

BUILDER'S PLATE

February 2019

Volume 2, Issue 1

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

Superintendent's Report

We are officially starting our second year as a division in the MCR. Looking back, the board of directors and I feel we had a successful first year. We have laid the roadbed for the future growth of our division.

With the start of the New Year I'd like to announce a few changes for the coming year. Based on the feedback from the membership we'll be conducting less business during our monthly membership meetings and focusing on having more than one modeling clinic/presentation at each meeting. These may include make it/take it clinics, so watch your newsletter for any supplies or tools you may want to bring to each meeting.

You will now find committee reports in the *Builder's Plate* newsletter. During our meetings we will still take any questions regarding the committee

reports. We will also announce any upcoming events at each meeting.

One last change involves your Board of Directors: At the end of 2018 Dick Bradley stepped down from his post on the board. I would like to thank Dick for his guidance in getting us set up and running. He brought a vast amount of knowledge and history about the NMRA and kept us from any missteps along the way. As always I look forward to any contributions Dick may have for the *Builder's Plate* or the division in general. Rob Bennett will replace Dick on the board. You will find Rob's biography in this month's newsletter.

Happy Model Railroading

Brad White
Division 12 MCR
Superintendent

Next Membership Event:

Our next membership meeting will be held on **Saturday, February 9 at 1:00 PM at the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station** located at the intersection of Venango Avenue and Railroad Street in Cambridge Springs, PA. The program will include a presentation and demonstration on scenery experiments with EZ hard-shell and "ground goop" by Dave Ellis and a make it/take it clinic on wire trees by Doug Sandmeyer. We will continue to have a Bring and Brag segment where members can share something they have been working on related to model railroading.

Please bring needle-nose pliers and side-cutting wire-cutters for the clinic!



Division 12, MCR, NMRA, Inc.

The Alleghany Western Division:
Expanding your model railroading horizons

Please visit our website: 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 educational model-railroad related programs, presentations, or clinics.

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: Rob Bennett, Doug Sandmeyer, Chris Mincemoyer

Division 12 Upcoming Events

February: **Membership meeting:** 1:00 PM
February 9, 2019 at the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station. Presentations include "ground goop," hard-shell scenery, and a hands-on clinic on making wire-armature trees. Bring needle-nose pliers and side-cutters for soft wire. If attending the optional brunch at Venango General Store at 10:45 AM, contact social@div12mcr.org.

March: **Erie Train Show:** 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM
March 3 at Rainbow Gardens. Division 12 members will present 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.

March: **Membership meeting:** 1:00 PM March 9, 2019 at the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station. If attending the optional brunch at Venango General Store at 10:45 AM, contact social@div12mcr.org.

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 turnout at The Bullet 2019, our regional convention.

Upcoming Model Railroad Events

WNYRHS Winter Toy and Train Show February 16 and 17, 2019

28th Annual Toy and Train Show at the Hamburg NY Fairgrounds. Saturday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission \$8.00 for adults, children 12 and under, Free!

Erie PA Model Train and Railroadiana Train Show March 3, 2019

Sunday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Rainbow Gardens—Waldameer Park, Millcreek, PA

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 to 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
Copywriter/Proofreader: Renee Reilly

Board of Directors Biography: Rob Bennett

Rob has been a model railroader since his teenage days. His first layout was in the basement of his parents' house and was never completed as his college days took precedence. Then a new job and family kept Rob as an armchair modeler for several decades. Upon moving to Fairview, PA in 2000 the time and family situation was such that a new layout could be undertaken. This was a small layout in an unfinished room of the basement and was based on the German railroads in the late 1930s -- 1940s. This was then changed to a more US-based theme modeling the Reading Railroad. The layout was quickly outgrown and plans were launched to totally rebuild the layout.

In 2013, upon return from a deployment with the US Air Force to Kabul, Afghanistan the old layout was dismantled, walls torn down and a completely new layout room constructed. The initial concept was that of "railfanning the layout" with minimal operational considerations. This changed upon meeting several local model railroaders and a major reconstruction project was initiated in the summer of 2018 to add improved operations. This work is now nearly complete.



Rob enjoys all aspects of the hobby, especially scenery and electronics. His scenery mentor is Josef Brandl from Germany, whose work Rob is trying to emulate. He also enjoys building structures-- craftsman kit, kit bashed and scratch built with emphasis on weathering and additional details. He is also getting more into operations and hopes to host operating sessions soon once the layout is a little further along.

Rob enjoys meeting and learning from fellow modelers. He has a YouTube channel that is documenting the progress of his current layout. He is very willing to work with others in the division and pass on any knowledge he has gained. The hobby has so many different aspects that one cannot be a master in all -- let's share our knowledge and experience so we all improve as modelers.

Rob currently works for ABB Electrical Products Industrial Solution as the Leader, Transformer Repair Technology. He has over 28 years of experience in the Power Transformer repair industry. He is also retired from the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, having served 28 years and retiring as a Lt. Colonel from the 193rd Civil Engineer Squadron in Middletown, PA.

What's Up With T-TRAK?

T-TRAK Committee Report

By now everyone in the Mid Central Region should have received Bruce DeMaeyer's Call for T-TRAK Modules. Bruce is the T-TRAK Coordinator for The Bullet regional convention in Boardman, Ohio this May. The idea is to promote participation in a large modular layout with support from all the divisions. The fun thing here is that it's a great opportunity to meet and engage with folks from other divisions with a common theme.

Where's your Module?

If you are interested but don't know where to start, how about attending a module-building workshop? I'm exploring the idea of hosting a workshop to jumpstart anyone who might be interested in building a module. The details will be firmed up if interest is expressed. Please contact Doug Sandmeyer if interested in a module workshop:
ttrak@div12mcr.org

One could bring a module kit already purchased, or for a fee the materials could be made available at the workshop. Either way you should be able to go home with a good start. If a large N scale modular layout is not your cup of tea, think of it as a chance to experiment with a new scenery technique and build an N scale diorama.



Photo of module kit, landscape kit, and track work from Kato needed for a single T-TRAK module.

Read more in the call for modules:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/1cc9502d13c3df7a859ee6d3c/files/ce1eb49c-2c6d-4f9a-b616-9f8b37050091/2019_T_Trak_Call_for_Modules.pdf

The link to the form:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/1cc9502d13c3df7a859ee6d3c/files/fc5d9282-9079-4ddc-acce-7f3b6b363b65/803_MCR_T_Trak_Pre_Entry_Form.pdf

To contact the T-TRAK committee chair or for interest in Module Workshop
Doug Sandmeyer
ttrak@div12mcr.org

T-TRAK pages on the Division 12 website:

<http://www.div12mcr.org/t-trak/>

Social Committee Report

Our Christmas Party at Hoss's Steak and Sea House on December 8 was a success. I called Hoss's the first week of 2019 and spoke to manager Sandra who arranged the party to thank her for a wonderful experience and to personally thank Emma, our server, who did an excellent job. Emma was working the day of my call, so she received our compliment right away. I asked Sandra to reserve December 14, 2019 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM for another Division 12 Christmas party at Hoss's this year.

A combined picnic with the Independent Railroaders and the Conewango Switch Tenders at Gale St. Westfield NY is planned for June 8, 2019 from 12:00 to 8:00 PM. I exchanged e-mails with Tim Anderson and posted the event to the division Facebook calendar. Division 12 has budgeted for the provisions, Tim and Brad have the tents, the grills are permanent at the park, and Doug indicated that he can be grill master for another year.

On our Facebook page I shared a link about the new owners of the Venango General Store. I also added an event to our calendar inviting the group to have lunch there, 10:45 AM to 12:15 PM before our February 9 membership meeting. Please RSVP to social@div12mcr.org if you are considering joining us, so I can call the store and let them know how many to expect.

Thank you,

Lee Farnsworth
social@div12mcr.org

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

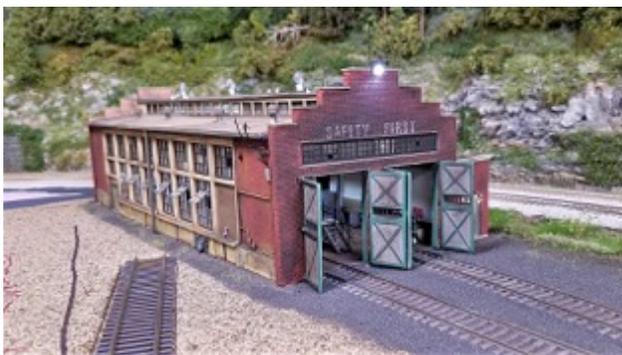
www.div1-mcr-nmra.org/the-acy-bullet-2019

Modeler's Project:

Preserving the Legacy-- Reusing a Master's Creation

By Rob Bennett

As many know, recently Shorty Parker made the difficult decision to dismantle his outstanding HO scale layout. I had the honor to see, operate and video Shorty's layout for which I am extremely grateful. There was so much to admire on Shorty's layout as his craftsmanship is exemplary and his structures are a joy to behold. When he advised the division he was offering items for sale, I arranged a visit and was able to obtain several items. I only wanted to obtain items I was going to incorporate into my layout, as I felt this would be the perfect way to honor Shorty and his work and to preserve his work for others to continue to enjoy.



One item I especially admired was his Machine Shop building. This is a South River Modelworks kit, extremely well built and detailed. I had the perfect spot for it on my layout, so upon getting it home I determined how it would be placed and decided to make some modifications to the building. This article will explain these modifications and show the building as placed on my layout.

The first thing I wanted to do was to upgrade the interior lighting. I prefer LEDs, and Shorty had used light bulbs as was common when the kit was built. I added an interior light bus and installed several 12v DC LED lights in the top of the building. I also added a Viessmann LED spotlight on the exterior of the building, to light up the area directly in front of the doors. I was planning to add some interior details and the new LED lights provide much better interior illumination to view the details.



With the new LEDs installed, I noticed light leaking out of the roof. Shorty had left the two lower roof sections removable, but because of the location on my layout and the light leaks I decided to replace the roofs. I added new roof sections using 1/16" taskboard left over from another kit I had built. These were glued in place, and I then added a corrugated roof material I obtained from Bill Schopf. I also added angle pieces along the roof edges to help seal the edges, and I added a "gutter" along the outer edge with some styrene U channel. This was carefully secured a bit at a time with CA (Super Glue). Everything was then painted my preferred "grimy black" color-- Vallejo Black Grey acrylic paint. I additionally used Ammo of MIG Modeling Pigments to weather the roof area.



For the interior I added some shelves, cabinets, a ladder, and signs along the one wall that will be visible from the aisle of the layout. One of the exterior doors and a couple of the windows were loose from the "extraction work" and two other doors I clumsily broke off. I decided to CA the doors in the open position, and I also re-secured the loose windows with CA. Over the doors I added "SAFETY FIRST" lettering using Woodland Scenics dry transfers-- one letter at a time. During application these cracked a little which looked perfect upon weathering the letters with chalk.



Moving to the side of the building, I added a downspout for the gutter. I also relocated the electric service connection that Shorty had on the (now) backside of the building. I added a date plate from Vector Cut, additional electrical conduit using 0.039 wire, and some other various "things"

on the wall. I noticed the inside ends of the building ends, at the top, did not have a brick pattern. This was very obvious once I noticed it (and it bothered me...) so I added some brick paper to the ends by carefully cutting a template then using this template to cut matching sets from the brick paper. The brick was printed on heavy inkjet paper and secured with Weldbond. The bricks are from the "Brickyard" software available from Evan Designs. They do not perfectly match the exterior bricks but I feel it greatly improves the appearance.

The entire building was given additional weathering using Vallejo acrylic washes and Ammo of MIG Modeling Pigments. My weathering process starts by applying light coats of the pigments-- I tend to use Black (carefully!), Track Rust, Medium Rust, and Europe Earth. These are applied with an old, short-bristle, soft paintbrush in layers; it is very easy to overdo this step if too much powder is applied initially. Once satisfied, I will then add the acrylic washes in random locations and where run off/streaks would naturally occur.



I tend to use Vallejo Blue Grey, Dark Grey, Dark Rust, and Dark Green washes. For added effect the pigments can be carefully shaken into the washes while still wet, yielding an interesting

built up grime and debris effect. The washes are often mixed and will dry with very realistic looking random patterns. Water can be used to dilute and cut back the effects of the washes if needed-- after being initially applied and before they dry. The washes dry much lighter than the initial application appears, so don't panic upon first applying, as it will lighten significantly! As a final touch for adding standing water I apply AK Interactive Wet Effects Fluid enamel color in small areas. For structures I do not seal the weathering with Dullcoat or other clear finishes-- I find it tends to greatly reduce the impact of the weathering.

The building was then ready for the layout. Prior to placing it I added a foundation and interior floor on the layout. The foundation was 8"x10" scale lumber, cut to match the base and glued to the layout. The interior floor was cut from Monster Modelworks Cobblestone Sheets and glued to the interior of the building on the "floor" and in between the tracks. The sheets were then painted with a cheap acrylic paint (the ones from Walmart, etc.) in a suitable color. The kit included an interior work platform I then glued to the floor and detailed with a tool cabinet and other details. Time to place the building!



I simply set the building on the foundation-- it fit well and was level. I then added scenery to the foundation and ballasted the tracks. The ground around the building is mostly Scenic Express #50 Dark Grey ballast as I find this represents well the dark, cindery look of steam era terminals. I also use other dark grey ballasts from Arizona Rock & Minerals, Highball, etc. In addition, I use a "home-brew" dark earth covering that I find by the CSX tracks. I bring home several jars, let it sit to dry out for a week or so, and then run it through a blender. I then sift it several times (using small mesh sieve and pantyhose) to get it into different "fineness" grades. All the ballast/ground coverings are given an application of "wet-water," a 50:50 mix of tap water and 70% Isopropyl Alcohol, and secured with a 3:1 mix of Mod Podge and water.

For exterior details I placed a utility pole near the electric service connection and connected the "wires" to the pole. I then added a gas valve fixture along the wall. Once I have the engine area a little farther along I will add many additional exterior details. Finally, the interior light leads were connected to my 12v DC bus and it was time to light it up and enjoy the view.

I now have a perfect addition to my engine service area and I was able to preserve one of Shorty's excellent buildings. I have already utilized several other buildings from Shorty on my layout, and I plan to use more in the future. Perhaps more about that in a future article.

Treasurer's Report

The board of directors approved the 2019 Budget as presented by the officers in December. The 2019 budget was presented as two separate budgets, a general budget and a separate budget for the September "event" or mini-meet.

The general budget for 2019 has expenses of \$1,090.00. Some of these are yearly business expenses such as web hosting and domain renewal, NMRA insurance certificate, PO box rental, CROP, and Pennsylvania PA-BCO 10 registration. We also budgeted for extra show tables, a donation to the Trolley station, T-TRAK lighting, food for the June picnic, snacks for meetings, and supplies for presentations at the membership meetings.

The general budget for 2019 includes revenue of \$650.00. This is made up of expected donations, train show sales, and picnic donations. In general we need to increase our revenue stream, as this is not a balanced budget. Our long-term goal is for a yearly event to help with this. For 2019, we are going into the trial year of having a mini-meet with a balanced budget of \$1600.00 for both expenses and revenue.

The 2019 detailed expense and revenue worksheets are available in the Division 12 "books" and electronically by request to the Treasurer.

David Ellis
clerk@div12mcr.org

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 other railroad or modeling related stories make excellent submissions. You don't need to be an officer or board member to submit a short article. To make our membership meetings less business focused and include more model railroading fun, we also need reports from the officers and committee chairs.

Write it up and submit it as a minimally formatted Word document attached to an email to clerk@div12mcr.org. Photos accompanying the article can either be in the article or a separate attachment formatted as JPEGs.

Clerk's Report

As clerk, I want to take this opportunity to thank Dick Bradley for his contributions to the board. From the time we first started crafting our Regulations, as we call our by-laws, through our work towards the end of 2018, I could count on Dick to review our concepts and my written work. Dick was frank, thorough, and most of all thoughtful. I could rely on his response to our drafts to be complete and well explained. He brought experience, intelligence, and a different perspective. I truly appreciate his behind-the-scenes contributions to the board, which were critical to our initial level of success and professionalism. I am hopeful he will continue to offer his expertise to the division in some form.

Brick and Mortar Hobby Stores in Division 12

We have a dearth of train stores here in the division. A newer one has started up in Jamestown, NY. If you visit them, let them know you are a member of the NMRA and you learned about them from the Division 12 newsletter.

Terry's Train Shop

Terry's Train Shop is a train and hobby store located at:

1739 Foote Ave Ext.
Jamestown, NY 14701

716-397-5545

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.