



THE FLATWHEEL

VOL 50 NBR 10 DECEMBER 2015



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



Did you see these buildings during the layout tours?

Division Four's next meeting will be Friday December 11, 2015.

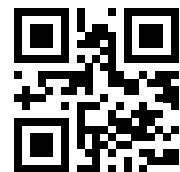
Social time starts at 6:00 pm
Dinner served at 7:00 pm

Holiday Party / Awards Banquet

Division website: www.div4.org

Coppertop Party Center
5740 Center Rd, (Route 303)
Valley City, OH 44280

Reservations Required



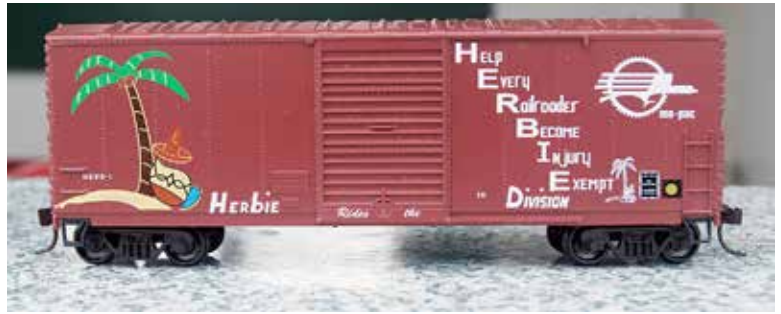
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Herbie:

Help
Every
Railroader
Become
Injury
Exempt



HERBIE'S RUMBLINGS

December 2015

As soon as I finish this short Superintendent's letter, and get it off to Dave Williams, I'm off to Lorain for the Black River Trees and Trains event. Our module group has setup there for the next month. You can visit Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through December 27th (except for Friday the 25th). It's quite an event, with a huge O gauge layout as well as our own.

I hope many of you got to some of the spots on this month's layout tours. There were a number of ones open that had never been on our previous tours. We got to see some new various building techniques, as well as 90+ % finished layouts (nothing is ever 100%).

We are now into what traditionally has been a model railroader's most productive period for building and fine-tuning their layout, rolling stock and structures. Also, it is a period for both whittling down those shelves of unbuilt kits, as well as for restocking them at the many train shows and flea markets. Will we never learn? Remember in my letter from last December. I talked about New Year's resolutions, and emphasized my one resolution. TO MAKE PROGRESS. I guess I was doing pretty well until I broke my hand in September but that makes it easy for me. For 2016, I'm again going for at least some progress on every single item on the list that has been started, or needs to be,

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone and their spouses at our annual awards dinner Friday the 11th at the Coppertop. While the reservation deadline will have passed by the time you get this, you can contact Lee Sheffield to see if there are any cancellations, or other openings.

We previously announced that Mike Oster was stepping down as Chairman of the Great Berea Train Show. I am now pleased to note that David James has stepped up to take overall charge of the show. His Right Hand Man will be Dave Flebbe, whom you will see running the setup and solving dealer problems at the show. As we previously announced, the 2016 Show will be October 1st & 2nd. There will be a number of positions that we need to have filled – PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE contact David (either one) to volunteer. Remember – the proceeds from this show represent virtually all of our division's funding.

Long time member Chuck Bergie has left Cleveland for warmer western weather. Dave Williams has volunteered to take over his position as the Division's NOARS representative.

Chuck Klein has stepped up to head the nominating committee again this year. If you are interested in running for an office, or for a Director position, please talk to Chuck ASAP.

We also have a great assortment of CD's and DVD's for loan to you. In addition to the really great Scotty Mason selection, we have about 100 from NMRA National Convention clinics. In fact, when I attended a recent Division Five meeting, the scheduled clinician had to postpone, and a DVD on advanced laser kit techniques by NMRA President Charlie Getz was show. It was quite informative. See Chuck to take one or more home with you. AND – see me if you want to take home one of the FastTracks turnout construction kits for a winter project. The kits contain an instructional DVD as well.

Hope to see you at the awards dinner – if not, see you in January. Happy Holidays.

Steve Kaplan
Superintendent - Division 4 MCR

General Meeting Minutes from November 13, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:28 pm by Superintendent Steve Kaplan, .

Membership Chair Bill Ferry called for new members and visitors to introduce themselves. It was noted that a number of the Medina 4H Club members were in attendance. Bill stated that we're currently at 219 members.

Steve invited everyone to go to Baker's Square after the meeting for food and fellowship.

Steve asked all veterans in attendance to stand up in honor of Veteran's Day. A sizable number of those present stood up.

Steve reported for Treasurer Greg Noeth that Division assets are \$63,100.

Larry Madson, Clinic Chair, said that today's clinic would be given by George Keller on his method of making benchwork. No clinic in December due to the Banquet. In January, Bruce Bowie will discuss the making of the structure that was recently a topic of an AP clinic. A clinic for repairing your bad order cars is being planned.

Gary Schaefer reported on Training Day, stating that 126 visitors came to the event, with many of them staying for quite a while. Gary thanked everyone who helped and said that he was in the process of notifying all door prize winners.

John Hemsath, Layout Tour Co-Chair, said that 25 to 35 people had visited each layout on the previous Saturday's tour, and reminded everyone that the coming Sunday tour would be in the far western part of the Division and would include four layouts not previously on a Division tour.

Assistant Superintendent Lee Sheffield said that the Division's Holiday Party/Awards Banquet would be on Friday December 11, 2015 (regular meeting night) at the Coppertop facility in Valley City on Route 303 (see details elsewhere in this Flatwheel). Lee said that the Division picnic would be held at the Northeast Ohio Live Steamers on July 23, 2016.

Modular Committee Chair Scott Benson said that application had been made for the modular group to set up at the National Train Show in Indianapolis in July 2016, and that the Hub Division would be joining us for a proposed layout measuring about 60 x 100 feet. Modules will be set up tomorrow at the Berea Library, and at the Lorain Trees and Trains Festival from the Saturday after Thanksgiving through December 27th. The Lakeland December 20th Train Show would also have modules on display. Members interested in joined the modular group were encouraged to contact Larry Madson for module kits.

Dave Lawler, Contest Chair, said that there were 16 entries in the evening's contest. No contest in December; January's contest would be for an online structure fitting into a 2 inch by 4 inch surface.

Steve reported that Company Store DVD's would be available tonight in Chuck Klein's absence but merchandise would not.

Dave Flebbe covered the evening's raffle and indicated that many fine items were available.

Steve gave a brief review of the Great Berea Train Show income and expense, noting that we had 2400 paid admissions with a count of children in attendance still being calculated. Profit appears to be \$10,600, pending any other income or expense.

Steve then presented the 2016 budget as proposed by the BOD, along with proposed grants for 2015. Expenses not appearing in the PowerPoint slide were mentioned: the *Age of Steam* field trip cost \$1930; FastTracks purchases for member use were \$800; and \$900 had been allocated to the purchase of an additional power unit for the modular group. Gary Schaeffer made a motion to accept the budget, which was seconded by Bill Kovacs. The motion was approved by the membership in attendance.

Scott Benson reminded everyone that the Midwest Railroad Preservation Society (also called the West 3rd St Roundhouse) would have open houses on November 28th and December 12th.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Dave Williams
Acting Secretary

BOD Meeting Minutes from November 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Steve Kaplan at 7:06 pm

In attendance: Steve Kaplan, Lee Sheffield, Greg Noeth, Dave Williams, Joe Kurilec MMR, John Hemsath, Larry Madson, Gary Schaefer, Bill Ferry, Ben Lanza, Dave Lawler, Mike Oster, Fred Obreza, Dave Flebbe, Jim Moore, Scott Benson, and Chuck Klein.

Gary Schaefer presented marketing results from his committee's *Great Berea Train Show* (hereafter train show) survey, including handouts indicating respondents' zip codes and how they learned about the show. Results were also broken down by first time attendees and returning attendees. There were 429 survey respondents, which represent approximately 17% of all attendees. A casual review of the material indicated that show flyers remained the most significant method of advertising, followed by website, television, word-of-mouth, and social media. Gary stated that his committee would continue to review the results in detail, to include fine tuning of television usage – possibly buying specific times at higher cost for fewer ads.

Steve Kaplan stated that consideration should be given to having the train show's marketing committee take over all marketing responsibilities for the Division.

Treasurer Greg Noeth provided a handout showing income & expense for this year's train show compared to last year's show. A brief discussion followed to clarify all items and indicate minor corrections (e.g., 2014's Dealer Prize Money was corrected to be \$300 from the stated \$325). The sheet indicated a net income for this year's show as tentatively being \$10,238.11, subject to additional adjustments.

A handout of the 2016 Proposed Budget was given out. Steve Kaplan began budget discussion with a line-by-line query of additional (or less) 2015 expenses not represented on the sheet. Small adjustments were done where necessary. Scott Benson indicated that due to an increase in both the number of modules in use and the number of separate layout setups an additional power supply was needed by the Modular Layout committee. The cost was stated to be \$900. The Board voted its approval of this purchase and it was determined that be part of 2015 expenses. Expense and income were in balance at the conclusion of 2015 discussion [note: balancing is not a requirement]. Projected 2016 income and expense were reviewed next, with committee chairs having either provided amounts to Greg Noeth earlier in the week or during the meeting. It was decided that \$2700 of the 2015 budget remained available for distribution to other organizations: Lorain Growth & Tourism Committee \$500; Medina 4H \$500; Mad River & Nickel Plate Museum in Bellevue \$500; Polaris Vocational Center Criminal Justice (provides students performing our train show security) \$500; NMRA Magazine renewals for libraries \$60; Midwest Railroad Preservation Society \$500; and Cuyahoga Valley S Gaugers \$200. Membership will be asked their opinions of dispersal of the remaining grant money.

Steve Kaplan announced that David James has accepted the chair position for the Great Berea Train Show. Dave was unable to attend the meeting due to his work schedule but had indicated in earlier communication with Steve that he wanted Dave Flebbe to be his assistant.

Joe Kurilec MMR reported on his study with Al Lee on possible alternative sites for the train show. They had identified 9 sites (listed on a handout) and had visited 8 of them. Their impression was that we're getting a good value by using the Berea Fairgrounds but that having a backup plan is a prudent measure. Joe said that they would continue their research.

Mike Oster said that reinstatement of the train show's parking pass may be warranted. While the parking passes were discontinued several years back when vehicles were banned within the gates during show times, it is still sometimes necessary for vendors to temporarily drive in to drop off additional merchandise. These vendors are often delayed as they explain their situation at the gates. The new pass should contain text explaining the rules of use, which would remind exhibitors that only short visits within the gates will be permitted and no parking is allowed.

Lee Sheffield reported that Training Day (November 8) had been a success with 127 guests attending, but he was disappointed that only 6 Division members were on hand to demonstrate techniques (additional members were present to staff other positions). It was agreed that the Black River Landing Transportation Center in Lorain was a good venue for the Training Day event and is expected to be the location again next year.

Dave Williams
Acting Secretary

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm

Membership

Bill and Billy Ferry, Membership

Russell Conser
Michael Drops
Frank Feko
William Ferry
Mark Filippell
John Hemsath
Patricia Henning
Charles Klein
Jeffrey Lauren
Scott Mc Kee

Marcia Mehalic
Bob Orlando
John Pesuit
Lee Soule
Charles Spencer
Stephen Twarogowski
Michael Vollmar
Dennis Whitaker
Joseph Witouski
Ed Woskowicz

... and somehow missed from last month's list:

Billy Ferry

Raffle Report

Hello everyone. Once again it is that time of year for the great "Holiday Raffle" at the awards banquet. We will once again have many great prizes, including the "Henning Picture", something for everyone, for ladies, gents and for young and old. Come join the fun. Happy Holidays to all.

The Raffle Dudes

Layout Tours

John Hemsath

Thanks go to Dave Bitte, Aaron DuPont, Jerry Krueger, John Puch, Bruce Bowie, Dick Collinwood, George Keller, Jim Moore, and Fred Wagner who opened their layouts in November. The average attendance at each layout was 35. Four of the layouts had never been open to the Division before! Thank you, Gentlemen!

If you've got a layout, we'd like to see it. It makes no difference if it's a mature layout or one, like Bruce Bowie's, that is just starting construction. In addition to the good time the layout owners have sharing their work with people who can appreciate their efforts, each owner, and his assistants, earn three time units toward their Volunteer AP certificate.

Next spring the layout tours will be on Sunday, May 15 and Saturday, May 21. If you would like to open your layout, please contact John Hemsath at HemsathJ@gmail.com.

The contest featured Truss Rod Freight or Passenger Cars.
There were 16 entries and 50 votes cast. Great participation!

1st: Paul Novak Jr.

2nd: Jeff Lauren

3rd: (tie) John Hemsath, George Keller

Honorable Mention: (tie) Jim Grell, Dave Lawler, Rich Mayich, Tom McInerney

Point Standings:

1st: Dave Lawler (9)

2nd: Jim Grell (8)

3rd: (tie) Rich Mayich, George Keller (7)

4th: (tie) John Hemsath, Bill Kovacs, Tom McInerney, Paul Novak Jr., Dave Williams (5)

5th: (tie) George Gelehrter, Jeff Lauren (4)



Remember there is NO CONTEST in December so everyone can attend the Awards Banquet without the pressure of having a model ready for the contest.

There will be a contest in January that will feature On Line Structures, that is structures owned by a railroad such as handcar sheds, tool sheds, section houses, yard offices, gateman's shanties etc. not to exceed 2" x 4" in overall size.

Porter Library Display

We have once again provided model railroading items for display at Porter Library in Westlake. The library is located near the southwest corner of Center Ridge and Dover Center Roads (entrances off of each road). Be sure to stop by! While you're there, be sure to look at the paintings in the side hall and see if you recognize one artist in particular.



The Clinic Corner

by Larry Madson

December 2015

No program in December. We'll see you at the annual awards banquet at the Copper Top in Valley City.

January 2016

Bruce Bowie will describe techniques used in building his AP structure.

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



George Keller presented his benchwork techniques to the membership during the November clinic. Topics included the use of poplar or steel, foam as a layout surface base and inverted deck posts as sturdy and relatively inexpensive bench legs.

2016 Elections

We will be holding elections in 2016 Superintendent Steve Kaplan has asked me to form a nominating committee. We have spoken to all current Board members. With the exception of one director at large everyone has indicated they are interested in remaining on the board. We will announce slate of candidates in the January Flatwheel. Anyone who wishes to run beyond the slate as presented may gather a petition signed by 10 current members (NMRA # required) and note what position they want to run for. This petition should be presented to nominating committee at February Division Meeting.

Regards
Chuck Klein

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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 December 30, 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

Trustee East
 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

Appointed
 Great Berea Train Show
 Mike Oster; transitioning to David James
 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
 Company Store
 Chuck Klein
 Webmaster
 Ben Lanza

Clinics
 Larry Madson
 Refreshments
 Joe Filipiak

Flatwheel Editor
 Dave Williams
 Training Day
 Gary Schaefer

Conventions

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

Dec 5 & 6, 2015 Cuyahoga Valley & West Shore Model Railroad Club Open House 11 to 4 \$3 donation, under 6 free Olmsted Falls Depot, 25802 Garfield Ave, Olmsted Falls, OH

Dec 5 & 6, 2015 Youngstown Model Railroad Club Open House 12 to 6 \$4
751 N. Four Mile Run Rd. Youngstown Ohio 44515

Dec 5, 2015 Marion Union Station Assn Train & Toy Show 11 to 4 \$5, \$12 family, under 9 free
Marion Union Station 532 West Center St, Marion OH

Dec 13, 2015 Massillon Train and Toy Show 10 to 3 \$5 Adults, 12 & under free
Massillon Knights of Columbus Hall 988 Cherry Road NW. Massillon, Ohio 44647

Dec 20, 2015 Christmas Train Show 10 to 3:30 Adults \$6 6-12 \$3, under 6 free; Active military free
Lakeland Community College (AFC) Main Gym 7700 Clocktower Dr. Kirtland, Ohio 44094.

Jan 02, 2016 Snow Dogs Train Show Cuyahoga Valley S Gauge Assoc. 10:00:00 AM 3:00 PM
\$6.00 UAW Hall (Parma) 5615 Chevrolet Blvd Parma OH 44130

Jan 24 & 25, 2016 Springfield MA Show

Lorain's Trees and Trains is covered elsewhere in this Flatwheel.

Thanks to Tom Pescha for providing information for most of these events. Some event information is from their flyers. Double check information with a separate source before making plans to attend - dates, times, and cost (etc.) subject to being wrong from the copying process.

Division Holiday Party & Awards Dinner

We'll be back at the Coppertop Party Center, 5740 Center Rd, Valley City, OH for our Holiday Party & Awards Banquet. The date is Friday December 11, 2015, which is our normal 2nd Friday meeting date. Reservation are required. Contact Lee Sheffield to check for any remaining seats. Special visit by Santa and another great auction. Chicken Alfredo, Prime Rib, and Chicken Marsala. Same DJ as last year. Social hour starts at 6 pm and dinner will begin at 7 pm.

Annual International Trees & Model Trains Display

Weekends - November 28 – December 27 (closed Dec 25).

319 Black River Lane, Lorain, Ohio 44052 - See www.lorainportauthority.com for directions

Twenty three different Christmas trees representing Italy, Poland, Germany, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Scotland, the Netherlands and others will be on display.

Large model train display which includes 9 trains on a multi-track system. The Division Four Module Group is again participating in this event (thanks to those of you staffing the display)..

Fridays 5:00-9:00 pm Saturdays 4:00 – 9:00 pm Sundays 3:00 – 7:00 pm

Free to the public, donations appreciated. Sponsored by the Lorain Growth Tourism Committee.

Division Yahoo Group

by Dave Williams

I started the Division Yahoo Group as a way for members to communicate with each other on related topics between meetings. I also used it to announce when I'd posted the Flatwheel online. The use of emails has superceded both of those reasons in recent years and the Yahoo Group has been rarely used. As a result, I'll probably be shutting the Yahoo Group down in the near future unless I hear complaints to the contrary.

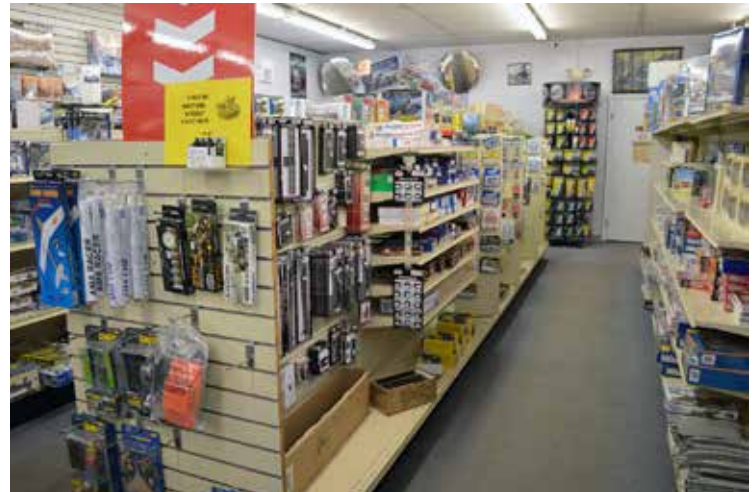
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Parma Hobby is located on Ridge Road between Brookpark Road (route 17) and Pearl Road (route 42). They have hobby supplies for all types of modelers, trains, planes, car kits and more.

During the year they sponsor several model contests and "clinics" of all types. This year I attended clinics for air brushing and Woodland Scenic products. They add a nice touch by serving refreshments!

Besides model railroad items, Parma Hobby has many types of model kits, tools and scratch building supplies. There is a nice selection of Walther kits and other brands along with Atlas track supplies.



There are quite a few complete train sets on the shelves along with car kits, paints, scenery items and a large Lionel inventory. Sandy, Bob and the staff are helpful and there's always fresh coffee and cookies. That's why I go!

All photos provided by Joe Kurilec MMR

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