



THE



FLATWHEEL

MAY 2020

VOLUME 55, NUMBER 5



In This Issue

MAY 2020

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COVER PHOTO: This month's cover shows MMR® John Hemsath's setup for taking a photo he shared with the Division through Ben Lanza's web efforts and reprinted here on page 14. Thank you John and Ben for sharing your "stay at home" efforts.

NORTH COAST LEADERSHIP

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Webmaster - Ben Lanza, blqt@nls.net

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

DIVISION 4

THE NORTH COAST DIVISION

JOIN US WHEN THE CURRENT SITUATION ALLOWS FOR OUR NEXT MEETING.

STAY TUNED! BE SMART! BE SAFE!!

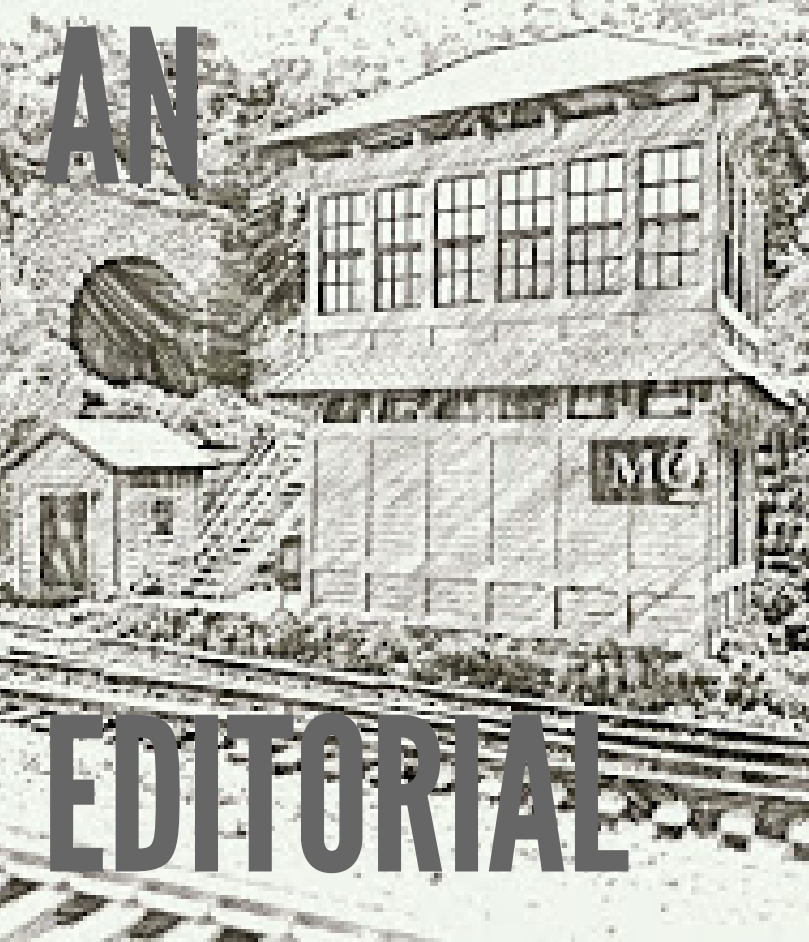
WE OFFER GOOD FELLOWSHIP, FREE SOFT-DRINKS/COFFEE AND
AN INFORMATIVE CLINIC ON SOME ASPECT OF OUR HOBBY.

MAY MEETING CANCELED

Due to the continuing Coronavirus situation I am canceling the May 2020 meeting. The church where we meet is still closed per the CDC guidelines so we need to adhere to the stay at home requirements. Please stay safe and keep working on the those model railroading projects.

Lee Sheffield

Division 4 Superintendent



EDITORIAL

This SPECIAL EDITION of your *Flatwheel* was the idea of Adam Woodie and Superintendent Lee Sheffield. I received on March 31st this from Adam Woodie:

Hello Bruce

Lee and I were talking yesterday and wondering if you would be interested in doing a different format for the April edition of the Flatwheel. Instead of a bunch of sections about canceled events, what if we asked members to send in photos with a description of what they have been working on since the shut down began? What do you think?

Adam

After advising Adam it would, in fact, be the May issue as the April issue had already been published, I enthusiastically said YES!

And as the time has progressed since our outstanding Webmaster Ben Lanza first published the announcement a number of members have sent me information and photos of what they are doing now that we all have more time at home.

So in support of this issue's train (pun intended) of thought following are my efforts since my last day working at the local vocational school.

I made a decision a couple years ago to stop building my layout in its current configuration as a single level layout.

I redesigned it to be a two level design with a helix connecting the two levels. This created the need to lower the original bench work, whose electrical and electronic system was fully in place and functioning. With the bottom level lowered, the helix constructed and the upper level in place, it was time to put the level's electrical system back together. I thought it would be quick...but it wasn't. By mid-April, with delivery of some blue #12 stranded wire and some connectors to add to my PSX circuit breakers, this task is fully completed.

As I discussed in a recent Editorial, what you do for a backdrop can make a huge difference on your layout's overall look. My good friend and fellow Division 4 member Dave Johnson has a magnificent layout based on the PRR. The layout is LARGE and designed for operations. I have been fortunate to operate on it many times. One of the many things that sets Dave's layout above many other very good layouts are the photo quality backdrops. When you first view Dave's four track Horseshoe Curve it takes your breath away. The backdrop is a photocopy of the actual mountains laying behind the prototype curve. Beautiful.

With Dave's take on backdrops in mind, I decided to also use photo quality backdrops for my East Broad Top v3.2. I opted to buy my backdrops from Trackside Scenery. They produce a number of different series of backdrops. I chose to use their Hickory Hollow series. In the past two weeks I have installed over 40'. I am very happy with the results and am now even more motivated to "get the trains running"!



My Orbisonia station foam mock-up with the photo backdrop in the background. Note, the bottom edge will disappear behind "regular" scenery once installed.



BRUCE BOWIE
EDITOR

FROM THE SUPER

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

With all the disruption of our lives taking place, what have you done to keep yourselves busy? I find myself still going to work every day like normal except for the fact that 90% of our Design Engineering department is working from home. My job as a test lab tech finds me having to go into work. It is a little difficult to test wheelchairs and home healthcare equipment at home. I never had much use for Skype before all this happened. Now any meetings we have at work are all done over the Internet through Skype even if the person is right down the hall.

I hope you have been enjoying the emails from Ben with various things to watch and do while staying home. Ben, I want to thank you for all you have done during these trying times. I and the rest of our members look forward to the next email each and every day. And I want to thank all of our members who have sent items to Ben to post. I even heard through the grapevine that others in our region are getting the emails and watching. Hats off to Ben, Thank You !!!

I owe another Thank You to Joe Kurilec for his book raffle. I hope you sent him an email to enter. This and Ben's emails show how much our group sticks together during tough times. We have a great group and I am proud to belong. Thank You !!!

I hope some of you read the note on our web page about taking photos and writing a little blurb on what you have been doing model railroad wise during our adventure for the May Flatwheel. I think I would rather call it an adventure as I am tiring of the usual and official terms. I have made time to work on finishing some engines I started during Training Day, yes Training Day last November. And I have dug out a bunch of car kits to put together another train to run on the modules. Just being warmer during the day has got me to get the heck out of my chair and downstairs in the evenings after dinner.

As expected the Mid-Central Region (Steel City Express) convention in Pittsburgh has been canceled. The members of Division 2 had a great convention put together and they are now on the calendar to host in 2023. For anyone already signed up, don't forget to cancel any hotel reservations you had.

Not to be unexpected, the National Convention and train show in St. Louis has been canceled. There is a video on Youtube discussing the issues leading up to and following the cancellation of the convention. You can find under Ken Patterson's "What's Neat This Week #112.5". Unfortunately the NMRA is going to foot some bills because of the cancellation such as convention cars and other items which were already ordered and paid for. Here is your chance to buy that special car for the convention that didn't happen.

When will we have our next meeting? Your guess is as good as mine. Maybe we should have a contest to see who can pick the date when we can have a meeting again. But I don't know if you are keeping up with the statistics or not, we are making inroads. Give yourselves a pat on the back for staying home. It is working !!!

At this point all I can say is do your best to keep your sanity in check throughout this ordeal. Keep working on those model railroad projects down in the basement. When we get back to having meetings we will all have something to share on how we coped with being cooped up at home. Look at the bright side, yes there will be a bright side, all those model railroad projects we put off all that time will be complete and we will be looking for the next thing to work on. I'm sure Dave Lawler has something in store for all those discarded masks we have. I challenge you Dave. Come up with some kind of project or building using old masks. If anyone can do it, it will be Dave.

So I close with that. Please continue to welcome any new members and visitors to our meetings, whenever we have the next one. 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 in June or who knows when !

As always, Model Railroading is Fun !!!

**LEE SHEFFIELD,
SUPERINTENDENT**



THE NORTH COAST DIVISION

MEMBERSHIP

I know that we are moving next year to a larger location because of membership increase . I just thought that you should know that when I go into my small train room that in my mind all of you are present and packed into my small space. We aren't practicing social distancing but we all have or masks on. The really bad part about meetings in my train room is that I have to drink all the coffee and eat all the donuts by myself. I just thought that I should let you all know that we are all coupled together on this train and we are going to get to the next station on time where coffee and donuts will be served once again.

Bring pencil and paper to the next meeting because like in grade school we all have to write about what we did on our coronavirus vacation

**GEORGE KELLER
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**



THIS & THAT



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

St. Louis 2020 National Convention and National Train Show canceled

As everyone is aware, the coronavirus has had a devastating impact around the world. It has caused the death of tens of thousands of people and that is not something to be trivialized.

The NMRA National convention, Gateway 2020, is scheduled to start on July 12, 2020, in St. Louis, Missouri. That being said, the local host group has determined that they can no longer continue with the preparations and operation of the convention. Among the reasons for this decision is the fact that one key member is ill with COVID-19. The host group requests your prayers for him.

Additionally, some members of the local model railroad community have withdrawn their model railroads from the tours, based on their understandable and valid concerns about allowing persons in their homes who may have the COVID-19 virus. Even if the virus is well under control, that does not mean that everyone who attends the convention would be virus-free.

Robert Amsler, Manager of the Meetings and Trade Show Department has advised the Officers and the Board of Directors of this decision and the Officers and Directors fully support cancelling the convention. Neither the Gateway 2020 crew nor the NMRA made this decision in haste or without careful consideration of all involved. The cancellation is in the best interest of the NMRA members, their family members, and the NMRA. It is noteworthy that the NMRA has never cancelled a convention before Gateway 2020 and that includes during World War II.

For those who have registered for the convention, the refund policy will be published as soon as possible at Gateway2020.org. We, the Gateway 2020 Committee, will need some time to make the necessary changes to the website to process the refunds.

Again, all involved regret this decision but we trust that you will understand the necessity and reasoning behind the decision.

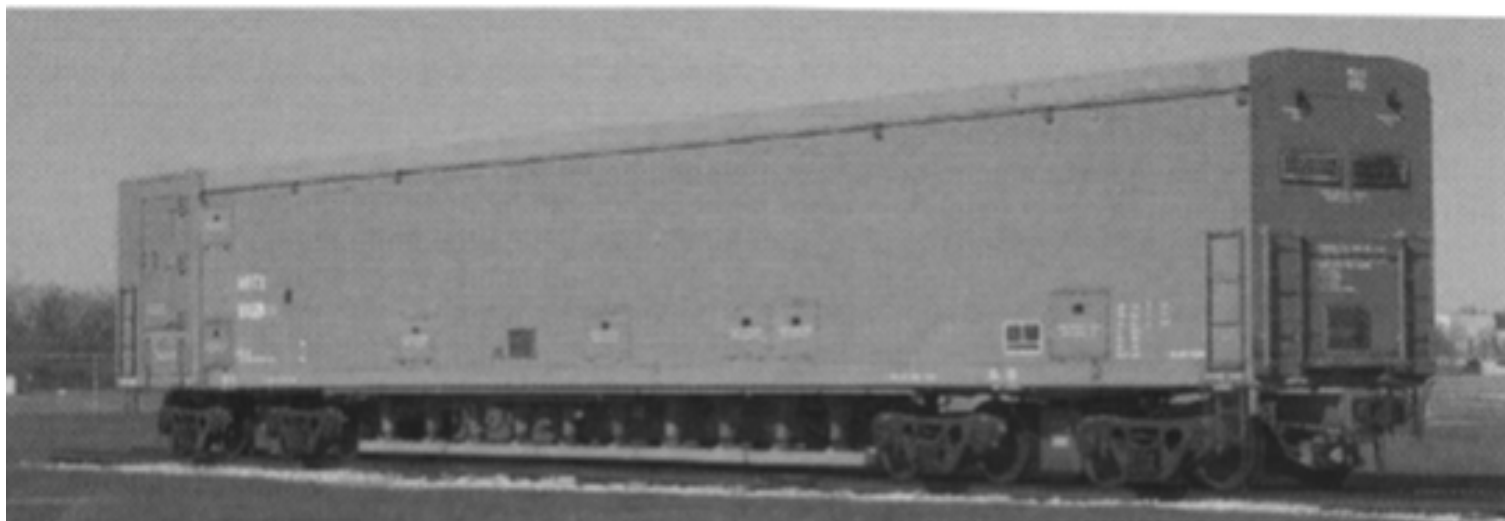
CANCELLATION - Fellow NMRA members, I received an email this morning from the Hotel and our regional convention has been cancelled for May 28-31, 2020, and they have put our convention on the calendar for May 18 - 21, 2023. So please send out any emails that need to be sent and please stay safe and healthy. Thank You to all of You. - *Susan Werner, Life Member , Div. 2, MCR, NMRA*

MORE CANCELLATIONS - The corona virus continues to change our plans. A number of you have been involved in one or both of these conventions planned for this spring.

The New York Central System Historical Society Convention, scheduled for May 15-17 in Independence, Ohio, has been postponed to August 28-30, still in Independence, and still at the Holiday Inn. The Train Show in conjunction with the convention, scheduled for May 17th, has been rescheduled to August 30th.

The Norfolk & Western Historical Society Convention, originally scheduled for June 4-6, also at the Holiday Inn in Independence, has been rescheduled for June 3-5, 2021. Additional details regarding both conventions will be posted as soon as they get firmed up.. - *FRANK BONGIOVANNI*

SCARY- I scan for the NYCSHS @ HQs in Middleburg Hts. I found this old issue of RABO (Retired Administrators of the B&O and its successors) Oct 2016. One of the articles was VERY interesting (scary). I never knew these existed! - *JOE KURILEC, MMR®*



This is a US Air Force missile launch car that was called a "Peacekeeper Rail Garrison Car." During the Reagan Administration, fifty of these cars were to travel the country's railroads with Minuteman missiles ready to launch in case of attack. Fortunately, the program was never put into full operation. This is the last example of the proposed car and is now part of the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio.

Terry Allen photo from

Joe Kurilec, MMR®

VIRTUAL RAFFLE #1

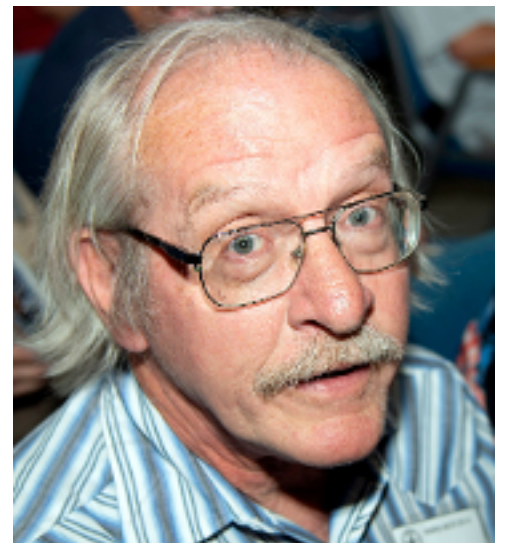
The winner of the "Trackside in the Rust Belt 1957-1977" Book is Spain James. The book will be mailed out. The Virtual Raffle ran from 4-1-20 to 4-19-20. There were a total of 31 members that entered. There will be a second Virtual Raffle. Watch for Ben's email blast for details.



All of the entries were placed in a "hopper" to pick the winner. Not really. They were placed in a large container. The CEO of my Erie Plate Railroad pulled the winning ticket.

AND THE WINNER IS....

SPAIN JAMES!



Joe Kurilec, MMR[®]

VIRTUAL RAFFLE #2

**VR #2 will start Monday 4-20-20 and end on Wednesday 5-6-20
@ 11:59PM.**

**The prize will be awarded at Friday's Div. 4 Meeting, 5-8-20. If
this meeting is canceled, the prize will be mailed to the
winner.**

ONE RAFFLE ENTRY PER MEMBER.

**To enter, members can email me
jkurilec@earthlink.net**

In the subject line please enter VIRTUAL RAFFLE.

Please add you name in the body of the email. Press send.

This VR is done at NO cost to the Division.

**The prize is the Nickel Plate Road Historical Societies "Model
of the Year-2020", HO scale Painsville, Ohio Tower. It is laser
cut and a VERY well detailed kit. This item is brand new. Good
Luck!**

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PAINESVILLE OHIO SIGNAL TOWER

JAN 2020

HO SCALE



Located at NKP milepost 154.4, the Painesville, Ohio, tower protected an important crossing with the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad along the Nickel Plate mainline between Chicago and Moline. The tower was built in the late 1890s during the final stages of construction of the Cleveland (then Terminal) and headed east, at the current CTC equipment in the Cleveland area. PE Tower was one of only a handful of interlocking towers that was destroyed, but it owned and maintained by the Nickel Plate.

PE Tower was the site of a large volume of railroad traffic with the Nickel Plate mainline having 25 scheduled trains each day. Additionally, the B&O had an additional twelve trains that traveled through the interlocking. These were the scheduled trains and extra train sections from both lines provided over more traffic for the busy tower. The tower was also the site of an important interchange point with the B&O. Between 15,000 and 20,000 loaded cars were interchanged here annually.

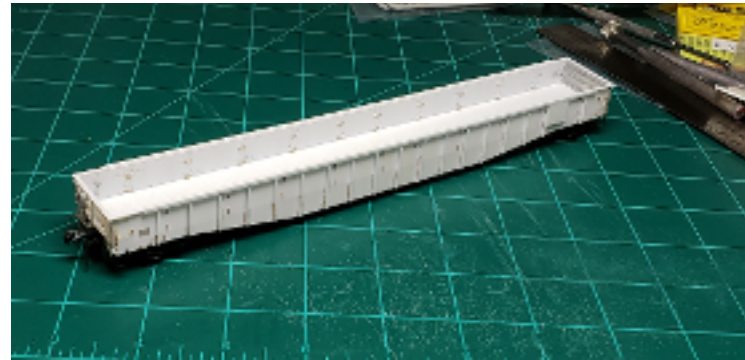


ABOVE AND RIGHT: Three sides of the newly released models of NKP's Painesville (PE) Tower. Model shown here is in O scale. DAN MERRILL PHOTOS

Adam Woodie and Superintendent Lee Sheffield suggested given the time we all have available that this special issue of *The Flatwheel* focus on your, the members, efforts. So, in no particular order, and with our thanks, here you go:

From Darrall Swift

CS 21050-21069 - This car is based on a car I measured about 15 years ago. Totally scratch-built with kit-bashed Red Caboose ends. I still need to add tie-downs along the top chord, and then the car will be ready for paint.



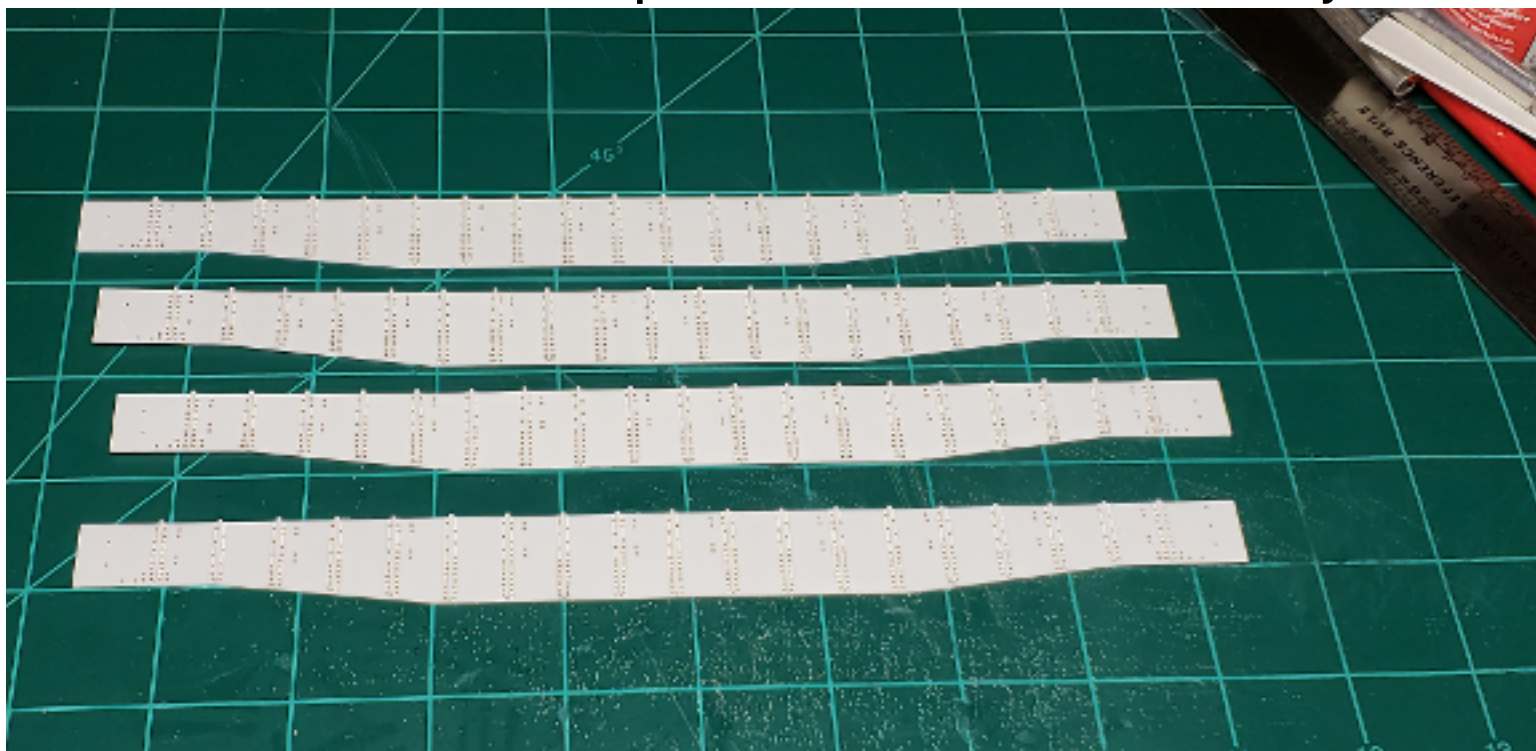
PC 598850-598999, G46 Class - This model is also based on a prototype I measured in Hancock, WV. It to will have modified Red Caboose ends.



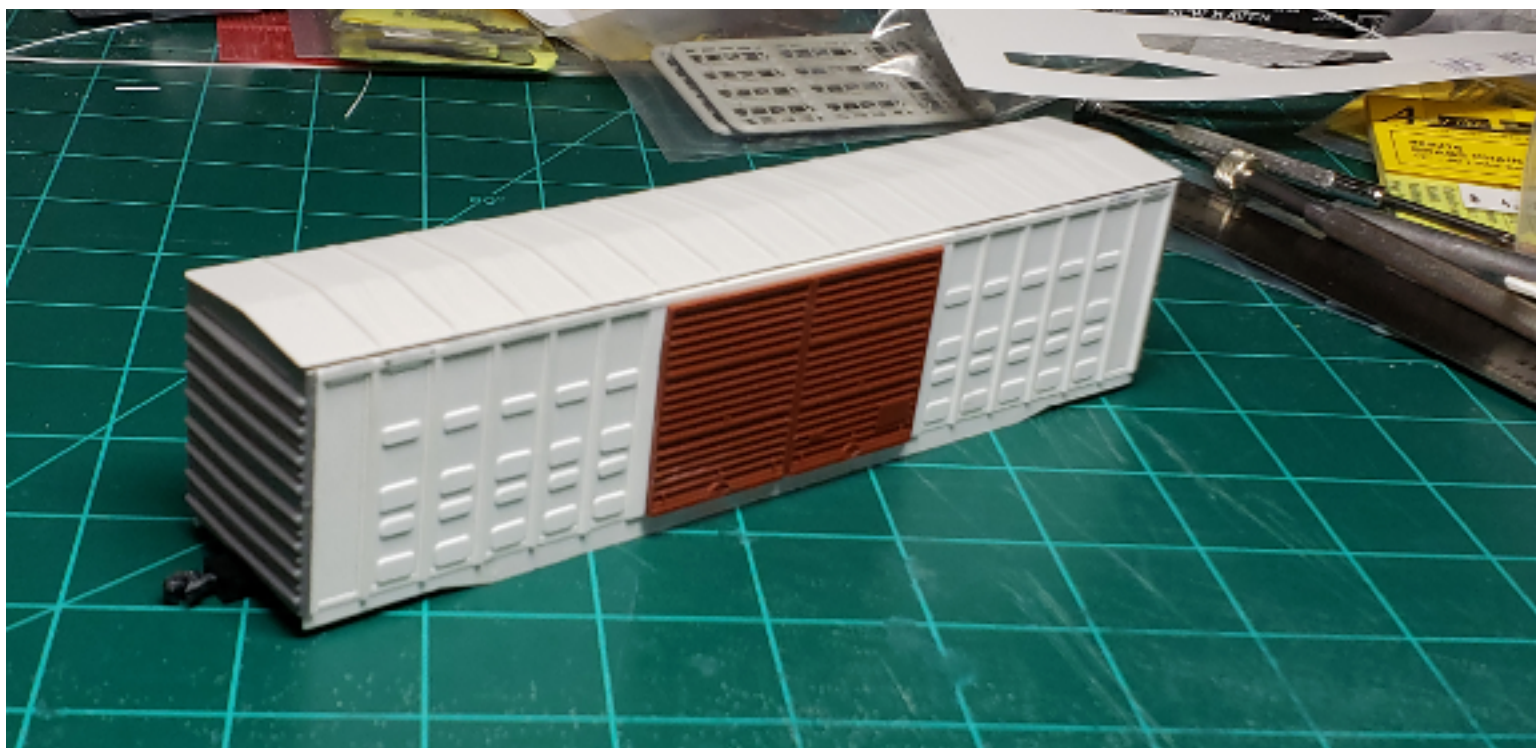
WHAT YOU BEEN UP TO?

BY MEMBERS OF
DIVISON 4
PHOTOS AS NOTED

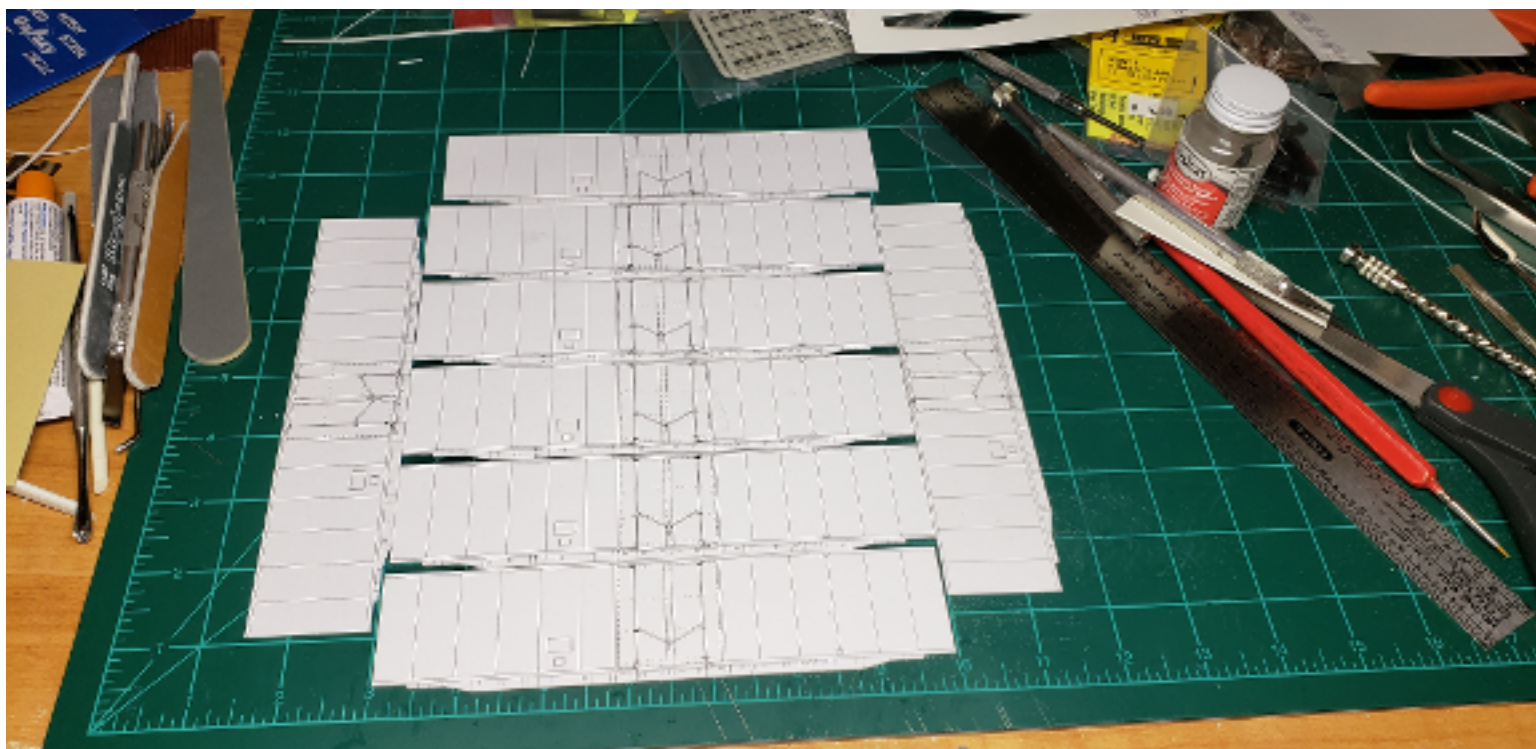
NP 56000-56024 - This series is nearly identical to the CS gondola previously described. The differences are that the NP gon has a slightly different rivet pattern, and drop ends. I'm producing a 2nd car that hopefully will become a master for a resin kit to be produced for the NP Historical Society.



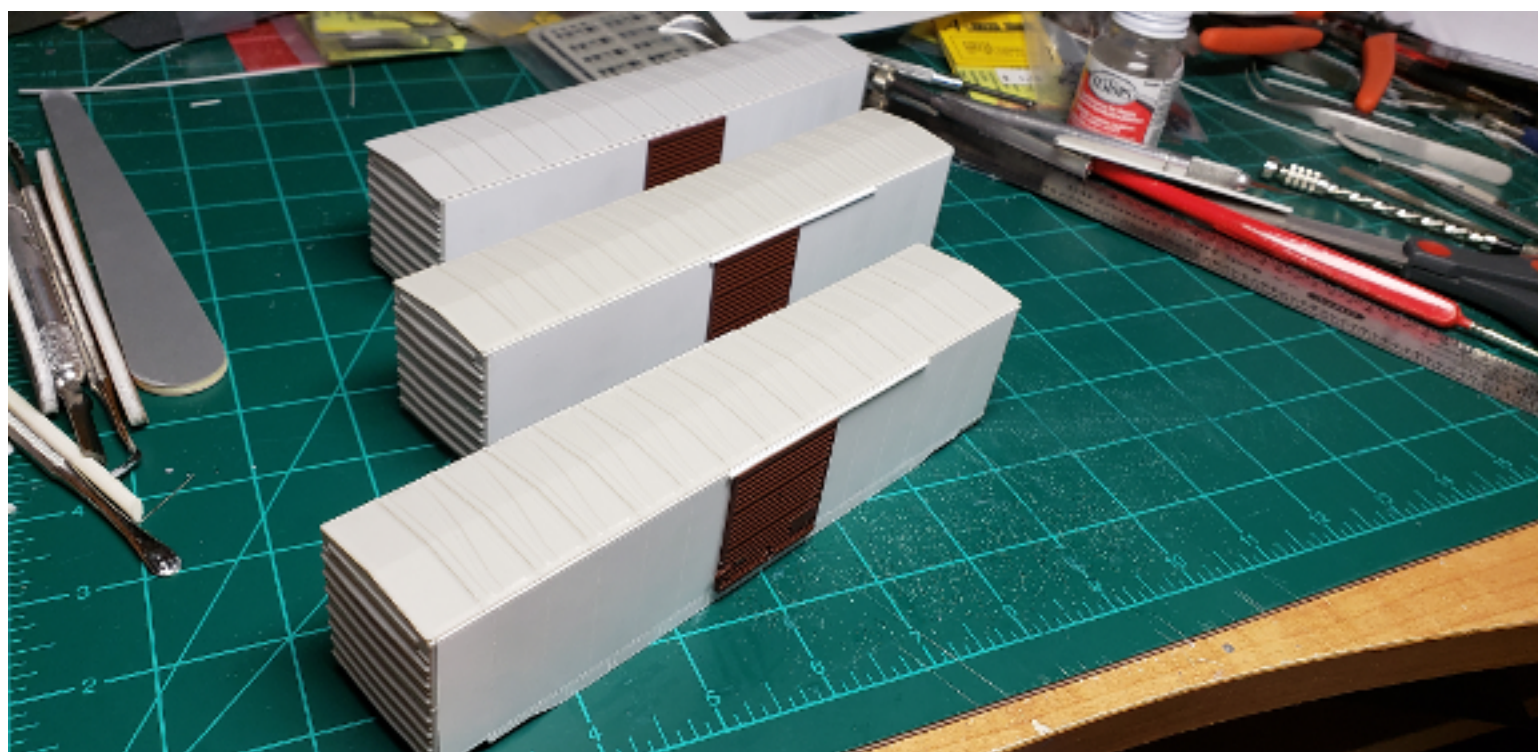
SCL 40600-46849 - This car is based on CSXT 158507 which I measured in Florence, SC. The car is scratch-built with Cannon & Co ends and Moloco roof.



GN 36800-36999 - This is based on a car I measured in Great Falls, MT. The cars are scratch-built and will have Cannon & Co ends and Moloco roof.



GN 39500-39699 - This is a Cannon & Co laser cut kit.



From John Hemsath, MMR®

I gave the hearse a light gray wash, added a 100w flood, and reshot the picture at a higher angle. (Cover photo shows John's arrangement he discusses here - *Editor*)

I think it is an improvement over the first one. (Me too. - *Editor*)

Good enough? Any suggestions? (More than good enough, great! Go pro!! - *Editor*)



From Dale Guthman

NKP765 NYC 20th Century Limited shows how Hi-rail can be realistically modeled as can any scale! B(eautiful - Editor)



BNSF in Shop

**View of Elinor Tower I have
been working on.**



From Adam Woodie

Just making trees. (110 in this photo alone!)



From Steve Holzheimer

Those who stuck around to hear my AC&Y Spur 4 presentation in January might have noted the odd looking building sitting on top of the foam. I referred to it as the Old Admin building. It was one of the original General Tire plant structures. Photos show it had a basement level, hence the funny looking structure in the photos.

The original building did have a basement and two floors but the rest of the details are conjecture as I've not been able to find very good photo documentation of the entrances.



**I excavated the foam
and "poured" a
basement, made
from cardboard.**



**Here I show the
partial building
being test fit
against
the basement light
wells.**



**In this photo you
see the main
entrance side of the
finished building.**



The back side entrance.



This photo shows a close up of the back entrance prior to final paint up.



From Joe Kurilec, MMR®

Ben Lanza has been doing a great job of getting all types of model railroading/railroading items to the membership. THANKS BEN, GREAT JOB!

He inspired me to take some layout tour articles I planned for the Flatwheel and use them for Ben's membership email blasts. From there I came up with the idea of the "Virtual Raffle", which is going good and its fun!

My diminished modeling skills @ work! I did not put a lot of effort into these images. Hope you find them interesting.

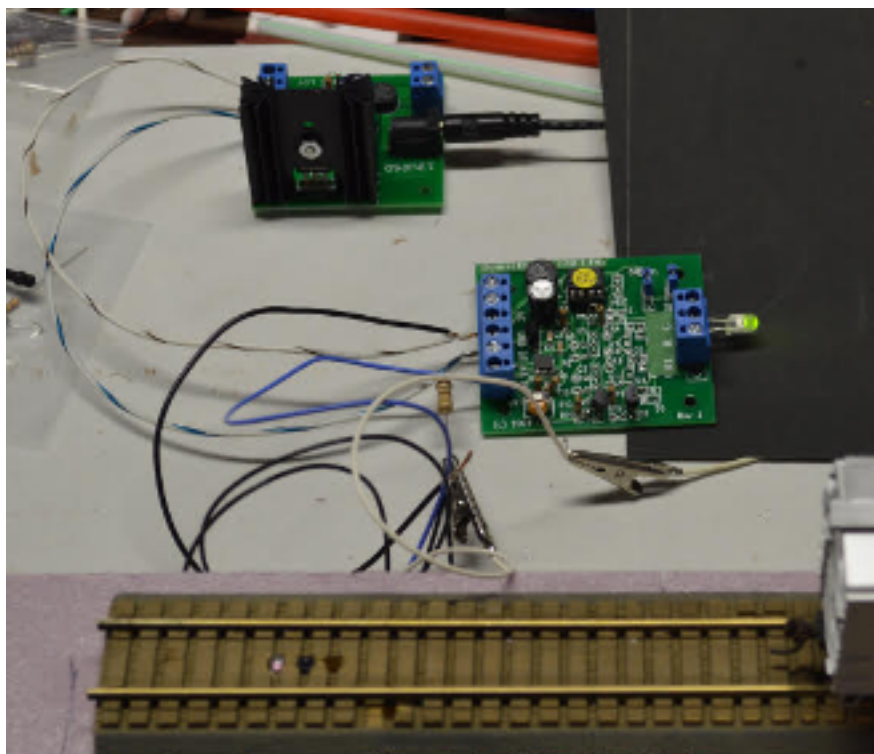
MY PROJECTS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS.

On a new section of my switching layout (I built too many buildings and needed to expand the layout to make room for them! Great planning Joe!) I have a hidden track. This is the area before buildings complete the scene.



In this view the buildings and false front buildings hide the track. The tan roadway is getting placed into position for cutting. Digging around the internet (boy is that gonna catch on!) I contacted Chuck Stancil of Logic Rail Technologies.

(<http://www.logicrailtech.com/index.htm>) for an optical detector block system. You can also email the firm (info@logicrailtech.com) I should add that our editor Bruce has been really helpful guiding me thru several LED issues. THANK BRUCE!



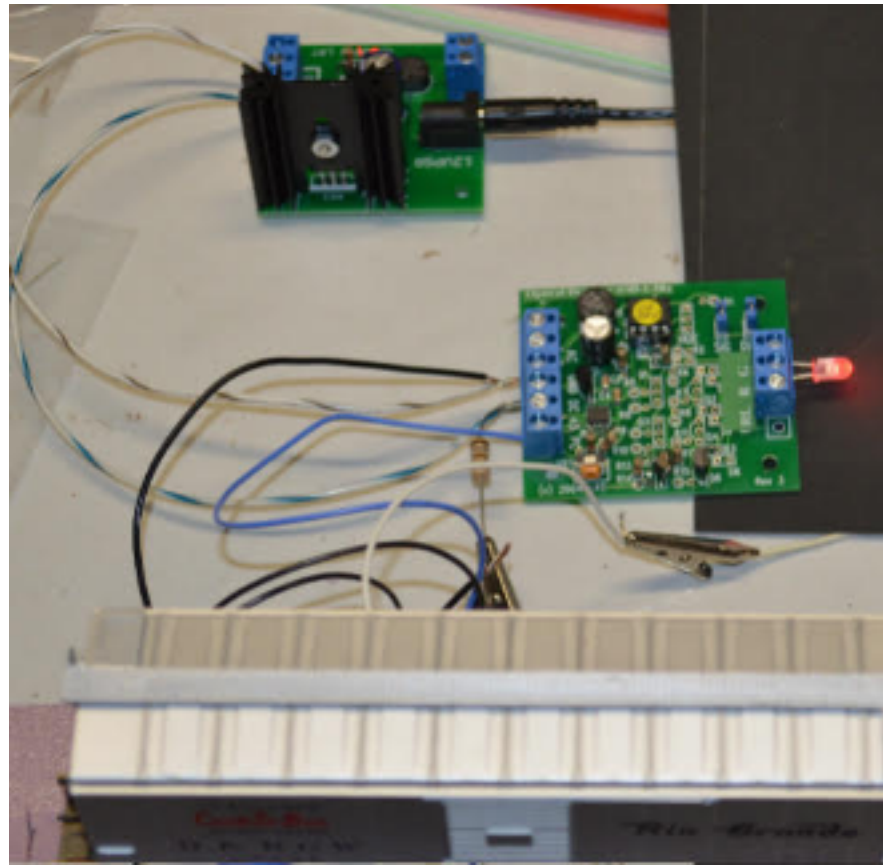
Here is the block detection parts in a testing of how to hook it up. (Frank B...True-scale roadbed! Eat your heart out!) The IR sensors are to the left in the center of the track. Notice the GREEN LED, center right.

Nothing detected in the block.

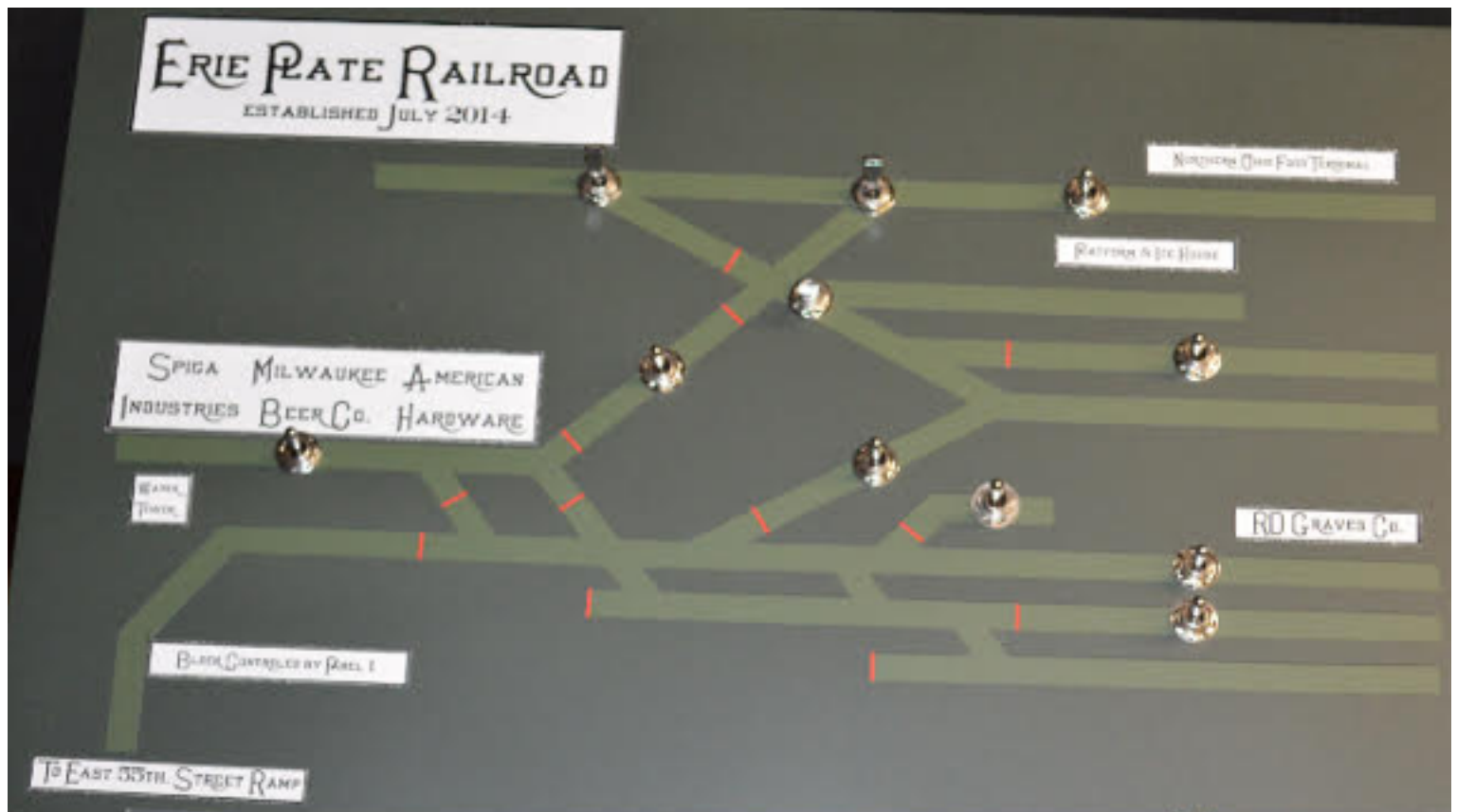
Here the boxcar covers the sensors (detection) and the LED turns RED, center right.

The documentation that comes from Logic Rail is very EASY to understand.

This product will be a future *FW* article.



Another project was the control panel for the new section of the layout.



I completed the background of the new section.



Here I detailed a Walthers ice platform kit. It came out OK. Woodland Scenic lights were added to many of the building. The top right electric control will be covered by a false front building that I made removable.



This scene is at the corner of the layout. Again lights were added to the buildings and the streets. I really like to add details to scenes to make them more real. Picnic table, dog house and trackside junk. More figures will be added. Notice the smokestack to the right of the water tower. That is the old Spiga (Honest Ron) Industries. They used to make railroad interlocking tower parts!



I have been playing with ideas for this building. I liked the idea of making it Spangs Bakery.



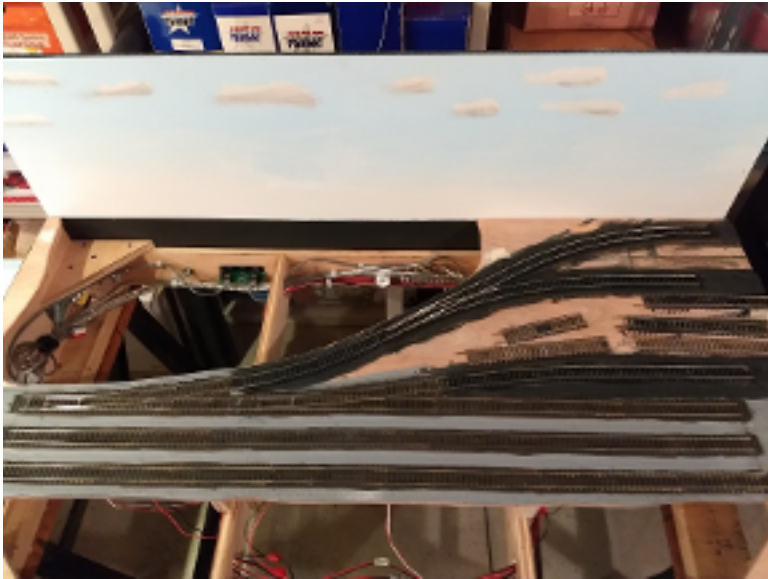
I took a picture of the stone work on the old Spangs Bakery building located on Barbara Ave off West 25th. I took it into Photoshop to edit down. I am NOT crazy about the color and will keep working on it.

I scratch built a billboard frame, found some old Spangs ads on the internet and assembled the art in Photoshop. The bread loaf was a "Jakes" brand form Spangs. My good friend Brad Glaze's name was used for the donut ad. "Home of the Brad Glazed Donuts". I don't get out much!



From Adam Woodie

Adding another module to the Altoona Engine Terminal



From Steve Kornuc

With all this time at home, I finally found the inspiration to start my layout at home. I started by phoning a friend John Helmsath to bounce some ideas around and talk about how to proceed.

I started on March 20th cleaning out the room and painting the walls. Then I laid out a paper template on the ground. After several more changes, I started the bench work.

Although HO is my bulk of my collection, I still have my original Lionel 1953 Santa Fe O gauge train. My wife suggested why not run it above the doorway and around the room. So more research on how to build it. I used 1 X 6 poplar for its strength. Now I can enjoy the best of both gauges.






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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 newsletter, *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*.

ABOUT US

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.

Another picture showing my recently added photo backdrop with a topping of Gary Dunn clouds. The structures are foam mock-ups of the East Broad Top's Rockhill Furnace shops complex. I am using them to determine track layout - Editor

