

# BUILDER'S PLATE

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July 2018

Volume 1, Issue 4

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

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## Superintendent's Report

Here we are into July and the yards of snow (and I'm referring to the three feet to the yard type) are a distant memory. I still find myself seeking time in the coolness of the basement, though golf sometimes gets in the way.

I have been busy getting the railroad ready for regular op-sessions again, after a two-year hiatus. During that time I've been working on my kit-building skills, mostly focusing on laser-cut wood kits. I never had much success at building wood kits in the past.

I attended some clinics at the 2014 NMRA convention and other model railroad related meets and conventions. I came to the conclusion the biggest things I was missing were the right tools. So I invested about one hundred dollars in gluing jigs, clamps,

glue applicators and sanding tools. Now I'm not building model-contest quality buildings (that's not my goal), but I am very happy with the results. I now have some interesting buildings that are adding character to the layout.

Without attending the clinics I may not have learned what I needed to improve as a modeler. Yes, you can read one hundred articles about how and why to do something, but seeing it done, having someone tell you how to do it step by step, or having your questions answered in person are great learning experiences.

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## Next Membership Meeting:

Our next membership meeting will be held on **Saturday, July 14 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 Dave Ellis, will be on model railroad backdrops. The July 14 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.)

One of the projects the MCR is hoping to start up again is a clinician's list of regional presenters. More on a local level Dave Neff, from Division 5, is composing a list of clinicians for Div. 1, Div. 4, Div. 5, and Div.12. If you have presented a clinic in the past or you are putting one together and want to be on the Clinician's List please email me at: [superintendent@div12mcr.org](mailto:superintendent@div12mcr.org) including your name, email address, and clinic topic(s). I will then forward this information to Dave Neff from Division 5.

Happy Model Railroading  
Brad White  
Division 12, MCR, Superintendent

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](http://www.div12mcr.org)

Or  [NMRAAlleghanyWesternDivision](https://www.facebook.com/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](mailto:Superintendent@div12mcr.org)



## Officers and Board of Directors

**Superintendent:** Brad White—  
[superintendent@div12mcr.org](mailto:superintendent@div12mcr.org)

**Assistant Superintendent:** Mike Hauk

**Clerk/Treasurer:** Dave Ellis—  
[clerk@div12mcr.org](mailto:clerk@div12mcr.org)

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

## Notes from the AP Chairman:

### **Focus On: Association Volunteer AP Award**

At last month's meeting at Westfield, NY, our division put out a call for volunteers for a number of very important support positions that will be integral to making our division a success. The positions include newsletter editor and publicity chairman. We will also need a manager for the Division Company Store moving forward.

Jason Graves volunteered to be the Operations Coordinator for future Division Ops events. (Thanks, Jason!)

As part of this effort in "sharing the load", I want to remind the membership that you can receive a small token of appreciation for the valuable time spent making the division a success by counting this time toward the Association Volunteer AP Award. The requirements for this award are outlined on the NMRA website at: <https://www.nmra.org/volunteer>, and you can read the whole list on the site. A total of 60 "time units" are required for the award.

However, I would like to highlight a few here, as they are specifically applicable to the local Division level:

1. Service as a Division officer or director (other than at the Regional level): 1 TU per month.
2. Active satisfactory service as a Committee Manager: 1 TU per month.
3. Active satisfactory service as a Division committee or board member: 1/2 TU per month.
4. Newsletter Editors of 100% NMRA clubs having 10 or more members may earn 1 TU per issue of the club newsletter, providing it is four pages or more. All newsletters must have four issues on file in the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library, edited by the person applying, before the time units will be considered for credit.
5. Individuals (and their crews) who open their home or club layout for layout tours in conjunction with NMRA conventions or other NMRA sponsored events earn credit as follows for each day that the layout is open for viewing:
  - a. Divisional Event: 3 Time Units / day (3 TUs maximum per event)
6. Individuals who participate in modular layouts (e.g. T-Trak) in conjunction with NMRA Divisions, or at NMRA sponsored events, earn credit as follows for each day the layout is open for viewing at the event:
  - a. Divisional Event: 3 Time Units / day (3 TUs maximum per event)
7. A live clinic that is presented more than once earns Association Volunteer credits for each additional (the first presentation is credited

toward Author) presentation at the following schedule:

- a. Divisional Clinic : 1  
Time Unit

Our Division will have been already active for a year in a just a few months and the time goes by quickly, and those TU's will add up in no time; so volunteer today!

Note: We will need presenters for clinics and other Division meeting programs in the future, and we will always need content for the newsletter and website. That material can be counted toward the **Model Railroad Author AP Award**, and I'll touch on that award in a future newsletter.

Mike Hauk

AP Committee Chairman

## Committee Chairs and Volunteer Positions:

Achievement Program: Mike Hauk  
[ap@div12mcr.org](mailto:ap@div12mcr.org)

Newsletter and Webmaster: Dave Ellis  
[clerk@div12mcr.org](mailto:clerk@div12mcr.org)

Operations Coordinator: Jason Graves  
[operations@div12mcr.org](mailto:operations@div12mcr.org)

T-Trak: Doug Sandmeyer  
[ttrak@div12mcr.org](mailto:ttrak@div12mcr.org)

## Division 12 Upcoming Events

July: **Membership meeting:** Saturday, July 14th at 10:00 AM at the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station. Presentation: Dave Ellis on model railroad backdrops.

July: **Event:** Division 12 Information Table and T-Trak Layout at the Jefferson Historical Society's Train Show on Saturday, July 21st from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM.

August: **Membership meeting:** Saturday, August 11th 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 8th at the Salamanca Railroad Museum. Details to be confirmed

September: **Board of Directors** meeting: Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 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

### Jefferson Historical Society Train Swap and Sale: Jefferson, OH, July 21, 2018

Division 12 will be participating with an information table and the initial presentation of our T-Trak modules. This train show is near us in Ohio, located at the Jefferson Community Center, 11 East Jefferson Street, Jefferson, OH 44047. The show runs from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM with a \$2.00 admission charge.

### Greenberg's Great Train and Toy Show: Monroeville, PA, July 21-22, 2018

The Greenberg Great Train Show is a large train-show geared towards both the public and modelers. It is located in the Monroeville Convention Center, 209 Mall Blvd. Monroeville, PA 15416.

### NMRA Kansas City National Convention: August 5-12, 2018

The NMRA National Convention has clinics, tours, contests, the largest train show in the country, and more. This is one of the years that the Operations Road Show will be part of the convention.

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

This event is at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds.

### 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.

Links to all of these 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.

## Mid Central Region Announcement

The following MCR Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2019:

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

The current Vice President is term limited and is ineligible to be a candidate for that position in the 2019 election. The current President, Secretary, and Treasurer are eligible to be candidates for their current positions in the 2019 election. Any MCR member in good standing who wishes to be considered for candidacy for one of these positions should send a notice of their interest to [nominations@midcentral-region-nmra.org](mailto:nominations@midcentral-region-nmra.org)

Thank You.

MCR 2019 Election Nominating Committee

Bob Shreve, Bob Belt, Jim DiPaola



## Modeler's Tip

### The eight-cent weight fix!

In prepping a gondola that I picked up years ago at a train show for the [rolling-stock standards](#) that I have established for my layout, one problem I found was that the open car was underweight when empty. I follow the NMRA recommended practice (RP-20-1) for weight, which in HO is one ounce plus 1/2 ounce per inch of body length.

The solution was in the coin jar. Adding eight pennies brought the weight of the car up to the recommended four ounces. In addition to meeting standards, I wanted to add some weathering to the car. What follows is a description of how I brought Erie 45232 up to standard and improved its weathering.



The first step was to glue the eight pennies onto the gondola's original floor with gap-filling medium CA. Then, using .060 styrene, I scored and snapped a new floor to fit over the pennies. Using an emery board, I sanded the floor to fit, and then I glued it into place with the CA. After the CA dried, I brush painted the interior of the gondola with

Model Master Rust and Grimy Black flat acrylic paints. In hindsight, masking and spray-painting the interior with a primer would have meant fewer coats of streaky brushed-on paint. I've found that brushed-on Model Master does not cover as well as Poly Scale did, and it has a bit more gloss to it. By using Bragdon weathering powders as well as gluing in some strip wood and coal (the "texture" I had available) with white glue, I was able to detail the interior and freshen the weathering of the exterior of the newest addition to my fleet. The next step will be to scratchbuild a pipe load using straws; maybe I can keep that to eight cents as well!



David Ellis- 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 I submitted for this month. Write it up and submit it as a Word document attached to an email to [clerk@div12mcr.org](mailto:clerk@div12mcr.org).

## NMRA Partnership Program

The NMRA Partnership Program is a member benefit that truly has a tangible payback. The NMRA partnered with model railroad manufacturers of all sizes, giving them exposure 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!

Division 12 is listing the current partners here. We will post the link with more complete descriptions and instructions for receiving the discount on our website.

### CatzPaw Innovations

<http://www.catzpaw.com>

This company designs and 3D prints scale model accessories in virtually any scale for model railroads and other hobbies.

### East Coast Circuits

<http://www.eastcoastcircuits.com/nmra>

East Coast Circuits was created to provide unique, simple lighting effects circuits to the model railroad community.

### Green Frog Productions

<http://www.greenfrog.com>

Producer of hundreds of prototype railroading videos in both DVD and BluRay formats.

### Hot Wire Foam Factory

<http://www.hotwirefoamfactory.com>

Manufacturers of USA-made professional foam cutting tools including hot wire cutters, hot knives, foam cutting machines, a freehand router, a foam engraving tool, even foam cutting tables.

### Jason's Brass Poles

<http://www.jasonsbrasspoles.com>

Specializing in trolley modeling products, the company manufactures and sells a variety of prototypical brass trolley poles, pole caps and other trolley parts in O, S, HO and N scales.

### LARC Products

<http://www.larcproducts.com>

Producers of full custom-sized backdrop graphics and railroad graphics CDs.

### Logic Rail Technologies

<http://www.logicrailtech.com>

Producer of sophisticated electronics for model railroads, including signaling products and fast clocks.

### Micro-Mark

<https://www.micromark.com/>

It's the first name in high quality modeling tools and accessories.

### MinuteMan Scale Models

<http://www.minutemanscalemodels.com>

Full service model shop producing highly detailed models for model railroad enthusiasts, private collectors and museums, including custom laser cutting, engraving and painting.

### Model Railroad Benchwork

<http://www.modelrailroadbenchwork.com>

Custom designed and built benchwork in all scales.

### Model Train Catalogue

<http://www.modeltraincatalogue.com>

Model Train Catalogue (MTC) is designed for modelers to keep track and manage their valuable collection.

### Modelers Decals & Paint

<http://www.modelersdp.com>

Manufacturers of acrylic airbrush paints in a wide assortment of colors.

### Monster Modelworks

<http://www.monstermodelworks.com>

Founded in 2011, the company specializes in highly detailed scale model building materials, kits, detail parts and custom laser cutting.

### Motrak Models

<http://www.motrakmodelsusa.com>

Motrak Models offers a full line of car loads and retaining walls and bridges, as well as laser-cut structure kits.

### **MRC (Model Rectifier Corporation)**

<http://www.modelrectifier.com>

Producer of Prodigy DCC systems, as well as train controls and sound systems, plastic model kits, locomotives, and rolling stock.

### **OK Engines/Streamliners**

<http://www.okengines.com>

OK Streamliners are for kit bashers of all ages.

### **Ram Track**

<http://www.ramrcandramtrack.com>

Ram Track manufactures electronic lighting systems, sound devices, control devices and plastic model lights most of which are adaptable to all scales N through G.

### **RR-CirKits**

<http://www.rr-cirkits.com>

Manufacturer of unique model railroading electronic circuits, including LCC (Layout Command Control) products, Loco Buffer (a USB interface with Digitrax's LocoNet), and MotorMan (a driver for turnout motorization system).

### **Rusty Stumps**

<http://www.rustystumps.com>

Need details or craftsman kits for your layout? Rusty Stumps produces hundreds of them in HO, O, and S scales.

### **Scale Model Plans**

<http://www.scalemodelplans.com>

SCALE MODEL PLANS Traceable patterns, plans, and more for N, HO, OO, O and other scale structures.

### **Scalecoat Paint**

<http://www.minutemanscalemodels.com>

Two types of solvent-based enamel paints in a variety of colors great for any modeling project.

### **Scenery Solutions**

<http://www.scenerymadeeasy.com>

Scenery Solutions/Fusion Fiber offers a wide range of commercial scenery materials.

### **Showcase Miniatures**

<http://www.showcaseminatures.net>

SHOWCASE MINIATURES has provided the highest quality railroad accessories since 1995.

### **Team Track Models**

<http://teamtrackmodels.com>

Craftsman level downloadable paper model kits for building, structures and scenery for model railroads.

### **The N Scale Architect**

<http://www.thenarch.com>

Manufacturers of high quality structure kits in HO, N & Z scale with excellent step-by-step instructions and in-progress photos.

### **The Train Show, Inc.**

<http://www.trainshowinc.com>

A train show marketing and promotion company whose clients include World's Greatest Hobby on Tour, Greenberg's Train & Toy Show, the Great Midwest Train Show, also regional and local shows.

### **Train Installations, LLC**

<http://www.traininstallations.com>

Since 2001, builders of the finest quality overhead, garden and table top model railroads.

### **Trainmasters TV / Model Railroad Hobbyist Store**

<http://trainmasters.tv>

Trainmasters TV, the video division of *Model Railroad Hobbyist* magazine who generously donates "how-to" videos to the NMRA Video Library, is giving NMRA members a discount to both their Trainmasters TV videos and items in the *Model Railroad Hobbyist* magazine store

### **Unreal Details**

<http://www.unrealdetails.com>

Maker of Magic Water, an easy, realistic water modeling system developed especially for model railroaders and diorama makers.

### **USA Airbrush Supply / Badger Airbrush**

<http://www.USAAirbrushSupply.com>

USA Airbrush Supply is your one-stop shop for all things airbrush...including the complete line of Badger airbrushes and equipment