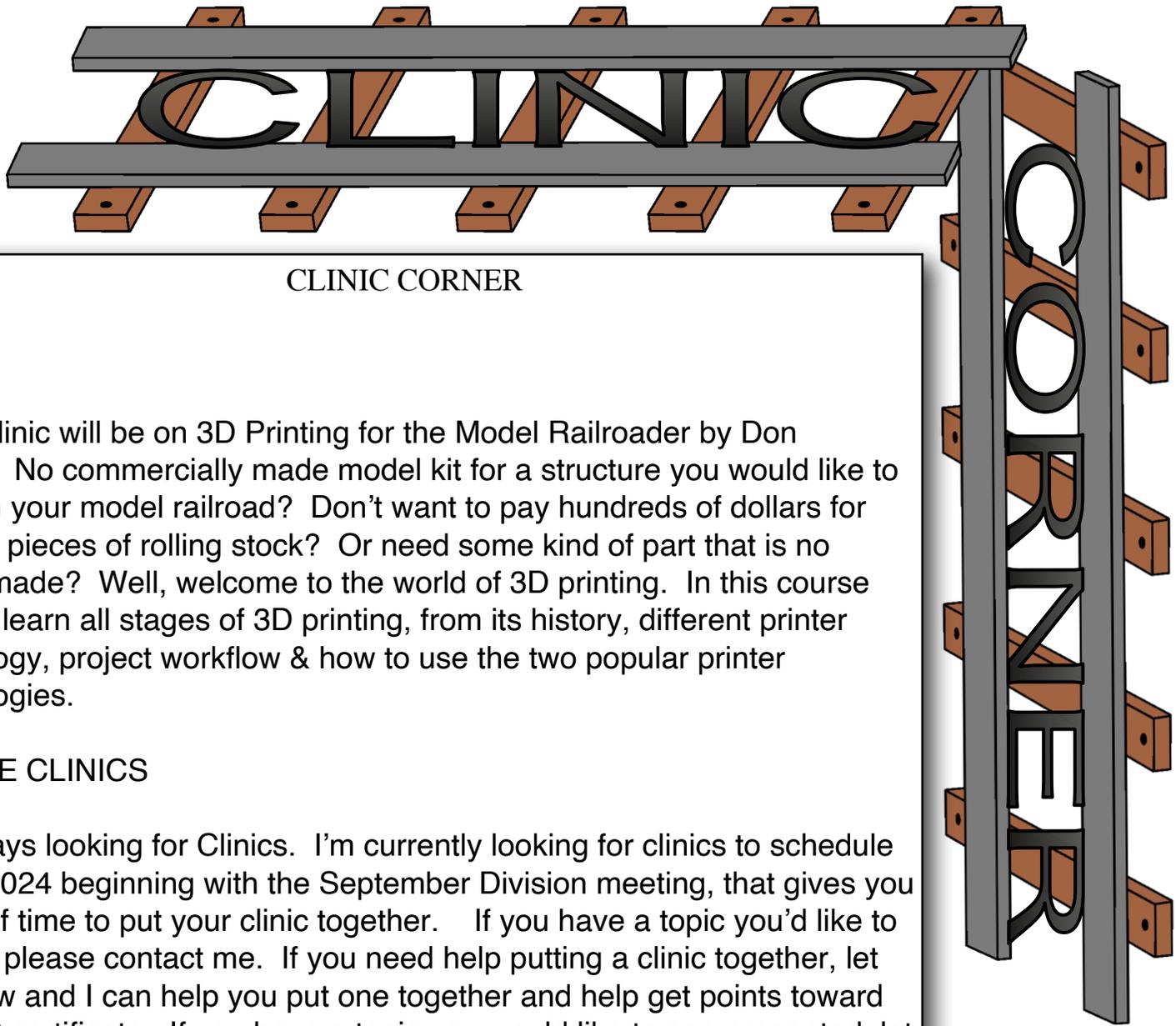
Monthly Raffle

Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

April's raffle was exciting and fun. The raffle scheduled to take place in May after the monthly business meeting will be just as good. As always there will something for everyone! Be sure to purchase your tickets preferably before the start of the business meeting.

Until next time!

Adam "Hot Box" Woodie



CLINIC CORNER

MAY

May's clinic will be on 3D Printing for the Model Railroader by Don Oleksa. No commercially made model kit for a structure you would like to have on your model railroad? Don't want to pay hundreds of dollars for multiple pieces of rolling stock? Or need some kind of part that is no longer made? Well, welcome to the world of 3D printing. In this course you will learn all stages of 3D printing, from its history, different printer technology, project workflow & how to use the two popular printer technologies.

FUTURE CLINICS

I'm always looking for Clinics. I'm currently looking for clinics to schedule in Fall 2024 beginning with the September Division meeting, that gives you plenty of time to put your clinic together. 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.

GREAT BEREA TRAIN SHOW MINI CLINICS

Once again we will be presenting a series of mini clinics during the Great Berea Train Show on October 5 & October 6. This is Division 4's opportunity to share our knowledge of model railroading with the general public at the Show. Mini clinics should be around 20-30 minutes in length. Topics should be on model railroading basic to intermediate subjects. Demonstration or hands-on presentations are best to capture interest. Possible topics would be rolling stock performance or maintenance, scenery techniques, basic DCC, track laying and others. If you are interested in give a mini clinic during GBTS please email me.





DIVISION MEETING MINUTES



Division 4, MCR, NMRA, General Meeting Minutes, April 12, 2024

Superintendent Ron Morgan opened the meeting at 6:32 pm. He invited the ladies to join us this evening.

Ron asked for new members to please stand and introduce themselves. Jeff Summer and Ron McKee (Ron 4) stood up and introduced themselves.

Gary Sole made a motion to approve the minutes of March's meeting. Brian Haas seconded the motion. The membership agreed to accept the minutes of March's meeting.

Ron Morgan gave the Treasurer's Report for Greg Noeth.

Old Business:

Elections by Acclamation - Ron Morgan - Since everyone on the slate is running unopposed, Dave Flebbe made a motion to accept the slate as is. Jim Rafferty seconded the motion and the membership passed the new officer slate. Congratulations one and all.

2024 Regional Convention - Jerry Kruger - Everything is right on track. Current registration is at 148. If you need to register Bruce Bowie will help you on his phone tonight. 60 of each car was ordered, once they are gone, they are gone. Shirt deadline is April 25th. So get your orders in for cars and shirts NOW! No orders will be shipped out. Volunteers are needed, there are sign up sheets on the front table or use the link on the website. Banquet is really going to be good. Great food, excellent speaker. Layout tours were grouped together geographically and not too many in one group. We should have a very good convention.

Division 5 Membership - Ron Morgan - Crew went out to Division 5 in March and it went well.

World's Greatest Hobby - Ron Morgan - The show went well.

New Business:

Show and Tell - Ron Morgan -

Working on Cool Projects - Ron Morgan -

Committee Reports:

Flat Wheel Deadline - Ron Morgan - Articles due to the Editor by April 26th.

Clinics - Jerry Kruger - tonight's clinic is Bram Bailey practicing for his clinic on his layout for the convention.

Company Store - Scott Benson -

Raffle - Adam Woodie - Lots of stuff, come get your tickets. Raffle will start 10 minutes after the close of meeting.

Module Group - Adam Woodie - World's Greatest Hobby had 22,216 in attendance on both days. Things are pretty slow until August when we start up with Cuyahoga County Fair, followed by Oktoberfest, The Great Berea Train Show, and our usual Christmas time set ups.

Layout Tours - John Witt, MMR - working on coordinating for Convention.

AP Awards - John Hemsath, MMR -

Contest - Joe Filipiak - Winners of March's Contest of Complete an unfinished project are as follows:

Model: 1st - Jim Grell

2nd - Dave Lawler

3rd - Frank Bongiovanni

There were no diorama entries. Next month is Bag of Parts - Building using all the Parts in the Bag. Next Sessions Contest will be revealed at the May meeting.

Comments/Concerns - Ron Morgan - There is need for help at the Convention. Please register and sign up to work. This is our Division's Convention.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The membership carried the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Shick

Secretary, Division 4, MCR, NMRA

TRAIN QUIP

“A railroad is like a lie; you have to keep building it to make it stand.”

– Mark Twain



Division 6 - MCR The Buckeye Division National Model Railroad Association

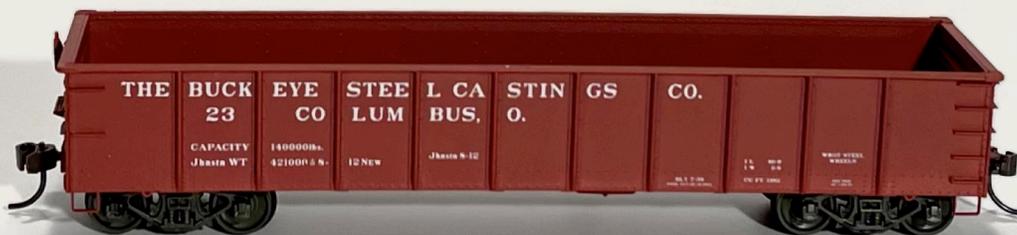
Division 6 of the NMRA Mid-Central Region is currently offering a 41' gondola lettered for Buckeye Steel Castings.

Buckeye Steel was a large steel foundry located in Columbus, Ohio. They produced castings of numerous railroad components, including trucks, couplers and, the famous "Buckeye Truck." These gondolas moved scrap as well as finished products. Interchange partners included C&O and NYC, both railroads having trackage leading into the plant complex.

These car kits are from Accurail's 3700-series of steel gondolas with road number 23. Decals for six other road numbers are available for those ordering more than one car.

Pricing is \$27 per car. Shipping (via USPS Priority) is \$10 for one car and \$17 for two to three cars. Ohio residents, please add 7.5% sales tax on the total price of the kits and the shipping/handling fee. Customers outside the USA, please contact us for shipping arrangements and charges.

For more details or to contact us, visit our Division's Store at <https://div6-mcr-nmra.org/StorePage.html>



TRAIN QUIP

I once asked a conductor how many times a train he was on had gotten derailed. He told me it was hard to keep track.

- Unknown

Kalmbach rail magazines, Trains.com sold to Firecrown Media

WAUKESHA, Wis. — *Trains Magazine*, the company's other rail magazines, and Trains.com are among assets that have been sold by Kalmbach Media to Chattanooga, Tenn.-based Firecrown Media, the two companies have announced today (May 1).

Other Kalmbach titles involved in the transaction are *Classic Trains*, *Model Railroader*, *Classic Toy Trains*, *FineScale Modeler*, and *Astronomy*, as well as Kalmbach's online stores.

The publications involved will continue to be based in Wisconsin.

[Firecrown Media](#) owns a wide range of transportation brands including Flying, Plane & Pilot, Boating, Yachting, and the supply chain site FreightWaves.



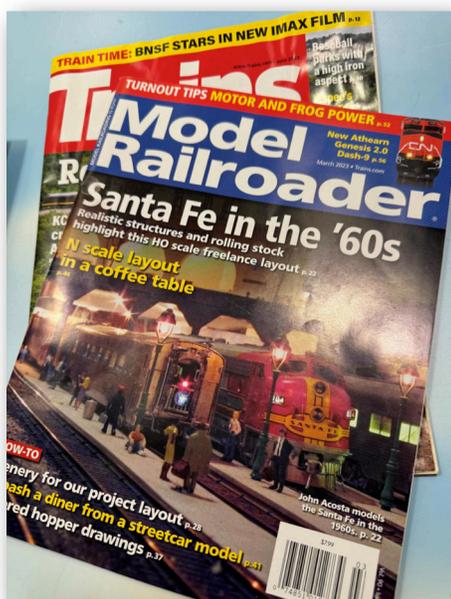
Kalmbach employees were informed of the sale this morning and told that most employees working on the brands will be offered positions with Firecrown after screening. Kalmbach CEO Dan Hickey called it “a difficult day in our storied history” in an email announcing the sale.

Firecrown CEO Craig Fuller said in a press release that “The rail titles fit perfectly into the Firecrown portfolio and the breadth of experience of our staff ... Kalmbach has deep ties in the railroad community, having published magazines and books about railroads and model trains for over 90 years. There isn't a deeper connection in the rail enthusiast community than the one that Kalmbach built. The Firecrown staff will work diligently to continue and build on that connection moving forward.

“Additionally, the rail and aviation communities have a great deal in common. Besides the obvious — both being transportation modes and having similarities in business models — the enthusiast audience is vast in both categories. We believe that ‘railfans’ and ‘avgeeks’ are kindred spirits.

“With the acquisition, Firecrown plans to invest significantly in *Trains'* business editorial coverage, increasing the cadence and depth of coverage of the rail industry. FreightWaves, one of Firecrown's brands, provides a playbook to help achieve this.”

Fuller and other members of the Firecrown staff met with staff members who will be making the transition to the new ownership this afternoon. A 60-day transition period is planned for the magazines and other properties. More information on Firecrown's plans and what they mean for employees and readers will be forthcoming.



Kalmbach Media headquarters in Waukesha, Wis. David Lassen



KINGPIN EDITOR NEEDED

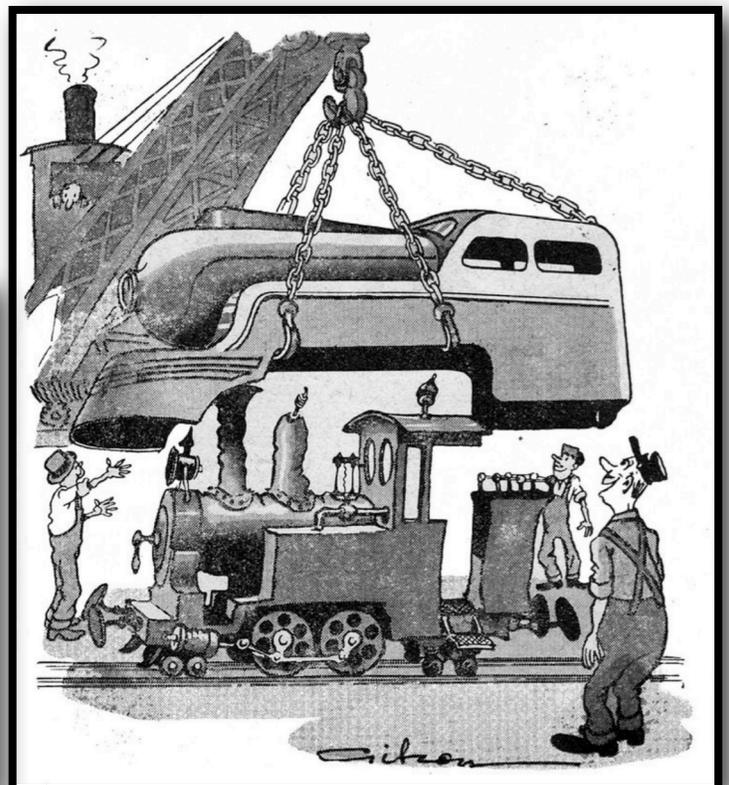
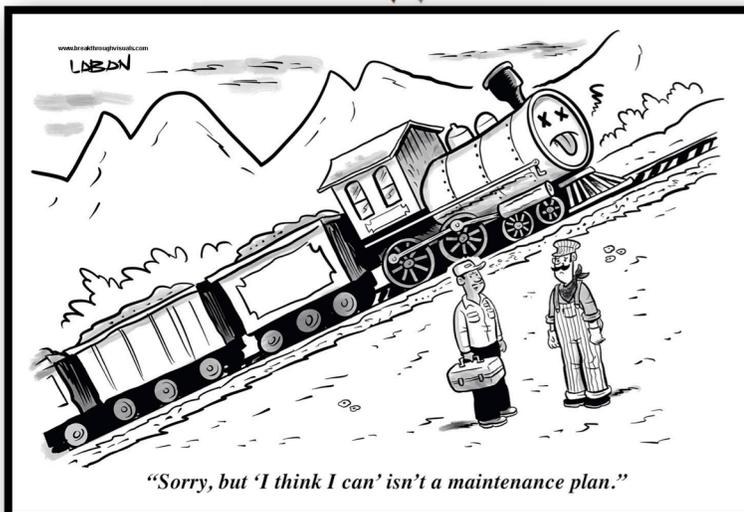
The Mid Central Region is in need of a new Kingpin Editor. The Kingpin is the newsletter of the Mid Central Region and is published three times per year. The new editor will inherit the task from Dave Williams and He is willing to assist his successor get started.

Division members if you are pursuing Master Model Railroader this role provides an opportunity to earn AP points. available!

The procedures/protocols are well established so someone with any prior computer and publishing experience can easily and quickly step in.

If any members are interested see Ron Morgan and he will facilitate contact with Dave.

LAUGH  **TRACKS**



DIVISION LEADERSHIP

CREW/CONTACT

Superintendent

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Assistant Superintendent

Dave Williams - dave_wms@sbcglobal.net

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Christine Shick - chris.shick@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Greg Noeth - GNoetharch2@aol.com, gjnoeth@yahoo.com

Director East

John Janda - jjanda101@gmail.com

Director Quad Counties

Fred Wagner - boonedog0219@gmail.com

Director West

Gary Schaefer - trains.ohio@yahoo.com

Director-at-Large

Brian Haas - haasland@msn.com

Director-at-Large

Jeff Lauren- jflrn@sbcglobal.net

Appointed

Great Berea Train Show

David E. James (440) 785-9907 (Cell) email: showmanager@thegreatbereatrainshow.org, david.j@brtcharter.com

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John Witt - wittjab@ameritech.net

Clinics

Jerry Krueger - jakrueg@neo.rr.com

Contests

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Historian/Archivist

Frank Bongiovanni

Module Group & Raffle

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T-Trak Coordinator

Ramhog Shearer - ramhog5@aol.com

Project Car Coord.

Flatwheel Editor

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Scott Benson - sbenson440@zoominternet.net

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Don Glass

N.O.A.R.S. Representative

Bill Kovacs - billk@davocomm.com

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Gary Schaefer - trains.ohio@yahoo.com

Summer Picnic

Larry Kuczynski - larry@hangmanremodeling.com

Webmaster

Chuck Shick - chuck.shick@hotmail.com

Backup - Ben Lanza - blqt@nls.net

OHIO SHORTLINE SPOTLIGHT

ABC Railway

Wheeling & Lake Erie RAILWAY COMPANY

Akron Barberton Cluster Railway

The ABC is a Class III terminal switching carrier serving the greater Akron, Ohio area. Although ABC traces its origin to the late 19th century, it changed names and ownership in 1994 when it became a wholly owned subsidiary of The Wheeling Corporation. The general offices are located in Barberton, Ohio. The primary yard operations are in Barberton with secondary switching and storage at Firestone Yard in Akron.

Small Size, Big Efficiency

ABC's efficiency means competitive rates for its customers. ABC serves 25 customers with over 11,000 carloads in Akron, Barberton, Kent, Ravenna, Rittman, and Wadsworth with only 2 locomotives and 10 employees. ABC's rail lines are rated at 286,000 pounds gross weight on the rail.

Flexible Service

ABC transports a variety of commodities including aggregates, chemicals, grain, industrial minerals, pulpboard, lumber, scrap paper, petroleum products, plastic products, and scrap iron.



Connections

ABC offers the benefit of direct interchange with two railroads to provide competitive rail rates. The connections are:

- **CSXT** at Barberton — the largest class I carrier in the eastern US with 23,000 miles of track and interstate operations in 21 states.
- **The Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company (W&LE)** at Akron — the largest Ohio-based railroad and one of the largest Class II railroads in the country handling over 140,000 carloads per year. W&LE provides additional connectivity for the ABC through interchange with Canadian National Railway at Toledo and multiple interchange points with Norfolk Southern and other railroads. The interchange between ABC and W&LE occurs in Akron.

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



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



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
IS NOW OPEN!**

*Register or print out
a registration form
online!*

Crowne Plaza Hotel

7230 Engle Rd, Middleburg Heights, OH, 44130
(855)797-6733

www.northcoastlimited2024.org

