



THE FLATWHEEL

VOL 46 NBR 04 APRIL 2012



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

Art Bumpus, Division 4 Superintendent On Q

The next Division meeting is Friday, April 13. The modeling contest for this month is a scene that fits on a 3" peanut butter lid. Show your fellow modelers what you can do with such a spacious amount of real estate! The clinic for the evening will be put on by Joe Saunders and the subject is detailing and weathering railroad structure roofs. No matter how accustomed you are to weathering buildings, cars, railroad models, and just about anything else, there is always something to be learned from the techniques used by a fellow modeler.

After the meeting last month, I received an email from one of our most senior modelers, Joe Kurilec MMR. With Joe, was also Brad Glaze, another modeler that goes way back. For those of you who don't know (myself included) Joe is a Master Model Railroader #79 Joe passes on to us some interesting web sites:

Cleveland Memory Project – <http://www.clevelandmemory.org>
Arcadia Press – <http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/theme/Rail>
Northern Ohio Railroad Maps – <http://www.trainweb.org/noars/railroads.htm>
Age of Steam Roundhouse – <http://www.ageofsteamroundhouse.com/about.htm>

I would also like to add a few websites of interest:

Shorpy Historical Photo Archive – <http://www.shorpy.com>
Linda Hall Library on the building of the transcontinental railroad – <http://www.lindahall.org>
Railroad Line Forum (specifically for model railroaders) – <http://www.railroad-line.com>

Give these sites a try. They are quite interesting.

Last month I indicated I would go over some of the lessons learned in the building of my Spruce Creek Railway. Tops on my list would be a consistent color coding system for wiring. I used color coded wire from a local electronic surplus dealer. The problem was that they didn't carry enough of a specific color to use throughout the railroad. So I have intermixed color coding which makes tracing circuits difficult. Considering that I have wiring for switch machines, block wiring, signals, lighting for buildings, DCC wiring, wiring for electromagnetic uncoupling; you get the picture. A second lesson learned would be to plan ahead what goes on your fascia. I didn't think far enough ahead to plan out the use of all the things that would be attached to the fascia. This would include control panels, car card holders, throttle pockets, turntable controller panels, UTP panels for DCC, lighting switches, phones, and other items. A third lesson learned would be to don't half complete a wiring task. In some places, I didn't return to complete the wiring in a specific location for several years. I have been known to spend a couple of days figuring out what it takes to finish that wiring task that I half started several years earlier.

Well, that's about all for this month. So remember, in the meantime, never trade steam for water.

March General Meeting Minutes from March 9, 2012

LOCATION: Church of the Redeemer, 23500 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, OH 44145

Superintendent Art Bumpus welcomed everyone as he called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM. The Treasurer reported assets of \$35,404.⁰³. Several visitors were introduced. Art reminded everyone they are welcome to join an informal gathering at a nearby Baker's Square following the meeting. The night's clinic on the Cleveland Transit System was put together by brothers Chuck and Mike Klein. Mike was recovering from a recent surgery, leaving Chuck, dressed as a CTS motorman, to make the presentation.

Scott Benson reported the module group has several upcoming events; March 25 at Division 1, April at the Medina Train Show and May at the two weekend Day w/ Thomas event. Scott also reported the group will be active at next fall's iHobby event to be held at the IX Center the weekend following Division 4's Carnival. Scott reminded all members may run trains on the modules and participate, even if they do not have their own module.

The *Flatwheel* deadline is March 29th.

Contest Chair Dave Lawler said the night's contest is freight trains with a maximum of 5 units counting the engine. Last month 7 contest entries received a total of 59 votes; 1st – Dave Williams, 2nd – Jim Grell, 3rd tied – George Gelehrter, Steve Riddlebaugh and Dave Lawler. At the Show-N-Tell table were several items; a kit bashed bridge as seen on Sandusky Bay, a Micro-Scale craftsman structure with micro LED lights as well as a display on CTS items to go along with the night's clinic presentation and a compact portable DCC NCE system put together by Lee Sheffield. Next month's clinic is diorama's built on a 3" peanut butter jar lid.

The company store was open with the usual assortment of car kits.

Gary Sole filled in for Mike Klein with a nice assortment of items for the night's raffle.

OLD BUSINESS – A second reading was made to modify the Bylaws allowing the Treasurer's office to no longer be term limited. The reading:

Article III: Officers, Paragraph 3 to read as follows:

1. No elected officer, except for the Trustees **and Treasurer**, shall serve more than two consecutive terms or parts thereof in the same office. **A review of the financial books shall be done on an annual basis by an ad hoc committee appointed by the Superintendent.** The duties imposed on the officers shall be the usual and customary obligations and such others which may be prescribed by these rules.

Changes shown in bold and underline. Discussion was asked for with no one responding. With two readings completed a motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously. With the bylaw change, the previous election of Rich Tressa was considered null and void, leaving the position open. A motion was made, seconded and passed by acclamation to elect for a third term Rich Tressa Treasurer.

New Business - It was noted Joe Polefko has had some serious illness and we wish him well. Joe Filipiak mentioned inexpensive CSVR tickets are available on www.fish.com for use any time this season. Tom Atherton is selling his collection of MR and some additional train related magazines. Bruce Brintnall has a Argoss slide projector, numerous slide trays and a project screen available free to anyone wanting it.

The business meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Bowie, Secretary

RAFFLE REPORT

Thanks to all who participated in the March raffle, it was another success. The April raffle will be another great raffle. The Head Raffle Dude should be back for the April meeting. See you soon.

The Raffle Dudes

Membership by Dennis Whitaker

March 2012 Birthdays:

THOMAS ATHERTON
JAMES A GRELL
STEVE LA CONTE
A J MAZZA
RONALD E MORGAN
ALLEN W SEMAN
JOHN WITT

ROBERT W BUTLER
WILLIAM D KOVACS
RICHARD W MAAG
THOMAS MCINERNEY
JAMES RABA
DONALD C WETZEL
STEVE WOLKEN

New Members:

SCOTT ASTEY
CHUCK BOROWIAK
TERRANCE K BYRNE
ED DILLON
BRETT KLUIBER
JAMES RABA
JANE RABA
WILLIAM J SHEA

BRECKSVILLE
MEDINA
COLUMBIA STATION
ELYRIA
LORAIN
CLEVELAND
CLEVELAND
CLEVELAND

Re-Rail Members:

None

Denny Whitaker and I would like to thank all of the Division 4 members who volunteered to work the joint Membership Table with Division 5 at the Kirtland Railfest show. The following Division 4 members worked the table: Ben Lanza, Fred Obreeza, Joe Mehalic, Bob Kaiser, Lee Sheffield, Chuck Baad and Dave Williams.

Special thanks goes to Ben Lanza and his teammate Fred Obreeza. During their two hour tour of duty, a total of 10, yes 10, new members were signed up for the 6 month Rail Pass! Great job guys! At least four of those new members are assigned to our Division, another near Erie, PA, and the balance of new members belonging under Division 5. Joint ventures like this are just what we need to get us in shape for 2014! We will be working the same arrangement during our 2012 Carnival in Berea. We'll have one Membership Table worked by both Divisions. Maybe we can even get Division 1 involved this Fall!

Joe Mehalic
Div4 Membership Co-Chairman



An overhead view of this year's Railfest.

Joe Polefko called to say Thank You to everyone in the Division for the card and calls he's received in the past few months, and especially to Harold Mickley for providing transportation as needed. Joe says that he feels like he's now making good progress towards recovery, even managing to regain some long lost "range of motion" during his physical therapy sessions (ouch).

Joe: Keep getting better and we're looking forward to seeing back at the meetings soon.

The Clinic Corner

April 2012 Program

Presented by:

Joe Saunders

Detailing Railroad Structure Roofs

Adding character & eye appeal by representing repairs & weathering for “Rolled tar paper”, “Standing seam”, “Corrugated” & “Shingled” roofs. Scratchbuilding roof access doors & hatches + small vent stacks/pipes & TV antennas.

June Clinic – Soldering 101 – Larry Madson

Learn how to make reliable solder connections including track feeds. This is a hands on clinic, Bring your soldering iron.

Clinic Needed for May Meeting

Help!!!! I desparately need a clinic for the May meeting. If any of you are interested in sharing modeling techniques or have a program on railroading model or prototype, please contact me.

Larry Madson

A Digital Projector for the Division

The Division 4 digital projector is available for use by division members for presenting clinic programs in digital format. Anyone wishing to present a program in digital format contact Larry Madson. phone: 440-934-2643 or email lmadson@roadrunner.com.

Larry Madson



Some the materials that Chuck Klein displayed as part of the Klein Brothers' CTS clinic in March.

DIVISION 4 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MARCH 27, 2012

LOCATION: Strongsville United Church of Christ

Superintendent Art Bumpus called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Elected officers in attendance: Art Bumpus, Jim Moore, Bruce Bowie, Rich Tressa, Steve Kaplan, Gary Dunn, Chuck Klein and Lee Sheffield. Chairpersons in attendance: Dennis Whitaker, Joe Mehalic, John Hemsath, Mike Oster, Ben Lanza and David James.

Art opened the meeting with a discussion of a summer picnic. Division 1 has expressed interest in making the picnic a joint activity. All present agreed this would be beneficial in a number of ways. A location for a July has not been found.

Dave James and Rich Tressa offered to work on finding a location. The new Martha Newberry Award as suggested by Dave Williams was discussed. The BOD agreed to sponsor the annual award. The winner will be a structure contest entry at the yearly region convention as selected by three Division 4 members in attendance. Art will contact the Division for the necessary paperwork. TRAINing Day Chair Gary Sole requested the BOD approve the date and location for this year's event. The BOD recommended the 1st Saturday in November and move the location back to St. Christopher's. It was noted Tom Pescha is working on advertising Division 5's similar event to be held the same day. The BOD passed a motion to use Tom to assist with advertising our event. Kaplan will contact Tom to work out the details. Open Discussion – John Hemsath read a submittal to the upcoming *Flatwheel* about individual members authorizing their layouts be listed as available for individual viewing by appointment only. Those members willing to participate will have their layout noted in the Division's Knowledge Depot listing. All present thought this to be a good idea. Chuck Klein suggested some Division car kits be taken out of stock and put up for sale at the upcoming Region Convention. It was agreed to take twelve of each of the three car numbers. It was also agreed to reduce the price from \$15 each or \$39.95 for three to \$12 each or \$30 for three. Denny Whitaker, with discussion with Ben Lanza and Dave Williams, suggested those members receiving the *Flatwheel* via email to receive the full version showing layout tour addresses. Currently 88 members receive the *Flatwheel* via email and this would reduce the Division's costs. The *Flatwheel* copy available through the website will still be the redacted version. The BOD agreed to the change. Denny also stated he is in talks with a member who is considering taking on the Carnival raffle activity. Carnival Chair Mike Oster asked if the BOD had discussed the issue of providing a stipend to the Norwalk modular layout group that made a request last fall. Art responded this was discussed at a BOD meeting last fall and was unanimously decided to not offer stipends to any layout groups. (Minutes of the 10/25/2011 BOD minutes where this was discussed have been sent to Chairman Oster for his records – sec.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Bruce Bowie, Secretary

Next BOD meeting is May 29, 2012

A New Way To Visit Layouts

One of the terrific benefits of membership in the NMRA is the opportunity to visit members' homes and see their layouts which are not normally accessible to the general public. Every time I visit a layout, I learn something. Layout owners are just as likely to talk about what they did wrong as what they did right. We are able to take away inspiration as well as warnings.

However, not everyone is ready to open their layout to a tour. Perhaps they work on weekends, or parking is limited, or they're just not ready to have dozens of people in their home in one afternoon.

Rather than participating in a tour, we would like to offer these members the opportunity to share their work on a one-on-one basis. So, whether you've participated in previous layout tours or not, we invite you to open your layout to visits by individual members. This would be by appointment only...at your convenience.

In the Knowledge Depot, your layout would be listed along with a brief description and your city of residence. Members could then call, or email, you to arrange a mutually convenient time for a visit. If you would like to share your layout but tours were too much, please contact Denny Whitaker at denny7710@roadrunner.com.

A number of members have already agreed to open their layouts for a private tour. They include Denny Whitaker, Art Bumpus, Ben Lanza, Steve Kaplan, Gary Dunn, and Jim Moore. Consider adding your name to this list and share your work and your experience with other members.



**MCR Regional Convention
Pittsburgh PA (Division 2)
April 26-29, 2012**

Read the Flatwheel online at www.div4.org

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.

We also have an email list to notify you when the Flatwheel is placed on the website. You are no longer required to join the Yahoo Group for this service.

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). The Flatwheel can be mailed to all Division Four members free of charge, however we request that all members with Internet access decline receiving a mailed copy. Subscriptions are available to others for \$12.00 annually. 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 May Flatwheel is Thursday April 26, 2012. A little earlier in the week would be appreciated since the Flatwheel staff will be at the Regional convention.

DIVISION FOUR OFFICERS

Elected

Superintendent

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Trustee at Large

Larry Madson (440) 934-2643 lmadson@roadrunner.com

Trustee at Large

Lee Sheffield lakeshoreny@yahoo.com

Appointed

Carnival

Mike Oster

Achievement

Bruce Brintnall MMR

Layouts

John and Tom Hemsath
hemsathj@gmail.com

Contests

David Lawler

Historian/Archivist

Frank Bongiovanni

Raffle

Mike Klein

Company Store

Tim Sheffield

Clinics

Larry Madson

Flatwheel Editor

Dave Williams

Membership Co-Chairs

Dennis Whitaker/Joe Mehalic

Modules

Scott Benson

N.O.A.R.S. Representative

Chuck Beargie

Webmaster

Ben Lanza

NMRA National Convention
Grand Rapids MI
July 29-August 4, 2012

The March contest, Branchline Freight Trains, had 10 entries and 62 votes cast (A new record for my tenure as chairman). Thanks everyone!

- 1st place: (tie) Tom McInerney Shay work train
Dave Lawler Ontario Southern freight
- 2nd place: Art Bumpus B&O steam freight
- 3rd place John Puch Uniontown freight

Point standings after our second contest of the second half are as follows:

- 1st Dave Lawler 6 pts.
- 2nd (tie) Jim Grell, Dave Williams, Tom McInerney 4 pts. each
- 3rd (tie) George Gelehrter, Steve Riddlebaugh, Art Bumpus 3 pts. each

OK! The April Contest is for “mini-dioramas” that will fit on a regular Peanut Butter jar lid, 3”-3 1/2 “ (not some giant Costco, 50 lb. can). No cheating!
 If you plan to use your entry on your layout, it’s OK to make it on a foam board or plywood disc of the appropriate diameter so you can later, set it into your scenery.
 If you want to bring in the jar lid you used to trace it, that would be OK too. It’ll be fun to see the creativity here.



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Newsletter of NMRA MCR Division Four



Next meeting:

Friday April 13 2012

Church of the Redeemer
23500 Center Ridge Road
Westlake Ohio 44145

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

Division website: www.div4.org

Chuck Klein gave the March clinic on Cleveland Transit System streetcar operations with emphasis on the routes that his father Bernie ran cars. The presentation was standing room only, with over 60 members in attendance, and nobody left early. Mike Klein co-authored the clinic but was sidelined the night of the meeting.

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FIRST CLASS

Dave Williams
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