



THE



FLATWHEEL

JUNE 2020

VOLUME 55, NUMBER 6



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JUNE 2020

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BEEN UP TOO II**

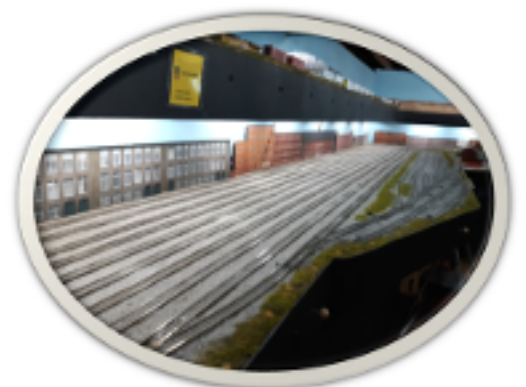
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COVER PHOTO: Ron Morgan took the cover photo of his yard after spending weeks of ballasting. So how many tons of stone did it take! PS - Ron is using hobby time to help in his convalescence from a recent serious health event. Take care Ron. - *Editor*



NORTH COAST LEADERSHIP

ELECTED OFFICERS

Superintendent - Lee Sheffield lakeshorenyc@yahoo.com

Assistant Superintendent - Ron Morgan,
ronalco844@gmail.com

Secretary (& Flatwheel Staff Photographer} - 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 - Fred Wagner,
boonedog0219@gmail.com, 419-908-8251

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 - Joe Filipiak, graftonpotter@frontier.com

Historian/Archivist - Frank Bongiovanni

Raffle - Adam Woodie, woo3482@hotmail.com

Co. Store Manager - Scott Benson,
sbenson440@zoominternet.net

Clinics - Larry Madson, lmadson@roadrunner.com

Flatwheel Editor - Bruce Bowie, in2trains@gmail.com

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

Modules - Adam Woodie, woo3482@hotmail.com

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

Webmaster - Ben Lanza, blqt@nls.net

Refreshments - Don Glass

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.

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. Starting September, 2020, the meetings are held at the Westlake City Recreation Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd, 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 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*.

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





"Don't just belong, participate!"

I am using this, my last editorial, to discuss once again my old refrain, active participation.

Can **you** use more friends (see photos on the next page)? Do **you** want to know more about your hobby? Do **you** like having FUN? These are just a few of the things **you** get when you are a member of the NMRA and particularly, our great Division.

But paying your dues does not automatically provide these and all the other benefits available to our members. **YOU** have to do a few things to gain the most from your membership. **YOU** need to attend the multiple events we hold throughout the year (at least years without pandemics!). Layout tours, module displays, TRAINing Day, the Great Berea Train Show, bus trips and the Awards Banquet are just a few to mention. And last but certainly not least, the 10 monthly meetings with the social gathering, brief business meeting (thanks Lee), raffle, contest and clinic.

I am soon to be 69 years old. Geez. But I am having a great time as a semi-retired person primarily by my participation in Division 4.

After serving as Editor for 35 *Flatwheel* issues how long will I be just(?) a member? I don't know. The last time was 9 months. But the real question **you** need to ask

yourself is how long will **YOU** be just a member?

You don't need to hold an elective office to actively participate. **You** can take on an appointed position. We need to back fill the retiring Clinic Chairman, Larry Madson. **You** can offer to assist any chairman to make their tasks easier. Or **you** can join our very active Module Group, whether you actually have your own module or you simply help setup, operate, and tear down the modules at the numerous venues they support.

As the operative word, **YOU**, denotes throughout this editorial, what **you** get from your membership is up to **you**. Not taking the opportunity to increase the number of friends **you** have, **your** knowledge of the hobby, or simply the amount of fun in **your** life is **your** decision.

My decision when I joined the NMRA and Division 4 in 2003 was to maximize all of the benefits membership affords. I will never regret it!

Finally, I have tried to bring you, the members, a professional newsletter since being appointed 3 1/2 years ago. I hope you have enjoyed my 35 issues. But remember, the Editor only formats *The Flatwheel*. **You** write the articles and take the photos. Without **you**, there is no *Flatwheel*. So support our new Editor, Chuck Shick, and send in those article and photos.

**My decision when I joined the
NMRA and Division 4 in 2003
was to maximize all of the
benefits membership affords. I
will never regret it!**

BRUCE BOWIE
EDITOR



Dave Johnson sent this collage taken by his wonderful wife Margie during a 2017 OP Session on Dave's gorgeous PRR Pittsburgh Division RR. I was fortunate to be a participant. The social contacts provided by our hobby are, for me, why participation in the NMRA is truly a deal. Several pictured are no longer with us. They are sorely missed.

- Editor



FROM THE SUPER

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

Lather, rinse, repeat. Sounds more like the way our lives have evolved during the past weeks/months rather than the old shampoo commercial. Have you finished all those projects that have sat on the shelf waiting for attention yet? I find myself building car kits and assembling a couple of more trains to operate on the modular layout when we resume, some day. I have another module to work on too when I muster up the ambition. But I have also been organizing my engines into plastic carrying cases. I found a style I liked at Staples and managed to get them at a great price with the Staples Rewards program. They are an efficient size that stacks well.

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 !!!**

Last month's *Flatwheel* had some great photos and stories on what you have been doing model railroad wise during our adventure. Keep sending in those photos and few lines telling about what you have been working on to Chuck for the *Flatwheel*.

And thinking of Bruce, June will be the last month that Bruce Bowie will be our *Flatwheel* Editor. Chuck Shick will be taking over starting with the September issue. I want to take time to thank Bruce for all he has done for the Division. Bruce has held the positions including Flatwheel Editor, Treasurer and Secretary over the past years. Please send Bruce an email or give him a phone call thanking him for his contributions to the Division. **Thank you Bruce !!!**

Another change in personnel will be coming in September also. Dave Williams will be stepping down as Secretary. Chris Shick will be taking over starting in September. Dave as most of you will remember was our *Flatwheel* Editor for many years and was once our Webmaster before taking over as Secretary. Dave is continuing to be the *KingPin* (our regional newsletter) Editor as well as working with the contest room at the Regional Conventions. Please send an email or give him a phone call thanking him for his contributions to the Division and the Region. **Thank you Dave !!!**

Bruce Bowie summed things up in a past *Flatwheel* editorial talking about how the volunteers are what keep the wheels turning in the Division. If we didn't have the volunteers filling those positions we wouldn't have a Division. I bring this up because there is another position that needs to be filled. That is the position of Clinic Chairman. Larry Madson is stepping down as Clinic Chairman in what was supposed to be September. No one has come forward to volunteer. I don't want it to come to the point that we don't have a clinic at the next meeting because nobody stepped up. Come on, you know you want to do

it. Give Larry a call or call me to discuss the particulars of the position.

When will we have our next meeting? Your guess is as good as mine. But it looks like September will be the one. After giving thought to where we stand I am going to cancel June's meeting. I have not heard anything from the church as to when they are going to open up the hall. Churches are starting to open with limited services so I would say opening the hall for meetings will be out. Even if they did open I don't want to risk it and be responsible for someone getting sick. It's just not worth it. 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 you go out be cautious and keep your hands washed.

JUNE MEETING IS CANCELED

Last month I challenged Dave Lawler to come up with a use for the discarded masks that we all have. I haven't seen anything yet so I guess he didn't read that far down in the *Flatwheel*. But Dave the challenge still stands.

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, heck I can't even guess when the next time we will be !

As always, Model Railroading is Fun !!!

**LEE SHEFFIELD,
SUPERINTENDENT**



THE NORTH COAST DIVISION

In addition to my monthly column I figured I should review the schedule for the summer months after discussions at the last BOD meeting.

The first get together will be in June and will be the Module Group workday. I do not recall the date. As with everything else it depends on how things progress.

The next get together will be the picnic on August 8th. I am keeping my fingers crossed we can have this one as we can space ourselves out around the picnic area and on the trains. But the deciding factor will be if the Medina County parks are open.

I will have a BOD meeting sometime in August. Normally it would be held out in our western reaches of the division. A back up would always be a virtual meeting over Zoom as we had earlier in May.

Then comes the September meeting at our new location. The room is big enough for us to spread out but it depends on the recreation center being allowed to open for meetings.

October brings us to our Train Show. We are still planning on having a show. The fairgrounds and the table rental folks have been talked to and have reasonable refund policies in case the show gets cancelled.

Time will tell how things pan out. Get those crystal balls and your weegie (quija) boards out and see what they tell you.

News as of 5/25/2020

June Meeting

JUNE MEETING IS CANCELED

Picnic

Social distancing should not be a problem, but other restrictions on the County property may come into play. Again a wait and see for the moment,.

September Meeting at Westlake Rec. Center

September Meeting at Westlake Rec. Center is a go if allowed

The Great Berea Train Show

May be a go depending on restrictions as this the an entertainment venue. We will not make a decision until late August or first week in September. Looks promising.

Bus Trip

Bus Trip is postponed

Layout Tours

Layout Tours will be decided on towards September/October

Training Day

Training Day will be decided on towards September/October

Trees & Trains

Trees & Things will be decided on towards September/October

Awards Banquet

Awards Banquet looking for a new place, again we will know more by October

Clinics

Larry Madson is stepping down, so, we are looking for someone who wants to take over that position.

BOD MEETING MINUTES

NMRA MCR Division 4 BOD Meeting Minutes May 5, 2020

The meeting was conducted online via Zoom.

In attendance online: Lee Sheffield, Ron Morgan, Greg Noeth, David Williams, Joe Kurilec MMR, Larry Madson, Steve Kaplan, David James (meeting host), Ben Lanza, Scott Benson, Gary Schaefer, Frank Bongiovanni, Jeff Lauren, Fred Wagner, Adam Woodie, Chuck Shick, Chris Shick, Fred Obreza, Larry Kuczynski, Bruce Bowie, Brian Haas, George Keller.

Note: This meeting conducted while the state of Ohio remains locked down due to the Covid 19 pandemic. This situation, with no clear indication of when restrictions will be lifted, played a significant role in decisions, with many necessarily postponed.

Lee Sheffield called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm. A brief discussion was held concerning the possibility of having a June meeting. It was decided to be unlikely as church availability remains unknown and many members might be reluctant to attend. (NOTE - It was later in May decided the June meeting was canceled - *Editor*)

Ben Lanza and Joe Kurilec MMR® were recognized for their continuing email series to members and others titled "For Division 4 Members Stuck at Home". The series has provided almost daily news, photos, articles and contests. It has been noted at Regional and National levels. Thanks was given also to other contributing members.

Great Berea Train Show Chair David James stated that plans for the October show were proceeding. The Fair Board has guaranteed our weekend, but contracts are not currently available. We have also secured the first full weekend in October for 2021 and 2022. Agreements for this year will include a provision for full refund to us in the event the Fairgrounds are unavailable due to Covid-19. Our current expenses are very low. We will need to provide sanitation stations and safety signage, to be specifically determined within two weeks of the Show. David will send out letters to Show vendors requesting table deposits, with the understanding that full refunds will be given if the Show is canceled.

Modular Group Chair Adam Woodie said that scheduled upcoming events, to include the Cuyahoga County Fair, Oktoberfest, and Group meetings are all in a "wait and see" status.

Larry Kuczynski related that the Division picnic is still moving forward with the idea that the facility provides adequate opportunities for proper distancing. Whether or not the park will be open is a primary question. Supplies can be purchased shortly before the event.

Layout Chair Ron Morgan initially stated that he intended to cancel upcoming tours. He was persuaded to consider postponing the tours until later in the year if deemed to be held in a

manner safe for owners and visitors.

Venues are being researched for the December Awards Banquet.

Training Day Chair Gary Schaefer stated that TRAINing Day and the *Trees and Trains* holiday event are currently on hold. Gary questioned whether or not he should order material in preparation for Training Day, and it was agreed that purchasing should proceed as items could be stored until next year if necessary.

Lee said that we have an agreement with the Westlake Recreation Center for our new meeting room for September/October/November of this year (if the Center is open). The meeting room is large enough to accommodate our usual attendance with adequate distancing if necessary.

Lee reminded everyone that Larry Madson is stepping down as Clinic Chair very soon and we need his replacement to step forward. Lee also spoke of the *Flatwheel* Editor transition from Bruce Bowie to Chuck Shick, and Secretary transition from Dave Williams to Chris Shick. Lee directed these people to communicate as necessary to complete smooth transitions.

DAVE WILLIAMS,
SECRETARY



Members,

I have often, maybe too often, used our tag line **"Don't just belong, participate!"** as a subject or theme in my editorials. As you can see from below the text copied from an email to Dave Williams, Dave is one of the best examples of a member supporting his Division and his own personal enrichment in this way. So for my last time as your Editor, DON'T JUST BELONG, PARTICIPATE!

Dave,

I just inserted into the draft June *Flatwheel* your last minutes as the Division's Secretary. I want to thank you for always being on time and often early with your submittals AND the oft included short, dry, but always funny comments. Our senses of humor are aligned.

But with even more gratitude, I want to thank you for volunteering to be my Staff Photographer during my three + years as Editor. While the format I created and editorials I wrote added, I think, to the quality and substance of the newsletter, photos are what the readers truly enjoy. Your skills with the camera and the time associated with the numerous photos are truly appreciated.

After ten years as our Editor AND in the days of printed and mailed newsletters you deserved a break. Fortunately for the members and me, you opted to continue in this way supporting the Division all the while also being our Secretary.

Thank you!

MODULE GROUP

Well, it goes without saying that things have been rather quiet as of late due to COVID-19. However, we still do have some events that are currently on track for this summer as of May 19th.

First up is the Cuyahoga County Fair. This event is scheduled to take place beginning Tuesday, August 11th and ending on Sunday, August 16th. Setup would be on Saturday, August 8th. Tear down would be on Monday, August 17th.

About a month after the Cuyahoga County Fair is the Cleveland Oktoberfest. This event is scheduled for Friday, September 4th through Monday, September 7th. Setup would actually be on Saturday morning, September 5th and tear down would be on Monday, September 7th after the event ends.

Again, neither even has confirmed or canceled at this time. I will relay this information once I hear something up or down,. In the mean time, continue to work on those modules with the extra time we all seem to have these days.

Until next time.



Adam "Hot Box" Woodie
MODULE GROUP



**The most recent
work on my new
module.**

MEMBERSHIP

Why do I keep thinking about Roy Rogers and him singing "Until we meet again" I miss being able to shake hands or give hugs to the membership but most of all I miss the smiles. I hope that everyone is staying as safe as possible. If anything, this reprieve from "Honey lets go here" or "Honey lets go there" has given all of us an opportunity to do more on our model trains.

The new rules instituted by the NMRA and the intermingling of underage children and adults will have to be dealt with but I'm sure that it's something that we as a Division and as a national organization will be able to deal with by putting precautions in place. The reason for the precautions are in the news on a frequent basis so I'm sure that the adult parents of underage children will understand our position of not being able to leave an underage child with us without adequate protective measures in place for the child, the Division and the national organization.

Well Buckaroos I'll end by wishing all of you "Happy Rails Until We Meet Again"

Sincerely,



GEORGE, AKA ROY ROGERS, 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.

RAFFLE

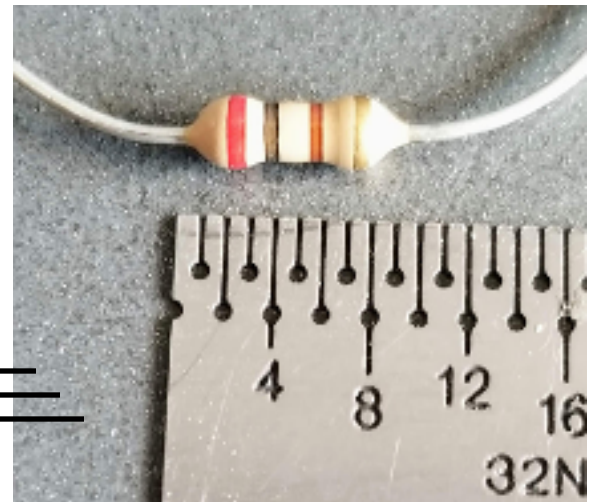
When again we meet, be sure to check out the items available at the monthly raffle. I try to have something that will appeal to everyone.



ADAM WOODIE,
THE RAFFLE DUDE

THIS & THAT

EYESIGHT - Like many members one sign of my advancing age is poor eyesight. And I swear some days it is getting worse on an hourly basis. The pandemic has given most of us extra time for our hobby. One of the tasks I have been using the time for is cleaning and organizing my hobby "stuff". I have some plastic boxes with small compartments I keep resistors separated by their resistance values (ohms). The resistor's value is shown with three color bands with the first two bands denoting the digits and the third band denoting the placement of the decimal point. Even sitting at my workbench alongside a large window on a sunny day, I just could not make out the colors on many of the smaller resistors. I tried my lighted lamp with round magnifying glass. It helped, but not enough. Then I picked up my smart phone and aimed the camera at the resistor lying on my bench. Oh my! I could see it, clearly! So there you go, another hobby use for your smart phone. - **Editor**



VIRTUAL RAFFLE #2 WINNER!

Kevin Peterson

(Sorry Kevin, I don't have your photo to include - *Editor*)

There were a total of 45 entries. THANK YOU! Watch for the next **VIRTUAL RAFFLE #3 coming soon** in an email blast. - Joe Kurilec, MMR®

Greeting Division 4 members,

During the past month I have totally redesigned The Great Berea Train Show website. It is about 90% complete at this point. Please take a moment to check it out. To get the complete site, view it on a computer or tablet. Some features are not compatible on cell phones.

<https://thegreatbereatrainshow.org>

Gary Schaefer

Lorain's Caboose Update

Greetings Division 4,

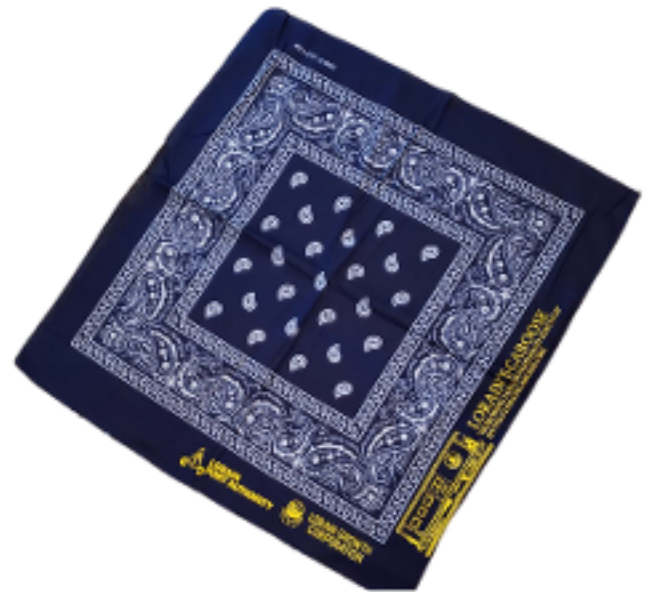
Since the Division is a supporter of The Lorain's Caboose project I wanted to give an update. Unfortunately physical work on the caboose has not started yet for 2020 due to COVID-19. We are making plans though to proceed with phase 2 and 3 this summer. This includes work on all windows and stripping and painting the entire exterior of the caboose. We have found a safe way to strip the caboose in sections. This process will cost approximately 25% of the total projected cost.

Although no physical work has been done, there has been much completed on the business side of things. To support the project we have launched a new Sponsorship Program. We have also made available the ability to make donations online. This week we announced our newest commemorative item, a "Railroad Bandana".

Please take a moment to visit the Lorain's Caboose website:

<https://loraincaboose.org>

Gary Schaefer



Joe Kurilec, MMR®

jkurilec@earthlink.net

VIRTUAL RAFFLE # 3

STARTS: Monday 5-11-20.

ENDS: Saturday 5-30-20, 11:59PM.

Winner to be announced **Monday 6-1-20**, with book being shipped by snail mail.

VIRTUAL RAFFLE #3 is a great hardbound book by Gene Huddleston on the C&O from 1947 to 1959. The book is BRAND NEW, with a value of \$60.00. The black & white images are excellent.



Sadly, Art Bumpus's wife passed earlier in May.
Our condolences to Art and their son Adam.

KAREN BUMPUS



(nee Graus), age 73, Loving wife of Arthur for 51 years. Loving mother of Adam. Sister of Fred Graus and Bernetta Rozum (dec). Karen loved to garden, sew, and genealogy. Family suggests donations to Alzheimer's Association., 225

N. Michigan Ave., FL 17, Chicago, IL 60601. A memorial mass will be held on Saturday, June 6 at 10 am at Assumption Church, 9183 Broadview Road. Social distancing and masks are required to attend this Mass. ARRANGEMENTS BY DONALD A. FAULHABER FUNERAL HOME.

CONTEST TABLE

The model contests that were held during our division meetings from the later part of 2019 into early 2020 numbered a total of five contests. Since the majority of the contests have been held, we will recognize the efforts of our members with awards and prizes at our next meeting.

So now let's talk about the new season and the subjects for the contests. The last three contests from the 2019 - 2020 season will become the first three contest subject matters for the new season. The first contest will be a load on a flat car. The second contest will be a sleeper passenger car, any road, any era, from early heavy weights to today's Amtrak. The third contest is a rubber wheeled railroad vehicle. Number four of the contests is to be a typical commercial building found in the business district within one block of the railroad. Number five is LARGE motive power (non-steam). No yard or four axle road switchers. The sixth contest is to be an RPO car. Number seven is a small country railroad station. The final contest of the session is a rail car lettered for a short line railroad. The railroad has to be a real railroad that once existed or is still in business today.

A safety hint for all modelers. When working with glue, don't touch your face with your fingers, you might accidentally glue your mask to your face. That's it for now from the Contest Box.

**A safety hint for all modelers.
When working with glue,
don't touch your face with
your fingers, you might
accidentally glue your mask
to your face.**



JOE FILIPIAK

CONTEST CHAIRMAN

As the pandemic continues to play havoc with our ability to meet, socialize and share, this month we are continuing the theme of sharing what you have been using the extra time most of us have to do in our great hobby.

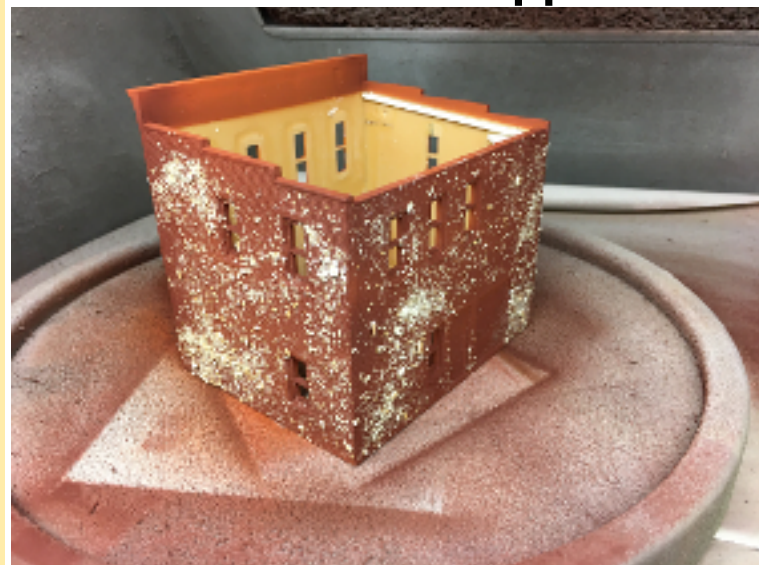
From John Hemsath, MMR®

On one of the buildings, I wanted to represent peeling paint. First I sprayed on the brick color. When dry, I wet the brick with water and sprinkled on Cream of Wheat. When dry I sprayed on the final color. When that was dry, I just brushed off the cereal. Artists call this a resist. It's important that the final paint be lacquer or enamel. If it is water base, it would dissolve the Cream of Wheat and it would stick like glue to the brick. I learned this the hard way.

If anyone has any questions about my projects, my email address is Hemsathj@Gmail.com

(I have a file on weathering techniques, including several for generating the peeling paint effect. I have never seen this approach and its impressive results. I definitely will give it a try. Thanks John!
- Editor)

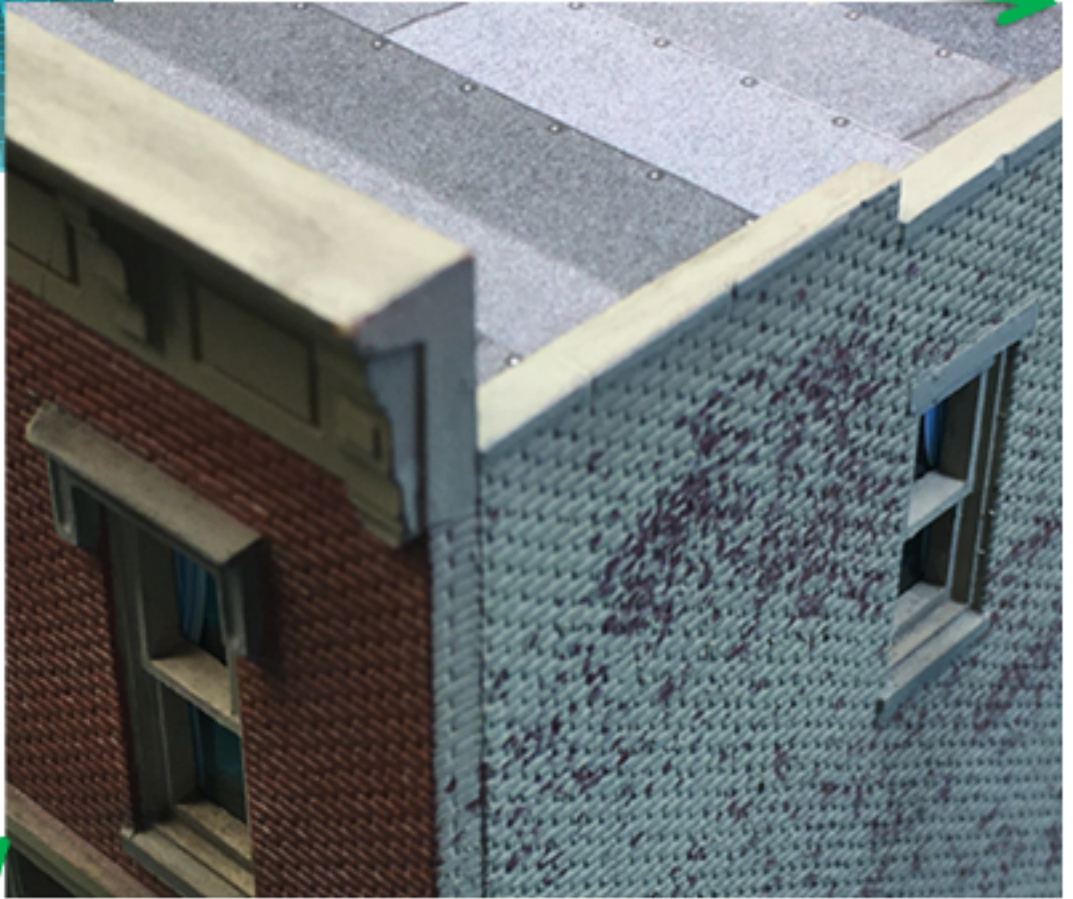
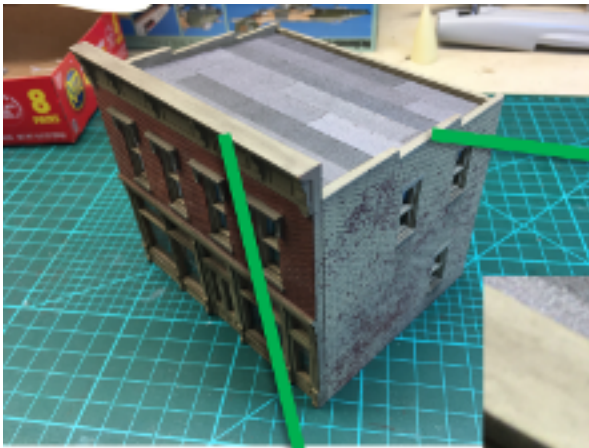
Cream of Wheat applied



WHAT YOU BEEN UP TO? II

BY MEMBERS OF
DIVISON 4
PHOTOS BY THE SUBMITTERS

**And the results after the top coat
applied and the Cream of Wheat
washed off.**



Two examples of commercial buildings

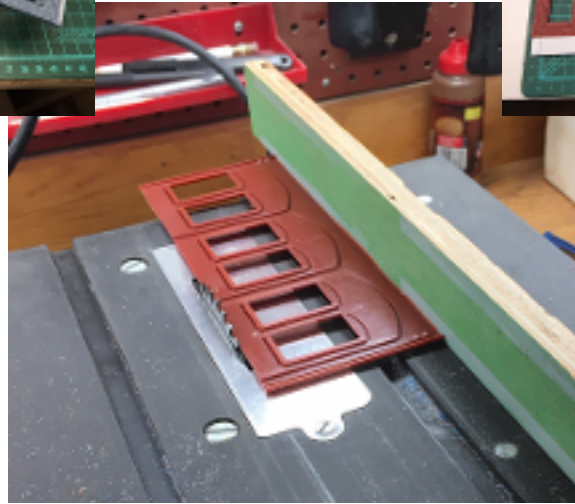
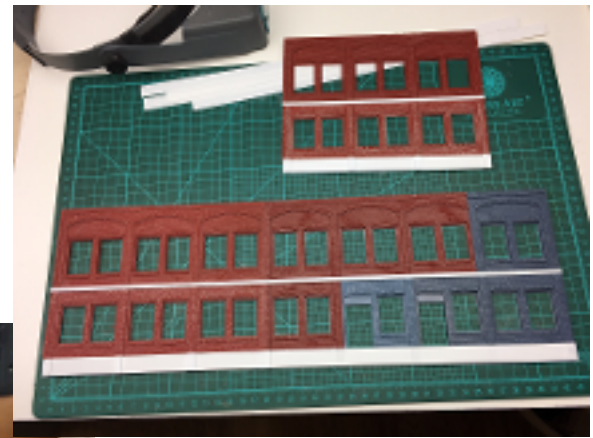
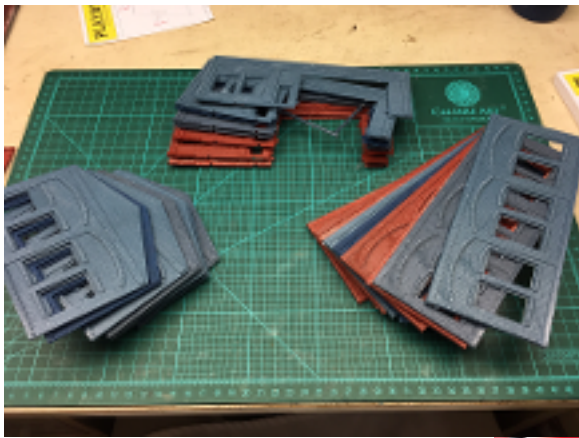




In addition to great looking exteriors, John uses photos of interiors to truly complete his structures - *Editor*

Who hasn't thought of using a few Revell engine houses to make a factory? John Puch has one on his layout. Over the years I've collected articles and photos on the subject. Back in 2011, I bought 9 of the kits on eBay. This month I finally started the factory. It will be the Iron Fireman Co. which had a facility in Cleveland. I cut up the walls on my 4" Dremel table saw, and sanded the wall joints on a small stationary disk sander that brother Tom had given me. After I cut up the plastic, I got curious about when I actually got the kits. I keep an inventory of model railroad stuff and when I totaled up what the cost came to for these 9 kits, I was appalled and embarrassed. It's not so bad when you're buying them one at a time, but holy cow! Then I thought of what a craftsman kit costs and I felt a little better. Still, I won't be doing anything like that again. This building better turn out pretty darn good.





As promised, here is a picture of the two new boxcars. Both are Accurail kits. For both I used Kadee whisker couplers, proto wheel sets, Tichy running boards and either A-Line or Detail Associates stirrup steps. I weathered each with an oil paint wash of a dirty gray followed by a little Bragdon powders.



From Dave Lawler

I've worked my way west to the Manitoba border and began the prairie scenery that, of course, includes grain elevators. The town is Toad River which is a real place in British Columbia but I've moved it three provinces east to Manitoba. I'm also learning how to grow long prairie grass.



More efforts from Dave's workbench





From John Puch

I've done a little updating to my Union Valley Central RR. First, in honor of Jimmy Moore, I changed the name of my Lumber Co. to Moorez. I also just purchased an O-6-0 Proto Steamer to work my Coal Mine. I continue to work on scenery details, etc.





More from John Puch's recent upgrades



From Gary Schaefer

I took this picture in Bellevue on 4/3/2020. I thought it was a cool looking hopper. When I got Home and looked closer at the lettering I saw this message on its side:

"DO NOT HAMMER ON CAR"

Never saw that before...



NOTE: Early in my career I was the Power House Chief of a coal fired power house. I can tell you we would do whatever necessary to get frozen coal out of open hoppers, signage or not. I'm sure the customers of this covered hopper feel the same about their deliveries - *Editor*

More from Gary:

"Bet that never happened there before!"

4/3/2020 was a beautiful sunny day. My family decided to take a drive. Low and behold, we ended up in Bellevue. We were there for about an hour. One train. However an event at the Railroad Park I guarantee was the first and only time it has happened there.

Yoga! While I walked to the museum and back my wife Brenda fiddled with her phone and my daughter Megan got her yoga mat out! No trains running or waiting. Never saw that there either..





From Larry Kowicki

I updated two LIFE LIKE SD7 with Tsunami TSU-AT1000 sound decoder. Made a speaker baffle out of styrene that worked great. Thanks to Frank Feko (Sound of mMtion) for letting me come by to pickup the parts.



More from Larry Kowicki

Worked on adding static grass to front of layout. Found that Woodland Scenic Static King works best when used with 12v adapter. Only strange thing is that it's connector has the (-) negative in center off connector.



From Chuck Beargie

I have been researching and modeling the NYC branch thru the town of Jefferson in Ashtabula county. In the early 1900's they had a basket factory along side the tracks.

NOTE: Chuck moved to the St. Louis area but is still thinking of his Division 4 friends and sent these photos - *Editor*



The Jefferson Basket Factory was started about 1912-13 by G. F. Wolcott and M. W. Chapin, local residents, on the north side of East Walnut St. next to the railroad tracks. At the time it was Jefferson's only industry and during its height employed about 40 persons.



PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD CLEARFIELD BRANCH 1952



BY DAVE JOHNSON
PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

Introduction

In 2016, my wife Margie and I decided to build a new home in Tampa, Florida. In Ohio, I operate the PRR Pittsburgh Division in my basement a couple times a year or so with my friends, many of whom are Division 4 members.

I have always enjoyed the PRR as my favorite railroad....so....after we moved into our Tampa home, Margie suggested that I build another layout in the upstairs bonus room which is approximately 19' x 22'. Thus, after some research and a great article in the Keystone Magazine (PRR&HS) regarding the Clearfield Branch, specifically Phillipsburg, I chose to model this portion of the PRR in the 50's. My legs and body would not let me build anything close to the PRR Pittsburgh Division in Ohio, so I chose light weight benchwork, no grades and easy printed backdrops but still give me operating choices that would be fun for approximately six or so operators. All the turnouts are hand thrown Peco's except for two that have Circuitron Switch motors because of distance from the fascia. These are controlled with Digitrax Throttles by the engineer.

In Ohio, operating sessions have evolved over time with as many as 16-20 operators running trains during a 4 hour schedule. I have always liked the idea of a Train Schedule, Car Cards with Waybills and an operating plan that is enjoyable for the operators that attend.

The Clearfield Branch is historical in it's existence. It began as the Tyrone and Clearfield RR in 1854 with little funding and impossible grades. Through time, the PRR knew that this railroad had potential to move huge carloads of Bituminous Coal to markets North, East and West.

The Tyrone and Clearfield RR was merged into the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1862 and the single track main line was completed from Vail, Pa to Osceola Mills, Pa. The PRR Bald Eagle Branch ran through Vail from Tyrone to Lock Haven, Pa. Soon thereafter, rails were laid to Phillipsburg, and on to Clearfield, Pa. The operation aspect was even more desirable to me as the New York Central interchanged with the PRR in Phillipsburg and Clearfield with connections to Newberry Jct. and Lock Haven, Pa. The PRR extended the mainline to Grampian but many branches were added throughout central Pennsylvania including the Moshannon Branch, Coal Run Branch and Muddy Run

Branch. Osceola Mills was important as the Elliot Coal Prep plant was located there and coal was processed and shipped to major cities.

I designed a track plan to fit the available 19" x 22" bonus room space. I started the benchwork last year and Osceola and the Moshannon Branch were completed first. There are staging yards at each end point that are were easy to build, hidden from operators view and are geographically correct in the operating plan. Track Plan to follow.

Since this is my first article about the Clearfield Branch, let's start with some photos of Osceola and the Moshannon Branch. We are in Florida for the "Stay at Home" mandate. I will share additional information and photos on the progress. Thanks for reading and please Stay Healthy!



Osceola, Pa. Yard tracks and Moshannon Branch tracks in foreground. Industrial and City in background. Backdrops photographed by author in Photoshop and printed on 24" removable vinyl. The 2" electrical chase along the fascia makes stand-up wiring easier. It is then covered with 1" pink foam insulation board press fit into area. It will be painted and covered with ground cover, but could be removed at later time if needed.



Osceola, Pa (looking East) Elliot Coal Prep Plant on left, Coal sorting tracks in center and Osceola PRR engine house on right



Elliot Coal Prep Plant, Osceola, Pa. There are four tracks serving the Elliot Coal Company in Osceola Mills, Pa. The first two tracks and hidden from view closest to box cars are for out-going coal shipping. The single track in center is for incoming coal processing. The fourth (furthest) track with conveyor is for Slack Coal shipping.



Moshannon Branch. The Moshannon Branch ships large amounts of Bituminous coal to both east, west and north destinations. The Staging Yard for the PRR Tyrone Branch and NYC Munson Branch are in background. There will be building flats and mountain scenery between staging yard and Moshannon Branch.

WE'RE MOVING!



BY BRUCE BOWIE
EDITOR

Many NMRA Divisions struggle with attendance. I have personally been attending the North Coast Division's meetings for 16 years. In that time our attendance has grown where we now have between 80 and 90 attendees at our gatherings. I believe this is all owed to our leadership and their efforts to bring us good meetings, meaning IMHO, succinct business meeting, time to socialize, good raffles, amazing contest entries and outstanding clinics.

The Church of the Redeemer has been our gracious host for a number of years. The geographical location provides is pretty close to dead center of our four counties in an east/west direction such that no member has a drive much longer than other members at the outer edges of the Division. It is also near major roads, making access easy.

However, due to our great attendance, we struggle to provide adequate space for seating and other needs. Joe Filipiak found an alternate location and presented its pros and cons to our BOD. The BOD opted to approve we move our monthly meetings to the new location, the Westlake City Recreation Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd, Westlake, OH 44145. The move will be effective with the September 11th, 2020.

We will continue to meet when the COVID-19 virus allows at the Church of the Redeemer through the June 12th meeting.

**The June 12th meeting has
been canceled due to the
Covid-19 virus.**

**So, with a little luck, the move
will be effective with our
September 11th, 2020 meeting.**

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WHAT'S GOING ON?

COVID-19 STATEMENT

A message from David James
Show Manger, The Great Berea Train Show

Greetings to all dealers, groups, visitors, and others that participate in The Great Berea Train Show I certainly hope that this finds you safe and well at home. COVID-19 has certainly caused havoc everywhere. The shows at Division 5 and Division 7 being canceled here in Ohio are just on the shortlist of shows that I am sure that have been canceled. As for the team of The Great Berea Train Show, we are still planning on having our event at The Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds on the first weekend in October 2020. We will make some changes at the show but that will depend on circumstances as we get closer to the show. We will continue to keep you informed of the situation directly as well as here on the show's website. As always, we keep you and your families in our thoughts and inprayers. Be safe out there.

Regards,
David James

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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.

Last Fall the Division sponsored a fan trip on the Oil City & Titusville RR. This photo was taken at the end of the line where the locomotive ran around the train for the return trip. Great time with great people. Once the current COVID-19 problem is resolved, and it will be resolved, YOU will once again be positioned to have more of this kind of fun. - Editor

