



THE FLATWHEEL

VOL 52 NBR 01 JANUARY 2017



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



The December Awards Banquet featured these fine cakes - and no shortage of other desserts!

Division Four's next meeting will be Friday January 13, 2016

Social time starts at 7:00 pm
Business meeting 7:30 pm
Raffle and Clinic to follow

Church of the Redeemer
23500 Center Ridge Road
Westlake Ohio 44145

Division website: www.div4.org



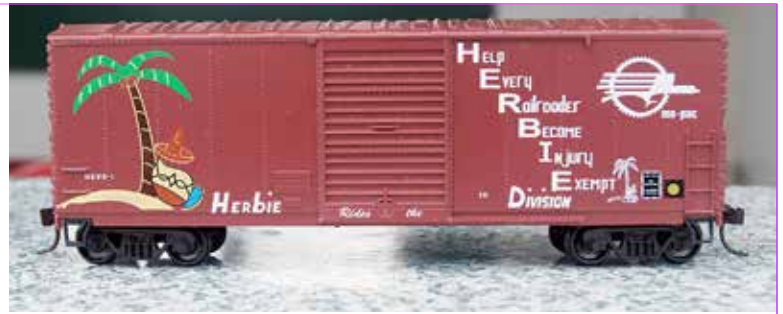
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Herbie:

**Help
Every
Railroader
Become
Injury
Exempt**



Herbie's Rumbblings from the North Coast Division January 2017

Welcome back – Those of you who missed our annual awards dinner last month really passed up a great opportunity to network, chat, eat, drink, be merry etc., as well as win some great raffle items.

We previously announced that Dave Williams will be stepping down from his stint (since 2005) as Editor of the Flatwheel. Bruce Bowie has been appointed to take over. There are big shoes to fill, but we have great confidence in Bruce. Dave – we can't thank you and/or praise you enough for the job you have done. We know that Bruce can count on you for advice and support, and we hope that you will continue to produce the high quality photographs we have gotten used to having. Another change - Bill Kovacs has been appointed to be the Division's N.O.A.R.S. Representative.

Dave isn't really giving up his editorial activities – he is taking over as Editor of the MCR's Kingpin from Bob Weinheimer.

The module group will be meeting on the 12th to review 2016's activities and to start mapping out a schedule for 2017. I hope a lot of you were able to get out to Lorain during December to see the great layout that we had up for 5 weekends. Scott Benson will have more to report at the January Division meeting.

Many of us have always considered the two shows at Niles to be the 3rd and 4th best shows in Northeast Ohio. The first one is coming up January 8th. The show has been moved from Niles to Salem, which will be a little closer for most of us. It is really more of a giant model railroad flea market than a conventional show.

We have switched the order of the February and March events around. That is, next month will be the annual Auction, conducted by perennial favorites Lee Sheffield and Frank Bongiovanni. The March meeting will be the Member Appreciation (i.e. Pizza) Night.

Please get out the Kingpin you recently received and get your registration in for Louisville. It will be a really great convention.

You can get some great ideas all year long about what other Divisions, as well as Regions, 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 in the NMRA by going to the NMRA website and hitting the "Regions" button on line three.

See you at the meeting.

Steve Kaplan, Superintendent

Division Four, MCR (The North Coast Division)

Awards Banquet

The annual Awards Banquet (which doubles as a holiday party) was again held at the Coppertop Party Center in Valley City (Ohio) on the second Friday in December. The event was arranged and mc'd by Assistant Superintendent Lee Sheffield with the help of others (Joanne Obreza's name was mentioned more than once, along with Patty Kaplan). A fine buffet style dinner was served promptly at 7 pm, with plenty of dessert following. The Bruce Brintnall MMR Member Award was presented by Superintendent Steve Kaplan to Dave Lawler for his ongoing organization of the monthly model contests. Our Santa wasn't able to make it this year (and we wish him the best for a speedy recovery), so the children (and adults) were entertained by the Elf on the Shelf. The Elf read *The Night Before Christmas* to the kids. Thanks to George Keller for coordinating the Elf's appearance. Various prizes were raffled off by The Raffle Dudes. The evening concluded with dancing to music provided by DJ Freddie James.

Dave Lawler (left) receives the Bruce Brintnall MMR Member Award from Steve Kaplan.



Raffle prizes and ticket placers.



Freddie James enhanced the evening with music.



Buffet line at a rare slow moment. The gentleman with the plate is Bill Kovacs.

A picture of the Elf appears later in this issue.

The Clinic Corner

January 2017

Darrall Swift

How to Research and Build an Accurate Roster of Freight Cars for August and September 1979

We'll look at how modelers can apply real AAR rules to their freight car rosters, how to read data off of freight cars, how to research freight cars in Official Railway Equipment Registers (ORER's), and being an educated consumer, we'll look at how to apply this data when purchasing models of freight cars.

February 2017

Division 4 Biannual Auction

Auctioneers Lee Sheffield and Frank Bongiovanni will be on hand to auction off your unwanted stuff. More information at www.div4.org

March 2017

Division 4 Member Appreciation Night aka "Pizza Party"

Come and enjoy an evening of fellowship and pizza with your fellow Division 4 members. The program will be a video, or videos, subjects to be announced next month.

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

lmadson@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.

Larry Madson

Membership

Bill and Billy Ferry

The Division welcomes the following new member:

Ian Sly, of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County.

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

Roy Cavan
William Deptowicz
Joe Dugan
Pauline Handmon
John Henning
John Janda
Daniel Laszlo
Jeffrey Martin
Edward Nowicki
Gary Schaefer
J Shultz
Ian Sly
Gary Sole
Adam Woodie

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.

+++++

General Meeting Minutes

There was no business meeting in December.

Module Group Annual Planning Meeting

The module group will meet on January 12, 2017, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, in the basement meeting room of the North Olmsted Library. This will be our annual discussion of events and other topics. All interested Division 4 members are welcome to attend.

Scott Benson

The Berea Union Depot Taverne has discontinued its discount offer to Division 4. We thank them for their generous support and encourage members to continue patronage of this restaurant. They continue to provide a great place to watch trains while dining.



Awards Banquet's Elf on the Shelf.

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. 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 January 26, 2017. 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 lakeshorenc@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 (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 (440) 717-1778 c (440) 785-9907
david.j@brtcharter.com

Achievement Membership
Bruce Brintnall MMR Bill & Billy Ferry

Layouts
Ron Morgan

Contests Modules
David Lawler Scott Benson

Historian/Archivist N.O.A.R.S. Representative
Frank Bongiovanni Bill Kovacs

Raffle Webmaster
Mike Klein Ben Lanza

Company Store Refreshments
Chuck Klein Joe Filipiak

Clinics
Larry Madson

Flatwheel Editor Training Day
Dave Williams Gary Schaefer

Company Store

Chuck Klein, Purveyor

We have our usual assortment of items:

- Division Hats \$20.00.
- Division Patches \$3.00 each with free MCR Convention Patch.
- Limited number of Region Patches \$4.00 each.
- MDT reefer kits
 - metal side \$20.00 ea.
 - wood side \$18.00 ea.
 - \$72.00 for all four numbers (2 wood side, 2 metal side)
- Region laser cut school house kits \$45.00 ea.
- Two RF&P box cars \$18.00 ea.
- One Midland Road triple hopper \$18.00.

NOARS

Bill Kovacs has agreed to take over as Division rep to the Northern Ohio Association of Railroad Societies. Bill is a seasoned veteran of the organization as he is also the rep for the Midwest Railway Preservation Society . Thanks Bill.

Notes from the Editor

Thanks to everyone who has helped me over the past decade or so, especially to Gary Sole for asking me to be editor (twice). Also to every Superintendent for providing me a smooth and consistent work environment. And I never miss an opportunity to thank Chuck Beargie for convincing me to give the NMRA another try some twenty plus years ago.

Bruce Bowie will be the new Flatwheel Editor, and I think you're going to like the direction he takes. He's got a couple techniques down cold that will make the Flatwheel easier on the eyes.

It was not in my plans but I just accepted the job of Kingpin editor (Regional newsletter), so you aren't quite through seeing my word cobbling efforts.

One big request: if your event is important enough to mention at the meeting (and/or have posted on the website), then it needs to be sent to Bruce for the Flatwheel by the deadline. If your event isn't good enough for the Flatwheel, why bother mentioning it elsewhere? Thanks.

Dave Williams

Contest Corner

Dave Lawler

There is not much contest news this month since there was no contest in December except a reminder to the **winners in November to bring your models** in for Show & Tell in January.

Also, there has been a switch in the schedule for February and March. The AUCTION scheduled for MARCH has been SWITCHED TO FEBRUARY. Therefore:

January contest: Observation or Business passenger cars - the kind normally seen on the end of a train.

February: No contest.

March contest: Water Tanks either railroad or industrial (now allowing you time to add more detail).

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all participants in the model contests as well as members who take the time to vote. You've truly made our contests more enjoyable and interesting.

Happy New Year everyone,
Dave Lawler

Raffle Report

A Happy New Year to Everyone! January's meeting will start out another (calendar) year with great raffle prizes. Remember: If you don't buy tickets, your chances of winning drop dramatically.

The Raffle Dudes

Layout Tours

Ron Morgan

Wanted: Layouts for the Spring Division 4 layout tours.

If you would like to have your layout open, please let contact Ron Morgan.

The tentative dates are May 7th and 13th.

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Area Hobby Shops

One in a series by Joe Kurilec MMR

photos provided by Joe Kurilec MMR

The past articles have covered all of the local hobby shops in our area. In that short time, three have closed! PLEASE, stop into any of the hobby shops on The Flatwheel ad page and make a purchase. They need us!

The next two articles will be places that many of you may have not thought about for your modeling needs....

For tools there are always Home Depot, Lowe's and Sears. All have many small tools for our modeling needs.

I have found several places that should be of interest. They have several stores in our area.



Harbor Freight, located around the Cleveland area has many tools that fit our modeling needs.

Your local Marc's store has a small tool section in close outs with many useful items. The prices are low!



Pat Catan's not only has tools but has a good selection of balsa and basswood supplies. Paints and a small selection of scenery supplies!



Another place to look into is Jo-Ann's. There are tools, paints and a section of scenery products. That really surprised me.



Division Four Hobby Shops

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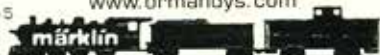
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