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# **DECEMBER 2017**

**VOLUME 52, NUMBER 10** 



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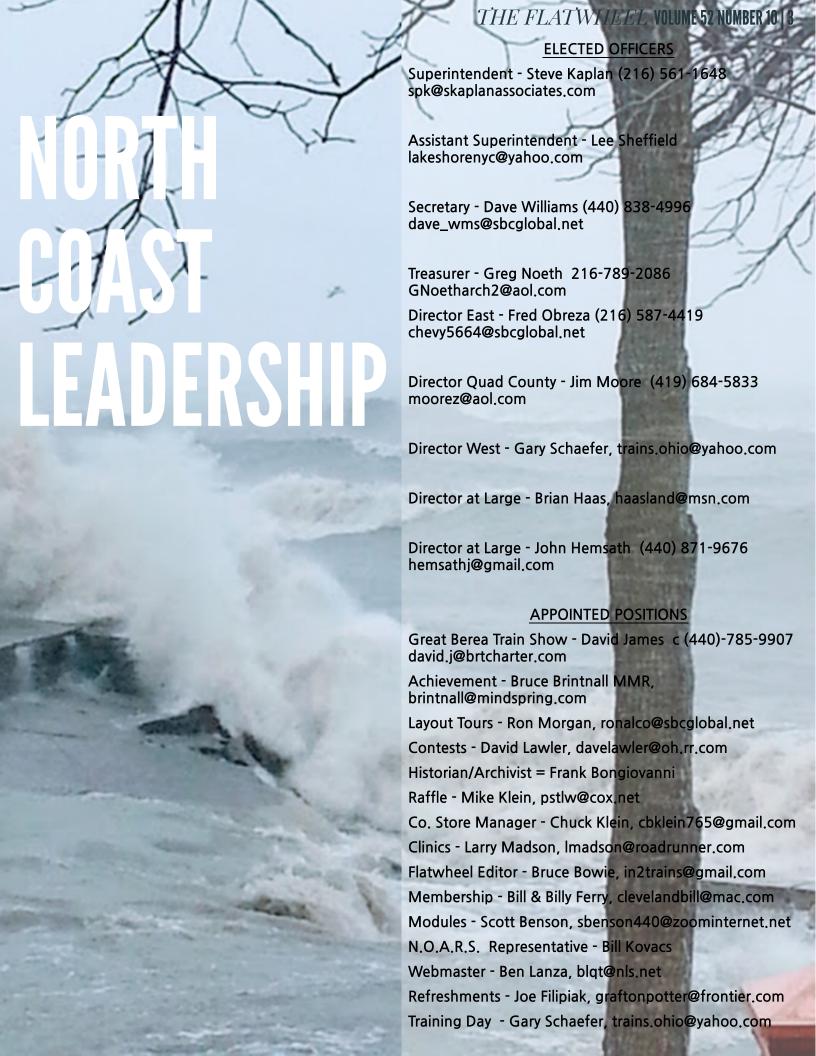
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This month's cover photo is reproduced from the NMRA June 2018 Calendar. The modeling and photo by our very own Joe Kurilec - MMR. Congratulations JOE!!





# WHEN & WHERE WE MEET

The North Coast Division holds 10 meetings a year (none in July and August). Meetings are on the 2nd Friday of each month. A

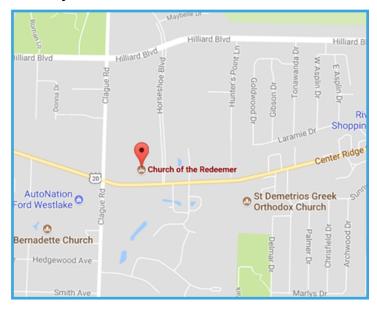
social half hour starts at 7:00 p.m. followed by a short business meeting at 7:30. After a short break, a railroad themed raffle and clinic complete the typical agenda. Meetings are held at the Church of the Redemer, 23500 Center Ridge Rd, Cleveland, OH 44145. Visitors are welcome to attend any meeting.

The Division's newsletter, *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 typically electronically published no later than the Monday preceding the monthly meeting. Submissions are due no later than the 26th of the prior month, for example, August 26th for the September Flatwheel.

Uncredited photos courtesy of the editor or staff photographer Dave Williams.

**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.





I reported a while back in the THIS & THAT column about the **FREE** emaganzine published by

# You Tube Model Builders (www.youtubemodelbuilders.com)

The emagazine's purpose is stated as "In this publication, include many informative, we tutorial-based articles, information in the community, happenings listings up-and-coming YouTube channels, information about the YouTube Model Builders LIVE! show, Hangout Presentations, along with general information that is inspirational in building of our model railroads."

The group's Mission further states "The mission of YouTube Model Builders is to inspire individuals for sharing model railroad building techniques through the use of YouTube and other free online resources. Our goal is not only to share knowledge in a community but also assist individuals who are learning or looking for

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inspiration through the online model railroading community." This is an excellent magazine.

The November 2016 issue had an interesting article by Mark J. Mead entitled TEXTURE, COLOR, AND THE ART OF MODEL RAILROADING. While reading it, I noted the following comment:

# "Model railroading is a hobby that offers many areas to excel. Start with your strengths and then learn new skills."

## - Mark J. Mead

This statement aligns well with our November clinic by member and artist Gary Dunn. Gary demonstrated different techniques for painting clouds and backdrops. Many of us, your Editor included, find painting our backdrops intimidating. Gary several times stated, "try it" during the clinic.

I would ask you to read Mark's statement again, and take it to heart.

One of our hobbies many appeals is the wide variety of skill sets required to go from an empty room to a fully scenicked and operating model railroad. Many of us don't even attempt to build a layout because we are intimidated by this requirement.

Don't be. There are many sources to help you get past whatever phase of construction that is stopping you.

And included in those many resources are members of your Division. Ask for help if you need some. **44** 

BRUCE BOWIE



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# HERBIE'S RUMBLINGS





# Help Every Model Railroader Become Injury Exempt

As I write this, we are getting ready to go to the opening night of the Trees and Trains Display in Lorain, where our module group will be set up and running on weekends through December 30.

Many of us have already spent some time at the Science of Trains exhibit at the Great Lakes Science Center – either by running trains, answering questions or demonstrating some facet of modeling. This is fantastic exposure for the NMRA and our Division. Wednesday-before Thanksgiving the attendance was 1,182, and Friday-after was 1,364. Some of them glance at us and walk by - most stop to gape and ask guestions. On Wednesday when Gary Schaefer and I were running trains and Joe Kurelic was modeling we had a five year old who spent over 4 hours making multiple rounds of every exhibit (always stopping at ours to blow the horns. He is a dedicated train-junky as can be seen elsewhere in this issue in the unbelievable Halloween trick-or-treat costume his father made for him. His Mom indicated that they have been to over 50% of the railroad attractions in the U.S., from San Diego to NYC and including the GBTS last month.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Scale Trains Ltd., who furnished us with 4 engines and a large amount of cars to run at the event if members did not have their own down there.

ALSO! - We have received special information from National regarding how to handle the volunteer hours. I will try to get it summarized and distributed soon, but in the meantime, your could maximize your opportunity for volunteer achievement points by being down there at least 4 but better is 8 hours every week

This includes those who are demonstrating modeling, or just answering questions about membership and our activities.

Be sure to get out to the Porter Library in Westlake, where Chuck and Mike Klein have a two-showcase static display on model railroading. It will be there through New Year's Day.

Congratulations to Gary Schaeffer and his crew for another successful TRAINing Day.

Congratulations again to John Hemsath – our newest Master Model Railroader (MMR #602).

Don't forget to get yourself (and your spouse) signed up for the 2018 Regional Convention in Cincinnati, May 17-20. It promises to be a good one with lots of activities.

Please remember to engage the new members and/or guests in conversation before the meeting, and during the break. They can be identified by a green name tag (or no name tag if they sneak past Bill Ferry ).

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 #5 turnout, a crossover and a gauntlet track.

STEVE KAPLAN, SUPERINTENDENT THE NORTH COAST DIVISION



# **BOD MEETING** MINUTES

# **NOVEMBER 7TH, 2017 CHURCH OF THE** REDEEMER, WESTLAKE, OH

Attendance: Steve Kaplan, Lee Sheffield, Greg Noeth, Dave Williams, Chuck Klein, Mike Klein, Ben Lanza, Fred Obreza, Gary Schaefer, Jim Moore, Bruce Bowie, Larry Madson, Joe Kurelic MMR, Mike Oster, Brian Haas, Dave Lawler, John Hemsath MMR.

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Steve Kaplan at 7 pm. Steve had provided printed budget worksheets to all attendees. The worksheets showed current year (calendar 2017) and projected next year (calendar 2017). Normal results for 2017 reflect a deficit of \$570. Additionally, \$3,147 was spent on special unbudgeted items. They were the purchase of an AED unit for the Church of the Redeemer, sponsorship of the Nickel Plate convention, and a special contribution to the Mad River and NP Museum. Year end grants totaling \$3,000 to six railroad related recipients were approved.

Steve began the discussion with the Great Berea Train Show, stating that Show Chair David James intended to begin accepting credit cards during the 2018 Show. Steve offered the caveat that we should not push the use of credit cards very hard as it can get expensive. The 50/50 raffle will not be repeated, and the raffle for train related prizes (not held for the 2017 Show) may not be repeated. Door prizes should continue to be offered but with improved distribution

Lee Sheffield reported that the trailer used for transporting the modules is falling apart. We've had it for about 13 years (received in used condition). Repairs would cost about \$1000 and a new trailer would cost about \$2500. Discussion leaned heavily toward buying a new trailer, with a listing as an extraordinary expense.

Steve encouraged those present to spend time volunteering at the Great Lakes Science Center for their Science of Trains exhibit.

Steve asked for suggestions on potential recipients of the Novak Award and the Brintnall Member Award for this year's Awards Banquet in December.

Gary Schaefer said that the Lorain Lions Club was requesting a speaker as well as the Lorain Senior Center. Gary state that he would be the speaker if no one else stepped forward.

Mike Klein announced that he was stepping down as Raffle Dude effective following the June 2018 meeting.

Chuck Klein announced that he would no longer be running the Company Store effective following the June 2018 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

DAVID M. WILLIAMS **SECRETARY** 



# GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

# NOVEMBER 10TH, 2017 CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, WESTLAKE, OH

Superintendent Steve Kaplan started the meeting at 7:28 pm by greeting those in attendance and pointing out that we would not have microphones for the evening.

Steve requested all veterans to stand in recognition for Veterans' Day and thanked them.

Bill Ferry announced that we have one new member this month. No new members or visitors were present. Bill thanked Dave Flebbe, Joanne and Fred Obreza for their work at the Membership table during Training Day. Bill went on to thank everyone else who participated during Training Day, and requested support for our current involvement at the Great Lakes Science Center. Bill also asked for support for the upcoming Trees and Trains event at the Lorain Transport Center.

Frank Bongiovanni described a display of HO scale cars containing private road names of previous and present members. The display, which date back to about 1975, has recently been repaired and painted by Bill Ferry. Many of the cars were lettered by Joe Kurelic MMR. Frank also recommended that everyone visit the Porter Library display provided by the Division.

Steve reminded everyone that they are invited to Baker's Square after the clinic.

Steve said that the evening's clinic would be given by Gary Dunn on his method of painting clouds, and that there would be no clinic next month due to the Awards Banquet.

Scott Benson, Modular Group, reviewed the Division's participation to date in the Great Lakes Science Center's The Science of Trains exhibit. An estimated 3000 visitors came through during the first weekend. Additional volunteers are needed for both the modular layout as well as a separate display. Parking is provided.

Bruce Brintnall MMR, Achievement Program, awarded John Hemsath his Master Model Railroader plaque, patch and pin.

Dave Lawler, Contest Chair, said that the evening's contest is for single sheathed boxcars, and that we have many entries, some being high end kits. Last month's winners were announced and each winner provided an explanation of model origin and techniques. No contest in January; the January contest will be for EMD F units.

Ron Morgan, Layout Tour Chair, announced that he had flyers for the Cuyahoga Valley & West Shore Club's December Open House. This Sunday's Open House tour will feature Medina area layouts and the following Saturday will have some West Side layouts.

Chuck Klein, Company Store, reviewed available items.

Mike Klein, Raffle, pointed out the evening's prizes, including a framed picture of Engine 757.

George Keller reported that \$65,000 had been raised to return engine 757 to Bellevue OH. The future display area has been acquired. The bearing and brake work on the engine has been going well.

Steve led a discussion of the proposed 2018 budget. Specifics, presented on a two page set of spreadsheets, are not included here. Anyone not at the meeting who feels it necessary to see the details of the presentation may contact Steve. Included on the handout was the announcement that \$3,100 in grants have been awarded for this year. A motion was made by John Hemsath MMR to accept the 2018 budget as presented, which was seconded by Jim Moore. The motion passed by voice vote, with no dissenting votes cast.

Chuck Klein reported on the upcoming Division election. Lee Sheffield is running for Superintendent, Ron Morgan is running for Assistant Superintendent, and all eligible incumbent officers are running for re-election to their current positions. As it stands, there are no contested positions. Chuck encouraged anyone else interested in running to contact him or Joe Kurilec MMR. The nominations will close in February 2018, with elections being held in March/April 2018. Elected officers will take office in June 2018.

Treasurer Greg Noeth said that he would be taking

sign-ups and money for next month's Awards Banquet. He stated that the Division's assets are \$48,450, with one more expense for the Train Show expected.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm. 🚚

DAVID M. WILLIAMS SECRETARY



# From Superintendent Steve Kaplan - "The greatest Halloween costume ever!"



# **THIS & THAT**

**THE PERFECT BLUE -** Those members in attendance at the November meeting were the lucky ones to hear Gary Dunn present a clinic on Cloud Backdrop Painting. Several and members asked what color blue to use. The title of this segment is, of course, facetious, but not entirely inaccurate. I have used the following blue for my basic sky color on my past and current layouts and have



Anyway, if 11/22/14 MERNIK-WILLIAMS 1199 Order# 0129846 419-626-5828 ARCHITECTURAL THI TEXT MULTI-PURPOSE (FC 4113K Manjal CUSTON NAMUAL MATCH TMRF0L03v300 64 128.~ Bi-Black Li-Blue R3-Nagoria ONE GALLOW 951M28458 PRIMER.

received a number of positive comments as to its shade.

want you follow to my lead, it is Sherwin Williams. And if you look closely, you will see it is

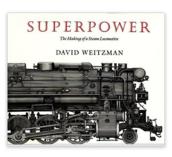
find it gives the flat finish you want and nicely takes the cloud paint. -**EDITOR** 

A BOOK REVIEW - A good friend of Wetzel gave mine, Don me а wonderful hardcover book. "Superpower, the making of a steam locomotive" by David Weitzman.

The illustrations are just great. They are done as ink drawings and are

VERY detailed. The story is well written about a father who works at Lima Locomotive Works and get his son a job there. Once you start reading the 107 page book its hard to put down! A search of Amazon.com found the book selling used for

\$10.00. There were also a few new books selling \$55.00. Anvone that has a love of steam



engines and Lima Locomotive works during the superpower years will enjoy this book.- JOE KURILEC, MMR

Using a fine white marker for reporting marks. - While at Pat Catans I found a very fine white marking pen. Using the pen I am able to add scribbles or reporting marks along the bottom edge of freight cars. This is an easy way to add seldom seen details on your rolling stock. Using the white marker interesting details to rolling stock. (pay no attention to the brake wheel to the left, oops!) JOE KURILEC, MMR





# Locomotive Honors, Remembers **Those Who** Served

https://www.up.com/aboutup/ community/inside\_track/1945 -thespirit-10-27-2017.htm



Locomotive No. 1943. the Spirit, in San Antonio, Texas, shortly after it was unveiled for the first time

The design of Union Pacific's heritage locomotive goes back to the 1940s, but its inspiration came about a year ago.

Nearing the end of more than a decade of service as a Union Pacific Corporation board member, Gen. Charles C. Krulak, who served as the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, attended a farewell luncheon hosted in his honor by UPVETS, a Union Pacific employee group that supports veterans of the armed forces.

Krulak was presented with a

# **MODULE GROUP**

**Great Lakes Science Center Exhibit Starts!** 

Division 4 is well represented at the new All Aboard, The Science of Trains exhibit at the Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC). As part of Division 4 support, the modular layout group is providing a 24' dogbone layout and is staffing the layout during GLSC open hours. There is also a table for modeling demonstrations, coordinated by Joe Kurilec, and a table for membership and promotion materials. The opening three days brought 3000 visitors to the museum, most of whom visited the exhibit. The GLSC expects 100,000 visitors over the course of the exhibit through mid-February. The overall exhibit features a number of prototype displays provided by the Midwest Railway Preservation Society, some of Mark Filippell's great bridges, a train ride for children of all ages, and play areas with more wooden floor train pieces than you've ever seen in your life!

We'd love to have more Division 4 members help to staff the exhibit, whether it is to demonstrate modeling techniques, staff the layout, or just interact with the many visitors. Entry and parking for volunteers are free. After any volunteer completes four shifts on staff, GLSC provides them with two guest passes. The GLSC is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10:00am to 5:00pm, and Sundays (excluding Browns home games), Noon to 5:00pm. Contact Scott Benson or Joe Kurilec to join the team!!!

The module group will have a second layout at the International Trees & Trains exhibit at the Black River Transportation Center in Lorain. Our layout will be between 60 - 70' long. The event opens on November 25, and runs Friday and Saturday evenings, 5:00 - 9:00pm, and Sunday evenings, 3:00 - 7:00pm, through December 30 (excluding December 24).

# **MODULE GROUP**











red, white and blue HO scale model of a veterans-themed Pacific Union locomotive painted by a local high school student. Pleased with the of idea locomotive dedicated honoring to veterans, Krulak asked Union Pacific Chairman, President and CEO Lance Fritz to make it a reality.

Just over a year later, on Oct. 19, 2017, locomotive No. 1943, The Spirit, was unveiled to the public at San Antonio's Sunset Station.

Work began when Union Pacific's Chief Mechanical Officer John Estes tasked Director of Locomotive Engineering Mike Iden with the project. Iden sketched out his idea and sent it to Debra Schrampfer, director of brand management and Employee Communications. Schrampfer assembled team that included Iden. Chad Leahy, graphic designer, and Jim Astuto, the 2016 president of UPVETS.

The team began pulling together design elements



Locomotive No. 1943. The Spirit, hides beneath a tarp marked with the locomotive's original number, No. 9026.

# **MEMBERSHIP**

We have a new member, William Reinhart, of Solon. Our club is big and active, so if you know William or meet him, help him find his way among the many activities in which we all participate. Help William feel at home in Division 4!

We wish to send Happy Birthday Wishes to the following members celebrating their birthdays in December:

Russell Conser Charles Klein Charles Spencer

Frank Feko Ben Lanza Stephen Twarogowski

William Ferry Jeffrey Lauren Michael Vollmar

John Hemsath MMR John Pesuit Jr Dennis Whitaker

Patricia Henning Lee Soule Joseph Witouski

**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.

BILL AND BILLY FERRY
MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS





# **RAFFLE**

Happy Holidays Everyone.

T'is the season for another great Holiday Raffle at the Awards Banquet. There will be , Pictures, Puzzles, Lanterns and More. Much much more. This could be the best raffle of all.

#### THE RAFFLE DUDES





and researching railroad and military history working with Patricia LaBounty, manager of the Union Pacific Museum.

Meanwhile, Iden looked for a locomotive to paint. "I picked a new EMD unit delivered in August 2016," he said. "It was locomotive No. 9026. We picked it for its reliability, even though it had just been painted less than six months earlier at the factory."

The locomotive was taken out of service and shipped to Mt. Vernon, Illinois, to National Railway Equipment, where it was sand-blasted, primed and painted.

"We wanted a design that would signify each of the five branches," said Astuto, who retired from the Air Force as a Master Sergeant after 21 years of service. Today, he works as a data integrity consultant in Union Pacific's Marketing and Sales Department.

"Each one of the colors represents one of the branches," Astuto said. "First, there's Air Force Silver. followed by the Coast Guard's racing stripe and the Navy's Battleship Gray. The camo at the end is for the Army and Marines."

Including the POW/MIA symbol was very important to Astuto. "We gave it its own section on the tail. When the locomotive moves forward, it's the last thing people see," he said. "They're never

### Cont'd on page 37

# **COMPANY STORE**

We are sold out of 4 car set reefers ( 2 steel 2 wood side 4 numbers ). We have 14 wood side reefers left \$18.00 each 2 numbers. Lots of hats \$20.00 ea. We have 4 MCR school house kits remaining \$45.00 ea. And LOTS! of Division 4 patches @ \$3.00 ea. We will have shirts available this fall. 🌉

Wood Side, 2 numbers available \$18 ea.





MCR Schoolhouse Laser Cut Kit \$45 ea.



**Division 4 Patches** \$3 ea.







SHIRTS WILL BE AVAILABLE THIS FALL!

Polo's along with both short and long sleeve. Stay tuned.

> **Division 4 Ball** Caps \$20 ea.



#### FREE DVD'S!

I should remind everyone that we have a library of how to DVD's for CHUCK KLEIN member use. A \$10.00 deposit for each DVD rented. \$10.00 returned when DVD returned at next meeting. Check the listing by clicking on STORE MEMBERS ONLY, then VIDEO LIBRARY to see a list of over 120 DVD's!

**MANAGER** 



	Division 4 Appare	Order Form
Name:		
Street:		
City:	State	Zip
Email:		
Phone:		
Name on shirt:		

Qty	Item	Size (circle)	Price	Amount
	Polo Shirt with pocket	S M L XL 2XL 3XL	\$25.00 \$27.00 \$28.00	
	Polo Shirt no pocket	S M L XL 2XL 3XL	\$24.00 \$26.00 \$27.00	
	Button Front short sleeve	S M L XL 2XL 3XL	\$32.00 \$34.00 \$35.00	
	Button Front long sleeve	S M L XL 2XL 3XL	\$32.00 \$34.00 \$35.00	
	Baseball Cap		\$20.00	
	edentice and the control of the cont		Total:	

Note: All orders must be paid in full in advance.

For mail orders, send order form and check made payable to Division 4 MCR/NMRA to: Larry Madson 37863 N Doovys St. Avon, OH 44011

PRINT THIS PAGE & ALONG WITH FUNDS MAIL TO: LARRY MADSON, 37863 N. Doovy's Street, Avon, OH 44011

#### December 2017

# **No Clinic** – Enjoy the Awards Banquet

**CLINICS** 

Help!!!! I am looking for programs for October 2017 through June 2018. If any of you would like to share your modeling techniques, know of someone I could contact for a WANTED 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

**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 **CLINIC CHAIRMAN** 

Last month's clinician, Gary Dunn, demonstrated various techniques for painting clouds and backdrops.



# **CONTEST TABLE**

CONTEST SUBJECT: Single Sheathed Box Car MONTH/YEAR: November 2017

THERE WERE 13 ENTRIES AND 71 TOTAL VOTES

<u>DIORAMA</u> <u>MODEL</u>

1ST PLACE: Rich Mayich John Hemsath

2ND PLACE: George Keller Mike Klein

3RD PLACE: N/A Joe Kurilec

HONORABLE MENTION: N/A Paul Novak Jr., Jim Grell, Gary Schaefer

The January Contest is for EMD F-unit diesels; FT, F3, F7, FP7, F9, FP9

# **SOME OF LAST MONTH'S CONTEST ENTRIES**







DAVE LAWLER
CONTEST
CHAIRMAN







BY LEE SHEFFIELD
ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT

# There will be no meeting at the church in December.

Just a reminder, the deadline to sign up for the Div 4 Awards Banquet is quickly approaching. If you plan to attend the Awards Banquet you need to contact Greg Noeth no later than December 1st.

#### **NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR GREG!**

Greg can be reached by phone at 216-789-2086 or email him at GNoetharch2@aol.com.



# Carrie Cerino's 8922 Ridge Road



# North Royalton, Ohio

You can pay at the banquet when you arrive.

On a second note, the entrance to the banquet hall is in the back of the building. We will have or own entrance so you do not need to enter through the front of the building."

This year's Awards Banquet will be held at Carrie Cerino's, 8922 Ridge Road, North Royalton, Ohio.

Social hour starts at 6:00 PM with dinner at 7:00 PM

Dinner with be buffet style with Top Round of Beef as the main course. In addition to the Top Round of Beef there will be Carrie's Breaded Pork Chops and Penne Pasta with meat sauce.

Side dishes include house specialty Au Gratin potatoes and Deluxe California Mixed Vegetables.

Desert will be Carrie Cerino's Homemade Miniature Pastries. And of course there will be salad and homemade rolls and butter.

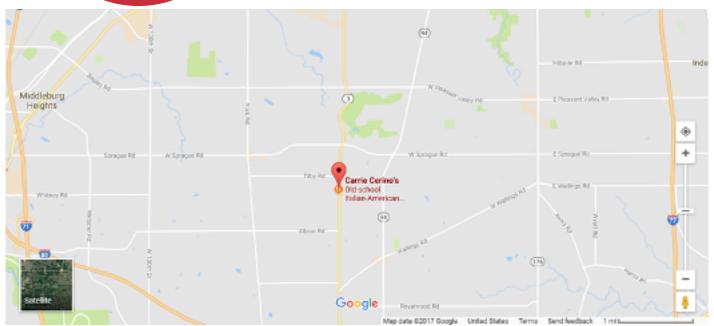
There will be a cash bar available and we will have a DJ for your listening and dancing pleasure. One of Santa's Elves will be joining us after dinner with gifts for the kids and our own Mike Klein will be putting together another fantastic holiday raffle for the big kids.

The cost to attend is still \$15.00 per person, and kids under 15 are free. The Division subsidizes the balance of the costs. This is our

reward for the hard work we put in at our Train Show and other events.



# PLEASE REMEMBER - RAFFLE BUCKS ARE NOT REDEEMABLE AT THE AWARDS BANQUET RAFFLE



#### **FROM THE WEST**

Follow OH-2 E and I-80 E to Strongsville.

Exit OH-2 and I-80 in Strongsville

Take Ohio Turnipike, I-80 E Toll road for 17.3 mi

Take exit 161 toward US-42 Toll road for 1.5 mi

Take Sprague Rd to Ridge Rd in North Royalton for 6.0 mi

#### **FROM THE EAST**

Take I-480 W and I-77 S to E Wallings Rd in Broadview Heights

Take exit 151 from I-77 S for 14.3 mi

Take E Sprague Rd to Ridge Rd in North Royalton for 5.4 mi

#### **FROM THE SOUTH**

Take OH-3 (Turns into Ridge Rd.)

# THE FLATWHEEL VOLUME 52 NUMBER 10 | 19

Greetings,

TRAINing Day 2017 was a success! Although we shut down an hour early due to inclement weather, (Tornado Warnings!), we still had a fantastic and enthusiastic crowd. We had many new attendees in the 138 that came to this year's event. I do believe that we would have had even more if it weren't for the impending weather.

I heard many comments from visitors like "I am blown away, that there is an event like this.", "This is fantastic", and "Count me in for next year". There was even someone who was ready to write a check donation, he was so impressed! I later spoke with a family from Wellington that won The Lorain County drawing. They were very grateful that we took the time and spoke with them. They even stopped at Ben Franklin on the way home and bought some track.

Thanks to CV&WS, State Tool & Die, ScaleTrains.com, Accurail, Kalmbach Publishing, White River Productions, Kadee, Walthers, Stockyard Express, Scenic Express, The Great Lakes Science Center, and the NMRA for supporting the event.

Many thanks to Gail and her crew and of course to the 30 members of Division 4 who supported this event. This event would not be possible without the members getting behind it and supporting it. THANK YOU!

# TRAINING DAY ROUNDUP



BY GARY SCHAEFER
PHOTOS FROM
TRAINING DAY 2016



# THE FLATWHEEL VOLUME 52 NUMBER 10 | 20



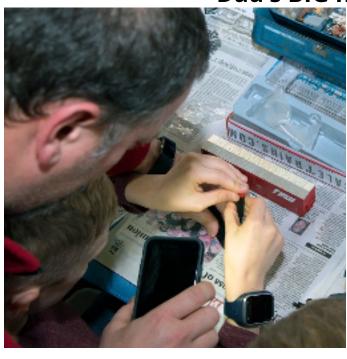






Make-And-Take

Dad's BIG hands helping small hands.





# GREAT LAKES SCIENCE CENTER PROJECT

**BY JOE KURILEC** 

## THE FLATWHEEL VOLUME 52 NUMBER 10 | 21

Myself & Jerry Krueger are part of a team that is putting together a display at the GLSC (Great Lakes Science Center) the presentation All Aboard: Trains. The event will run from 11-3-2017 to 2-18-2018.

Our Division 4 modular layout is to be used. A dog bone set up is requested. Model railroad items in all scales will be put on display along with real railroad items. These models should be of railroads that served or are serving the Cleveland, Ohio area. These models will be in enclosed cases.

# DISPLAY ITEMS ARE ANY OF THE RAILROADS THAT SERVED THE **CLEVELAND, OHIO AREA!**

PLEASE contact me on what you are willing to display. These items "should" displayed in enclosures provided by GLSC.

# This is a GIANT undertaking for **Division 4!**

We NEED volunteers to staff the module, set up modeling events (building RR items of ANY type) and any other "PR" that YOU might want to do!

Parking will be covered!

Printed ID of the models still needs to be worked out with GLSC.

This is a FOUR month event running 7 days a week between 10AM and 5PM.

First: The Railroad show "All Aboard, Trains" opens to the public Friday, Nov. 3 2017 and runs till Sunday, Feb. 2, 2018.

The GLSC is CLOSED every MONDAY.

Other closed dates are;

SUN. Nov, 19, 2017.

THR. Nov. 23, 2017.

SUN. Dec. 10, 2017

SUN. Dec. 17, 2017

MON. Dec. 25, 2017

SETUP of model displays and the Division 4 module

begins on: Mon. Oct. 23, 2017.

### THE FLATWHEEL VOLUME 52 NUMBER 10 | 22

You would be required to have a Division ID badge and or a Division 4 shirt.

I need to put together a "schedule" of DAYS/DATES, TIMES that you are willing to volunteer.

One time during the event OR as much time as you can spare.

This is a VERY SPECIAL event that the Division is LUCKY to be part of!

We all need to promote the future of the hobby of model railroading!

Contact me with your needed volunteer time or questions.

Joe Kurilec, MMR

jkurilec@earthlink.net

440-243-2337 PLEASE leave a voice mail!

PLEASE consider helping your Division....

440-243-2337 PLEASE leave a voice mail!





**VOLUNTEERS GET INTO THE glsc FOR FREE AND A FREE PAKRING VOUCHER. BUT, IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS NOT** WORKING THE EXHIBIT BUT WOULD STILL LIKE TO GET IN, THE **COUPON BELOW WILL REDUCE THE ADMISSION BY \$2.** 



\$2 OFF **GENERAL ADMISSION** 

VALID NOVEMBER 3, 2017 -**FEBRUARY 19, 2018** 

The following four photos were recently taken by Scott Benson at the GLSC exhibit





Member Dick
Collingwood
getting an
early preview!







# ALL ABOARD! The Science of Trains

November 3, 2017 -February 19, 2018

In collaboration with the National Model Railroad Association Ohio Division 4





# ROLLING STOCK TIP OF THE MONTH

# BY MATT GOODMAN MEDIA/MEMBER CHAIR DIVISION 6

# Matt Goodman is a member of Division 6 - Matt is on Ben Lanza's email list. Seeing my recent plea for articles, he kindly sent the following previously published in Division 6's newsletter. - Editor

I have several tank car models with tremendously free-rolling, metal-wheeled trucks. Recently, I decided to swap out the wheelsets in the trucks from the existing metal RP-25s\* to Code 88\* "semi-scale" wheelsets from the same manufacturer in order to achieve a finer look.

\*Note: The name "RP-25" comes from the NMRA Recommended Practice that defines wheel dimensions. These wheels have a front-to-back dimension of .110" and are what comes with virtually all models (ready-to-run or kits) and the majority of separately sold trucks. Code 88 wheels - often referred to as "semi-scale" - have a front-to-back dimension of .088". Code 88 wheelsets are used by modelers who are looking for a closer to prototype look - there are no functional advantages to the narrower wheel tread.

After removing the trucks and replacing one of the two wheelsets with a Code 88 wheelset, I gave each axle a quick spin and instantly noticed that the Code 88 wheel set didn't spin as well. In fact it spun only half as long as it's fatter (RP-25) neighbor. I reversed the locations of the two axles and got same result. What's up with that?

Initially I thought this might be due to differing axle lengths; if an axle that is too long or too short for the truck, it won't roll as well as one of the correct length. I pulled out my calipers and found that the axle length of the RP-25 were in the 1.0050-1.0060 inch range while the semi-scale axles were closer to 1.0030-1.0040. A difference, but a couple thousandths is not significant.

About then I noticed how dirty my fingers where getting, and the lightbulb went on. I checked the

axle ends and found they had a good deal of oily dirt on them, most likely left over from the manufacturing process. This residual gunk was probably causing the extra drag. I removed the Code 88 wheelset, cleaned the axle and truck journals (using alcohol and a micro-brush), then re-tested - problem solved. The Code 88 and RP-25 wheels had viritually the same spin time.

After that first wheel set, I cleaned the remainder of the wheels in the package thoroughly (faces, treads, backs and axles) with a alcohol-dampened paper towel. In the end, I had shiny wheels and a filthy paper towel.

So tip of the day, if you are applying new metal wheel sets - of any brand - give them a thorough cleaning before putting them into service. • Cleaner journals will make your cars will roll better (50% better in my test) • Cleaner tread will keep your track a bit cleaner • Cleaner wheel faces and backs will give paint a better chance of sticking.

# Another example of beautiful modeling you missed if you did not participate in the recent layout tours! This from Dave Lawler's gorgeous ONTARIO SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY Ltd. railroad.



# ACLUB YOU CAN VISIT

BY DAVE WILLIAMS PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

# Associated Model Railroad Engineers of Coshocton (AMREC)

# 707 Kenilworth Avenue Coshocton, OH 43812

Located on the in a large blue building with the entrances flanked by a Pennsylvania Caboose and a Nickel Plate caboose on the Coshocton County Fairgrounds, is the Associated Model Railroad Engineers of Coshocton (AMREC). The club was originally formed in 1972 around the same time as the creation of AMTRAK, pun intended by the club.



The club's layout is massive in scope encompassing nearly half of the 7,500 square foot area of the building.



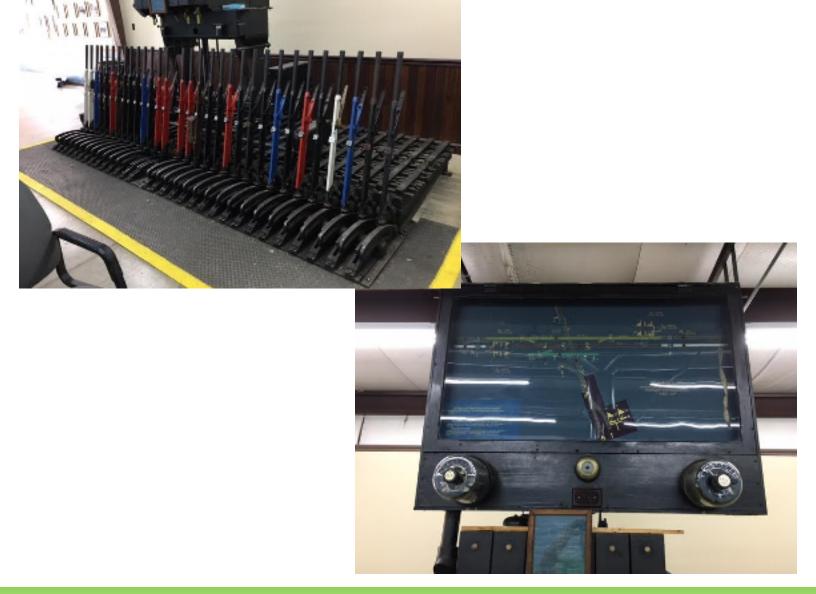
### THE FLATWHEEL VOLUME 52 NUMBER 10 | 29

Layout design consists of a double track main line for the Toledo, Walhonding Valley, and Ohio railroad and a single track main line for the Detroit, Toledo, and Ironton railroad. Once a train leaves the staging yard, it takes nearly 20 minutes to traverse the nearly 12 scale miles long double main line track. Scenery is nearly 50% complete with several different industries to generate rail traffic. One of which is a logging town with it's own railroad heading up to the lumber camp. It is loosely based on Cass, West Virginia.

One of the most impressive parts of the Club's layout is re-creation of the at-grade crossing for Morgan Tower. Morgan Tower was located in Quincy, Ohio near Bellefontaine, Ohio. Operating until 1984, the tower controlled the at-grade crossing for DT&I and CCC&StI.

The club was able to salvage the interlocking levers and Armstong Machine from the original railroad crossing and re-assemble it inside their facility. Not only did the club re-create the at-grade crossing for Morgan Tower, but they also connected the electrical controls for the turnouts to the original Armstrong Machine. With the flip of a master switch, the interlocking can be controlled via the switch panel on the layout or by the interlocking levers themselves! Once a route is set with levers, conflicting route levers are locked out, and cannot be moved no matter how strong you are.

Several photos of and videos are available of the club on line. Just type "Cochocton Model Railroad Club" in the search engine and away you go!.



# PRIMING THE PUMP OF MEMBERSHIP



# BY BILL FERRY

PHOTOS BY BILLY FERRY

## $THE\ FLATWHEEL\$ volume 52 number 10 | 30

As you all know, we recently held our 44th Annual Great Berea Train Show. As has been usual practice, the Modular Group displayed a whole bunch of modules and operating model trains.

One of my favorite parts of working on Membership is reaching out to the young people who will be our future members. Many of us began in this hobby as kids—merely playing with toy trains. Though some of us have become highly advanced modelers and operators, it is easy to see the joy in the eyes of even our most senior members whenever they're around an operating model railroad.

So at this year's GBTS, I was able to watch and see that joy passed from one of our members to one of our potential future members, when John Witt worked for a long time with a young boy, operating a serious model train on one of the world's great modular railroads.

John displayed the patience necessary to work with a young boy, in what can be a chaotic situation at the GBTS, and kept the focus where it needed to be. If you'll look in the picture attached to this article, you'll see the result. And that result is found in three places ... the smile on the face of the boy, the smile on the face of John Witt, and the message sent by the boy's mother through Facebook (she posted the picture, linked to our GBTS Facebook Page).

There is probably nothing better that could be done to ensure the future of our hobby than what John Witt did that day at GBTS. We didn't sign the kid up for membership. He probably didn't get his parents over to the Scaletrains booth to buy "rivet counter" locos. And we might not see him again for another year. But we laid the ground work. Created the spark. Or as this article suggests, we "primed the pump".

Or rather, John Witt did. Congratulations, John, for representing the best in our hobby, our Division, and our Modular Group.

#### **Photo by Billy Ferry**



# EARN THE **ASSOCIATION** VOLUNTEER AP CERTIFICATE - PART 1

BY JOE KURILEC, MMR

### THE FLATWHEEL VOLUME 52 NUMBER 10 | 31

Earning AP points at the Great Lakes Science Center program "All Aboard, The Science of trains".

#### PART 1

For members that are volunteering at the GLSC program you are earning points towards your Achievement Program, category 9, Association Volunteer. These points are also earned at ALL Division sponsored events such as modular layout displays, The Great Berea Train Show, Training day, Trees & Trains and clinics given at meetings.

As of November 25, 2017, Steve Kaplan contacted Frank Koch, NMRA Executive Assistant Manager for the AP.

Frank was able to increase the points earned for members because of the length of GLSC railroad show.

Anyone interested in the Association Volunteer award can contact Steve or myself for details.



Division 4's module is a great way to earn AP volunteer point seen here at the the GLSC display.



Point also are earned by displaying models. Several Division members displayed models for the GLSC event.



Here Gary Schaefer is earning AP points manning the Div. promo booth.



The general public and kids really enjoy the GLSC "play area" of the All Aboard Trains display!



Joe Filipiak generously added an O scale CUT loco from the collection of Russell Conser to the GLSC display.



All types of interesting displays are at GLSC. This one provided by the Midwest Railroad Preservation Society.

MRPS did a really good job on restoring the old track boards from the Terminal Tower concourse.

# REQUESI

# PASSED ON BY BILL FERRY

# I have been robbed!!

And no, this is not just a joke. During the blackout from Sunday night to this morning someone who knows my barn and knows where everything is and how to get around in it, got into the barn and took ten of the flat boxes full of high end trains, mostly engines but with an equally large amount of rare cars and sets. I and Brian Stopar will be making a complete list of what is missing ASAP, but for the moment, if you see someone suddenly with a passel of rare trains who you know has visited my barn in the past, please let me know immediately. Thanks. Lee

Charles Fonda cwaltf@aol.com

Lee is involved with the Cuyahoga Valley S-Gauge Association. They display at the GBTS. It was his home that was robbed. As mentioned above, if you see anything suspicious, send information to Charles at the email noted. - Editor

# FALL LAYOUT TOURS 2017 ROUNDUP

# BY RON MORGAN LAYOUT TOURS CHAIRMAN

## THE FLATWHEEL VOLUME 52 NUMBER 10 | 34

The Division 4 Fall 2017 layout tours are now history. I want to thank those members who were open.

I appreciated the number of members that participated compared to last Springs Open Houses. With the membership size that the Division 4 has, there should be at least 75 to a 100 members participating.

The next series of open houses will be in April or May of 2018. I will be looking for layouts on the East Side and West Side. So if you would like to be open please let me know.

# Contact Ron to volunteer your layout for the Spring Layout Tours - Editor

I would like to hear from the membership on which day would be best for them to visit the open layouts. What I want to know is if a Saturday or Sunday works best for the layout tours.

Also, I have a new email account. It is:

ronalco844@gmail.com. 🚂

An added note from the Editor - Having had my layouts on several layout tours in the past I can attest to the value. Knowing you will have visitors is a great motivator. Volunteer now and use the time/motivation to get a lot done on your layout over the coming winter!

# DON'T JUST BELONG – PARTICIPATE!



# SOME PASSINGS TO ANNOUNCE

### $THE\ FLATWHEEL\$ volume 52 number 10 | 35

# **Midge Reber**

Many Division members may remember NMRA office manager Midge Reber.

I just learned that my good friend Midge Reber passed away September 7, 2017.

"I heard the news today, oh boy" The Beatles, a day in the life.

Midge was the office manager for the NMRA after Bob Bast in Canton, Ohio, then on to Indianapolis, Indiana and opening the new HG building in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

We became friends sometime is the early 1970's. Back then Midge (D), Colonel Johnny Ried (D) and Dean Freytag, MMR (D) all helped me pursue my MMR status.

Almost every MCR regional convention and national convention found us at those wonderful hotel room parties. Midge always was a great hostess.

Her smile and "down home" style will always be remembered.

Good Bye my friend.

Joe Kurilec, MMR

#### **MEL WISE**

In the late 1960's a group of interested NMRA members, including Gil Stovachek, Doc Dugan and several others, breathed new life into a dormant Division 4 and made it an active organization again.

In the early 1970's they handed the organization over to a new generation of modelers that included Mel Wise. Mel served in a leadership position for several years, including two terms as Superintendent.

In the decade of the 1970's, Mel and others organized and held the first of Division 4's train shows that grew into what we know now as The Great Berea Train Show.

Mel and other members also started the first Division 4 modular railroad, patterned after the NTrak concept. Mel and his good friend George Noakes built a pair of modules for that layout that were

THE FLATWHEEL VOLUME 52 NUMBER 10 | 36

unique in that they were double decked, with a city scene featuring independent trolley operations on the upper deck.

During all of its early history, Division 4 included only Cuyahoga County. Late in the 70's a group of NMRA members in the counties west of Cuyahoga petitioned the NMRA to be transferred from the North Central Region to the Mid Central Region and become part of Division 4. Mel and the other leaders of Division 4 embraced the proposal and the Division has ever since been enriched with the talents and effort of the members in Lorain, Medina, Huron and Erie counties.

Sadly as the decade ended, Mel lost his wife Pat to illness. In the middle 1980's Mel took a new job in the Chicago area and moved there with his new wife Susan, where he remained until he retired in the 1990's.

After retirement Mel and his family moved to his wife's home town of Garrett, Indiana for several years. While

living in Garrett, Mel got up close and personal with railroading while working part time as a driver for a limousine service transporting train crews all around the Midwest.

Then in 2007 he and his wife moved to Los Angeles, California to enjoy the weather there and to be near her son, Matthew.

After they moved to California, Mel's health began to fail, including a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease. He dealt with it well for several years, but it finally took its toll and Mel passed away peacefully on November 16th.

Many of you never met and may have never heard of Mel Wise, but we all owe him a hearty thank you for his service to our organization. Those of us that remember Mel have lost an old friend.

Bill Cramer

# WHAT'S GOING ON?

#### Christmas Train 2017 1 2017 1 2017 1 2017 BUY - SELL - TRADE Sunday, December 10, 2017 10:00 am to 3:30 pm Sentle Claus will be at the above from 12:20 pm to 2:00 pm. If you wish to take year child's picture with Sonto, we ask that you make a \$5.00 decading to JDRF (440) 256-8141 Errat claredune@ef.ret www.clevethous.com www.christmastrainshow.com Hold at: Lakeland Community College Athletic & Fitness Center (AFC) Main Gym 7700 Clocktower Dr. Kirtland, Ohio 44094 Interstate 90 and Rt. 306 (S.E. Corner) Admission: Adults 98.00 Family \$15.00 Children (5-12) \$3.00, Under 6 Free Active Many Personnel Pres Toy Collection for needs families - New most two say severaged. Photo excitation recen-IDRF - Stopity the LOJBAF faile and help find a oute for Juvenilo Diabetes with your durab Control Had your plate that Warur \$25.90 Smart Prize Contificate Or entire at from and 2 per atishing 300 + Tables ◆ One Floor ◆ Operating Train Layouts ◆ Firee Parking THE MEASURE OF BUY - SELL - TRADE



#### forgotten."

Once the paint was dried and cured, the locomotive was covered before leaving the shop to keep the design hidden. The cover displayed the locomotive's original number, 9026.

"There were a number of things we did to protect the surprise," Iden said. "Throughout the whole process we limited electronic communications. We were careful with emails, and tried to make a lot of phone calls instead."

The locomotive's number and moniker signify Union Pacific's long relationship with the U.S. armed forces. A Boeing B-17 Fortress Flying christened "the Spirit Union Pacific" in 1943. recognizing employees who funded the purchase of the plane through war bond contributions. The Spirit of Union Pacific was assigned to the 571st Bomber Squadron and shot down on its fifth mission during a raid on installations enemy in Munster, Germany.

"This company always has provided a service to our nation, whether it's during peace or war time," said Ruben Lopez, West Point retired graduate, Army Captain, executive sponsor of **UPVETS** and general superintendent of Union Pacific's Western Region at Harriman Dispatching Center. "We have a working relationship with the military.







Attending the dedication of the **Boeing B-17 Spirit of** Union Pacific plane, from left are H.O. West, Executive Vice Pres., Boeing Aircraft Co.; Walter Wilson, Chairman, Union **Pacific War Bond** Committee; F.W. Madden, representing **Brotherhood Railway** Clerks; John D. Beard, **Brotherhood Maintenance of Way;** L.A. Collins, Supt. Oregon Division; D.W. Hood, Brotherhood Railway Trainmen; and A.A. Murphy, **Assistant to President of Union** Pacific.

We never want to have to go to war, but we're always ready. Whether it's through a business relationship or through acknowledging the accomplishments of veterans, we're never going to walk away from supporting them."

# 2017 MODEL TRAIN OPEN HOUSE

Presented by the Youngstown Model Railroad Assn.



NOVEMBER DECEMBER

CORNER OF RACCOON RD.

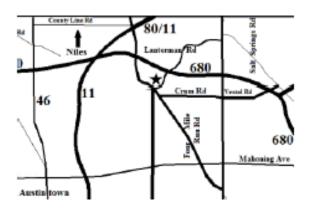
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\$5.00 DONATION PER PERSON CHILDREN 11 AND UNDER FREE WITH ADULT

> CHECK OUT OUR CLUB WEBSITE: WWW.YMRA.ORG GPS ADDRESS: 751 N. Four Mile Run Rd. Youngstown, Ohio 44515



From Youngstown (Mahoning Ave): Take Mahoning to Four Mile Run Rd. Turn Right on Four Mile Run Rd. Follow Four Mile Run Rd. until you see the parking sign. Parking is on the right at the new church

#### From I-680:

Take Meridian Rd. Exit
Go South on Meridian Rd. to Crum Rd.
Turn Right on Crum Rd.
Take Crum Rd. to Four Mile Run Rd.
Turn Right on Four Mile Run Rd.
Parking is on your right at the new church

#### From Route 11:

Take Mahoning Avenue Exit
Go East on Mahoning to N. Raccoon Rd.
Turn Left at N. Raccoon Rd.
Go to intersection of N. Raccoon and
Lanterman Rd.
Look for the signs directing you to
parking at the new church.

Massillon Train & Toy Show K of C Hall, 988 Cherry Rd. NW Massillon, Ohio 44647 10 am to 3 pm Adm. \$5.00

Phone Jon Ulbright at: 330-262-7488

About 17 percent of Union **Pacific** employees are veterans. Lopez said Union Pacific is committed veterans, and the locomotive is just further evidence. "As an employee of Union Pacific and as a veteran, it's always great to honor remember those who allow us to be here. We can't do enough for those people," he said.

### **Christmas Train** BUY - SELL - TRADE Sunday, December 10, 2017 10:00 am to 3:30 pm Santa Claus will be at the show from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm. If you wish to take your child's picture with Santa, we ask that you make a \$5.00 donation to JDRF. (440) 256-8141 Email: deveshows@att.net www.christmastrainshow.com www.cleveshows.com Lakeland Community College Athletic & Fitness Center (AFC) Main Gym 7700 Clocktower Dr. Kirtland, Ohio 44094 Interstate 90 and Rt. 306 (S.E. Corner) Admission: Adults \$6.00 Family \$15.00 Children (6-12) \$3.00, Under 6 Free Toy Collection for needy families - New In-our trys only (Inwapper). Please no stuffed animals. JDRF - Step by the LCJDWF table and help find a cure for Juvenile Diabetes with your donation.

300 + Tables # One Floor # Operating Train Layouts # Free Parking HO Train - Stachards - Accessories - Lone, American Flyer, C-gauge, in cose trains
300 + Tables # One Floor # Operating Train Layouts # Free Parking # Operating # Opera

BUY - SELL - TRADE

THE NEWS HER OLD

# TRAIN TOWN



# TRAIN SHOW SWAP MEET



# SATURDAY, **DECEMBER 16, 2017**

#### ALLEN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

LIMA, OHIO 2750 HARDING HIGHWAY From I-75, take Exit 125 - Go East on St. Rt. 309



Santa Claus

#### 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Admission: Adults \$5.00 Children 12 & under - FREE



#### FEATURING:

- All Gauges Railfan Items
- Over 170 Tables
  - FREE Parking
- Tov Trains Food Service
- Operating Layouts

- Door Prizes
- Children's Play Area
- Handicap Accessible

Several 2-29-17

Location: The show will be held in the Merchants Building located at the Fairgrounds— 1 mile east of Lima. Building will be heated with easy access.

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# Welcome Back! May 17-20, 2018

Our first convention since the 2005 NMRA National



# We've prepared tons of fun for everyone!



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Non-Rail Luncheon and Saturday Banquet







Extra Large White Elephant Sale!
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Scenicked Layouts at the Hotel



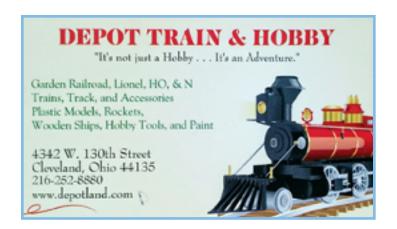
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See form at our booth or www.cincy-div7.org

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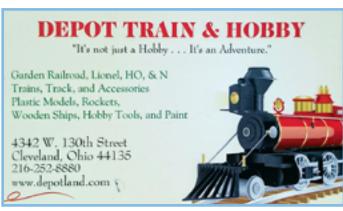
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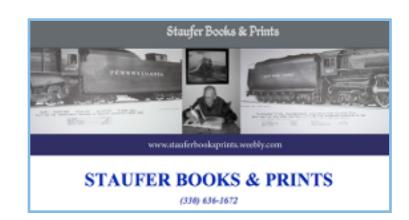


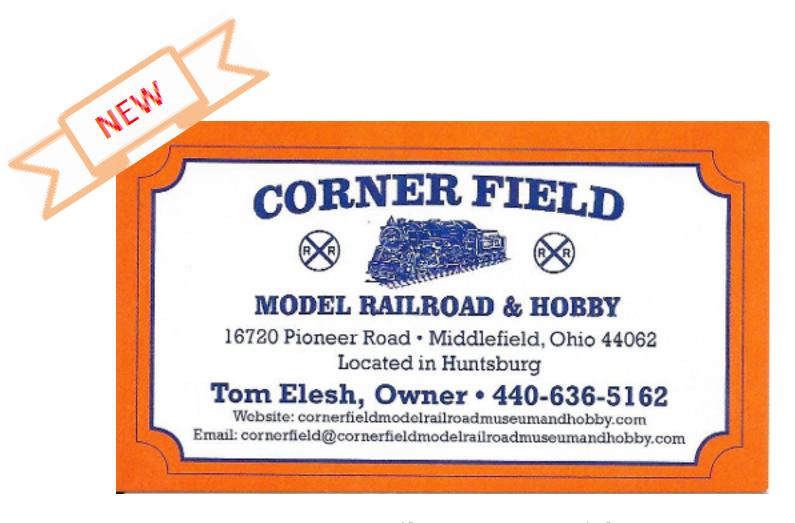
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tanm55@centurytel.net









See Joe Kurilec, MMR's article on his visit to this shop in the **January** Flatwheel

# PLEASE SUPPORT THESE DEALERS!

# **DIVISION 4, MCR, NMRA**

#### The North Coast Division

The North Coast Division holds 10 meetings a year (none in July and August). Meetings are on the 2nd Friday of each month. A social half hour starts at 7:00 p.m. followed by a short business meeting at 7:30. After a short break, a railroad themed raffle and clinic complete the typical agenda. Meetings are held at The Church of The Redeemer, 23500 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, OH 44145. Visitors are welcome to attend any meeting.

The Division's newsleter, *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. Views expressed in *The Flatwheel* do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the NMRA, MCR, or Division Four.

Uncredited photos courtesy of the editor or staff photographer Dave Williams.

The Flatwheel is typically electronically published no later than the Monday preceding the monthly meeting. Submissions are due no later than the 26th of the prior month, for example, August 26th for the September Flatwheel.

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.

Another view on Dave Lawler's ONTARIO SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY Ltd. railroad during the fall 2017 layout tours



We are Division 4 of the Mid-Central Region of the National Model Railroaders Association. With more than 200 members from Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lorain and Medina counties in the state of Ohio. The North Coast Division meetings are normally held on the second Friday of the month to hear guest speakers, share skills, have railroad related clinics, and to share common problems and successes. Many of us get together informally in round-robin sessions to operate and work on each other's layouts, or just to talk railroads and modeling.