



THE FLATWHEEL

JANUARY 2021

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DIVISION 4

THE NORTH COAST DIVISION

OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021.
This will be a Zoom meeting.

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.

Westlake City Recreation Center
28955 Hilliard Blvd
Westlake, OH 44145



FROM THE SUPER

“Driving the train doesn’t set its course. The real job is laying the track.” Ed Catmull

I hope everyone had a good Christmas. With all of the distractions throughout the year it was hard to get in the holiday mood. As I am pushing the deadline of getting my column written sitting here in my chair on the 25th, I am going to pull the plug on our January meeting. The numbers are still going crazy and the vaccinations haven't begun to get around enough. We don't have any pressing business to attend to. But, we are going to meet on Friday the 8th using Zoom. It will be an informal meeting with a chance to shoot the bull. I want to see everyone join in and talk about trains. If you have a little clinic to present join in and raise your hand. We can give you the control over the screen and everyone can all walk away learning something new. Or you can show off what you have been working on. We will start at 7 PM with a general social time and then get something more formal going at 7:30. So get your computer ready, sit down in your favorite chair, if you have a laptop or tablet, grab your favorite drink and have some fun. David James will be sending out a meeting invite. It will have instructions on how to click on the link to join us. I have a good feeling that we will be able to get together in person in February. It is normally our member appreciation night with pizza being served but we will have to play it by ear to see if it is safe to serve food yet. Keep your fingers crossed. The good thing is we could always move pizza night to another meeting.

As I think ahead to the coming months, March of this year is our bi-annual auction. Again I have a good feeling we will be able to have our auction. By that time many of our members should have been vaccinated and we can put the worst behind us. Again, lets keep our fingers crossed.

One of the bright things during this crazy holiday season has been running trains with the Module Group. Many of you already know we have layouts in two locations this year. One has been the Trees and Trains display in Lorain. It was presented in a different format this year with the display set up like the old days of Higbee's downtown. Visitors walked around the outside of the building and peered inside the windows to see the trains and the decorated Christmas trees. It didn't draw as many people as past years but it still allowed visitors to see all the various Christmas trees and train displays. Operators were all inside safely away from the public as they visited.

The other display was at the Cleveland Zoo's Wild Winter Lights. It was a challenge to operate trains as we were set up in a pavilion with tarped walls on three sides. And YES, it was cold and windy at times. The layout was well inside the pavilion away from the rain and snow. But that didn't stop the wind. Operators were behind the layout with crowd barriers out front forming a comfortable distance between us and the visitors. Many times we found out that model trains just weren't meant to run in 30 and 40 degree temperatures. Old engines with old grease would just sit there and refuse to move. But we made the best of it and enjoyed seeing young and old come through and watch the trains. And I might add, most nights the Zoo sold out the 3000 plus tickets and I would estimate over half of those attending came through the pavilion and viewed the train layout. One interesting thing I found while running the trains at the Zoo was you can actually operate a NCE throttle with gloves on. I bet NCE never thought of that when they designed the button size on their throttles. Thank you to all of the members who came out and operated trains at the displays. And the Zoo did provide a patio heater to help ward off the cold at times.

Please continue playing it safe and keep your hands washed, and venture out only when you need to. Thank you for your patience with the meeting cancellations and such.

And please continue to welcome any new members and visitors to our meetings, whenever we get to 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 on Zoom January 8th.

As always, Model Railroading is Fun !!!

Lee Sheffield

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The December meeting was cancelled, so there are no minutes to publish.

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, and a Happy 2021.

THIS & THAT

I was talking with my wife during the Thanksgiving weekend. The subject was painting the room that my train layout is in. I explained that I had built my layout from wall to wall, and there is no way to paint the walls, and very difficult to even paint the ceiling.

That was the start of it all.

I decided to tear up my train layout. Note: I wanted to change my track layout anyway.

I decided to rebuild the framework into 8 foot by 2 foot sections. That also meant that I would also have to remove all the wiring. I decided to use some standards that the module group use.

It took several weeks to remove all the wiring. So I ordered 18 gauge zip wire, and the Anderson Power Pole color-coded connectors (the same as the module group use).

Next was to take out all the deck screws that I used to connect the frame together. I had to install some legs so there would be enough for each section. I also decided to mount all the electronics boards to 6 1/2 inch square plywood boards (1/2 inch thick) that I had laying around. Then put hinges and 'wire tie mounts' at the hinge side. This makes it much easier to access these logic boards for wiring, and diagnosing any problems that might arise. Then I just fold them up to keep them out of the way.

I now have 2 of these 8 foot sections with the under-board wiring and connectors completed. I still have 2 more 8 foot modules to go. I also have to make another module that will handle the Wye I wanted to put in the layout.

Once I get the modules completed, I can put them in one corner of the room to allow for painting, then move them and paint the rest of the room.

All this also enables me to move the layout to an other room, or to a different house should we decide to move.

It is a lot of work to make all these changes, but it will be worth it down the road.



Chuck Shick

MODULE GROUP



Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

It has certainly been a busy holiday season for module group. Both the Wild Winter Lights and Trees and Trains displays have been well received by the viewing public. Attendance for the Wild Winter Lights display at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo has been very strong. So strong, in fact, that they have decided to extend the event to January 10, 2021. I would highly recommend you take trip to the zoo and view the lights. There are walk through as well as drive thru options available. Please check the Cleveland Metro Parks Zoo website for dates as which days are walk through and which ones are drive thru.

Attached are some photos of the layout set up at the Wild Winter Lights display as well as some of the ice carvings done by the very talented artist in front of the layout.

Trees and Trains continues to see light attendance. This event will wrap up on Sunday, December 27th. I would strongly encourage you to take trip out to the Black River Landing to view the many trees that are on display. It is quite a site to see.

As always, if you are interested in joining the module group, please reach out to me either at the monthly meetings or email at woo3482@hotmail.com.

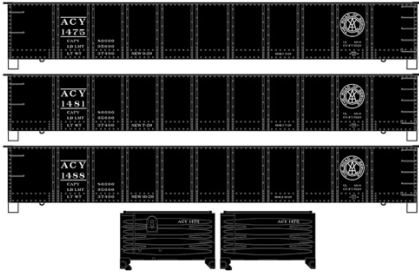
Until next time!



Adam "Hot Box" Woodie

COMPANY STORE

We have sold the last of the Davies Hoppers! I have some cars and building kits from our sister divisions (made for their regional conventions). From Division 1: Accurail HO scale ACY gondolas are available – 3 different road numbers (\$20 each), and Micro-Trains N scale ACY 50' PS-1 boxcars – 2 numbers (\$25 each).



From Division 2: HO scale laser-cut wood kits for B&O-prototype Oil/Coal Shed (\$13), Telegraph Office (\$29) and Signal Tower (\$35). These kits, and the Fire Hose Shed and Yard Office kit, are available in various scales. Check out the web site for more info. https://www.keystonedivision.org/convention_kits/convention_kits.php Please let me know if you'd like to order any of these kits, and I'll put in a group order and save on shipping!!



**Oil/Coal
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**Telegraph
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**Signal
Tower**



**Yard
Office**



**Fire Hose
Shed**

I'll also have more of the Glue Loopers - demand has been hot! And some of the glue pens we saw in the January clinic. More finger LED lights, Golden Spike stamps, HO gages etc. for sale at upcoming meetings.

Division 4 shirts and hats are available through the Company Store. Order at the monthly meeting, or through the form on the Company Store page on our web site. Division 4 patches are also available at \$3 each.

We have a library of how-to DVD's for member use, available at our meetings. A \$10.00 deposit for each DVD rented. \$10.00 returned when DVD returned at next meeting.



Scott Benson

CONTEST TABLE

The next Model Contest, which was planned for January but now that the January meeting has been cancelled, will be at our next meeting. The contest is a building found in a town or city that is no more than one block from the railroad. I am willing to bet that most of the entries will have a personal story to go along with them. My entry is a model of my high school bus stop. A "one of a kind" stop on the public school bus route. Then there's the restaurant in Grafton that is right next to the tracks. The line is a CSX branch line that goes north to Lorain. This line is a one train per day event going and coming back to Lester. If the train is passing by Grafton at meal time, the crew pulls up next to the Chevys and Fords in the parking lot and goes in for "beans". I'm looking forward to hear your story. A story about your project helps bring your model to life.

The next contest after the "building in the city" will be large {non-steam} motive power and yes, the entries can be some other motive power than diesel. Please, no yard or four axle road switchers.

Well, that's it for now from the contest box. We will see you down the line when we finally get a high green.



Joe Filipiak

RAFFLE

As the January meeting is cancelled, there is nothing to report for the Raffle.



Adam "Hot Box" Woodie

EDITORIAL

I hope you all had a healthy and Merry Christmas.

The New Year is upon us. With the winter weather and social distancing, It has been a good time to get those needed additions or changes to our Train Layouts done.

If you have any stories or pictures of your Layout that might be of interest to our members, please submit them.

chuck.shick@sbcglobal.net



Chuck Shick, Flatwheel Editor

OTHER NYC PASSENGER CARS IN THE DIVISION 4 AREA

The images in this article were taken 10-2016 at the Mad River & NKP Museum in Bellevue, Ohio, home of NKP 757.

That alone is worth a visit! As I walked around the museum I found several passenger cars stored.

I think this is a dinner and this car is in very good shape. Notice to the right is a Pennsy passenger car.

Seeing the other side of the car reveals the door that would be used to load foods into the kitchen.

It sure was nice to see the NYC name & logo.



By Joe Kurilec, MMR



OTHER PASSENGER CARS IN THE DIVISION 4 AREA

As I was writing the article about the NYC business car at the West 3rd. Roundhouse I remembered some images I had in the archives.

A quick look found items that Div. 4 members might like.

These images were taken June, 2013 at the storage yards of Larry's Truck & Electric at Lordstown, Ohio. (LTEX). A Google search will find many links to Larry's.



By Joe Kurilec, MMR



WHAT'S GOING ON

Many Events have been cancelled already.

These events are still on the schedule. Please check by calling ahead to make sure they are still going to be open.

2021 - Jan 3

Mansfield Train Show

Fairhaven Hall, Richland County Fairgrounds
750 N. Home Rd., Mansfield, Ohio 44906
10 am - 3 pm Adm. \$7.00
Phone: 419-606-7934

2021 - Jan
TBA

Youngstown Model Railroad Assn. Toy - Train Flea Market

Salem Center Plex
1098 N. Ellsworth Ave., Salem, Ohio 44460
10 am to 3:30pm Adm. \$5.00
Phone Darrel Balakoff at: 330-718-1057

2021 - Feb. 7

Medina Train and Toy Show

Medina Fairgrounds, Medina, Ohio 44256
9 am to 3 pm Adm. \$6.00
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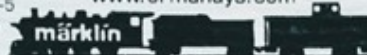
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ABOUT US

We are Division 4 of the Mid-Central Region of the National Model Railroad Association. (DIV-4 MCR NMRA).

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 talk railroads and modeling.

