



THE

# FLATWHEEL

FEBRUARY 2021



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**FEBRUARY 2021**

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# NORTH COAST LEADERSHIP

## ELECTED OFFICERS

Superintendent - Lee Sheffield, lakeshorenyc@yahoo.com

Assistant Superintendent - Ron Morgan,  
ronalco844@gmail.com

Secretary - Chris Shick, craftqween@sbcglobal.net

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

Director Quad County - Fred Wagner (419)-908-8251  
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Director at Large - Brian Haas, haasland@msn.com

Director at Large - Jeff Lauren, (216)-798-1896  
jflrn@sbcglobal.net

## APPOINTED POSITIONS

Great Berea Train Show - David James, c(440)-785-9907  
Achievement - John Hemsath MMR® hemsathj@gmail.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 - Gary Sole 440-250-2192 gsantafe7@gmail.com

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gkeller@woh.rr.com

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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

OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 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*

Well our next meeting traditionally would be Member Appreciation Night. Seasoned veterans of Division 4 call it pizza night. But...but...the bug is still raging on meaning it wouldn't be advisable to serve pizza. I really want to have a face to face meeting as I said in last months column but I reserve the right to pull the plug again. If we don't have a face to face meeting then I will put together a zoom meeting. I know many of us really want to get together but we have to play it safe.

Last month we met through zoom and I was pleased that 38 members joined in. We went on for at least an hour and a half. Members took turns talking about whatever was on their mind and Bruce Bowie and Mike Fahler gave us tours of their layouts showing what they have been working on. We even had members from far away with Chuck Bergie joining us from St. Louis showing us his layout and Brian Barnt joining in while driving home from work in Chicago. Brian, I highly recommend you stop off along your route home versus driving the Chicago Byways while chatting with us next time. Chicago highways are difficult enough in the evening without the distraction of talking on your phone.

Speaking of meetings, it's that time of year our Director's meet to discuss any inputs from our membership. If you have something you wish to present, contact one of our Director's. They will be meeting prior to our normal monthly meeting I assume through zoom.

Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM we will be having a Board of Directors meeting through zoom. If you would like to see the inner workings of the division, please contact David James for an invite to the meeting. The February BOD meeting is usually how we say, the most boring of all BOD meetings as the agenda is usually short. But things will be brought up that need to be attended to in order to keep the division working. I invite you to attend.

Usually this time of year finds me getting ready for our group trek to the Amherst Railway Society Train Show in West Springfield, Massachusetts. This would have been my 9<sup>th</sup> year I have attended. But the bug is changing all that. The show has been canceled but all is not lost. They are going virtual. More info can be found on the Amherst Railway Society website (<http://amherstrail.org/news-virtual-rhs/>). As many of you know the Springfield show is not only a train show with vendors selling their wares but they also host most of the manufacturers of model railroad equipment presenting their current offerings and usually announcing something new. The show is definitely worth attending in person with it's four buildings (over 8 acres) of model trains.

This brings me to the end of my monthly spiel. Please continue to welcome our 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 February 12<sup>th</sup> one way or another.

As always, Model Railroading is Fun !!!



Lee Sheffield

# GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

## NMRA MCR Division 4 General Meeting Minutes for Friday, JANUARY 8, 2021 ZOOM meeting held online

On Friday, January 8, 2021 Division 4 held a casual meeting via Zoom. David James kindly hosted us. We had as many as 38 present at one point and time. We began talking (social time) at 7:00 pm.

At 7:30 Superintendent Lee Sheffield called for attention for those who wanted to share what they have been working on during Covid 19 pandemic. If I missed any ones presentation I apologize in advance Mike Fahler took us on a tour of his layout. He explained the new additions he has added and future plans. He thanked Joe Filipiak for the assist with art work.

Larry Kawicki showed us his Lombard brag bag and wheel gauge along with the bag of candy he got with his recent order from Lombard Hobby.

Superintendent Lee Sheffield let us know we are planning a February meeting in person, but it will not be our annual pizza night. March will hopefully be the big biannual auction (to be determined at a later date). Adam Woodie mentioned if we hold off on the auction, then maybe once the weather is nicer we could use the Westlake Rec Center's outdoor pavilion for the auction.

Scott Benson let us know that the annual conventions are once again postponed for another year.

Chuck Bergie from St. Louis and past member of Division 4, gave some tips for making small layouts that are easy in small places. Also convenient for when you move.

It was mentioned that EKO products made in Spain have nice prices for a decent product.

John Witt showed us his new buildings he has been working on and the 2-D people he has made for them.

We talked over the Zoo Wild Winter Lights:

- What was good
- What was bad
- A reminder to all who use the Division's equipment to please treat it kindly so others are able to use it when needed.

Quick mention of doing Zoom meeting and having the ability to do Clinics on it also for our Division Meetings.

Bruce Bowie gave us a tour of his layout and explained future plans and ideas.

Lee then thanked David James for hosting our Zoom meeting for the evening. A big THANK YOU to Ben Lanza for our daily news letters and Dave Lawler for his daily picture contribution.

Just a reminder that next Board of Directors Meeting will be on February 9, 2021, at 7:00 and will be via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Shick



# CLINIC

Well, 2020 is behind us, but there are still challenges we're facing until things get back to normal. Now normal may not be quite the way we remember it, but I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in person again. As this is written, Division 4 is planning to hold the Division Auction in March. That may change over the next six weeks or so. However, the Auction is scheduled as one of the first "in person" clinic events, once we're back to normal (there's that word again)!

I am looking for a couple of clinics that could be done during a Zoom meeting. Ideally, 15 to 20 minutes long, on something you have recently built, or constructed on your layout. You can e-mail me at the address below. Until next month...

The Clinic Guy  
Gary Sole  
[Gsantafe7@gmail.com](mailto:Gsantafe7@gmail.com)



# THIS & THAT

This picture was taken at the Trees & Trains display this winter. This caboose is similar to the Caboose located outside the building. This caboose was located on Ramhog's Module.



# THIS & THAT

From: Dave Lawler

The Car Shop

Many years ago my late friend Bob Wright and I produced photoetched brass railroad car kits under The Car Shop name.

It was later changed to TCS Models and after Bob's death I continued to offer cast resin models of structures in HO & O scale primarily NKP prototypes.

These were designed by me and produced by my friend Clare Gilbert of Sylvan Scale Models in Parkhill, Ontario. At this same time I became an authorized Sylvan dealer.

Since I'm still a Sylvan dealer and no one else in this area carries Sylvan kits since the closing of Wings Hobby Shop in Lakewood.

I'd like to make them available to our guys if anyone is interested in HO Resin kits of 1920s to 1960s cars and trucks, ships and structures at very attractive pricing.

If anyone is interested they can go to the very complete Sylvan website and tell me what they'd like. [www.sylvanscalemodels.com/whatsnew.htm](http://www.sylvanscalemodels.com/whatsnew.htm)

It may take a while to put together a large enough order to make it worthwhile as the shipping charges from Canada are rather stiff. I don't plan to keep a stock of the kits on hand as the line is extensive.

Thanks,  
Dave Lawler

You can contact Dave at: [davelawler@oh.rr.com](mailto:davelawler@oh.rr.com)

# MODULE GROUP

Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

The Module Group once again completed another successful holiday season with two module layouts. First up is the Wild Winter Lights display located at the Cleveland Metropark Zoo. This event was very well received by the general public. The zoo staff was very grateful for our participation in the event and basically expect us to return for the 2021 holiday season. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to operate the layout at the zoo. It was certainly cold at times but that did not deter several members of the module group from operating the layout.

Our second holiday event was the Trees and Trains display located at the Black River Landing in downtown Lorain. Attendance by general public was rather light this past season. Hopefully, next holiday season, things will be back to normal and attendance will return to pre-COVID 19 levels.

Looking ahead, things have gone back from feast to famine for the foreseeable future. The usual events such as Railfest and Avon Lake library have been cancelled due to COVID-19. However, we are hopeful that things will be heading back to normal in the second half of 2021. Events such as the Cuyahoga County Fair, Cleveland Oktoberfest, Great Berea Train Show, etc. should be back on track this year.

As always, if you are interested in joining the module group or would like to just come out and run a train and try it out, please don't hesitate to contact me at my email address [woo3482@hotmail.com](mailto: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](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 Shed**



**Telegraph Office**



**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 was a zoom meeting, there is nothing new to report for the Raffle.



Adam "Hot Box" Woodie

# EDITORIAL

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.

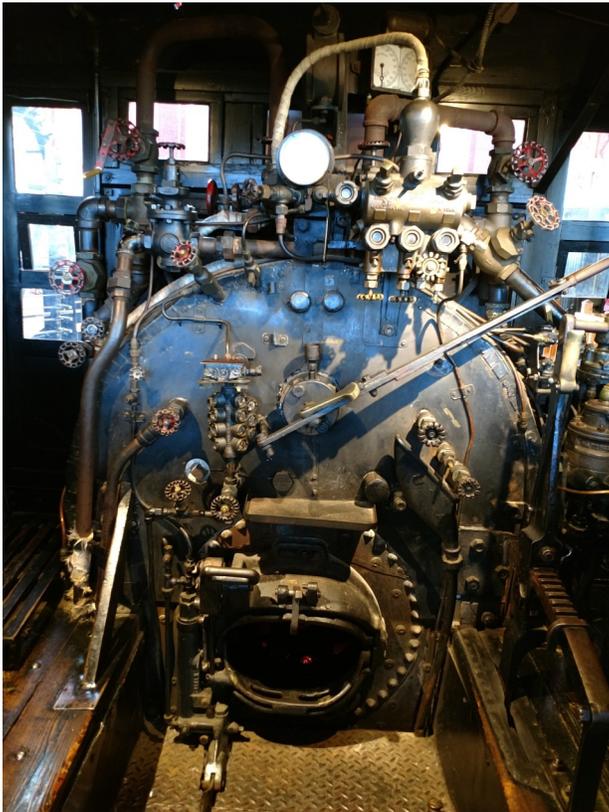
[chuck.shick@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chuck.shick@sbcglobal.net)



Chuck Shick, Flatwheel Editor

# THE B&O RAILROAD MUSEUM BALTIMORE MARYLAND

The Roundhouse is the center of the museum.  
They also have various loco's and rail cars outside.

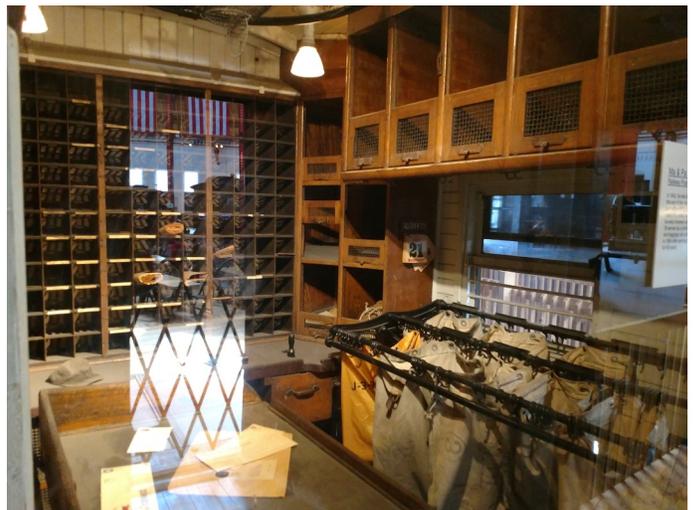
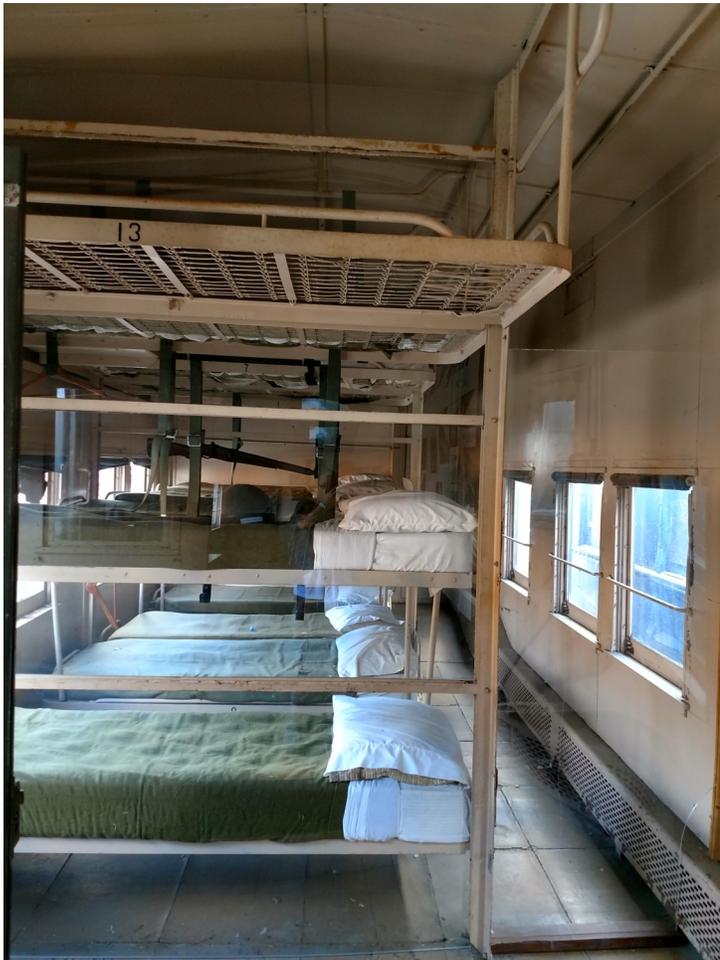


# THE B&O RAILROAD MUSEUM BALTIMORE MARYLAND

The B&O Caboose is set up so you can walk through.

The bottom right is the mail car used on the B&O.

Below is an Army Sleeper Car. They sure pack them in.



# THE B&O RAILROAD MUSEUM BALTIMORE MARYLAND

Passenger Service on the old B&O.

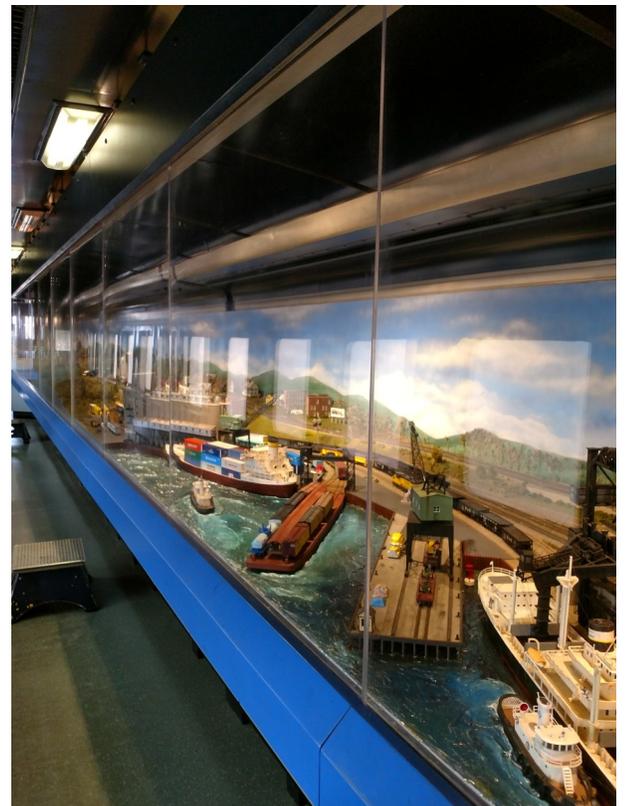
A display of the different China patterns that were used for different reasons. I never knew the extent that they went through,



# THE B&O RAILROAD MUSEUM BALTIMORE MARYLAND



Inside an A/C controlled rail car, is a very nice HO train layout. Operation is completely computer controlled.



# THE B&O RAILROAD MUSEUM BALTIMORE MARYLAND

We had a nice train ride.  
Picture in bottom left is another nice Loco, I just had to add this picture.



Submitted by Chuck Shick

# 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 - Feb. 7

## **Medina Train and Toy Show**

Medina Fairgrounds, Medina, Ohio 44256  
9 am to 3 pm Adm. \$6.00  
Phone: 330-948-4400

2021 - Feb. 14

## **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 - Feb. 20

## **Canfield Train and Toy Show**

Canfield Fairgrounds, 7265 Columbiana, Canfield, Ohio 44406  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm Adm. \$6.00  
Phone: 330-651-1042

2021 - March 7

## **Erie Model Train Show**

Rainbow Gardens - Waldameer Park, PA  
10 am to 4 pm Adm. \$5.00  
Phone: 724-992-2035

2021 - April 11

## **Medina Train and Toy Show**

Medina Fairgrounds, Medina, Ohio 44256  
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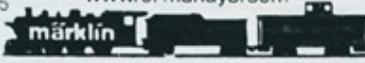
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# ABOUT US

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.

