



THE FLATWHEEL



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January 2024

Number 1

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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. Eight of our meetings are held at the Westlake City Recreation Center, 28955 Hilliard Blvd, Westlake, OH 44145. 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. Two of our meetings are offsite. One is our annual picnic in June and the other is our Membership Appreciation Dinner in December. Visitors are always welcome.

FROM THE SUPER

Greetings from the Cab

Greeting from the cab.

Happy New Year to you and yours.

I want to start by giving the modular group a big thank you for another job well done at both Trees and Trains and Wild Winter Lights at the Zoo. A big thanks to our modular chairman, Adam Woodie, for his efforts.

The convention committee continues to move forward with plans for the MCR Regional Convention. The various events are starting to come together. So far there are 19 layouts that will be open for visitation during the convention with more coming. 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.

All officers and director's slots are up for re-election or election for the new term starting in June of 2024. If interested in running for an officer or director, please see Dave Flebbe, Ben Lanza, or Larry Kowicki.

The 2024 budget has been completed and will be presented at the January business meeting by our treasurer Greg Noeth.

John Hemsath has announced that he and his wife are moving to Avon Lake sometime this Spring and his current railroad will not move to the new location. Please read his article in this issue of the Flatwheel and make plans to attend his final open house in January.

We are in need of help to man the Div. 4 membership table during the Div. 5 train show. There will be a signup sheet at the January meeting. Remember, you can earn hour points towards association volunteer by working the table.

Well, the train is pulling into the yard and this run is over.

Until the 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

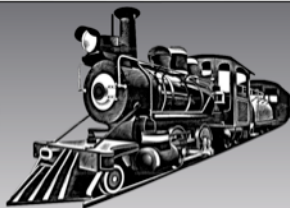


The model contest results for November were published in the December Flat Wheel. No model contest was held in December due to the Awards Dinner taking the place of our meeting. Even though there was no meeting, a few members asked if I would bring them "the bag of building parts" to the dinner so they could get started on that contest subject. I will have additional bags at the January meeting to meet the growing demand. The building from the bag of parts contest is due for the May meeting, making it the last contest of the season.

January's contest is a locomotive, diesel or steam, with a custom name and or color for a model railroad. This can be your own railroad or a friend's. There will be plenty of open track to display your model on. Dioramas are a little more involved because it puts your model into a scene that tells what it is doing. It can be on the main or switching in a yard or even in a repair shop. I am looking to see a good level of participation in the January contest.

February's contest is a support building or structure that is or was found in an engine facility. A roundhouse is not eligible to be entered. A little research will show the wide variety of structures from coaling docks to sanding areas, car repair to crew call buildings and more.

The time has come to say goodbye for now and to wish you a happy and fun filled new year. If you haven't participated in the model contests yet, hopefully, you will make this the year to enter and show us what you've got.



CONTESTS & ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA MERIT AWARD



STRUCTURE

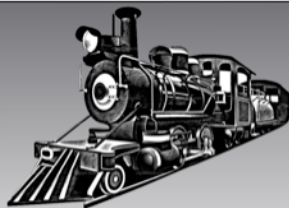
2023-24 CONTESTS

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



AP Column, John Hemsath, MMR
Master Builder – Structures Certificate

At the November meeting of the Division, Mark Pekelnicky and Bruce Bowie were each presented with a Merit Award for the structures each had built. Bruce's was scratch built, and Mark's was from a kit. Each was super detailed, and each was judged by NMRA standards and achieved more than 87 ½ points to qualify for the award.

To earn a Structures certificate, one must build twelve super detailed structures. Of the twelve, six must be scratch built. Of the twelve, six must be judged and earn a minimum of 87 ½ points out of a possible 125. There must be six different types of structures within the twelve, one of which must be a bridge.

For me, this was the most daunting certificate to earn. Twelve structures! That sounds like a lot. When I got serious about it and looked hard at what I had and what I needed, I realized I could use an N scale trestle I scratch built 40 years ago as well as a scratch-built supply shed I built when I was a teenager. There were two of the six scratch-built structures, including a bridge, that did not have to be judged. Also, note that six of the structures can be built from a kit or kit-bashed. So, achieving the certificate was not as daunting as I had feared. Also, all the structures were judged or verified at my house. I did not have to take any to the Division meeting or a Regional convention.

If you, like Mark and Bruce, are thinking about earning a Master Builder – Structures certificate, look around your layout and storage. You may be farther along than you think.

Here's a link to the NMRA website regarding the Structures certificate:

https://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/education/achievement/ap_structures.html



THINK MODULAR

Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

Things are still going strong for the module group during the month of December. Wild Winter Lights at the Cleveland Metropark Zoo as well as Trees and Trains are still in full swing. Both events are scheduled to conclude on Saturday, December 30th. Be sure to come on out and enjoy the displays.

Looking ahead, things will quiet down for module group in January and February. We will be having our annual planning event sometime at the end of January as in year's past. The actual date, time, and location will be released in the next couple of weeks.

Until next time!

Adam "Hot Box" Woodie

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

It's time for the annual planning meeting which will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. This year the meeting will be held at David James' Bus Garage aka the BRT Charter Service located at 7885 Snowville Road, Brecksville, OH 44141 beginning at 7:00pm-ish. Please let me know if you plan to attend. One side note, be sure to bring your own chair. Some of us plan to have dinner at The London Pickle Works located at 7265 Fitzwater Road, Brecksville, OH 44141 beginning at 5:00pm. Please let me know if you plan on attending the dinner in addition to the planning meeting. This will allow us to submit a head count to restaurant. Final headcount will be submitted on Monday, January 15th.

Attached is the first draft of the agenda. As always, scheduling events will be the number one topic of discussion. If there are any events or other topics you would like to be considered and/or discussed by the group, please let me know so I can add them to a future draft. Final meeting draft will be issued on Tuesday, January 16th.

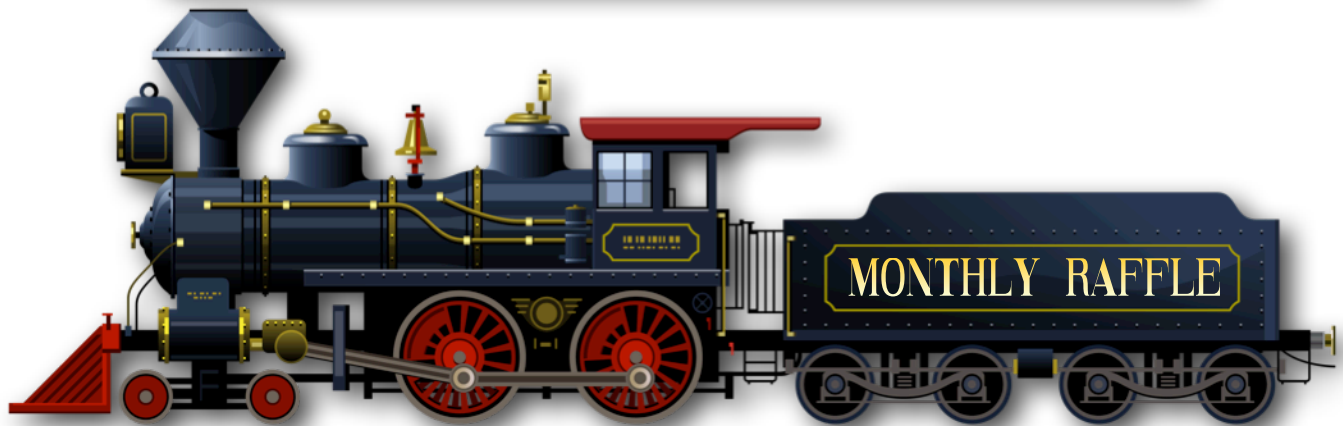
Action Items:

1. Let me know if you will be attending and bring your own chair to the meeting which begins at 7:00pm.
2. Let me know if you would like to join us for dinner beginning at 5:00pm. Respond by Sunday, January 14th.
3. Review agenda and let me know of any changes, additions, etc. you would like to see. Respond by Monday, January 16th.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Adam "Hot Box" Woodie

WILD WINTER LIGHTS & TREES & TRAINS

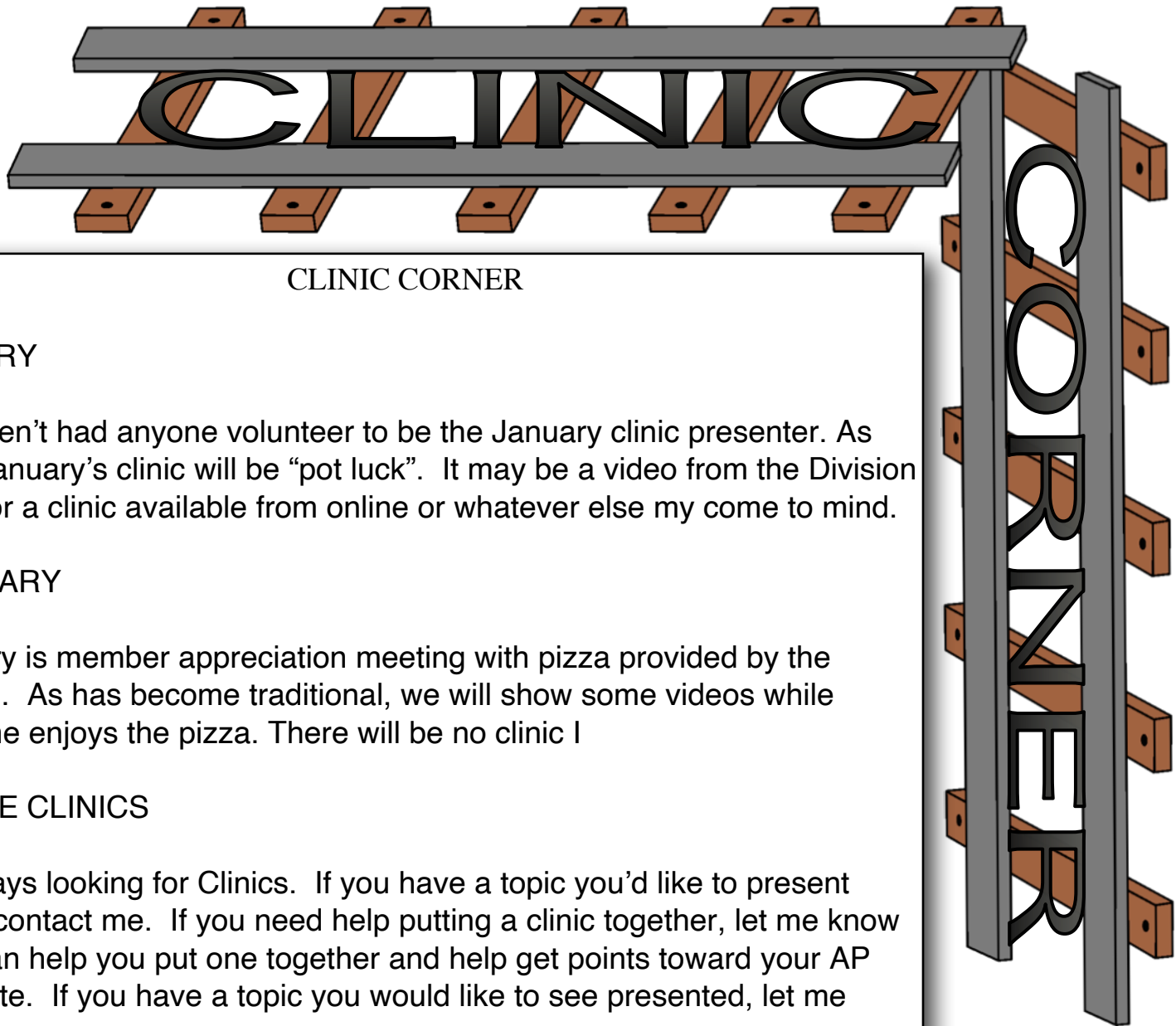


Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

We had another great raffle at the Award's Banquet. Several prizes were up for grabs with some people winning multiple times! January's scheduled meeting will see the return of the monthly raffle. As always there will something for everyone! Be sure to purchase your tickets preferably before the start of the business meeting.

Until next time!

Adam "Hot Box" Woodie



CLINIC CORNER

JANUARY

We haven't had anyone volunteer to be the January clinic presenter. As such, January's clinic will be "pot luck". It may be a video from the Division library or a clinic available from online or whatever else may come to mind.

FEBRUARY

February is member appreciation meeting with pizza provided by the Division. As has become traditional, we will show some videos while everyone enjoys the pizza. There will be no clinic!

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.



DIVISION MEETING MINUTES



No New Minutes: Division 4, MCR, NMRA, General Meeting Minutes November 10, 2023

Superintendent Ron Morgan opened the meeting promptly at 6:30 pm with a warm welcome to all in attendance. He asked for new members and guests to please stand up and introduce themselves. Ken Dobiecki and Doug Bert are new members of Division 4. Our 2 guests from Division 1 were Frank Tracchia and Dave Six.

There was a problem with The Flat Wheel, Ron asked for a show of hands of those who had a chance to read the minutes today. Some hands went up, Ron asked for approval of the minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and carried by the membership to accept the minutes of last meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Greg Noeth. A balance of all accounts was given. Greg made a last call for all Great Berea Train Show invoices.

Old Business:

2024 Regional Convention Status - Jerry Kruger - We are making progress; we have a total of 28 registered to this date. Will be having another Zoom Committee Meeting . Jerry will send out emails at a later date. Jerry has been scheduling meetings with other divisions to help build up registration. Be sure to go to the link and register, Shirts and cars must all be preordered. Discount on registration ends on the 31 of December 2023. Hotel discounts are on the hot link of the website.

New Membership Chairman - Ron Morgan - We can really use a new Membership Chairman,

December Membership Appreciation Dinner - Dave Williams - The dinner will be on the first Friday of December. It will be held at Parker's at 32858 Walker Rd., Avon Lake. 6:00 to 6:30 pm will be Happy Half Hour, with dinner being served at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$25.00 per person.

Election Report - Dave Flebee - 1 person has turned in their letter of intent to run for an officer. If anyone else is interested in running, please see Dave or one of the others on the committee of your interest.

Budgets - Ron Morgan - Be sure to get your 2024 proposed budget in.

New Business:

Election Time- Ron Morgan - All offices are available for re-election. Please see election committee member if you are interested in becoming an officer.

Members submitting articles to the NMRA Magazine - Ron Morgan - John Hemsath, MMR and Joe Kurilec, MMR have both written articles that have been printed in the NMRA Magazine. Great Job Gentlemen!

June 2024 Meeting - Ron Morgan - Since the Rec Center will be starting their summer hours on the night of our June meeting, we will combine the meeting along with our annual picnic on the Saturday following the normal meeting date.

Working on Cool Projects - Morgan Griffith is working on some really cool things. Ramhog Shearer thanked The Flat Wheel editor for including his pictures of the T-Track layout from The Great Berea Train Show. He also wanted to thank all of those from Burning River for manning the layout at the show.

Committee Reports:

Flat Wheel Deadline - Ron Morgan - articles need to be to the editor Scott Eastburn by the 26th of each month.

Clinics - Jerry Kruger - Tonight's clinic is "How to Give a Clinic" done by Jerry. Still need presenter for after the first of the year. If you are interested in being a presenter, please email or call Jerry.

Company Store - Scott Benson - The Store is restocked on many items including micro brushes. Scott has brought some of the videos from the library with him tonight. A new order is going in for hats, so it's a good time to get your order in if you want a hat or shirt. Don't forget Fast Track jigs are available to borrow.

Raffle - Adam Woodie - All sorts of goodies, come get our tickets. Raffle will be held 10 minutes after meeting ends.

Module Group - Adam Woodie - Set up for the Zoo is this Sunday. The Zoo starts on November 14th, there are plenty of spaces available to sign up. New members are welcome to come out and run their trains, let Adam know dates you would like. Trees and Trains set up is on November 18th, start running trains on the 25th. They run only on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays until December 30th.

Layout Tours - John Witt, MMR - Next Layout Tour will be during the Convention and will only be open to Convention Attendees.

AP Awards - John Hemsath, MMR - For a Master Builders - Structures Certificate 12 super detailed structures need to be built. 6 of those must earn a Merit Award. The following have earned their Master Builder's - Structure Certificate:

Mark Pekelnicky for his Mid-Town Auto Body Repair Shop (kit)

Bruce Bowie for his Dietsch Brothers Candy and Ice Cream Store.

Contests - Joe Filipiak - Contest was Equipment used to set up telegraph poles, lines.

Model - 1st - Joe Kurilec, MMR

2nd - Craig Buttler and Jim Grell

3rd - George Gelehrter

Dioramas - No entries

Grab bags are available for May's Contest. Bags will also be available at the Appreciation Dinner. All pieces in bag must be used, but you can add more. Next Contest in January is Diesel With Your or Someone Else's Road Name.

Comments/Concerns - Ron Morgan - On November 18th, Division 5 has 4 homes open for Open House Tours. Ron asked all Veterans in the room to please stand and be recognized. He thanked them all for their service to our country.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried by the membership to close the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Shick

Secretary, Division 4, MCR, NMRA

Bay Lines Derailed January 2024

Bay Lines, the freelanced railroad of John Hemsath, MMR, will end operations in February after twenty years of construction and operation.

John will host a final Open House for Bay Lines on Saturday, January 27, 12:30 – 5:00 p.m. All members and their families are welcome to come for one last look.

Barb and John have decided to downsize and will be moving from their home in Bay Village to Avon Lake. They have selected a finished basement covered by a modest ranch house with a fenced-in yard for the dogs. Renovation of the house has begun and should be finished in April, at which time they will move in.

Prior to the move, the layout must be dismantled and the second-floor room it occupies returned to a functioning bedroom. Demolition of the layout will begin in February.

Look for a members-only email blast later in the month of Open House details including address.

Once settled in Avon Lake, John will begin construction of the next Bay Lines.



DIVISION OFFICERS

Benson	Scott	sbenson440@zoominternet.net
Bongiovanni	Franklin	bongiovanni1@hotmail.com
Dluback	William	billdlub@live.com
Eastburn	Scott	d4mcrnews@gmail.com
Filipiak	Joseph	graftonpotter@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
Kuczynski	Larry	larry@hangmanremodeling.com
Lauren	Jeffrey	jflrn@sbcglobal.net
Morgan	Ronald	ronalco844@gmail.com
Noeth	Greg	ginoeth@yahoo.com
Schaefer	Gary	trains.ohio@yahoo.com
Shick II	Chuck	chuck.shick@hotmail.com
Shick	Christine	chris.shick@hotmail.com
Wagner	Fred	boonedog0219@gmail.com
Williams	David	dave_wms@sbcglobal.net
Witt	John	wittjab@ameritech.net
Woodie	Adam	woo3482@hotmail.com
Glass	Don	No email address

AWARDS BANQUET

This years Dennis Novak Award winners are Brian Haas and Joe Filipiak. Each of them received their award from Superintendent Ron Morgan.



Division Member Shawn Kline visited Durango Colorado this month with his family. Here are some photos from their visit to the Durango and Silverton Railroad.



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.***



Crown Plaza Hotel

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(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 officers and director's slots are up for re-election or election. If interested in running for an officer or director, write a brief statement about yourself and your Life in Model Railroading and give it to Dave Flebbe, Ben Lanza, or Larry Kowicki. New members are welcome.

Committee Chairman
Dave Flebbe