



THE FLATWHEEL

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IN THIS ISSUE:



Great Berea Train Show...8



New York Central Mini Meet...14



NMRA Contest &
Achievement Program...5&7

IN THIS ISSUE

FEATURES:

Monthly Raffle

T-Trak at The Great
Berea Train Show

Achievement
Program Scenery

Special Feature:
New York Central
Mini Meet

COLUMNS:

From the Super
Convention News

Contest &
Achievement
Program

Think Modular

Contest Corner

Division Meeting
Minutes

From the Editor: I am pleased to serve Division 4 of the Mid Central Region of the NMRA as Editor of the Flatwheel. My hope is to continue to provide an engaging, entertaining, and educational publication that is a value to our members. I would like to expand what is included each month. I would like to include a Model Builders article, where a member provides a summary of a recent model building project. Another article I would like to add is quarterly layout tour. I would love to hear ideas from you all for additional newsletter offerings.

Looking Forward to Serving, Scott Eastburn

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 electronically published on the Monday prior to the monthly meeting. Submissions are due no later than the 26th of the prior month, for example, September 26th for the October Flatwheel.



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 6:00p.m. followed by a short business meeting at 6:30. After a short break, a railroad themed raffle and clinic complete the typical agenda. Our meetings are held at the Westlake City Recreation Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd, Westlake, OH 44145. Visitors are always welcome.

Greeting from the cab.

As I mentioned in my column last months, I started with the help of Bert Wisebar, installing signals on my layout. As of today, there are xx signals working with six more remaining to wire. Almost ready for the MCR convention!

The Great Berea Train Show went very well. The final on attendance and income will be available shortly. David James still has on several outstanding bills to pay.

Also, as a reminder to the various chairs, your budgets are due this month to the treasurer. No budget request, no money!

The October Division Four open houses have come and gone. The attendance, averaged 18, and was not good for the size of this division. In fact, it was poor at best! The membership needs to do better to support the layout owners when they open up their layouts for viewing. A great deal of effort in preparation by each owner basically was wasted. Let's do better in the future.

The convention committee is moving forward with plans for the MCR Regional Convention. The various events are starting to come together. If you have not signed up for the convention, please do so. The online registration is now available and more convention information is being added to the website.

The division is in need of a replacement for our membership chairman Bill Dluback who has resigned his position for personal reasons. Therefore, a new membership chairman is urgently needed. If interested please let me know.

An election committee has been appointed for the 2024 election. All officers and directions slots are up for re-election or election. If interested in running for an officer or direction, please see Dave Flebbe, Ben Lana, or Larry Kowicki.

Our next major division activity will be the member appreciation dinner in December. Start making plans to attend. Last years was very nice. You can sign up at the November business meeting. Cost is \$25.00 per person.

Negotiations for a new contract with the City of Westlake for the use of the recreation center has started. It appears that we will have a problem again with our meetings in October and June. As it stands right now the October meeting will be the 3rd Friday in October and the June meeting will be incorporated into the picnic at Lester.

Until next time,

Ron



CONVENTION NEWS

The North Coast Limited 2024 Mid-Central Regional Convention

Planning continues for the 2024 Mid-Central Regional Convention. The dates are May 16th – May 19th, 2024. We have selected the Crown Plaza hotel in Middleburg Hts. as the location for the Convention. They have a nice mix of meeting rooms and ballroom space for hosting the convention. The location on Engle Rd and Bagley Rd right off I-71 will make it easy for everyone to get to from throughout the Region.

We are still looking for members to join the committee and help plan the Convention. If you are interested in helping plan the Convention, please send me an email. We can always use more help. As we get closer to the Convention, we will start signing up member to volunteer during the Convention. We will need volunteers in areas such as Registration, Clinics, Bag Check for Yard Sale and Celebration of Modeling, and Help Desk and man more.

We continue to add layouts for layout tours and operating sessions. There is no greater motivator for working on your layout than committing to be open for a layout tour. If you're interested in hosting a layout tour, please contact John Witt and/or Scott Benson for hosting operating sessions.

We have lots of clinic slots to fill for the Convention. If you are interested in giving a clinic, especially after November's presentation, please contact Jerry Krueger.

And, most importantly, registration is now open. The early bird registration rate is \$90 until the end of the year. Also, while most of us live with in commuting distance of Crowne Plaza, consider staying at the hotel one or more nights. Part of the fun of a Convention is seeing old friends from across the Region and the country. Staying at the hotel gives you the opportunity to socialize late into the evening, telling modeling stories and making new friends instead of driving home late only to wake up early and drive back to the Crowne Plaza. We have an excellent room rate – make the Convention a model railroad vacation.

Jerry Krueger



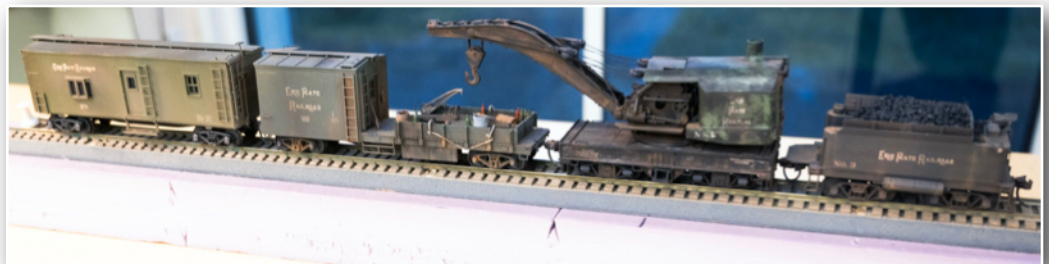
I first want to thank my good friend, Brian Haas, for setting up and running the October contest. I had a family obligation to attend to. The contest subject matter is to challenge not only your modelling skills but your knowledge of that particular aspect of railroad history. By researching the area that the contest challenge presents, you expand your knowledge and can model with a greater degree of accuracy and detail. I hope you see this line of thinking as an opportunity and not a difficulty.

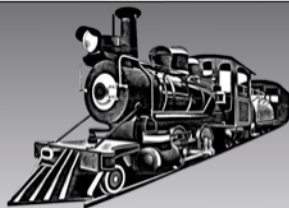
The October contest challenge was met with some great results. First place contest winner was Joe Kurilec. A tie for second place went to two fine but different models. Jim Grell and Craig Butler were the winners of second place. Third place was awarded to George Gelehrter. Congratulations to these modelers and thank you to all who participated and voted.

The November contest, which will be held on our regular second Friday of the month, answers the question; WHERE'S THE BEEF? The challenge is to bring in a rail car that serves the meat industry. Iced cars, motorized reefers, cattle cars, box cars and anything else that your research might turn up. A scene in diorama form is even more interesting because it tells a story.

A bag of pieces/parts will be available, starting with the November meeting, to get an early start on the last contest of the season, which is to build a building using all the goodies in the bag along with whatever you add to create your own unique building.

January's contest is a diesel of any size that has your or someone else's custom road name and colors on it. U.P., B&O, C&O will not work. I am looking forward to seeing what mooooooves you to model the meat industry for the upcoming meeting.





CONTESTS & ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



NMRA MASTER BUILDER



MARK PIEKELNICKÝ

MMR SCENERY

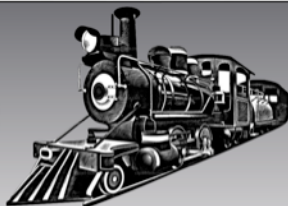
2023-24 CONTESTS

November	Rail cars serving the meat industry
January	Diesel with yours or someone else's road name
February	Support building in engine facility (no roundhouse)
March	Complete an unfinished project
April	Last car on a passenger train
May	Grab bag of provided parts to build a building

HOW DO I GET STARTED
IN THE NMRA
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM?



[CLICK HERE!](#)



CONTESTS & ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



John Hemsath, Master Model Railroader

At the September meeting of the Division, Mark Pekelnicky was presented with the Master Builder – Scenery certificate towards his Master Model Railroader. This is Mark's second certificate of the seven required. In 1995 he earned his Chief Dispatcher certificate while living in Erie, PA. This illustrates a couple of things. You can earn your certificates over a long period of time. They never go bad. And two, you can earn certificates in multiple Divisions.

To earn a Scenery certificate, you must "Construct a completed section of a model railroad of at least sixty square feet in O scale, or forty-five square feet in S scale, or thirty-two square feet in HO scale, or eighteen square feet in N scale or other scales in proportional relationship to HO scale. This completed section must contain the necessary scenic elements of Terrain, Structures, Background, Lighting, and Realism/Conformity as combined to achieve a realistic effect using applicable NMRA standards."

Here is a link to the NMRA website covering the Scenery certificate.

<https://www.nmra.org/scenery>



THINK MODULAR

Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

Another Great Berea Train Show is finally over and in the books! I would like to thank everyone that helped make the modular layout a great success! It was certainly one of the larger layouts we had at the show. Alas, we have about a one month break until Wild Winter Lights begin at the Cleveland Metropark Zoo! With that said we have several items that need to be addressed.

1) Contract - I expect to have the contract sent to me shortly from the zoo. Once acquired, it will be signed and returned along with the W9 Form and Certificate of Insurance. Ron Morgan and myself will take care of this item.

2) Layout - The layout will once again be located in the Palava Hut Pavillion. Heat will be provided via a generator piped through the wall.

The promoters of the event have requested that we expand the layout in scope from year's past. Therefore, I have added the use of corners which allow the use for some more modules. Please respond to this email and let me know if you would like to display your module(s) at this event. We will be utilizing the large loops owned by Mr. Benson and Mr. James so plan on bringing your large locomotives and large rolling stock to operate on the layout

3) Schedule - Set up will take place on Sunday, November 12th beginning at 9:30am. Access to the pavilion will be through the man gate and vehicular gate adjacent to the pavilion as in year's past. Tear down date is tentatively set for Sunday, December 31st.

Attached is first iteration of the schedule for this event. Please review the schedule and let me know what dates and times you are available to operate the layout. Plan to arrive around 4:30pm to clean the track and get your trains ready. Curtain goes up at 5:30pm. Also, you are certainly welcome to appear even if you are not scheduled. However, those that are scheduled to operate will get priority on the layout.

4) Access - Similar to year's past, you can access the pavilion either through the main gate to the zoo or through the main gate adjacent to the pavilion.

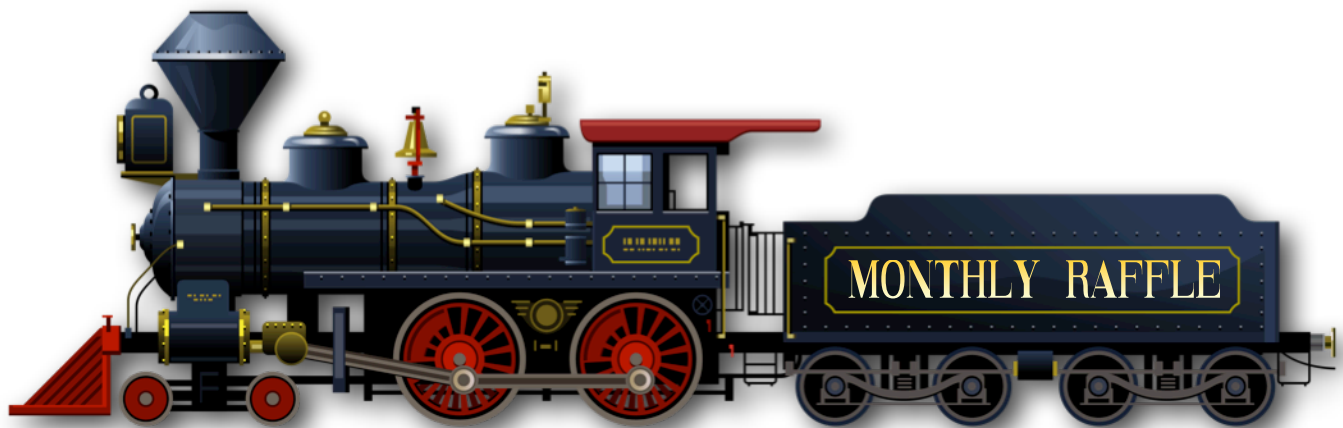
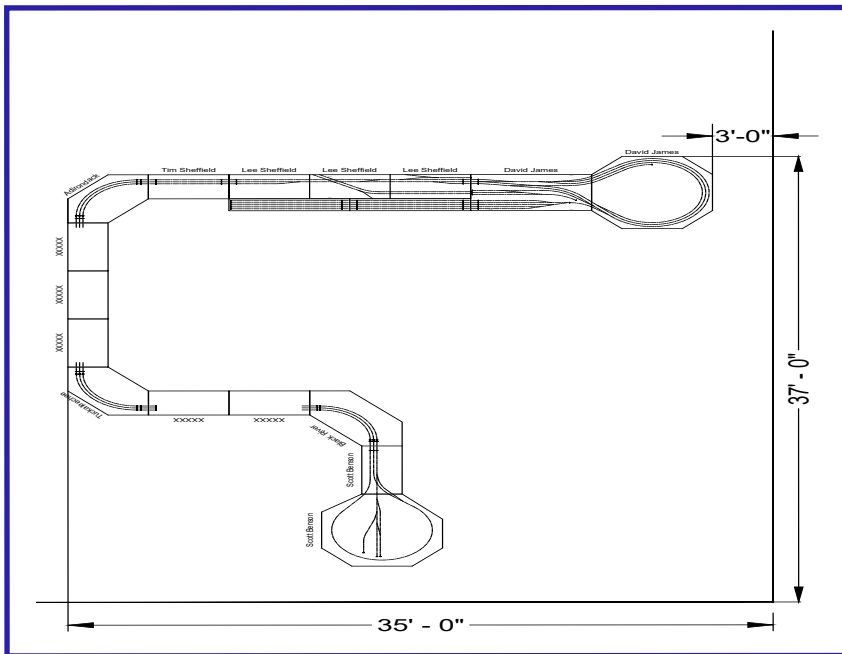
Summary of Action Items

- 1) Contract - should be completed in the next couple of weeks. Adam and Ron to handle.
- 2) Layout - located in Palava Hut Pavillion - Respond to me if interested in displaying your module(s) as part of the layout.
- 3) Schedule - Respond to me as to which dates you would like to operate the layout.
- 4) Access - Electronic passes will be issued similar to last year.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Adam "Hot Box" Woodie

GREAT BEREA TRAIN SHOW LAYOUT



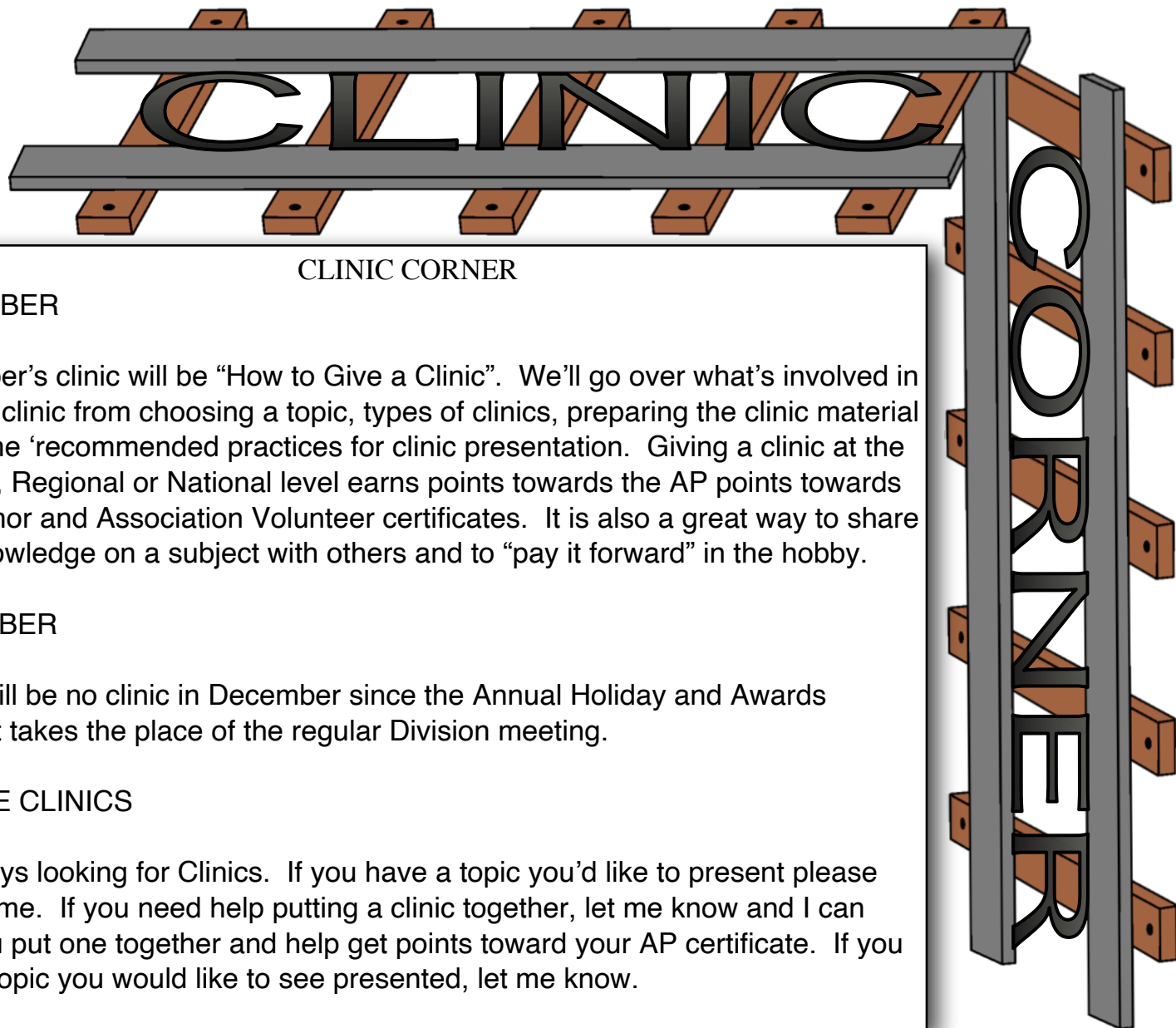
Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

October's meeting saw a great raffle and November promises to be just as good! As always, ticket sales begin at 6:00pm-ish with raffle taking place about 10 minutes after the business meeting concludes. There is always something for everyone!

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the upcoming Award's Banquet which take place on Friday, December 1st. For those that have not attended the banquet, there is a huge raffle that takes place during this event. Multi-car sets, mystery presents, and gift baskets are just a few of the items up for grabs. So be sure to sign up for the Annual Banquet for good food, drinks, and, of course, the raffle.

Until next time!

Adam "Hot Box" Woodie



CLINIC CORNER

NOVEMBER

November's clinic will be "How to Give a Clinic". We'll go over what's involved in giving a clinic from choosing a topic, types of clinics, preparing the clinic material and some 'recommended practices for clinic presentation. Giving a clinic at the Division, Regional or National level earns points towards the AP points towards MR Author and Association Volunteer certificates. It is also a great way to share your knowledge on a subject with others and to "pay it forward" in the hobby.

DECEMBER

There will be no clinic in December since the Annual Holiday and Awards Banquet takes the place of the regular Division meeting.

FUTURE CLINICS

I'm always looking for Clinics. If you have a topic you'd like to present please contact me. If you need help putting a clinic together, let me know and I can help you put one together and help get points toward your AP certificate. If you have a topic you would like to see presented, let me know.

**SEPTEMBER
CLINIC PRESENTER
BRUCE
BOWIE**





DIVISION MEETING MINUTES



Division 4, MCR, NMRA, General Meeting Minutes, October 20, 2023

Superintendent, Ron Morgan opened the meeting at 6:29 pm with a warm welcome. He asked for any visitors or new members to please stand up and introduce themselves. George Anter and Matt Nickleson both stood up and introduced themselves.

Ron asked for approval of last month's minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and carried by the membership to accept the minutes.

Treasurer, Greg Noeth gave a balance on all the accounts.

Old Business:

2024 Regional Convention Status – Ron Morgan – things are still moving along. Bruce Bowie informed us that registrations are trickling in. We are up to 25 registered.

2023 Great Berea Train Show – Greg Noeth – attendance was a little down from last year. We filled 5 buildings with vendors. The vendors did very well. We don't know total until all the bills come in.

New Membership Chairman – Ron Morgan – We are in need of a Membership Chairman. If interested please let Ron know.

New Business:

Election Time – Ron Morgan – Ron let us know that this is an election year coming up. He then introduced the election committee of Ben Lanza, Larry Kowicki, and the election chair Dave Flebbe.

New Regional Education Manager for the Region – Ron Morgan – Steve Sepatowski is a former teacher and a MMR. He has accepted this position.

Budget Perpetration for 2024 - Ron Morgan – Please get your budgets into Greg for next year, ASAP.

December Membership Appreciation Dinner – David Williams – the dinner will be on December 1, 2023. It will be at Parkers in Avon Lake. Cost is \$25.00 per person.

New Contract for Rec Center/ June 2024 Meeting/Picnic - Ron Morgan – once again the Rec Center is going to start their summer hours on our June meeting night. Larry Kuczynski is going to try and set up our annual picnic on the second Saturday of June, This way we can hold a brief meeting and our picnic after.

Show and Tell – Ron Morgan – no one had anything to share tonight.

Working on any Cool New Projects – Ron Morgan – Nothing tonight.

Other – Ron Morgan – Nothing

Committee Reports;

Flat Wheel Deadline – October 26th

Membership Ron Morgan – please think about taking on this positing.

Clinics – Ron Morgan – Jerry is not here tonight. Bruce Bowie is presenting tonight's clinic.

Company Store – Scott is not here tonight.

Raffle – Adm Woodie – all sorts of goodies, come on over and get your tickets. Raffle will begin 10 minutes after meeting ends.

Module Group – Adam Woodie – We finished up Octoberfest and The Great Berea Train Show. Gearing up now for the Zoo Winter Lights, which runs November 13th to December 30th. Trees and Trains will begin the weekend of Thanksgiving.

Layout Tours – John Witt, MMR – John has slips with addresses and hour of operations for the 5 homes that will be open on October 28th. Please see him to get one.

Contest – Brian Haas – Last months winners on Something Found on a Train Wreck are as follows:

Model: 1st – Joe Kurilec
2nd – Craig Butler
3rd – John Hughes

Dioramas: 1st – Joe Filipiak
2nd – Dave Lawler

Tonight's contest is Equipment Used to Set Up Telegraph Pole Lines.

Next Month: Rail Cars Serving the Meat Industry.

Remember at the Membership Appreciation Dinner, grab bags will be available to take for you to make May's Contest.

AP Awards – John Hemsath, MMR – Tonight Mark Pekelnicky received his Master Builder Scenery Certificate. He has previously received Chief Dispatcher.

Comments/Concerns – Ron Morgan – Bill Cramer is in Southwest General Hospital.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership. Meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Shick
Secretary, Division 4, MCR, NMRA

Div4 N Scale T-Trak Train Module layouts @ The Great Berea Train Show.
Thank U BRNS for your Help and time and labor and donating
some of your T-Trak modules.



**YOU'RE
INVITED!**

Eerie Mad River Model Railroad Club

1309 N Depot Street
Sandusky, Ohio 44870



Saturday December 2, 2023 featuring steam engines
Saturday December 9, 2023 featuring diesel engines
12 - 4 pm

Layout In Progress - Operating - Scenery 85% complete
Size 25' x 30'
Donations Welcomed
For more information contact Bob Butler 419-271-8885



Benson	Scott	sbenson440@zoominternet.net
Bongiovanni	Franklin	bongiovanni1@hotmail.com
Dluback	William	billdlub@live.com
Eastburn	Scott	d4mcrnews@gmail.com
Filipiak	Joseph	grafonpotter@frontier.com
Haas	Brian	brianhaas86@gmail.com
Hemsath MMR	John	hemsathj@gmail.com
James	David	david.j@brtcharter.com
Janda	John	jjanda101@gmail.com
Lanza	Ben	blgt@nls.net
Krueger	Jerry	jakrueg@neo.rr.com
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Morgan	Ronald	ronalco844@gmail.com
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Witt	John	wittjab@ameritech.net
Woodie	Adam	woo3482@hotmail.com
Glass	Don	No email address

DIVISION OFFICERS

SPECIAL FEATURE

NEW YOUR CENTRAL SYSTEM HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINI CONVENTION.

By Joe Kurilec MMR®

On Saturday, September, 9, 2023 the NYCSHS had their “mini” convention in Middleburg Hts, Ohio at the Crown Plaza Hotel. (The 2024 MCR “East Coast Limited” will be held there May, 16-19,2024). The convention was well attended.

The day long event was filled with all types of clinics & presentations. Members paid \$25.00 to be in the event....well worth it. Coffee & pastries were provided. Lunch was on your own with a really good selection of foods within a short walking distance from Crown Plaza Hotel.

I'd like to add a comment about “mini” and “joint” regional conventions. I think these are the future. As we loose members, that are not being replaced, conventions are getting harder to get the required number of registrants to break even! There are also ton of other factors to attend these functions.

These “mini” & “Joint” conventions may be the answer.



The Mid-Central
Regional Convention
May 16-19 2024
Cleveland, Ohio



Early Registration is \$90.00
through 12/31/2023



www.northcoastlimited2024.org

Convention Merchandise

***The North Coast Limited 2024 Convention offers two
Convention Cars and a Large selection of Men & Women's
apparel***

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

***Layout Tours, Operating Sessions, 4 Clinic Rooms
(including make & take clinics for a small fee)***

***Celebration of Modeling, Yard Sale, Prototype Tours, General interest Tours,
Non-Rail Tours***

***More events are being added as the NCL moves closer to the convention date.
Look for updates on the NCL site!***

***Many Restaurants
are located
within walking
distance of the
Crown Plaza
Hotel.***



FREE PARKING

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7230 Engle Rd, Middleburg Heights, OH, 44130
(855)797-6733

**EARLY REGISTRATION
and MERCHANDISE PRESALE
IS NOW OPEN!**

***Register or print out
a registration form
online!***

www.northcoastlimited2024.org



IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR



DIVISION ELECTIONS

Elections,

It is Election time again and the Division is looking for Volunteers for Officers. All Officer positions are available excluding Secretary and Treasurer. New members are welcome.

If interested bring a brief statement about yourself and your Life in Model Railroading. Give in to anyone on the Election Committee.

Committee Chairman
Dave Flebbe