



# THE FLATWHEEL



Volume 59

March 2024

Number 3

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What's on the Workbench



NMRA Contest &  
Achievement Program



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A Special thank you to Dave Williams for providing the photos from our monthly division meetings and activities.

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, February 26th for the March 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

Greetings from the cab.

The annual pizza membership meeting went well. I hope the membership had a good time.

The convention committee continues to move forward with plans for the MCR Regional Convention. The various events are starting to come together. There will be 23 layouts that will be open for visitation during the convention and 8 to ten for operation. 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. Sign-up to help at the convention is available on the convention web site. Please take the time to sign up to help.

We have a new membership chairman. Craig Butler has volunteered to fill that position. Big thanks to Craig for taking on the job. Just a reminder, Division 4 will have a membership table at the Division 5 train show in March and possibly also at the World's Greatest Hobby show also in March.

The slate of offices and directors is set for starting in June of 2024. All offices and directors are running unopposed, so a ballot will not be necessary. There will be a vote by the membership present at the March business meeting to approve the election.

The annual membership picnic and business meeting is set for **June 8<sup>th</sup> 2024, from 11am – 4pm** at the Northern Ohio Live Steamers in Lester Ohio. Good food, good fellowship and fun train rides. Mark the date on your calendar. Remember, this will be a regular business meeting.

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 16<sup>th</sup> – May 19<sup>th</sup>, 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



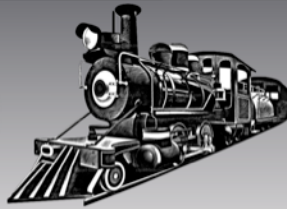


I can always tell when we have had Pizza Night at the division meeting. Some of the ballot sheets that were used to vote on had red stains from pizza on them. That's just fine because that means that after you ate, you came over to the contest tables and voted. Thank you. The pizzas were good and the entries in the contest were great. We had twelve entries and a first happened in the history of the model contests. Craig Butler entered a model in the model section of the contest table, and he also entered a project in the diorama section of the contest. You voted Craig's model and his diorama in first place in both areas of the contest. Congratulations Craig! I'm looking forward to seeing future entries from this talented fellow. Jim Grell took second place in the model contest with Joe Kurilec's entry receiving third place. The second place in diorama went to John Puch and third place went to Joe Filipiak.

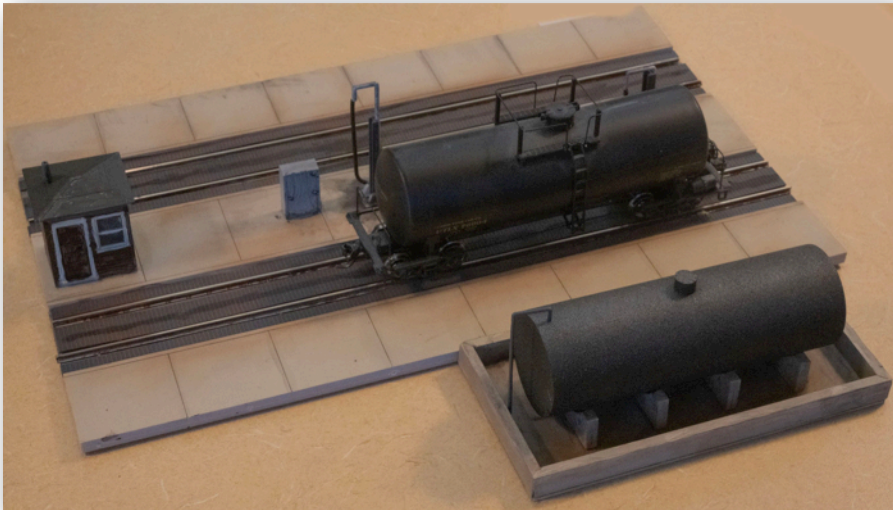
The March contest should bring in a wide range of entries. The theme of the March contest is to finish a model project that you started but never finished. This could range from buildings to rolling stock to locomotives and who knows what else may show up. Don't miss the contest table this month. The April contest is simply the last car on a passenger train. It might have a closed tail to it or an open platform. Many railroads have had passenger trains and every one of them had a last car to it. Some were colorful and fancy while others just wore the color and name of the railroad. Even Amtrak trains have a last car on every one of their passenger trains. It could be a coach with red marker lights. Sometimes a private varnish car or the president of the railroads business car will be the last car. I will be looking to see what the last car on your train is that passes the station.







## CONTESTS & ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM



HOW DO I GET STARTED  
IN THE NMRA  
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM?

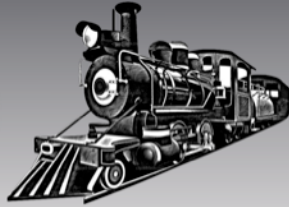
## 2023-24 CONTESTS

March	Complete an unfinished project
April	Last car on a passenger train
May	Grab bag of provided parts to build a building



**CLICK HERE!**

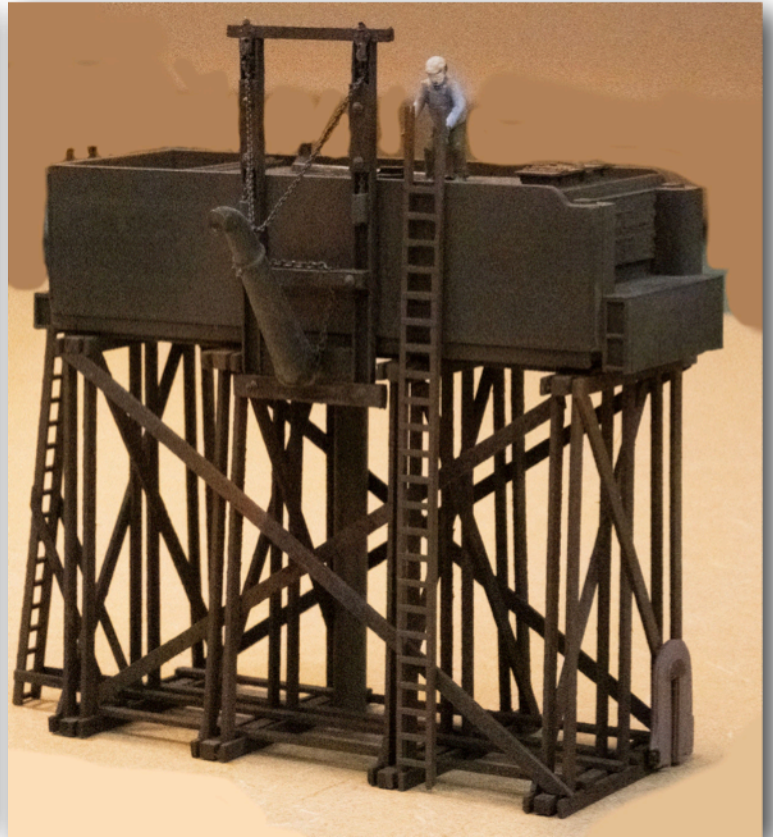




## CONTESTS & ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM











# THINK MODULAR

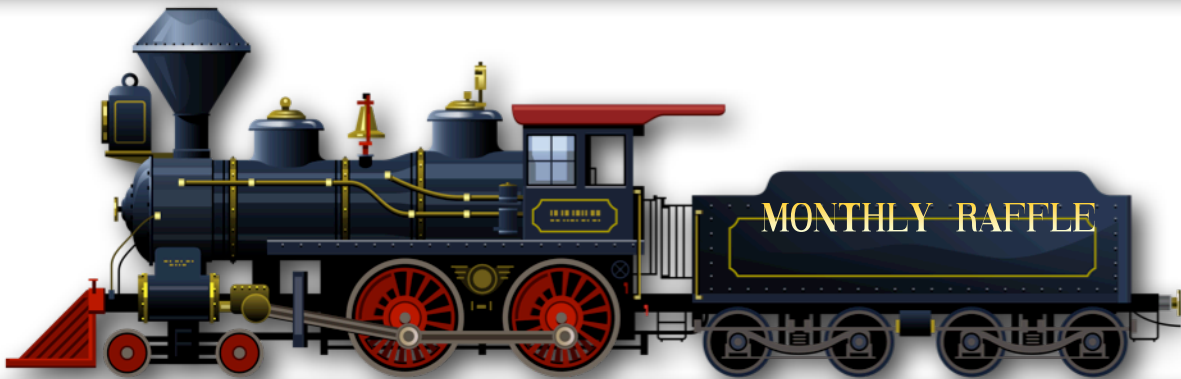
Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

Things are picking up once again for the module group in the month of March. First up is the Avon Lake Library. We will once again be set up at the Avon Lake Library which is scheduled for Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The library does a fantastic job advertising for this event. Those efforts along with the "Discovery Zone" located across the hall from the display room generated a considerable amount of attendance at last year's event. With that said, we would like to use this opportunity to reinstate TRAINing Day. We are looking for members to volunteer to bring a model railroad project to work on while engaging with the general public. Please contact Gary Schaefer for those that are interested in TRAINing Day and what type of project you will bring. Tables and chairs will be provided by the library. Next up will be World's Greatest Hobby! This event will take place at the IX Center on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00am to 5:00pm and Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 4:00pm. This event usually draws a good size crowd. Come on out and see us along with the other layouts and vendors.

As always, anyone interested in joining the module group, please contact me at [woo3482@hotmail.com](mailto:woo3482@hotmail.com).

Until next time!

Adam "Hot Box" Woodie



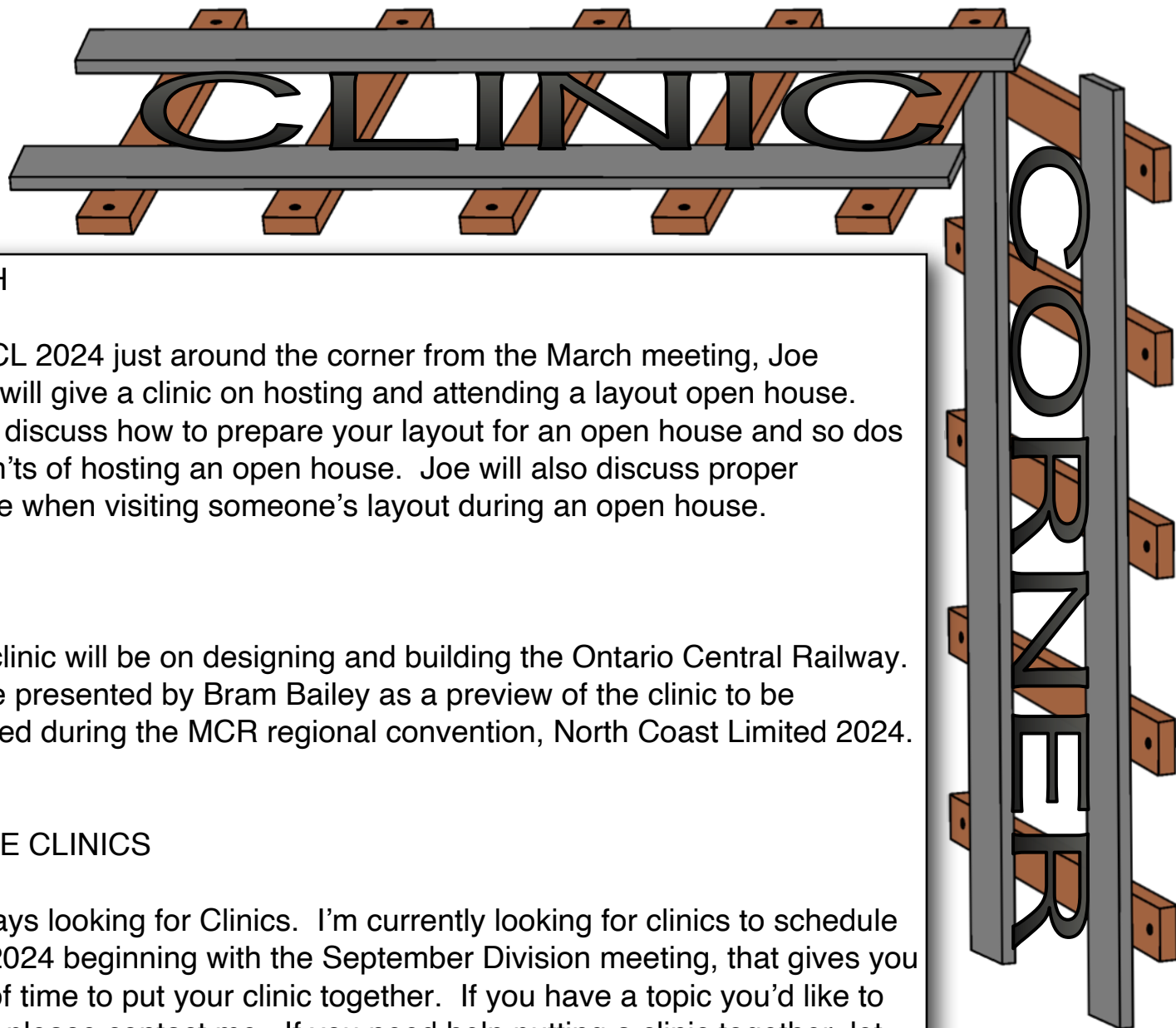
Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

Although there was no raffle at the February Monthly Meeting, does not mean this is a time for despair. The raffle will return in March at the regularly scheduled meeting. 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





## MARCH

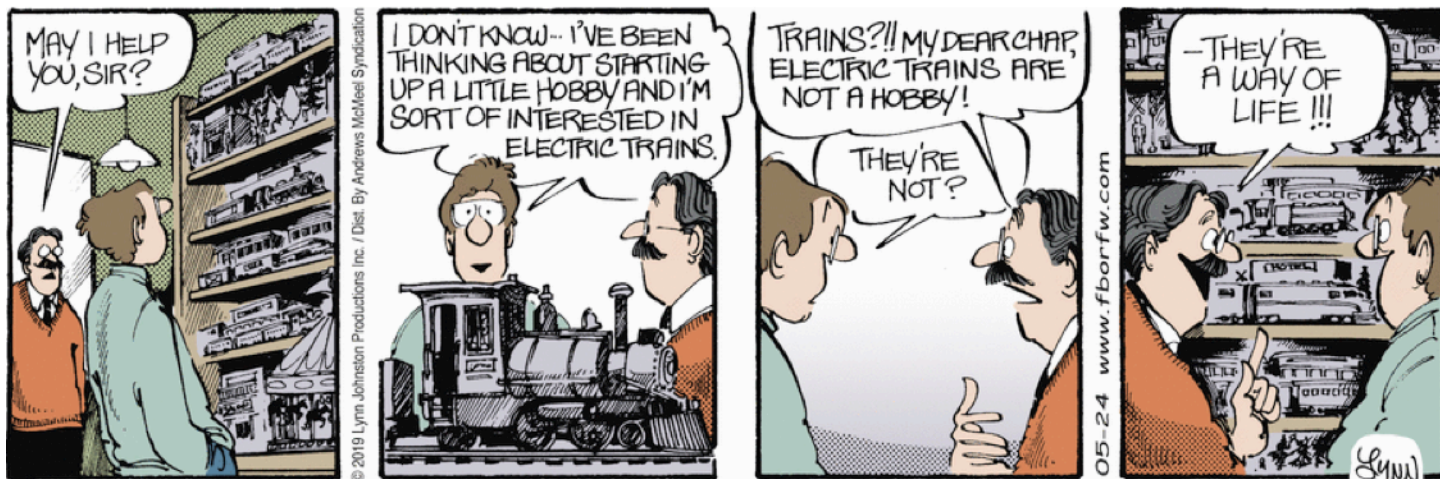
With NCL 2024 just around the corner from the March meeting, Joe Filipiak will give a clinic on hosting and attending a layout open house. Joe will discuss how to prepare your layout for an open house and so dos and don'ts of hosting an open house. Joe will also discuss proper etiquette when visiting someone's layout during an open house.

## APRIL

April's clinic will be on designing and building the Ontario Central Railway. It will be presented by Bram Bailey as a preview of the clinic to be presented during the MCR regional convention, North Coast Limited 2024.

## FUTURE CLINICS

I'm always looking for Clinics. I'm currently looking for clinics to schedule in Fall 2024 beginning with the September Division meeting, that gives you plenty of time to put your clinic together. 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



## Division 4, MCR, NMRA General Meeting Minutes February 9, 2024

Superintendent, Ron Morgan opened the meeting at 6:34 pm with a warm welcome to International Pizza Night.

Ron had new members Kegan Kuczynski, who is a jr. member and currently President of Medina 4-H. Tom Ebery also introduced himself. Welcome to Division 4.

A motion was made by John Janda to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Darrall Swift seconded the motion. Motion was passed by the membership of the Division to accept the minutes of the previous meeting.

Treasurer Greg Noeth gave a balance of all the accounts.

Old Business:

New Membership Chairperson – Ron Morgan – Craig Butler has volunteered to be our new Membership Chairperson.

Election Report – Dave Flebee – Bert Wisbar has turned his notification to run for Assistant Superintendent. Giving the officers a full slate. A motion was made and seconded to accept the officers as slated. The membership carried the motion.

2024 Regional Convention Status – Jerry Kruger – things are proceeding well. Gary Schaefer has been updating the website. Currently we have 108 to 110 attendees registered along with some hotel bookings, both are moving along nicely. Clinics are now on the website. Banquet speaker is going to be Pete Peremba. We do need volunteers, sign up is on Genesis on the convention website. There are also sign up sheets on the back table.

Division 5 Membership Table – Ron Morgan – we have a reserved table at Railfest. We need people to volunteer to man this membership table. Sign up is on the front table. There will be no food vendors available at this venue.

Up front on the table is also a Get Well card for Art Bumpus, please come on up and sign it.



**New Business:**

Show and Tell – Ron Morgan – there are free magazines on the side tables.

Working on Cool Projects – Ron Morgan – nothing

**Committee Reports:**

Flat Wheel Deadline – Ron Morgan – Please get your articles to Scott Eastburn by the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Clinics -Jerry Kruger – tonight is movie night and in March Joe Filipiak will be our presenter.

Company Store – Scott Benson – Got stuff come and take a look at it.

Raffle – Adam Woodie – no raffle tonight.

Module Group – Adam Woodie – we are quiet right now. March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be at Avon Lake Library , will need volunteers to help along with Training Day. Gary Schaefer mentioned there are tables. Should be a lot of kids there. If you are demonstrating something that could be messy, please bring things to protect the libraries equipment and to clean up after yourself. World's Greatest Hobby will be at the IX Center on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Layout Tours – John Witt, MMR –

AP Awards – John Hemsath, MMR – No awards tonight, but there is a few goodies on the side tables. Please help yourself, nothing is to go home tonight.

Contests – Joe Filipiak – January 2024 – Diesel with your or someone's road name winners.

Model: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Joe Kurilec, MMR  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Jim Grell  
3<sup>rd</sup> - John Hemsath, MMR

Diorama: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – John Puch  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Joe Filipiak  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Dave Lawler

Next Month's contest is: complete an un-finished model railroad project. Looking for ideas for next years contest if you have any please let Joe know.

No Comments or Concerns

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried by the membership to adjourn the meeting. Meeting closed at 7:08 pm.

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

**TRAIN QUIP**

**"I don't snore I dream in train."**

**- Unknown**





# March 23-24, at the I-XCenter

Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders!

As you are aware, the World's Greatest Hobby will be the IX Center on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup>. Division 4 has submitted application to display which has been approved.

With that said the following items need to be addressed for a successful display.

## Modules:

Please let me know if you would like to display at this event. Currently, we have large amount of space allocated for the layout and intend to use the large radius loops. We would like the size of the layout to be similar to that of the Great Berea Train Show.

## Set Up:

Set will take place on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The facility will be open for setting up the layout beginning at 11:00am and will remain open until 6:00pm. Access to the IX Center is usually on the north side of the building. Staff should be on site to direct you to which door is to be used for vehicular access.

## Operations:

The building will be open at 8:00am on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The show begins at 10:00am and runs through 5:00pm. On Sunday, the building will be open at 9:00am and show starts at 10:00am. I will have schedules printed out for use on both days. We will determine the number of trains per hour once the layout size is finalized.

## Tear Down:

The show will conclude at 4:00pm on Sunday with tear down commencing immediately afterwards.

## Access:

Badges will be handed out on Friday during set up.

Please let me know if you are able to assist for this event. Traditionally, World's Greatest Hobby draws are really good crowd.

Talk to you soon.

Adam "Hot Box" Woodie

### World's Greatest Hobby on Tour Show is Coming to Cleveland

#### BEST TRAIN SHOW in the Country for Collectors & Model Railroaders!

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The Best Prices on Trains! Over 80,000 sqft. of New, Used & Collectable Trains!

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**Sunday 10:00am to 4:00pm**

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On Line Early Bird Special tickets available until 11:59pm on 3/17/24

Saturday \$13.95 - Early Bird Saturday tickets gets you Sunday for FREE a 50%+ savings over onsite 2 day ticket

Sunday only \$7.50 - Early Bird ticket gets you half price compared to onsite cost.

Onsite Pricing  
Adults: \$15 (Saturday or Sunday)  
Weekend Pass: \$29.00  
Kids Under 16: FREE

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- Miami Valley Modular Railway 60' x 80' - HO Scale Layout
- Dayton N Track - 15' x 32' - N Scale
- Olmsted Falls Depot and Model RR Museum - 30' x 35' - O Gauge
- Northern O Garden Railway Society 20' x 26' - G Scale Layout
- NMRA Div 4 - 38' x 58' - HO Scale
- Golden Eagle & Freedom Valley Model Trains - 18' x 45' - HO Scale
- Schorn Disneyland Memorials 8' x 11' - HO Scale
- Operating Memorial Display
- Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad 11' x 32' - G Scale Layout
- Burning River N Society 15' x 30' - N Scale Layout

Play area for kids with hands on trains to play with, train videos to watch and a **FREE Thomas Riding Train for Kids!**

**Kids Ride Me FREE!**



**'All aboard!' Regional train group makes stop at Avon Lake Public Library**

**Lauren Hoffman — The Chronicle-Telegram**

AVON LAKE — The whir of electronic motors filled the air as lights flashed inside the tiny diner and nearby apartments. A painted bright blue sky and grassy knolls lay in the backdrop as Engine 1682 chugged past.

It's a hobby that Adam Woodie has been doing since he was 6 years old. "We all got our start, I think, around the same time," he laughed. "You're 6 years old, and there's a brand new train set under the Christmas tree; it all went from there."

Woodie is one of over 40 participating group members from the National Model Railroad Association's Mid-central Region Division Four who set up a weekend display at the Avon Lake Public Library.

On Sunday afternoon, the group wrapped it up, but not before Woodie and his group had welcomed over a 100 people into their world of model trains. "We've been coming to the library for quite a few years now, but last year was our first year back since COVID-19," Woodie said. "(Library communications manager) Shea Alltmont reached out to us back in 2021 and wanted us to bring the display back due to popular demand. So here we are."

It was one of the group's biggest displays at the library to date, complete with a full Cleveland-inspired layout plus two circular tracks. On Saturday, visitors were treated to mini-build clinics in addition to the modular railroad layout.

"This group has been great for our library and the public," Alltmont said. "We have had a long-standing relationship with them, and they always put on a really amazing show that is good for everyone from the enthusiast to the casual viewer."

Mini clinics included how to build a model train layout, what it takes to put together a mountainside and how to paint and add details as well as tips and tricks on where to get started.

"There's something for everyone in it," Woodie said. "Some really like the electric aspect, others the painting and some the whole build so it's really neat."

Alltmont said the library is lucky to be able to welcome the group and appreciates the services it provides.

"These gentlemen take time out of their busy schedule to set up here at Avon Lake Public Library, and we are so thankful for it," she said. "It's something that continues to grow and spread joy."

In addition to the display each March, the group also shows at The Great Berea Train Show at the Cuyahoga County fairgrounds in October, the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour show at the IX Center on March 23-24 and the Cleveland Oktoberfest.

To keep up with the group or to become a member, visit [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org).

**TRAIN QUIP**

**"Some people go to therapy, I ride trains. It's cheaper and is more enjoyable"**

**- Unknown**





# DIVISION OFFICERS

Benson	Scott	<a href="mailto:sbenson440@zoominternet.net">sbenson440@zoominternet.net</a>
Bongiovanni	Franklin	<a href="mailto:bongiovanni1@hotmail.com">bongiovanni1@hotmail.com</a>
Dluback	William	<a href="mailto:billdlub@live.com">billdlub@live.com</a>
Eastburn	Scott	<a href="mailto:d4mcnews@gmail.com">d4mcnews@gmail.com</a>
Filipiak	Joseph	<a href="mailto:griftonpotter@frontier.com">griftonpotter@frontier.com</a>
Haas	Brian	<a href="mailto:brianhaas86@gmail.com">brianhaas86@gmail.com</a>
Hemsath MMR	John	<a href="mailto:hemsathj@gmail.com">hemsathj@gmail.com</a>
James	David	<a href="mailto:david.j@brtcharter.com">david.j@brtcharter.com</a>
Janda	John	<a href="mailto:jjanda101@gmail.com">jjanda101@gmail.com</a>
Lanza	Ben	<a href="mailto:blat@nls.net">blat@nls.net</a>
Krueger	Jerry	<a href="mailto:jakrueg@neo.rr.com">jakrueg@neo.rr.com</a>
Kuczynski	Larry	<a href="mailto:larry@hangmanremodeling.com">larry@hangmanremodeling.com</a>
Lauren	Jeffrey	<a href="mailto:jflrn@sbcglobal.net">jflrn@sbcglobal.net</a>
Morgan	Ronald	<a href="mailto:ronalco844@gmail.com">ronalco844@gmail.com</a>
Noeth	Greg	<a href="mailto:ginoeth@yahoo.com">ginoeth@yahoo.com</a>
Schaefer	Gary	<a href="mailto:trains.ohio@yahoo.com">trains.ohio@yahoo.com</a>
Shick II	Chuck	<a href="mailto:chuck.shick@hotmail.com">chuck.shick@hotmail.com</a>
Shick	Christine	<a href="mailto:chris.shick@hotmail.com">chris.shick@hotmail.com</a>
Wagner	Fred	<a href="mailto:boonedog0219@gmail.com">boonedog0219@gmail.com</a>
Williams	David	<a href="mailto:dave_wms@sbcglobal.net">dave_wms@sbcglobal.net</a>
Witt	John	<a href="mailto:wittjab@ameritech.net">wittjab@ameritech.net</a>
Woodie	Adam	<a href="mailto:woo3482@hotmail.com">woo3482@hotmail.com</a>
Glass	Don	No email address





# WHAT'S ON THE WORKBENCH

**BY SCOTT EASTBURN**

On the Old, Slow & Easy, my On30 Scale Railroad, I have a rule of no Ghost Crews. A Ghost Crew is an empty cab in a locomotive. Most of my locomotives are Bachmann Spectrum On30 Engines. Depending on the locomotive the cabs offer ample space or very limited space. In the Cabs with ample room I use 3d or cast metal O Scale figures. In the Cabs with very little space for a crew I use very inexpensive bulk O Scale figures. I purchase them on Amazon in packs of 50 or 100. These figures are good from far, but far from good so I modify and paint them. I begin by altering them for fit and position in the specific cab. The next step is to fine tune the figure by scribing coveralls and additional details. I then add sculpted on coveralls when appropriate and hats. I sculpt these items out of two part sculpting epoxy. Once the sculpting is complete I paint and weather the figures. I also use this process to create inexpensive figures that operate outside of the Cab. The results are acceptable crew members to bring life to my locomotive fleet.





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!***

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# 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