

BUILDER'S PLATE

August 2018

Volume 1, Issue 5

Newsletter of Division 12, Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc.

Superintendent's Report

I've never been a person that likes to write. The most grueling class I had in college was my freshman year creative writing class. Chemistry 1 and 2, physics, all my geology classes, and even that one business class were pieces of cake compared to that writing class. So here I am in my fifties having to write a monthly piece. Dave Neff from Division 5 set the bar pretty high for me. I've always enjoyed his monthly letters in their Division newsletter. So I feel that I should follow his lead. Now that I receive all of the other divisions' newsletters, I see that superintendents don't necessarily write letters every month. But since I enjoy reading the letters of those that do, I hope to give you something to read in each of our newsletters.

Last month I had writer's block

and struggled to come up with a subject. This month I can't decide which topic I want to talk about. I was going to talk about our membership numbers in relation to the other divisions in the MCR, but the national office is still working to get us an accurate list. Then I thought I might write about a tie-in to this month's clinic, or maybe about how technology is changing the hobby. (As I'm writing this I am also following the NRMA BOD meeting in Kansas City on Face Book, as is Mike Hauk, and we are able to post and give feedback.)

However, I've decided to step back to simpler times for this letter, and describe three or four guys (or ladies) on the road heading to an op-session.

Continued on page 2

Next Membership Meeting:

Our next membership meeting will be held on Saturday, August 11 at 10:00 AM at the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station located at the intersection of Venango Avenue and Railroad Street in Cambridge Springs, PA. The program, by Brad White, will be on model railroad operations on the Chautauqua Branch. The August 11 membership meeting will again have a Bring and Brag segment where members can share something they have been working on related to model railroading.

Please note the earlier 10:00 AM time! (The Trolley Station is open to the public in the afternoon.)

I was very lucky that at the age of sixteen I met a group of model railroaders who were into operation. We had a regular place to go, in the Cleveland area, the third Saturday of the month. This would generally be an all-day affair. It was always the same, stop at three or four hobby shops in Cleveland, eat dinner before the op-session, and run trains until way after midnight. Getting home between two or three o'clock in the morning (the speed limit was only fifty-five in those days).

What I remember the most was all those hobby shops. All the ones we used to stop at are now gone. The last one, Wings in Lakewood, Ohio closed two years ago. Some good hobby shops are still around, but they are few and far between. Going into those stores was a wonder for me, never knowing what I might find or didn't know I needed. The hobby shop was the face of the hobby.

So jumping back to the present, the last Saturday in July, four members from Division 12 made one of those trips to an op-session in Cleveland. The destination was Jerry Jordak's Penn Central Erie & Pittsburgh layout. On the way to Cleveland we stopped at Hobby Town USA. It's a good place to stock up on modeling supplies, but a little thin on model trains. Our next stop was Stewart's Hobbies and Collectables. This is more like the hobby shops I remember from my earlier trips to Cleveland.

When you walk into Stewart's you never know what you might find. He has new items just out, but you can sometimes find one of those old kits

you've been looking for. After browsing for a while I made my selection (a Stewart NYC VO-1000). As I was checking out I happened to look down into the display case at the checkout and noticed a brass caboose. I asked Rob (the owner of the store) what it was. I had a hunch, and I was right. It turned out to be a model of the Nickel Plate Road's 1300 class cabooses. The real cabooses were built during WWII out of old steel underframe, wood side boxcars.

What a find!! I have been searching for one of these for years. These were imported in the late 80s by Overland Models. Every now and then one shows up on eBay and sells for an outrageous price. This one was priced right so I took it home! Here are the photos to prove it.



I make it a habit whenever I travel (business or pleasure) to look and see if there is a hobby shop nearby, and if at all possible I go there. There may come a time, not too long from now, when there will not be any hobby shops left.

So after my find we headed off to dinner and then Jerry's. We had a wonderful op-session and here's a photo of my engine for the evening as the Moravia Yard master. The engine is a little too clean and not there's not enough grass growing in the right of way.



When possible try and support the hobby by visiting a hobby shop and let them know you are a NMRA member.

Happy Model Railroading
Brad White
Division 12, MCR, Superintendent

P. S. We made it home before one o'clock in the morning.

The *Builder's Plate* is a publication of Division 12, Mid Central Region, NMRA. All opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of Division 12, the MCR, or the NMRA.

Editor: David A. Ellis



Division 12, MCR, NMRA, Inc.
The Alleghany Western Division:
Expanding your model railroading horizons

Please visit our website: www.div12mcr.org

Or  NMRAAlleghanyWesternDivision

Meetings

Membership meetings typically include announcements and limited business, Bring and Brag during which members share what they have been working on, and an educational model-railroad related program, presentation, or clinic.

NMRA: <https://www.nmra.org/>
Mid Central Region:
<http://www.midcentral-region-nmra.org/>
Division 12 Superintendent:
Superintendent@div12mcr.org



Officers and BOD

Superintendent: Brad White—
superintendent@div12mcr.org

Assistant Superintendent: Mike Hauk

Clerk/Treasurer: Dave Ellis—
clerk@div12mcr.org

Board of Directors: Dick Bradley, Doug Sandmeyer, Chris Mincemoyer

Division 12 Upcoming Events

August: Membership meeting: Saturday, August 11 at 10:00 AM at the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station. Presentation: Brad White on model railroad operations on the Chautauqua Branch.

September: Membership meeting: Saturday, September 8 at the Salamanca Railroad Museum. Details to be confirmed

September: Board of Directors meeting: Saturday, September 29, at 10:00 AM at the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station. Planning for November Division 12 events: Erie Train Show, T-Trak Displays, NMRA Layout tours.

October: Membership meeting: Erie area meeting with presentation on operations on a model railroad and then operating on the railroad after the meeting. Date to be determined.

November: Public Event(s): Erie Train Show and possible other public demonstrations of Division 12 T-Trak layout. NMRA only event: Layout tours. (Also open to Divisions 2, 5, and 11?)

December: Break and holidays.

Upcoming Model Railroad Events

NMRA Division 4 Great Berea Train Show: October 6 and 7, 2018

Please see the special notice below.

Erie Model Train Show: November 4, 2018

The Erie show will be held in Rainbow Gardens, 200 Peninsula Drive, Millcreek, PA from 10 AM – 4 PM.

Greenberg Train Show: November 10 & 11, 2018

Monroeville, PA 10 AM – 4 PM. Pittsburgh area public train show.

Links to upcoming model railroad events can be found on the Division 12 Website:

<http://www.div12mcr.org>

Use the search button on the “Welcome” page or use the “News/Events” page, either by scrolling or clicking on the “Train Shows and Conventions” category link.

THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
MID-CENTRAL REGION • DIVISION 4
www.div4.org
CUYAHOGA • LORAIN • ERIE • HURON • MEDINA
Counties of OHIO

THE NORTH COAST DIVISION
presents
THE MIDWEST'S PREMIER MODEL RAILROAD HOBBY SHOW

THE GREAT BEREA TRAIN SHOW

OCTOBER 6th & 7th, 2018
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds
19201 Bagley Rd.
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130

ADMISSION \$8.00
UNDER 16 FREE with ADULT
2 DAY TICKET \$10.00

OUR 45th YEAR!
www.thegreatberetrainshow.org

4 BUILDINGS / OVER 60,000 sq. ft.
Over 460 TABLES
HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
FOOD / ATM ONSITE
OPERATING TRAINS

DOOR PRIZES **FREE PARKING**

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DISPLAYING OR RENTING TABLES?
Contact Dave James • showmanager@thegreatberetrainshow.org • 440-785-9907

Stay up to date on all Division 4 news and events including The Great Berea Train Show, our Module Group, and TRAINING Day. JOIN THE DIV 4 EXPRESS TODAY!

TEXT DIV4 to 22828 or to the ABOUT page at <http://www.thegreatberetrainshow.org>

Modeler's Tip:

Flow Control

(No, not a trip to the urologist but some helpful hints for getting ACC where you want it)



The first photo shows three application tools that I use frequently. On the lower left is a tool that Dick Bradley introduced me to. It consists of a sewing needle that has been inserted into the end of a short piece of 1/4" square stock. The needle's eye is then cut half way with a cut-off wheel. The deep "U" can then be used to pick up a drop of ACC and transfer it where needed. Missing from the photo is the shot glass I use to hold a small puddle of ACC. The glass is used in the inverted position for this, the bottom having a small depression. The next two tools use the same principal as the needle but are capable of holding more glue. I found that tweezers could work like the draftsman's ruling pen next to them with the advantage that the amount dispensed could be controlled on the fly.

The next photo shows a small dispenser bottle purchased from Amazon that I use for dispensing the "Kicker" sometimes necessary to get ACC to set. It's a Gaunt Industries "Hypo 200" 1-1/4 ounce with a 25 gauge blunt needle. I also keep some small pieces of paper handy to wick away excess glue or slip between tool blades to clean them.



Doug Sandmeyer - Division 12, MCR, NMRA

Newsletter Submissions!

To publish the *Builder's Plate* every month (our goal) we need submissions from the members. Modeler's tips make excellent submissions. You don't need to be an officer or board member to submit a short article like the one Doug submitted for this month. Write it up and submit it as a Word document attached to an email to clerk@div12mcr.org.

NMRA Partnership Program

The NMRA Partnership Program is a member benefit that truly has a tangible payback. The NMRA has partnered with model railroad manufacturers of all sizes, giving them exposure on the NMRA website in return for receiving generous discounts for NMRA members all year long. Some provide members with special codes, others prefer a phone or email order, but all appreciate the additional business from our members. And of course, our members appreciate the extra savings - savings that can actually pay the cost of NMRA membership! For complete descriptions of the partners, the discount they offer, and instructions on applying the discount on your order visit the NMRA Partnership website (<https://www.nmra.org/partnerships>). If you are not signed in as a member, you will only see a list of the partners offering the discounts. To see the instructions on how to apply the discounts you need to register or log in as a registered member. If you have not registered, here is a [FAQ](#) with instructions for how to register at the NMRA website.

Committee Chairs and Volunteer Positions:

Achievement Program: Mike Hauk
ap@div12mcr.org

Newsletter and Webmaster: Dave Ellis
clerk@div12mcr.org

Operations Coordinator: Jason Graves
operations@div12mcr.org

T-Trak: Doug Sandmeyer
ttrak@div12mcr.org

BOD Biography:

Asst. Superintendent Mike Hauk

I grew up in Sunbury, PA, and have always had a fascination with trains, real and model. One of my first memories is my dad's American Flyer set up under the Christmas tree every year when I was small. Another early memory was driving into Northumberland yards with my grandparents and peering through dirty windows at the PRR steam engines stored inside. My grandfather was a Pennsy brakeman for a time, my mom's grandfather was a PRR engineman, and my dad's foster father was also a PRR engineman.

I spent many weekends at my grandparents' house, and both the Shamokin Branch of the PRR and the Reading RR Shamokin line to Newberry ran right through my grandparents' backyard. One of my dad's dental patients was Clarence Weaver (of "The Ore Train" movie fame), and when I was in junior high I would occasionally ride with Clarence and another area teacher to the local NRHS meetings.

My first model train purchase was an AHM set that ran like crap on brass sectional track. I had an 8' x 8' open grid model railroad in my parents' basement that never really got off the ground because of lack of funds, and when I went to college I turned part of it into a reloading bench for my dad. Regardless, the bug had bit, and the hook was set...

My interest in trains waxed and waned during college, professional school, residency, and military service, but it never completely went away. My wife and I once rode a narrow-gauge

steam train excursion in Japan when I was deployed there. When living in San Diego, CA we would take our little kids to Balboa Park from time to time, and always managed to squeeze in a visit to the La Mesa model railroad after seeing the zoo.

Once settled in Fairview, I decided to model the Susquehanna & New York Railroad, an obscure shortline that once ran near our family hunting camp north of Williamsport, PA. I have been collecting material on the S&NY for over twenty years and run a website devoted to that railroad and my progress on the model version:

www.snyrr.com.

My main modeling interest is operations, ever since I read the "V&O Story" in Railroad Model Craftsman many years ago, and designed the model S&NY to support timetable and train-order operations. We have run about a dozen-and-a-half op sessions so far, and I hope to resume ops this fall after a long hiatus for a large scenery project.

My vision for Division 12 is for the division to be a "big tent", where any interested area modelers, no matter their particular interest or focus or skillset, can share what they know and have accomplished with everyone else. In turn we can all also grow by being exposed to others' modeling interests and skills.

July Activities

We held our monthly meeting at the trolley station on the July 14, and as usual the minutes are available on the Documents page of the div12mcr.org website. Chris Mincemoyer was our only Bring and Brag participant, sharing a barn that he had built and weathered with Pan Pastels. Dave Ellis

presented information on expanding layouts and adding realism to them with backdrops. The presentation and handout (which he forgot to hand out) are now available to download on the Documents page of our website.



During the break, several members of our T-Trak committee set up in the baggage room to test our first modules before the Jefferson show and share them with the division.

On Saturday, July 21st, Division 12 participated with an information table and the initial public display of our T-Trak modules at the Jefferson Historical Society's Train Show in Jefferson, Ohio



All of our initial T-Trak committee brought modules and spent the day. Dave, Brad, and Chris posed behind the table, while Doug took this photo. We had a number of visitors interested in T-Trak, including some of the LENS group who had their modules set up in the adjoining room.