

BUILDER'S PLATE

December 2018

Volume 1, Issue 9

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

Superintendent's Report

Here we are at the end of the year. The holiday season, for many of us, means Christmas. I don't know when it became a custom to have a train around the Christmas tree (probably a marketing ploy by Lionel), but somehow the two have come together as a holiday tradition.

Growing up we had a large Marx set that was a hand-me-down from my brothers. I still have most of the equipment tucked away in a box under the layout. "Someday" I'll get it out and set it up.

One year I went a little over board and set up a G scale layout in my current living room. Not the ones you can get for around a tree, but the large radius curves so I could run my Shay and Climax steam engines. It took up a little more than half of the 12x15 living room, and had a siding. The engine was almost as big as our cat, who kept watching it roll away and being surprised when it snuck up behind her. She was never the same after that.

I think many of us in the hobby got our start this time of year. The simple pleasure of seeing a train running was the magic, the spark that led to finding a hobby. Some have different objectives in the hobby now, but it all started with a train running, going somewhere.

I recently attended the Sebring, Ohio Model Railroad club open house. I didn't take many photos. I just enjoyed watching the trains roll by.

Some of us get so wrapped up in operations we can't see the trains for the track. But maybe, this holiday season, take a step back and watch the train roll by.

Happy Model Railroading

Brad White
Div. 12 MCR
Superintendent

Next Membership Events:

The Division 12 Christmas party will be open to NMRA members, their family, and guests on December 8 from 1:00 until 4:00 PM at Hoss's Family Steak & Sea on W 26th Street, Route 20 in Erie. Details on page 4.

The next membership meeting will be in February at the Trolley Station in Cambridge Springs.



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

December: Division 12 Christmas Party: The division party will be open to NMRA members, their family, and guests on December 8 from 1:00-4:00 PM at Hoss's Family Steak & Sea on W 26th Street, Route 20 in Erie.

January: Division 12 Ops Sessions: Members may open their railroads to instructional operations sessions.

February: Membership meetings: resuming after winter weather break on February 9, 2019 at the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station.

March: Erie Train Show: Division 12 members will put on clinics on the stage at Rainbow Gardens. T-Trak committee members will participate with their modules with other groups to have a larger combined layout. The division will have commission and donation sales.

May: NMRA Mid Central Region Convention: Division 12 members are volunteering and our T-Trak group will be participating in a large T-Trak layout. As it is right next door this year, we are hoping to have a large Division 12 turn out at The Bullet 2019, our regional convention.

Upcoming Model Railroad Events

RIT Tiger Tracks Train Show and Sale December 8 and 9, 2018

Rochester, NY's largest train show. Show hours are Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

Clarion Model Railroad Club "A Christmas Train Show"

Celebrating their 10th year, The Clarion Model Railroad Club is hosting a show at the Cranberry Mall with many operating layouts, drawings and even a hobby shop open on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Christmas.

Railfest 2019 March 16 and 17, 2019

Largest continuously running two-day train show in Ohio, sponsored by Division 5.

RPM-EAST The 2019 Railroad Prototype Seminar March 22 and 23, 2019

RPM-East is a prototype modeler event to spark your modeling efforts as winter melts into spring in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The 2019 RPM-East railroad prototype modeler seminar includes presentations, operating sessions, open layouts, a large model display room, vendors, and a banquet to prime your creativity.

The Great Batavia Train Show – Spring 2019 – March 31, 2019

For over 30 years the Great Batavia Train Show has grown to become one of the premier hobby events in Western New York between Buffalo and Rochester. Over 100 dealers along with railroad modeling and preservation societies participate. Show hours are from 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM.

Central New York Division Op till You Drop Weekend April 27 and 28, 2019

Operations weekend on layouts in the area surrounding Syracuse, NY. Will post more details when I receive them.

Mid Central Region Convention: May 2 – 5, 2019

Our region's yearly convention, *The Bullet 2019*, is relatively close this year, in Boardman, Ohio. Please note the request for volunteers from Division 12 in this issue of the *Builder's Plate*.

Links to these and additional 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.

If you are aware of upcoming railroad events, please let the *Builder's Plate* editor and the webmaster know, so that we can list them.
Editor: clerk@div12mcr.org
Webmaster: webeditor@div12mcr.org

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 Ellis

Division 12 Christmas Party

Let's make this year's Div. 12 party memorable fun for all!

The Christmas party will be at Hoss's Family Steak & Sea on W. 26th Street, Route 20 in Erie on December 8, the second Saturday in December.

The function will be from 1:00 until 4:00 as their party room is available from 12:30 PM until 4:30 PM and is sized for our group. It can accommodate 30-50 people, which should be big enough for our members plus spouses, family, or guests. We can order traditional style, full service order at the table, from the full menu. We'll want separate checks so gratuity will be separate too.

Also, while this is not a business meeting, we do have several banquet tables reserved. We will set up Division 12 T-Trak modules and display any Bring and Brag items that members bring to share what they have been working on.

Division 12 Volunteers Needed for *The Bullet in Boardman*

I was most pleased to hear of Division 12's willingness to help us run *The Bullet in Boardman* (May 2-5, 2019). I urge those wishing to help to please contact Luana Peters, our volunteer coordinator. Her email contact is the "click here to volunteer" link on www.div1-mcr-nmra.org/the-acy-bullet-2019

Below I've attached a list of the areas we need help with as we see it now.

- Convention administration/registration
- Company Store and White Elephant
- Hospitality Room
- Bus Captains
- Contest room
- Arts & Crafts judges
- Model contest judges
- Module judges
- Module load in/load out
- AV support

Steve Zapytowski, MMR #612
Assistant Superintendent
Division 1, Mid-Central Region
National Model Railroad
Association

www.div1-mcr-nmra.org/the-acy-bullet-2019

Member's Classified:

FOR SALE: MicroMark Topside Creeper

Because my railroad for all intents and purposes is finished, I no longer need this really handy tool for the construction phase.



It is indispensable in reaching over and above impossible-to-get-at places for trackwork, soldering, scenery installation, etc. It would also be very useful in working on vehicles and work in the garage.

Micromark Item # is 83876. Their list price is \$332 and sale price is \$260. I am asking \$100. My creeper is lightly used and in excellent condition. Only ten bolts (all included) will have it operable. If needed, complete instructions can be downloaded from the Micromark website.



You can reach me on my cell phone at 814-282-0807 or by email at beschopf@gmail.com. I live in Cambridge Springs. Because of its size and shape, you must pick it up. I have no carton of that size to ship it in.

Bill Schopf, NMRA Division 12

Newsletter Submissions!

To publish the *Builder's Plate* every month (our goal) we need submissions from the members. Modeler's tips, modeler's projects, and any railroad or modeling related stories make excellent submissions. You don't need to be an officer or board member to submit a short article. Write it up and submit it as a Word document attached to an email to clerk@div12mcr.org.

Mentoring in Division 12

At the October membership meeting, we discussed several approaches to offering mentoring in the division. Ultimately, we decided the best approach was to keep it simple, or at least, informal. We came up with starting a list of members who felt comfortable mentoring on specific topics. To contact the mentors, either email the clerk (clerk@div12mcr.org), who will forward your email, or contact them directly.

- Brad White: DCC, Signaling
- Dave Ellis: Backdrops
- Ed Blenner: Scenery
- Doug Sandmeyer: Benchwork, Wiring, Soldering

Committee Chairs and Volunteer Positions:

Achievement Program: Mike Hauk
ap@div12mcr.org

Newsletter: Dave Ellis
clerk@div12mcr.org

Operations Coordinator: Dale Dresser
operations@div12mcr.org

Social Committee: Lee Farnsworth
social@div12mcr.org

T-Trak: Doug Sandmeyer
ttrak@div12mcr.org

Webmaster: Chris Mincemoyer
webeditor@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 an [FAQ](#) with instructions for how to register at the NMRA website.