



MARCH 2019

VOLUME 54, NUMBER 3



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ELECTED OFFICERS

Superintendent - Lee Sheffield lakeshorenyc@yahoo.com Assistant Superintendent - Ron Morgan, ronalco844@gmail.com

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

Treasurer - Greg Noeth (216) 789-2086 gjnoeth@yahoo.com

Director East - Fred Obreza (216) 587-4419 chevy5664@sbcglobal.net

Director Quad County - Jim Moore (419) 684-5833 moorez@aol.com

Director West - Gary Schaefer, trains.ohio@yahoo.com

Director at Large - Brian Haas, haasland@msn.com

Director at Large - Jeff Lauren, jflrn@sbcglobal.net, 21-798-1896

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Great Berea Train Show - David James c (440)-785-9907 david.j@brtcharter.com

Achievement - Bruce Brintnall MMR, brintnall@mindspring.com

Layout Tours - Ron Morgan, ronalco844@gmail.com

Contests - David Lawler, davelawler@oh.rr.com

Historian/Archivist = Frank Bongiovanni

Raffle - Adam Woodie

Co. Store Manager - Scott Benson, sbenson440@zoominternet.net , (c) 440-238-2115

Clinics - Larry Madson, Imadson@roadrunner.com

Flatwheel Editor - Bruce Bowie, in2trains@gmail.com

Membership - George Keller, gkeller@woh.rr.com, (c) 419-217-0396

Modules - Scott Benson, sbenson440@zoominternet.net

N.O.A.R.S. Representative - Bill Kovacs

Webmaster - Ben Lanza, blgt@nls.net

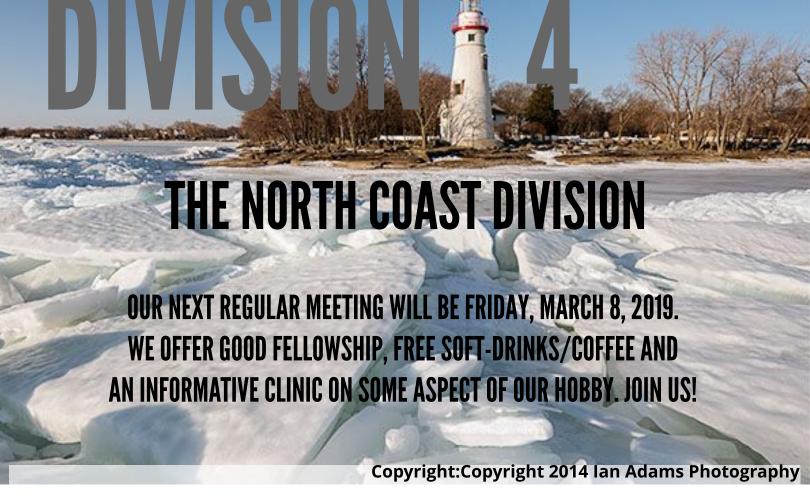
Refreshments - Joe Filipiak, graftonpotter@frontier.com

Training Day - Gary Schaefer, trains.ohio@yahoo.com



2015-02-24 02:38 am | Last

updated 2015-12-11 03:54 pm



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

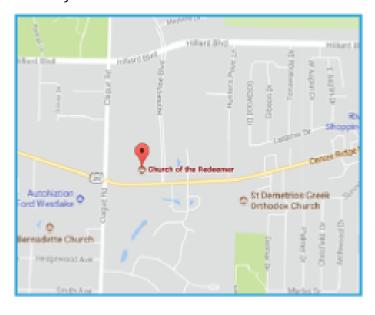
social half hour starts at 7:00 p.m. followed by a short business meeting at 7:30. After a short break, a railroad themed raffle and clinic complete the typical agenda. Meetings are held at the Church of the Redemer, 23500 Center Ridge Rd, Cleveland, OH 44145. Visitors are welcome to attend any meeting.

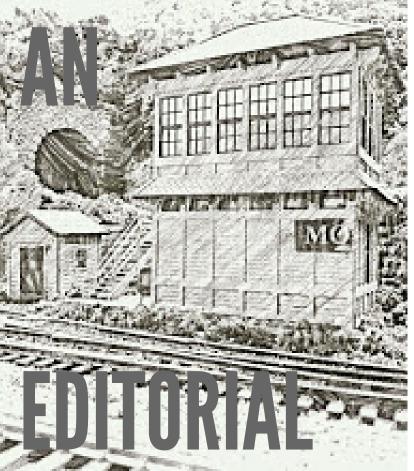
The Division's newsletter, *The Flatwheel* is published monthly (except during July and August) by Division 4 of the Mid-Central Region (MCR) of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). All comments are welcome. Views expressed in *The Flatwheel* do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the NMRA, 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.





The past two editorials I have spoken about two power tools I have in my train shop. Both are fairly pricey with the table saw highly valued and often utilized while I placed a low value on the jig saw as I don't often (never) use it. I don't want to imply that only expensive tools are highly valued. This editorial will note some a tool that while inexpensive still provides high value and is recommended for most hobbyists' work shops.

Lets start with the ubiquitous hobby knife with #11 blade. We all have at least one. I keep two within easy reach on

my workbench. Why two? The blades are extremely sharp when new but do not hold their edge very long. When I "wear out" the blade in the blue handled knife, e.g., it is not sharp enough for precision cuts, remove it and place it а small metal container labeled USED that I also keep handy on my workbench. These are the blades I use as replacements for the



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black handled knife. I use the black handled knife for rough work including opening the cardboard numerous boxes I receive from MicroMark:). I keep a new or nearly new blade in the blue handled knife. This is the knife I use for precision cuts when I am modeling. As noted, these blades do not hold their edge very I purchase long, SO replacements quantities of 100. I keep a small plastic box by the



two knives so I don't hesitate to change out to a sharp blade. This is an IMPORTANT practice when doing quality modeling work. A No. 11 Blade, Package Of 100, Item #: 14178, is currently \$20.95 at MicroMark but may



be found cheaper on eBay. Finally, I have a second small metal container labeled JUNK with a slot cut in its lid. This is where I place all dull and/or broken blades similar to a "sharps" container in a hospital. This helps ensure I do not cut myself during the disposal process.

Let me know if you have a favorite tool, or, a tool you "wasted your hobby dollars on, and why. 🕌

ARTICLES NEEDED!!

The good news is I currently have 14 articles in the queue for OUR newsletter. The bad news is 6 are authored by myself and 8 are authored by the prolific Joe Kurilec, MMR. Your prose is the least important, the subject the most. YOU CAN DO IT!





FROM THE SUPER

"Driving the train doesn't set its course. The real job is laying the track."

Ed Catmull

Have you collected your unwanted, unbuilt, unpainted or un-whatever items to bring to the Auction to sell? You still have time between reading this issue of *The Flatwheel* and meeting night to get things together for sale. Remember as I talked about at February's meeting, group items together. We will have a minimum starting bid of \$5.00 so you want group things together to align with this starting bid. After that bid increments will be \$1.00. You will be surprised at how fast bids can go up when bidders compete against each other. And all items for sale must have ticket attached. You can go to the website and print all you need, check out the article further down in this month's Flatwheel or I will have a small supply of them auction night. See the article later in this issue for more details. Be sure to arrive early to have time to look over the items up for auction.

And remember those immortal words from PBS, "Bid Early, Bid Often".

Other events to note:

Division 5's Kirtland show is coming up March 16th and 17th. The module group will be setting up at the show and George Keller will be looking for volunteers to man the membership table along with members of Division 5.

The Mid-Central Region Convention (The Bullet 2019) will be here before you know it May 2nd thru the 5th. They have some interesting tours

and clinics scheduled and are adding more each day. Division One is hosting and is looking for volunteers. Do you have a clinic you would like to present? If so contact Jim Williams or Jim Dipaola. They are also looking for volunteers for various positions around the convention. So fill out a registration form and send it in with your fee and join the fun.

Our much-anticipated field trip to the Oil Creek and Titusville Railroad will be October 12th. Unfortunately, the Nickle Plate Historical Society convention is that same weekend. Two dates were discussed at the Feb 5th Board Meeting and we voted to go with October 12th. Those two dates were picked to align with the availability of David James and his bus. Ron Morgan is the ringleader for the trip and will be posting more information as it becomes available. I would expect a sign-up sheet will be available at the April meeting. But mark your calendars NOW to save the date.

Do you have a comment or suggestion for the Division? If so, please make it a point to arrive at April's meeting by 7 PM and attend the Director's meeting in the sitting room by the church entrance. All our Directors (trustees) will be in attendance to listen to your input. The Directors will in turn present what they have heard at the general meeting that evening. So please attend and let your voices be heard.

Please continue to welcome any new members

and visitors to our meetings. Try to answer their questions the best you can or refer them to another member who might have the answer. Remember, we were all green at some point. See everyone on March 8th.

As always, Model Railroading is Fun !!!

LEE SHEFFIELD, SUPERINTENDENT THE NORTH COAST DIVISION



Lackawanna EMD F-3 Unit - Photo by Dave Lawler



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

NMRA MCR Division 4 General Meeting Minutes for Friday February 9, 2019

Church of the Redeemer, Westlake Ohio

Superintendent Lee Sheffield opened the meeting at 7:30 pm, asking for any changes or corrections to the January Minutes. Hearing none, Lee declared the January Minutes approved.

Treasurer Greg Noeth presented a statement of Division assets.

Membership Chair George Keller asked for new members and visitors to identify themselves. One visitor represented a new model railroad group forming at St Ignatius (see this month's **THIS & THAT** column for more information - Editor). George said that one January meeting visitor had joined the Division.

Members were requested to turn in their name tags before the clinic – or in the evening's case – before the pizza.

Clinics – Lee reported on behalf of Chair Larry Madson that a video would be shown during the evening's pizza. Upcoming clinics are: April – Jim Moore on FastTracks; May – Gary Sole on high pints in American railroading. There is no clinic in March due to that evening's auction.

Lee reviewed auction rules and encouraged members to fill out paperwork in advance, and also to batch items as much as possible. Cash or check accepted, with payment by check that evening. Items entered will



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not necessarily be sold in order of lot number so that all sellers will have a chance to be fairly represented.

Module Group Chair Scott Benson listed upcoming events that the Module Group will participate in.

Flatwheel deadline is February 26.

Contest Chair Dave Lawler said that evening's contest is for yard switchers. Last month's winners of the lightweight passenger coach contest were announced, with those present describing their models and the techniques used. No contest in March due to that evening's auction. The April contest will be for heavy construction equipment. Dave stated that he would be stepping down (after many years doing an outstanding job - Editor) as Contest Chair at the end of the season and called for members to think about taking over.

Company Store Rep Chuck Klein said that advertising in magazines was selling the Davies Steel gondolas, with more ads coming up expected to further drive brisk sales. Chuck received a round of applause as he concluded his tenure. Lee announced that Scott Benson will become chair of the Company Store, while Adam Woodie will assume responsibilities as chair of the Modular Group as well as continuing with the Raffle.

Raffle Chair Adam Woodie announced the evening's theme is Railroads East of the Mississippi. He reported that he had purchased additional raffle items during his

visit to the Springfield Show.

Lee told members that the Division will be going on a field trip this year to Oil Creek and Titusville Railroad on October 12, 2019. Save the date – more details to come.

Lee reviewed the February 5 Board Meeting (elsewhere in this issue). Lee invited the members to attend the Directors' Meeting to be held at 7 pm before the April general meeting.

Dave Williams gave a brief mention of the upcoming Mid Central Region's convention in Youngstown. Lee said they're looking for volunteers and clinicians.

Gary Schaefer said there are flyers for this year's Great Berea Train Show at the back of the room for distribution to hobby shops, libraries, etc.

Rich Ulmer reminded everyone that the church has a recycling program – please place your cans, Styrofoam, and trash into the proper bins.

Chuck Klein said that he would take care of the model railroad display at the Avon Lake Library to coincide with the Modular Group's upcoming appearance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

David M. Williams, Secretary 🛺



BOD MEETING MINUTES

NMRA MCR Division 4 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Church of the Redeemer, Westlake Ohio

In attendance: Lee Sheffield, Greg Noeth, Dave Williams, Gary Shaeffer, Adam Woodie, Jim Moore, Jeff Lauren, Fred Obreza, George Keller, Bruce Bowie, Joe Kurilec MMR, Brian Haas.

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Lee Sheffield at 7:08 pm.

Lee proposed that, due to the strong financial position of the Division, the ten percent auction commission be again waived for the March meeting auction. Brian Haas made a motion to that affect. Seconded by Bruce Bowie. Verbal vote carried unanimously.

Lee stated that we will have a field trip this year to Oil Creek and Titusville. Ron Morgan will organize the trip with the help of David James, whose company will provide the bus. Possible dates were discussed. A show of hands indicated that October 12, 2019 should be the date. The Drakewell Museum may also be included in the trip. Dinner arrangements may include a formal dinner; discussion to follow at a later date. Costs to be determined. Additional field trips to other destinations were mentioned, with the possibility of carpooling dependent insurance of **NMRA** requirements.

Lee said that Adam Woodie had volunteered to take over chairing the Module Group as well as continue handling the Raffle. Current Module Group Chair Scott Benson has agreed to become the new Company Store Rep. It's understood that Scott will not necessarily be able to attend every meeting and the Board found no issue with that. These are appointed positions and no official approval of the Board was necessary for the

indicated position changes.

Gary Schaefer proposed the establishment of a scholarship for graduating high school seniors who have been active in the Division. Resulting discussion brought questions concerning student qualification, amount of scholarship, number of students to be considered each time, appropriateness of such a function within the Division's tax/legal status. Gary will research issues and report back to the Board at a later meeting.

The Cuyahoga County 4H is in the process of starting a model railroading interest group. Lee read a letter from the organizer containing the requirements for participation and their intention to display at the Cuyahoga County Fair this year. They are soliciting support by organizations such as the Division. Several board members asked Lee for contact information. Lee will also invite them to attend one of our meetings.

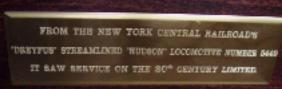
Lee stated that the annual Directors' Meeting needs to be held soon. It was decided that 7 pm the night of the April general meeting would provide ample time for notification to members. Any member with a suggestion or complaint is encouraged to attend the meeting or speak to a director prior to the meeting. Lee asked that the directors appoint a chair who will then present results during the general membership meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm. **4** David M. Williams, Secretary

THIS & THAT

MISSED PHOTOS - Your Editor missed publishing two photos author Joe Kurilec, MMR had sent in support of his article entitled "A Steam Locomotive Bell As A Nicknack". My apologies to the author and friend, Joe Kurilec, MMR. - Editor





GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE - I want to upgrade the connector on my original Digitrax command center so it will be interchangeable with the newer and much better connectors. Digitrax does not provide this service. They only state it is not feasible and would not provide the part no. of the new connector. I opened both command centers and studied the printed circuit board. The traces appear identical where the connectors are mounted. I took some pictures of the new connector and emailed them to Digikey customer service asking if they could possibly identify both the board mounted male fitting and the removeable female fitting.

Two hours later I had a response including part nos. The only issue was the parts identified are 6 pin and I need 7 pin. Should be easy enough to find it in their on-line catalog, right? Not really. But it did give me the manufacturer's name. Phoenix Contact. So I sent the 6 pin part nos. to their Sales Manager for Printed Circuit Board components. The next day I had his response with the part nos. I needed AND a package of samples on its way to me. The package arrived a couple days later with ten connectors AND two very nice screwdrivers of the appropriate size for attaching feeders to the removable connector. So great customer service is still alive. The moral of this tale is if in need of electronic components, try Digikey.com. And if your need happens to be for a connector and you have a choice of manufacturer, go with Phoenix Contact. -Editor

CONGRATULATIONS - Congratulatons and a big THANK YOU to Scott Benson and Adam Woodie. Scott, after being one of the leads in our Module Group since its inception has passed the torch to Adam Woodie. Not ready to rest on his laurels (what body part is a laurel?) Scott is moving in to the role of Company Store Manager. Adam is continuing in his role as the Raffle Dude in addition to his new role with the Module Group. Are you getting the sense that great members volunteer to make OUR organization as good as it is. Thanks guys!! - *Editor*

The Coast Starlight Is the Most Beautiful Train Ride in America

The train trip of your dreams starts at just \$97.

By Jessica Leigh Mattern

Nov 26, 2018

www.prevention.com

Hands down, one of the best (and cheapest) ways to see America's vast beauty is by train. Don't believe me? Then allow me to introduce you to Amtrak's Coast Starlight, which has been called "one of America's most beautiful train rides" since the 1940s.



Starting in Seattle and ending in Los Angeles, the Coast Starlight train trip

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NEW 4H GROUP - Following is the email I received from Wendy Lapsevich talking about the new Cuyahoga County 4H group. My thoughts were to put the contact information in the Flatwheel for anyone that may be interested in helping out. - Lee

January 23, 2019

Dear Train Enthusiast:

I'm excited to announce to you the formation of the Cuyahoga County 4-H Model Railroad Club. The goal for our school-aged youth members is to show a module-based HO train layout this summer at the Cuyahoga County Fair. The adult group leading this charge offer great advice, patient guidance and many years of experience.

My 10-year-old son belongs and I am interested in finding more students that share his interest and who would like to show / compete at the Fair this year.

The commitment includes a monthly meeting, purchasing three pieces of nickel silver track along with building or purchasing a module (\$45) to imagine and create their own railroad scene. Each member's scene becomes one portion of the overall track. The club received some generous donations for supplies like rail cars, switches and miscellaneous building materials. These freebies are available on a first-come, first-served basis, but MUST be used in a scene to show at the Fair.

Thank you in advance for sharing this information with your club and those you believe might have interest. Please contact me with any questions.

Kind regards,

Wendy Lapsevich

440-973-4186 - h

216-403-0086 - c / text

TOURS ANNOUNCEMENT takes passengers through Washington, Oregon, and California, allowing them to see stunning views of

The Division 4 2019 Spring Open House has been put on the shelf for one year due to the lack of participation by the membership over the past several years. The Fall open house will be planned as usual. If you have any questions, please call or see me.

Ron Morgan

Layout Tour Chariman

Washington, Oregon, and California, allowing them to see stunning views of the West Coast's mountains, forests, valleys, Pacific and Ocean. Passengers can take in the sights from observation car, which is decked out in floor to ceiling windows and comfortable swivel chairs. here's And the best part—tickets for the spectacular journey start at just \$97.



The entire route takes 35+ hours and travels through 30 destinations, including Olympia-Lacey, Portland, Sacramento, the San Francisco Bay area, and Santa Barbara. On the trip, riders will see the Cascade Range, Mount Shasta, the Santa Barbara Channel, several national parks and forests, and, of course, the Pacific coastline.

And according to travelers, America's most magnificent train ride lives up to its reputation. "My dropped the jaw as landscape outside changed green from valleys rolling to mountains and hills, to lush forests, cows on fields

MODULE GROUP

This article is being written the morning we head up to Novi, Michigan for the World's Greatest Hobby show. Thirteen members of the module group will be displaying a roughly $30' \times 50'$ layout for the Michigan public. It should be a good show and the crew is excited!

We had a very nice event at the Strongsville Library on February 7. The library staff did a very good job of publicizing the event, so we had a good crowd throughout the day. The 50' linear layout looked great and was appreciated by all.

We wrap up our winter/spring season with three more events. On March 16-17, we'll be supporting Division 5's Railfest show. On March 23-24, we'll be at the Avon Library. The library also asked if we could provide a model railroading display for their public display case during the month of March. Chuck Klein graciously volunteered to take care of that! Thanks, Chuck! Finally, on April 7, we'll return to the Medina Train Show. We hope to see you at some of these events.

As announced at the last division meeting, I'm going to be handing off the Module Group Coordinator job to Adam Woodie. We'll be transitioning that over this year. Adam has been an enthusiastic and active member of the module group for awhile now; his scenery work is some of the best we have on display. He's helped to coordinate a few of our events in the past, so I know he will be an excellent leader. Congratulations to Adam on this new position! And thanks for stepping up! According to the Board of Directors, I will be taking over the company store. I had made the offer prior to the last BOD meeting, with some conditions that I wanted to present to the Board. Well, they accepted my offer without hearing the conditions! So now let's see what I can come up with!! Thanks to all in the Division for your wonderful support during my 10 year term as coordinator. It has been a pleasure!

and snow-covered trees, to little neighborhoods and beautiful shorelines," one passenger wrote for Inquirer.net. "It truly was a sight to behold."



When booking your trip, you'll want to consider all the options. Travelers can opt for the \$325 "Superliner Roomette" tickets, which come with a bed for overnight travels your and very own sightseeing window your cabin. Business class tickets also come with amenities like on-board wine and cheese tastings. And everyone over should take advantage of the special discount for seniors—you can save 15 percent on your next adventure!

From: Country Living US

2/26/2019 UPDATE

OAKRIDGE, Ore. — An Amtrak train has been stranded in Oakridge, Oregon since Sunday after it struck a fallen tree and the weather deteriorated.

SCOTT BENSON,
RETIRING MODULE CHAIRMAN



Module Spotlight

Introduction / Origins:

Witt - Railroad Module story February 4, 2019

My module is the Miller Brewing Company, which is located on State Street in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Because I grew up in Milwaukee and lived close by, I chose this area to model.

I'm from a railroading family. My dad grew up in Portage, Wisconsin, an important hub for the Milwaukee Road. Portage had a passenger station, roundhouse, engine facilities and division offices. It was also the halfway point between Milwaukee and Minneapolis. Three generations of our family worked for the railroad in some capacity, as telegraphers or shop/engine house mechanics. My father began working there just before WWII.

When he returned from the war, my dad became the station agent for the Milwaukee Road in West Allis, a suburb of Milwaukee. I was about 5 years old and I picked up my interest in trains from my dad. We lived just two blocks from the station, and a form of "babysitting" was me riding in the engines for half a day!!

My grandparents lived near the Wells street viaductthe streetcar line to downtown - which passed almost directly over the Miller Brewing plant on the Wells Viaduct. As a small child, riding streetcars across this viaduct was like being in Disney World. The streetcar rose 75 feet over the valley, and I could see the Miller Brewing Company below. As a reference point, Milwaukee County Stadium, home of the Milwaukee Braves, was visible to the south, but the Milwaukee Road Shop complex in the valley was too far away to be seen.

If you're interested in more information, there are lots of old photos of the street cars and the Viaduct on the web.

The actual module came from Brian Barnt, who built the module and generously gave it to me when he moved to Chicago.

Structures and Details:

I recently finished the track work. Buildings are mostly Walther's Cornerstone, kits, reworked into partially recognizable shapes. Lakeside Shipping, Firehouse and a foundry became the Brewery complex. My trains are Milwaukee Road, Green Bay & Western, and some CNW.

Being part of the Module group allows me to do more than just run trains in the basement. So it expands the fun of trains to everyone who comes to module events.

John Witt







MEMBERSHIP

We are all Ambassadors of the NMRA and especially Division 4 when we participate in membership sign up events at different venues related to our model train hobby. Don't forget to visit the NMRA sign up booth at the upcoming Division 5 Train Show held on March 16 and 17 at Lakeland Community College. Members of Division 4 will be manning the booth on both days so be sure to stop by and say hello. In particular we will be promoting the NMRA Rail Pass program whereby new members can join the NMRA for a period of 9 months for the low price of \$19.95. That price includes the NMRA Magazine. This is a great value package and a great way to introduce new members to the value of belonging to the NMRA. I have been giving my NMRA Magazines to people that I entice to sign up on the Rail Pass Program so if any of you have NMRA Magazines that you wish to donate please bring them along to either the next Division 4 meeting or the day of the Division 5 Train Show.

Sincerely,

George Keller

Membership Chairman

MEMBERS: If your membership information needs to be updated, or for any questions about membership, please email George Keller, Membership, at gkeller4@woh.rr.com or call 419-217-0396 and leave a message.

GEORGE KELLER
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN



RAFFLE

There will be NO MARCH contest as we will be having the Biennial Auction. See you in April! ADAM WO

ADAM WOODIE,
THE RAFFLE DUDE



COMPANY STORE

New project for Division 4 Davies Steel hopper cars are in!

These are based on Dean Freytag's steel mill

DAVIES

modeling. Dean 's railroad was the South Ridge Lines and the steel mill was known as Davies Steel. We have designed a 70 ton three bay hopper

car that in theory belonged to the South Ridge Lines and was leased to Davies Steel. There are four pre-lettered cars with application of pre-printed decals to expand a fleet of cars to 12 numbers. Price is ONLY \$20 each. The cars have arrived. We have sold about 45 Davies Hopper Cars. You may see them advertised in various places. There are 11 MDT Reefers remaining. Shirts, Hats, and Patches available.



Wood Side,2 numbers available \$18 ea.



MCR Schoolhouse Laser Cut Kit \$45 ea.









SHIRTS and HATS ARE NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH THE CO. STORE!

Polo's along with both short and long sleeve.

FREE DVD'S!

I should remind everyone that we have a library of how to DVD's for 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 MEMBERS ONLY, then VIDEO LIBRARY to see a list of over 120 DVD's!

Division 4 Patches \$3 ea.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW
COMPANY STORE
MANAGER & THANK YOU
FOR VOLUNTEERING FOR
THIS IMPORTANT ROLE!!

SCOTT BENSON
COMPANY STORE
MANAGER



Chuck Klein has used several different tools to market our latest Division car. The advertisement shown below is appearing in the current issue of *The Steel Mill Modeler*, vol 6, number 1 magazine. Chuck is expecting a number of orders given the subscribers' natural interest in this unique car. If YOU want one, it is highly recommended you contact Chuck, cbklein765@gmail.com, soon to lock in your order while they are still available. (Great job Chuck! - Editor)

NOW AVAILABLE

A custom run of hopper cars from the legendary Davies Steel.



PUT HISTORY TO WORK ON YOUR LAYOUT!

Dean Freytag's "Davies Steel Works" is commemorated by this special Accurail 70-ton hopper.

Cars are easy-to-assemble kits and include trucks and couplers. Cars are painted and lettered as shown.

Four specific car numbers are available: 1201, 1210, 1228, 1245. Decals for 8 additional car numbers are included.

Cars are offered by the Mid-Central Region, Division 4, of the NMRA.

Cost is \$20 each for 1-3 cars, \$18 each for 4 or more. Ohio residents add 8% sales tax.

Shipping and handling is \$5 (total) for 1-3 cars, \$8 (total) for 4 cars, \$12 (total) for 5 or more.

Send check or money order payable to: Division 4 MCR NMRA.
Address: Div. 4 Car Project - c/o Chuck Klein
11531 Barrington Blvd, Parma Heights, OH 44130
Questions? Please email cbklein765@gmail.com

MARCH 2019

There will be NO MARCH contest as we will be having the Biennial Auction.

Auctioneers: Lee Sheffield, Frank Bongiovanni and Gary Sole!

APRIL 2019

Jim Moore on JMRI's Decoder Pro

What can Decoder Pro do for you? Jim will guide you through what you need to know to program your engines using the software program. BTW, Decoder Pro is a free program.

MAY 2019

The Biggest Events in U.S. Railroad History Since 1850 Gary Sole.

This clinic will cover railroad history starting with the development of Chicago as a rail hub in 1850, to the current railroad landscape of 2019. Along the way, the timeline will cover the four Transcontinental railroads, the financial panic of 1893 (that totally changed the railroad maps of America), development of US Steel, the USRA Joint line, Great Depression, Mergers and many more current events. Along the way are a number of modeling ideas.

CLINICS WANTEDHelp!!!! I am looking for programs for January through June 2019. 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

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. **LARRY MADSON** Anyone wishing to use the camera or the projectors for **CLINIC CHAIRMAN** their program, contact Larry.

CONTEST TABLE

The FEBRUARY contest was for: DIESEL YARD SWITCHERS

There were 15 entries and a total of 65 votes cast in both categories.

Here are the results:

DIORAMA

1st: John Puch

2nd: George Keller

3rd: Dave Lawler, John Witt (Tie)

4th: Don Glass

MODEL

1st: Brandon Wehe

2nd: John Hemsath

3rd: Gary Schaefer, Jeff Lauren (Tie)

4th: Joe Filipiak

There will be NO MARCH contest as we will be having the Biennial Auction

The April contest is for HEAVY DUTY OFF LINE CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, rollers, graders, dozers, back hoes, steam/power shovels etc.

Once again, in a effort to reduce confusion, I've included a picture of some heavy duty construction equipment. The diesel crawler is a semi-scratch, kit-bash from the Cheerios Shop and the grader is a Rio Grande Models kit.



Don't forget the May contest is for A SMALL TOWN BANK and these can be be judged for Achievement Program points. Bring your AP forms if you want to be judged.

FYI - Per the National and Regional contest rules,:

"The diorama had to be a maximum of two square feet and had to be constructed on a wood or foam base"

This should be noted by any of you diorama builders who might wish to enter a contest at a higher level than ours here at the

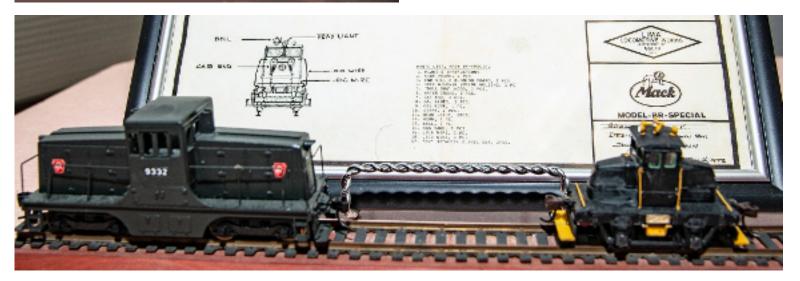
DAVE "MR. CHEERIOS" LAWLER
CONTEST CHAIRMAN

February Diorama Entrants











February Model Entrants



















BIENNIAL

(EVERY OTHER YEAR)

AUCTION



BY LEE SHEFFIELD SUPERINTENDENT & AUCTIONEER

2019 Division 4 Auction

Well, it's time for our biennial auction at Division 4 for the March meeting. I, Lee Sheffield, Frank Bongiovanni and Gary Sole will be your auctioneers.

For many of you this isn't your first Division 4 auction, but we have a lot of new members who don't know the ropes so to speak. Each item or group of items needs a completed auction ticket attached. By completing your auction tickets beforehand, you will save a lot of time on auction night. Blank tickets will be available the night of the auction or you can print your own off the Division 4 website or the next page of this article. On the website's main page, look on the right side for "Auction" Page". Click on it and a page describing the auction will come up with the blank forms located at the bottom. Open either file (pdf or word) and print as many as you need. You will need to fill out the Description and the Starting Bid. A starting bid is not required unless you have a minimum price you would accept. If you do not have a starting bid, put a "0" in the space. Don't fill in any other spaces until you get your seller/buyer number on a paddle the night of the auction when you sign in. Then you can fill in the seller number. Please give a good description of the item. We can usually figure out the manufacturer, but we may not always see any added details that could add to the value.

DO NOT FILL IN ANYTHING IN THE SELLER NUMBER AND BUYER NUMBER BOXES.

Please group your items together. We are going to start all bidding at \$5.00 so we can get through everything before Saturday morning. Yes, we have gone to midnight in past years. So for example, if you have some car kits to sell think about grouping them in twos. That way when I start the bidding at \$5.00 the price will be reasonable. Also, bidding will go in \$1.00 increments.

The Board of Directors has decided to forgo the 10% commission to Division 4 again on all sales.

So, in summary,

- 1. There will be no commission charged to sellers.
- 2. Starting bids will be \$5.00
- 3. Bids will be in \$1.00 increments
- 4. Sellers must be NMRA members. We welcome all buyers so tell your friends who aren't members.

Maybe this will convince them to give the NMRA a try.

- 5. Pay with cash or checks.
- 6. Sellers will be paid by check.

And as a final note, please be aware that there will be a lot of railroad goodies to sell and buy. If someone fills up an entire table with their own stuff, we will sell some and then go to someone else's and then back again. It isn't fair to other sellers if I spend an hour on just one person's merchandise. Not to mention my voice will only last so long.

Hopefully I covered everything and didn't bore you with the details. So let's have a good time and do our best to transfer your railroad goodies to someone else's basement for a couple of years (till the next auction). And remember, number one rule is to have fun.

Lee Sheffield

PS – Arrive early to look over all the items for sale before the auction starts. That way you can plot your course of action and/or spending.

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TOYTRAINS GO TO WAR



BY DAVE LAWLER PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

$THE\ FLATWHEEL\$ volume 54 number 3 | 25

Most of us older guys who have read books and articles about World War II, are aware of many unrelated companies switching their product lines to war materials. Some examples include Remington Rand, Singer Sewing Machines and Union Switch and Signal who produced thousands of 45 Cal. M1911A1 semi-automatic pistols. Ford Motor Company built nearly seven thousand B-24 Liberator bombers at their Willow Run aircraft plant in Michigan. Several thousand M4 and M4A1-6 Sherman Medium tanks were built by Baldwin, American, Montreal and Lima Locomotive companies as well as Pullman Standard and Pressed Steel railway car companies.

By now you're probably wondering what all this has to do with toy trains. Well, a lesser known war necessitated item called a **Pelorus**, a navigational instrument used to obtain relative bearings on U. S. Naval Vessels. The example pictured here was made by none other than **LIONEL CORPORATION** who relinquished their toy train production to help the war effort by producing various navigational instruments and bomb sights.

This particular item was removed by me, with permission, while surveying a converted navy auxiliary vessel that ultimately went to scrap.





THE FLATWHEEL VOLUME 54 NUMBER 3 | 26

Last month Joe reported on CW Trains. Joe passed along an article recently published in the Mentor *News Herald*. - *Editor*

CW Trains in Mentor features vintage O-scale models

By Betsy Scott bscott@news-herald.com @ReporterBetsy on Twitter Jan 30, 2019



Brian McCloskey co-owns a new model train business at 8815 East Ave. in Mentor.

Courtesy of city of Mentor

CW Trains

CW Trains is at 8815 East Ave.

Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursdays, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays.

Information: visit cwtrains.com or facebook.com/cwtrains, or call 440-479-1450.

Model train displays are back on track in Mentor.

The city, which lost a major toy train attraction in 2011, now is home to CW Trains LLC.

CW Trains grew out of a joint venture by brothers-in-law Scott Klein and Brian McCloskey, who found a home for their hobby shop at 8815 East Ave.

The business recently received a conditional-use permit from the city to operate in an M-1, Light Manufacturing

CW TRAINS UPDATE



by JOE KURILEC, MMR

District, off Hopkins Road.

The shop specializes in vintage toy trains and repairs, and includes a fully interactive, child-friendly display featuring four full-sized sets complete with buildings, gates, lights and more.

"We work on them, play with them, just enjoy them," Klein told the city Planning Commission.

CW Trains has been around in one form or another for about eight years, starting out in McCloskey's home, then moving to a rented space prior to setting up in a permanent storefront.

CW Trains LLC recently opened at 8815 East Ave. in Mentor.

It is the only dedicated train shop on the east side of Cleveland to buy, sell, trade or simply visit. It specializes in O-scale trains from the post-war era (1945-1969) with cars ranging from under \$10 for a classic caboose to more than \$1,000 for rare items.

"It's a hobby that turned into a decent business," said McCloskey.

Mentor previously was home to the Western Reserve Model Railroad Museum, which was set up in part of the former Caterpillar plant at 7230 Justin Way. It was touted as having more different-sized trains on display and more operating layouts than any other museum in the world.

The nonprofit museum closed the Mentor location in August 2011 following financial woes. Last March, the museum announced via Facebook that it would reopen in Geneva. No further details were available on the site.



Brian McCloskey co-owns a new model train business at 8815 East Ave. in Mentor.

Courtesy of city of Mentor

MY HOOSAC TUNNEL VISIT



BY BRUCE BOWIE PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR UNLESS OTHERWISE

THE FLATWHEEL VOLUME 54 NUMBER 3 | 28

The Hoosac Tunnel (also called Hoosic or Hoosick Tunnel) is a 4.75-mile active railroad tunnel in western Massachusetts that passes through the Hoosac Range, an extension of Vermont's Green Mountains. It runs in a straight line from its east portal, along the Deerfield River in the town of Florida, to its west portal in the city of North Adams.

Work began in 1851 under an estimated cost of \$2 million (\$63 million today - Editor) and ended in 1875, having used \$21 million (\$660 million today - Editor). At its completion, the tunnel was the world's second-longest, after the 8.5-mile Mont Cenis Tunnel through the French Alps. It was the longest tunnel in North America until the 1916 completion of the Connaught Tunnel under Rogers Pass in British Columbia. It remains the longest active transportation tunnel east of the Rocky Mountains, and as of 1989 is the sixth longest railroad tunnel in North America.

COMPLETION

In 1862, the Troy and Greenfield Railroad defaulted on its loan from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which foreclosed on the mortgage and took control of the railroad, including the tunnel project. The state sent engineer Charles Storrow to Europe to study modern tunneling techniques, including the use of nitroglycerin and compressed air. In 1863 the state, with Alvah Crocker now superintendent of railroads, restarted the project and made Thomas Doane the chief engineer.

In 1868, the Massachusetts state legislature appropriated \$5 (\$157 million today - Editor) million to complete the project. Canadian engineer Walter Shanly (sometimes spelled Shanley) and his brother Francis took over the project from the state, and remained through the completion of tunnel boring. Among the consulting engineers at the time was Benjamin Henry Latrobe II, a noted civil engineer who was serving as the chief engineer of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

The final chief engineer was Bernard N. Farren, who took over on November 19, 1874, and on Thanksgiving Day in 1874 the last 16 feet of rock was removed beneath the town of North Adams. Farren completed the work, including enlarging sections of the tunnel, reinforcing weak areas with arching, completing drainage systems and completing the east tunnel facade (still in good condition today, see photos - Editor). The first train passed through the tunnel on February 9, 1875.

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TECHNOLOGY

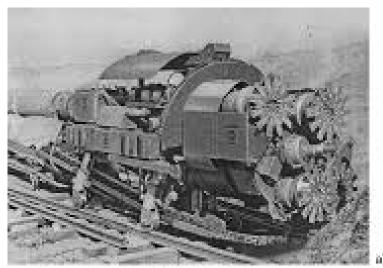
The tunnel construction project required excavation of 2,000,000 tonnes (2,000,000 long tons; 2,200,000 short tons) of rock.

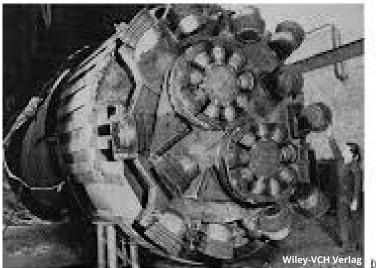
The British ton is the long ton, which is 2240 pounds, and the U.S. ton is the short ton which is 2000 pounds.

Both tons are actually defined in the same way. 1 ton is equal to 20 hundredweight. It is just the definition of the hundredweight that differs between countries. In the U.S. there are 100 pounds in the hundredweight, and in Britain there are 112 pounds in the hundredweight (Gotta love those Brits for make it confusing - Editor). This causes the actual weight of the ton to differ between countries.

To distinguish between the two tons, the smaller U.S. ton is called short, while the larger British ton is called long.

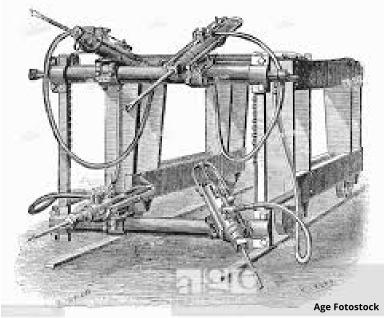
On March 16, 1853, "Wilson's Patented Stone-Cutting Machine" (a tunnel boring machine) was used; it failed after excavating 10 feet of rock.





WILSON STONE-CUTTING MACHINE

Tunnel builders resorted to hand digging, and later used the Burleigh Drilling-machine, one of the first pneumatic drills.



BURLEIGH DRILLING-MACHINE

Construction also featured the first large-scale commercial use of nitroglycerin and electric blasting caps and the first such use in the United States.

Digging the Central Shaft also allowed workers to open two additional faces to excavate: once the shaft was complete in 1870 workers dug outwards from the center to meet the tunnels being dug from the east and west portals. Engineers built a 1,000-foot (300 m) elevator to hoist the excavated rock from the Central Shaft.

One of the many engineering challenges posed by the project was getting the proper alignment between the four tunnel segments that were being dug: the east and west portal tunnels, and the two tunnels dug outward from the central shaft. Engineers cleared a path through the forest over the mountain, and strung a straight line from the east to west portals, through "sighting posts" on the east and west peaks of Hoosac Mountain. In 1866 Thomas Doane took over as chief engineer. He resurveyed the alignment of the tunnel by constructing six towers.

These alignment towers served to make sure the tunnel stayed true to its course. Grooved iron markers were originally used instead of these towers. Each tower, except the Rowe Neck tower, consisted of a transit scope, a sloped wooden roof on the top of the stone structure. Repeated surveys verified the line ran true between the posts, and steel bolts were installed

at fixed intervals along the line. Only four of these towers remain today, in ruins. These can be found using old roads and some bushwhacking through the current forest overgrowth.



Ruins of the westernmost Hoosac Tunnel alignment tower, located on Ragged Mountain in North Adams, Massachusetts - Wikipedia

On December 12, 1872, workers opened the east portal tunnel to the Central Shaft-dug tunnel, which were aligned within 9/16 inch, a tremendous engineering achievement at that time. On November 27, 1873, the remainder of the tunnel was opened to the west portal tunnel.

The American Society of Civil Engineers made the tunnel an Historic Civil Engineering Landmark in 1975.

ACCIDENTS

Deadly accidents during construction killed 196 workers, leading the survivors to dub the tunnel the "Bloody Pit". Many of its victims died in explosions, most by black powder, others by the more powerful, but less stable nitroglycerin.

Among the deadliest incidents was the horrendous Central Shaft accident. On October 17, 1867, workers were digging the tunnel's 1,028-foot (313 m) vertical exhaust shaft when a candle in the hoist building ignited naphtha fumes that had leaked from a "Gasometer" lamp.



Gasometer lamp photo by Rusty Remakes

The ensuing explosion set the hoist on fire, and it collapsed into the shaft. Four men near the top of the shaft escaped, but 13 men working 538 feet (164 m) below were trapped by falling naphtha and pieces of iron. The pumps were also destroyed, and the shaft began to fill with water. A worker named Mallory was lowered into the shaft by rope the next day; he was overcome by fumes and reported no survivors, and no further rescue attempts were made. Several months later, workers reached the shaft's bottom and found that several victims had survived long enough to fashion a raft before suffocating.

Above taken from Wikipedia

In August, 2013, my wife and I traveled to western Massachusetts to visit our youngest, and my favorite (don't tell her two sisters!), daughter, living at that time in North Adams, MA. Trisha always tries to personalize our visits and, of course for her dad, something train oriented was on the program. Her at that time boyfriend's father, and now her father-in-law, Bill Molloy, is a life long resident of North Adams. Trisha arranged for Bill to take me on a sojourn into the nearby mountains to see first hand Hoosac Tunnel.

We first traveled to the western portal. To get to the tunnel we had to go past a NO TRESPASSING sign

The NMRA, Mid-Central Region and Division 4 does not support trespassing as a hobbyist tool!

THE FLATWHEEL VOLUME 54 NUMBER 3 | 31



attached to a locked gate followed by a walk of about a mile up a well maintained but rather steep maintenance road.

The west portal has a corrugated steel structure enclosing the original stone portal. It appears there is a roll-up steel door that can be lowered to block the entrance. My favorite railroad, the East Broad





WEST PORTAL

Top had similar apparatus on both of its tunnels. Tunnels are notorious for water intrusion from above. The EBT doors were kept closed when the temperatures were below freezing to block the cold wind and keep the water inside the tunnel from

freezing with the potential of causing derailments. I am only assuming the Hoosac tunnel had a door for similar reasons.

We left the west portal and drove to the mountain ridge on our way to the east portal. Bill stopped and showed me the ventilation system in place on top of the vertical exhaust shaft. NOTE: this is an oft overlooked modeling opportunity. Both tunnels and mines often used vertical shafts for ventilation.



The final stop was the east portal. Fortunately, the east portal is very close to the nearby roadway. While we did again walk past a NO TRESPASSING sign we did not have to walk far to get to the entrance.

The east portal remains as built 138 years ago. The stone work remains in excellent condition with a lovely patina of moss/mold (again, some great modeling idea).



EAST PORTAL

A close-up of the interior does show the 138 years of moisture taking its toll. Another modeling opportunity for your tunnel, be it the Hoosac, or a freelance tunnel.

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With my photography needs quenched we walked back to the nearby road and our parked vehicle. Looking back towards the tunnel, I saw a distant headlight approaching. Soon we watched as an east bound train came out of the tunnel. Perfect timing! I thanked Bill for scheduling the train to complete my day!!







'NOT BRICK & MORTAR' HOBBY SHOPS



BY JOE KURILEC, MMR PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

$THE\ FLATWHEEL\$ volume 54 number 3 | 33

I want to make sure that Division 4 members are aware of "other" hobby dealers in our area. These images were taken October 2018 at the Great Berea Train Show.

First on the list is Joe Andrew's Eastern Ohio Trains. There is a website but it is outdated. At the Great Berea Train Show I talked with Joe about his business and future plans. Joe mentioned that he was trying to reduce stock. He is a great supporter of Division 4.

Eastern Ohio Trains had a nice display at the Division's GBTS.



- JOE ANDREWS



You can always find a supply of very good models from Eastern Ohio Trains.

Brian Wiseman's business, Jason's Brass Poles, has a detailed website showing all of the products and

brands carried.

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http://www.jasonsbrasspoles.com/



Last on the list is Frank Feko's Sounds of Motion. Frank offers DCC sales, decoder installations and technical support.

Sounds of Motion is another dealer at the GBTS.

Sounds of Motion had a complete line of products on display. You can talk to Frank at most Division 4 Friday night meeting where he sets up in one of the back meeting rooms.



In addition to these member entrepreneurs, the Orenick's, owners of State Tool and Die will be featured in an upcoming article by Joe Kurilec, MMR.

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Dealers will accept full responsibility for any injuries or loss to them or their property while attending the show. All boxes/storage material placed under tables. All loading/unloading to be done at designated entrance. There is to be nothing attached to wall/floors.

Dealers expressly release the promoters, KD Trains LLC, and the Independence Fieldhouse from any liability

Dealer must give KD Trains, LLC two weeks prior notice if unable to attend.

and the Independence Fieldhouse from any liability and agree to hold promoters harmless therefore.

No pack-up before 3 PM

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Please mail back with <u>Separate Check</u> for the Buffet by March 9, 2019. (Check will be held & deposited March 18, 2019) Make Checks payable to: Railfest

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Date: Saturday April 20, 2019

Location: Painesville Railroad Museum

475 Railroad St., Painesville, Ohio 44077

Time: 8:00 am - 12:00 noon

Cost: \$7.00/Adults \$5.00 Sr. Citizen \$3.00/Children (12 senior)

\$15 family of 4 = 2 Adults 2 Children (10 and 0)

Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am



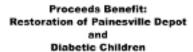


















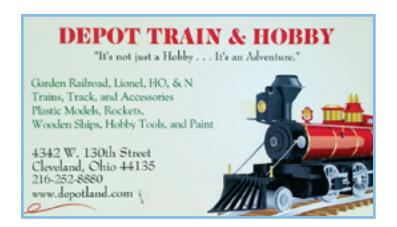
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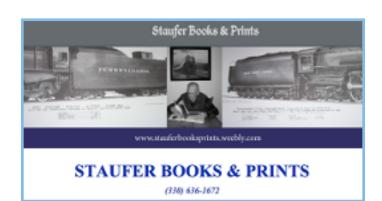
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PLEASE SUPPORT THESE DEALERS!

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.

757 on its way home to Bellevue - photo forwarded by Gary Schaefer from the Mad River & NKP Museum Facebook page. Note, the caboose was sent from the Museum to support the engine on its westward travels. Both are now in their Bellevue home. Yeah!!

