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



The 4H Model Railroad group displayed their modules at the Medina Co. Fair in August. It was an impressive presentation. Note the banner.

Fan Trip to Scenic Express!

See page 8 for details.

Division Four's next meeting will be Friday September 9, 2016

Social time starts at 7:00 pm Business meeting 7:30 pm

Church of the Redeemer 23500 Center Ridge Road Westlake Ohio 44145

(just east of Center Ridge and Clague)



Division website: www.div4.org

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Herbie:

Help Every Railroader Become Injury Exempt



HERBIE'S RUMBLINGS

September 2016

Here we are again, after a really busy summer. Taking the events in no particular order,

A number of our members received awards in the contests at the National Convention in Indy in July. Jim Grell took both 1st and 2nd place for scratch-built Freight Cars, as well as being the People's Choice for Favorite Train; Ron Morgan received the Chairman's Award for Best Fan Trip; and our Module Group, with Division One and the Hub Division took 1st place as a Group. There are a number of pictures of the layout in the latest NMRA magazine, including one panoramic view of yours truly's modules. Jim's 1st place car is on page 27. If I left anyone out, we'll announce it at the meeting.

Our Division picnic was held on July 23rd at the Northern Ohio Live Steamers. It was our best attended one in the last 5 or 6 years, and we can certainly thank the weather gods for their co-operation. Thanks to Dave and Lee for making it such a success.

Nineteen of you made it down to the Medina County Fair last month and stopped in to visit with the 4-H group. You were also asked to choose which of their modules was the "best". That was tough – on a scale of 1 to 10, does a "10" by a 15 year old or an "8" by an 8 year old get your vote? At the September meeting, we will have a drawing for the Spectrum B&O GE 40 Ton Switcher among the nineteen who signed in.

This meeting is probably your last chance to sign up for the field trip to Scenic Express. Details are elsewhere in this issue.

In June I attended the Mid Continent Region Convention in Council Bluffs, and later this month Patty and I are going to the Northeast Regional in Albany. Many of you have also discovered how much they can get out of a Regional convention. If you missed ours in Columbus, you should try attending one of our adjacent Regions' annual event. I know a number of the Division Four members will be going to the North Central Region's convention (It's next month in Livonia, Michigan), and some of the Kentucky and West Virginia members go to the Southeastern or Mid-eastern region events.

One realization I took away from Council Bluffs is that I now realize how lucky we are to be able to go between the two furthest points in our Region in 6 or 7 hours. The MCoR has slightly over half of our membership, but from one end to the other is about 1,300 plus miles. The 80 or so attendees at the convention seemed to be mostly from the Omaha and Kansas City areas.

Again, I want to point out again that you can get some great ideas from what the other Divisions are doing by visiting their websites and reading their newsletters. The easiest way to find them is to start at http://www.midcentral-region-nmra.org/divisions2.html . In fact, you can access every Division or Region in the NMRA by going to the NMRA website and hitting the "Regions" button on line three.

Don't forget to take home a few DVD's from our library. See Chuck in the Company Store. And, see me if you want to check out a set of Fast Tracks tools. Several members have used them now. We have #4, #6 and #8 turnout kits available. Also available are other turnout fixtures owned by individual members who have agreed to loan them out – these include a crossover and a gauntlet track. See you at the meeting.

Steve Kaplan Superintendent - Division 4 MCR

General Meeting Minutes: June 2016

Meeting started at 7:30 pm with a greeting to the members from Superintendent Steve Kaplan.

Membership Co-Chair Bill Ferry introduced new members and visitors. 209 members in the Division. Reminder to wear name badges along with an explanation of color coding.

Steve invited everyone to attend Baker's Square after the meeting.

Treasurer Greg Noeth reported assets of \$48,800, after making two payments to the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds for the October Train Show.

Larry Madson, Clinic Chair, said that Brian Barnt would be explaining 3D printing during the evening's clinic. For the 2016-17 season, Darrel Swift has volunteered to do 3 clinics. With that, there area only a few clinic slots to be filled.

Scott Benson, Modular Committee Chair, said that everyone was working hard for their layout display at the upcoming National Convention in Indianapolis. A work party is scheduled for tomorrow (6/11/16). Larry has some module kits ready to be purchased.

John Hemsath, Layout Tour Chair, thanked everyone who opened their layouts to us for the recent tours. John announced that, after eight years, he was stepping down as chair of the Layout Tours, with the search for a new person to head the committee already underway. November will be the next month for tours.

Bruce Brintnall MMR, Achievement Program Chair, presented Ron Morgan with his AP Master Builder Scenery certificate.

Dave Lawler, Contest Chair, announced the May contest winners and asked them to briefly explain the origin and techniques associated with their entries. Show-and-Tell items were described by their owners. Dave then presented awards to this season's winners. Finally, Dave announced the categories for next season.

Lee Sheffield said that the picnic would be on July 23rd at the Northeast Ohio Live Steamers. Hot dogs and brats provided; please bring a side dish.

Scott Benson talked about the September 17 field trip to Scenic Express. \$20 to hold your reservation, departure point will be determined, leaving around 7:30 am.

Steve announced that the next BOD meeting will be Saturday August 20th at Jim Moore's church near Sandusky.

Steve reminded members to sign up on the Train Show volunteer sheets.

Chuck Klein gave a list of products available at the Company Store.

Mike Klein described raffle items for the evening.

Bob Orlando announced that there would be a September 10 train Show at the Mayfield Hts high school 10 to 4. A NMRA membership table will be recruiting new members.

George Keller said that the Mad River & Nickel Plate Museum is celebrating their 40th anniversary with special events.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

David M. Williams

Secretary

No business meeting was held at the picnic.

BOD Meeting Minutes August 20, 2016

Meeting started by Steve Kaplan, Superintendent, at 10:04 am.

Steve reported that some bills were turned in late for last year's Train Show, which can't be allowed to happen again since it affects correctly identifying funds available for outgoing donations at year end.

Great Berea Train Show:

Dave James, Great Berea Train Show Chair, stated that revenues to date for this year's show stand at a little over \$11,000 with 316 tables sold (about 400 tables will be available).

David provided a list of paid or committed vendors for the show. Dave requested some help in contacting a couple of expected vendors who haven't committed yet.

An accurate scale diagram of the buildings for table setup is expected to be done within the next week.

The dealer appreciation raffle has been held (list provided). Winning dealers will be contacted, with checks awarded on Sunday of the show.

Identification procedures for show personnel (dealers, layout staff, Division volunteers) has been worked on. There are vehicle passes being used – they are large enough to be seen as they drive through the gate.

A complete budget isn't complete yet (David provided copies of last year's budget for reference). A brief discussion was held on the requirement for an accurate statement of net income from the show. The Board needs this figure to prepare the 2017 Division budget, with time for membership approval (well) before fiscal year end in December. Fairgrounds cost went up about \$165, which has already been paid.

On marketing, new visitors came in from social media as well as television spots, with social media being much lower in cost per person. This year's TV ads are the same arrangement as last year through cable companies, without any ads in prime time – 978 ads altogether. This year's ads have some stiff competition from political advertising. General appreciation indicated for Tom Phesha's work in support of getting the word out on the show.

Dave questioned whether or not we should be considering an increase in vendor table cost, which is apparently much lower than other local shows – it may have been ten years or more since our last increase. Our gate price should remain the same in the near future.

A discussion was held about accurately counting paying visitors. Bruce Bowie stated that in the years that he was Treasurer, the head count was fairly steady. David stated that Comic-Con will be holding an event at the same time using one of the building in our show's area. Discussion considering allowing the Comic-Con people to come into our show at reduced, or perhaps no addition cost to them.

Ormandy's is donating our raffle prize again, an LGB Christmas starter set. Can we contact more people for additional prizes? Dave will ask vendors in his next letter.

Surveys will be taken again this year, with prizes to help motivate people to respond. .

David is aiming to identify all people ahead of time who are coming in as vendors and layout personnel. These people will get their wristbands (through the primary person in their organization) before showing up at the Fairgrounds. Wristbands may be mailed ahead of time. Lists will be at both gates of all people expected for vendors and layouts. Some details remain, which David will work on.

Membership table will demonstrate projects again.

continued on next page

BOD Minutes continued from previous page

Steve reported that 19 members visited the 4H layout at the Medina County Fair this year and will participate in a raffle for a Spectrum engine.

Ron Morgan has agreed to take over the Layout Tour chair.

Chuck Klein (Company Store) reported that he'd sold 12 of the reefer cars at the National convention and still has some of the hopper cars. Steve said that he would work to persuade the people in charge of conventions to allow free space for divisions and regions to sell their project cars and structures.

Bill stated that Dave Flebbe didn't want to post his cell phone number publicly for train show contact. Bill asked the Board to consider getting one or more temporary cell phones for train show use. Steve indicated that the phone for Dave Flebbe could be a train show expense and referred the topic to the train show committee for their deliberation.

Bus fan trip: David James said that only 14 people had signed up and asked if the trip should be opened to outside of the Division. Steve said he expected more sign-ups at the September meeting.

Gary Shaffer said that Training Day will be Sunday November 6th. Steve said that he would like to see more demonstrations. Gary said that he could send out a list of activities he'd like to see being shown and ask for a response. Gary said that a counselor was needed at the event for the Boy Scout merit badge. Ron Morgan will be asked, with Dave Williams as a backup (David James will be out of town that day). Consideration of people bringing in their modules to work on as a demonstration. Gary would like a representative from the 4H group.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

Goodbye to Parma Hobby

Wishing Bob, Sandy and Chris the best. Thank you for your years of service to our hobby.

Company Store

The Company Store sold a dozen MDT Reefers at the Indianapolis Convention. We have nine four number sets.(2 steel,2 wood) remaining, There are eight N&SS hoppers left, one four number set remains. Division 4 patches, limited number of MCR Region Patches, Hats, see Chuck about Division 4 shirts.

Membership

Bill and Billy Ferry, Membership

The Division welcomes these New Members from May, June, & July 2016.

William Marquardt Scott Kogler Doug Seifert Jeff Creary Kenneth Kosarko

We wish to send Happy Birthday Wishes to the following September birthday members:

James Bartholomew
Lawrence Brintnall
Kenneth Bruns
Joseph Jones
Andrew Kachmarik
Joe Kurilec
Fred Obreza
Mark Painter
Michael Paolella
Lee Sheffield
Wayne Tucker
Brian Weisman
George Woodard

MEMBERS: If you look for, but don't find, your birthday in the Flatwheel, it is because the Member Database does not include your birthdate information. If you'd like it to be added, please email Bill Ferry, Membership, at ClevelandBill@mac.com or call (440) 570-2112 and leave a message.

Check your September issue of Railroad Model Craftsman for a letter from Joe Kurilec MMR.

Great Berea Train Show

First work day is Friday September 30th. Show is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday October 1-2 and those are work days for us as well. Berea Fairgrounds are located off Bagley Rd in Middleburg Hts OH

Great Berea Train Show Needs Your Help

One task that the Marketing Committee of The Great Berea Train Show needs YOUR help on is the distribution of our flyers. I have a list of locations that ought to have our GBTS Flyer. I know many of you are DEDICATED deliverers of flyers to those on my list AND to other locations. Here's how I need YOUR help:

- 1) Volunteer to deliver to the locations on my list that are near to your home or work. This saves others a drive and/or saves the Division a lot of postage.
- 2) If you're already delivering, send me the name/address of your drop-off locations, so that we can track where our flyers have been sent.

We are trying to make this an easy, repeatable process for this and next year and beyond. We also want to measure the impact of all of our marketing tools, including flyers, TV ads, online, etc.

Look for the list at our next monthly meeting. But send your information now: ClevelandBill@mac.com or (440) 570-2112.

THANK YOU!

Bill Ferry
Marketing Committee Member
Great Berea Train Show

Train Show Volunteer Sign Up

The September meeting is your last chance to sign up to work the Great Berea Train Show. Some divisions charge dues but your dues are paid by your work during this show. Work days are Friday September 30, Saturday October 1 and Sunday October 2. If you can't make it to the meeting, come to the Fairgrounds (preferably on Friday) and see where you'll be needed. Your work entitles you to free admission at any time during the show - please don't embarrass yourself by only claiming to work just to get a wristband! Thanks as always, in advance to everyone who makes this show a success.

Event Listing in the Flatwheel

The Flatwheel is the official publication of Division 4. If you announce an event during the business meeting, please be sure that you have sent your announcement to the Flatwheel in advance. Send your announcements to dave_wms@sbcglobal.net and indicate that it's for the Flatwheel somewhere in the subject line.

Dave Williams Editor

Scenic Express Field Trip

On Saturday September 17, Division 4 is sponsoring a field trip that's going to sojourn over to western Pennsylvania and visit operations of Scenic Express. We will be leaving from the parking lot of the IX Center at 7:30 am, making a coffee stop on the way. Once at Scenic Express we will have the opportunity to see their production facility, visit the warehouse, do a little project, have some lunch and do some shopping.

In the early afternoon we will wander our way towards downtown Pittsburgh and visit the P&LE passenger station -or Station Square as it is better known. There are a number of shops and restaurants at this location of where we will have dinner this evening. There's also an opportunity to do some trainspotting: CSX line runs between the station and the river and several lines of the NS are up on the side of the Mount Washington. If the weather is nice and we have time, you might like a ride on the funicular at Mount Washington on the Monongahela River. It is the oldest continuously operating funicular in the United States.

After all that fun we'll wander our way back toward Cleveland and you'll be dropped off at the IX Center.

Trip cost is only \$20. So sign up at the September meeting or contact our Treasurer, Greg Noeth.

September 2016 Darrall Swift Introduction to The Anaconda Mining Company

Introduction to the Anaconda Mining Company, and the smelter they operated in Black Eagle(Great Falls), Montana as presented on DVD by the City of Great Falls Historical Society. This is the lead-in as to why I model North Central Montana.

This program is an introduction to two following programs to be presented by Darrall on the Burlington Northern/Milwaukee Road in North Central Montana.

Clinics Wanted

Help!!!! I need a few more for programs for 2016 -2017. If any of you would like to share your modeling techniques, know of someone I could contact for a program, or have a suggestion for a program topic, please contact me. If you have contacted me previously about a program, please take time to remind me again.

Larry Madson Imadson@roadrunner.com 440-934-2643 or 440-864-2305 Thanks, 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.

Raffle Report

Larry Madson

Welcome back everyone. Time to start a new fall season of railroading. September's raffle table will have another fine assortment of prizes. Once again something for everyone.

The Raffle Dudes

The Joint Division 4, Division 1 and Hub Division HO modular layout was awarded First Place for Group Layout at the 2016 National Train Show!

Our layout had about 80 modules (depending on how you count pieces of loops, junctions, etc.), and 340 linear feet of modules. That's over 680 feet of mainline, which equates to more than 11 scale miles!! We had two junctions that gave us six legs of railroad to run on. It took about 30-45 minutes to take a train through all 6 legs, depending on traffic. Some of the factors that contributed to our award:

- Cooperation between 3 divisions
- Uniqueness of our layout configuration and operations. Traffic at the junctions, with Hub's 3-ball signaling, was a real crowd-pleaser.
- A high percentage of "finished" modules; and those that weren't had plenty of scenery/trackwork to give an idea of what the module is about.
- Just like our hobby, we had something for everyone. Beautifully scenicked modules, prototypical scenes and details, operational interest, signaling, and a wide range of industries and other scene subjects.

Division 4 had a lot of new modules, highlighted by Dan Kovacs 32' of modules with staging integrated behind the backdrop and Adam Woodie's now-"complete" Susquehanna loop. Others, still-in-work, added to the quality of the layout.

We had about 28 staffers for the display, and plenty were on-hand at all times keeping the railroad busy. Our three young new members, Jacob, Nolan and Dominic, were able to join us during the weekend to run trains and enjoy the show.

Thanks to all the participants for the significant efforts you put into your modules and the layout, your time and financial commitments to attend the 2016 NTS, and the substantial amount of time everyone put in staffing the layout and running trains. What we did at 2016 NTS is what being part of a modular layout group is all about!

Pictures follow on the next two pages.

Photographer's note on the group photo: What an easy shot! Most photogenic group I've seen in years!

National Train Show continued



Group Layout First Place Award plaque

photo: D Williams



The Division 4, Division 1 and Hub Division staff for 2016 NTS



photos provided by Scott Benson

A portion of Dan Kovacs new group of modules





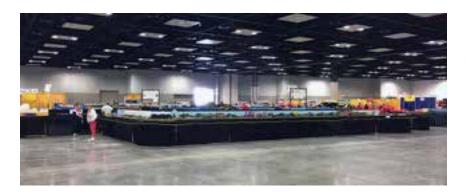
Division 1 brought a loop, corner and enough regular modules to give them a leg of the layout.

Tower operators Scott Carter and Rudy Slovacek (Hub) try to clear a traffic jam at the two junctions. Hub's bridge module connected the two junctions and allowed staff to get from one side of the layout to the other.

National Train Show continued



Adam Woodie's Susquehanna loop module



The joint 50' x 95' layout.



The Hub Diamond, leading to Division 4 modules on three legs of the layout.

September 2016 Flatwheel



Union Depot coupon provided through Joe Kurelic MMR. Offer subject to change without notice.

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 vour 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). ments 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 September 22, 2016 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 lakeshorenyc@yahoo.com

Secretary

Dave Williams dave_wms@sbcglobal.net (440 838-4996

Treasurer

Greg Noeth ginoeth@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 Gary Schaefer

Trustee at Large Brian Haas

Trustee at Large

John Hemsath hemsathj@gmail.com (440) 871-9676

Great Berea Train Show

Appointed

David James h (440) 717-1778 c (440) 785-9907

david.j@brtcharter.com

Achievement

Membership

Bruce Brintnall MMR

Bill & Billy Ferry

Lavouts Ron Morgan

Contests

Modules

David Lawler

Scott Benson

N.O.A.R.S. Representative

Historian/Archivist Frank Bongiovanni

Dave Williams

Raffle

Mike Klein

Webmaster Ben Lanza

Company Store

Chuck Klein

Refreshments

Clinics

Joe Filipiak

Larry Madson

Training Day Gary Schaefer

Flatwheel Editor

Dave Williams

TRAINing Day

Greetings Division 4 members

Training Day 2016 is on Sunday November 6th. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is again at The Transportation Center at Black River Landing, Lorain, Ohio. Below is a list of areas and topics for Training Day. The MIN.# is the minimum number of members for each.

ADEA /TODIO	DESCRIPTION	MIN.	
AREA /TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	#	
Registration Table	Welcome, sign in. sign up	2-3	
Make It Take It	Help build kits	2	
			Larry Mad-
Electronics	Model railroad electronics, soldering, wiring, etc.	1-2	son
DCC Installation	Demonstrate DCC installation	1	Lee Sheffield
Fast Track Switches	Build / demonstrate Fast Track Switches	1	
Car Tuning	Demonstrate how to fine tune cars	1-2	
Create Scenery	Making scenery from nature or other	2	Brian Haas
Boy Scout Merit Badge	Discuss/ begin Railroading Merit Badge etc,	1	
Weathering	Weather rolling stock, locomotives buildings etc.	1-2	
Kit bashing / Scratch Build-			
ing	Build Build	1-2	
Creating Backdrops	Using paint, photos, etc.	1	
Membership Table	Membership and Door Prizes	2-3	Bill Ferry
Make it real	Realistic scenery: Ballasting, grass rocks etc.	1-2	
Model RR 101	For beginners: What Scale DCC v Analog etc	1-2	
Your Project	What you need to work on Kit, Module etc	2	

Remember, you don't have to do a fancy presentation. Just do what you do! If you have and questions or would like to sign up for an item on the list or you have something else on your mind, please contact me.

Thank you. Gary Schaefer

Trains.ohio@yahoo.com

440-759-3097

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Sunday November 6. 2016 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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MODEL RAILROAD ELECTRONICS

DCC vs. ANALOG

WHAT SCALE IS RIGHT FOR ME

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For More Information: http://www.div4trainingday.org Email: info@div4trainingday.org

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The Lorain Growth &

Tourism Committee



Fall Layout Tours

Ron Morgan, Layout Tour Chair

Save the dates! Details will be emailed to Division members as the time approaches.

Sunday Nov. 13, 2016

Cuyahoga Valley and Westshore Model Railroad Club

Joe Filipiak

Brian Haas

Ron Morgan

Saturday Nov. 19, 2016

John Hemsath

Dave Lawler

Tom McInerney

Steve Riddlebaugh

Crew Change

Thanks to John and Tom Hemsath for eight years of arranging layout tours for the Division, and to Ron Morgan as he takes over.

Flea Market

Saturday, October 22nd 10:30 am – 4:30 pm Sunday, October 23rd 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

The modular group will be operating at the Avon Lake Public Library and in conjunction with this popular event the Friends of the Library are hosting a railroad flea market. A limited number of tables are available at \$12 each for the entire weekend. For further information or to book a table, please contact Dave Lawler at 440-930-2096 or davelawler@oh.rr.com.

NOARS Meet at the Age of Steam Roundhouse

The Northern Ohio Association of Railroad Societies will be hosting a meet at the Age of Steam Roundhouse on Saturday October 2. This date conflicts with our train show but you should mark your calendar in case we have plenty of volunteers signed up for that day. (The date was the only one available for this event.) Advance registration required.

Contest Corner

by Dave Lawler

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in our recent contests, both those who entered models and those who took the time to vote. The quality and quantity of models entered was outstanding. I hope everyone attending the meetings enjoys seeing these models as much as I do. I have, what I hope, is a pretty interesting and diverse line-up of contests for this season. A few are based on suggestions from one of our members. So everyone please feel free to offer your ideas for things you like to see in future contests.

2016 – 2017 CONTEST SCHEDULE

September: A Grain Elevator (*)

October: A gondola or flat car loaded with steel sheet, plate, structurals or scrap. NO COILS

November: An ALCO/MLW Locomotive Steam or Diesel.

December: No Contest; Awards Banquet

January: An Observation Car or Business Car these generally go on the end of a train.

February: A Water Tank or Water Tower either railroad or industrial. (*)

March: No Contest; Auction

April: A "Patch Paint" Freight Car

This can be as simple as a fresh paint patch for the reweigh dates to an entire railroad name change like B&O to Chessie, GN to BN etc...

May: A Small Engine House or Car Repair Shed (*)

June: No contest - Final standings announced

(*) These subjects can be done as dioramas

One entry per member per contest.

photos provided by Joe Kurilec MMR

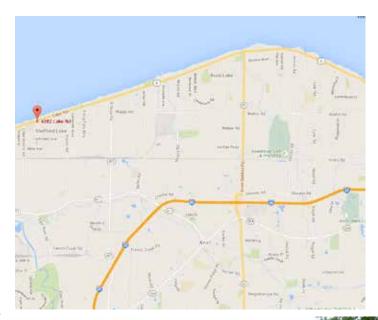
Uncle Ray's Trains

4282 Lake Rd. Sheffield Lake, Ohio 44054 440-933-0609 888-933-2999

> Uncle Ray's Trains is easy to find. Use I-90 or route 6.

Uncle Ray's Trains, located on the South side of Lake Road is a small but nice hobby shop. A side note. Several trips to Marc's in Great Northern shopping mall had Uncle Ray's Trains \$5.00 off purchases of \$25.00 or more coupons printed on the rear side of your shopping receipt. One trip to Marc's provided two coupons on my receipt!

As of this date I am not sure this promotion is still being used.







There is a great selection of Lionel train items RailKing products, tools, accessories and scenery products.



There are many HO scale items in stock along with track products from several manufacturers. This is one of those hidden hobby shops that is worth the time to visit!





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