

## Division 12 September Meeting from the *Builder's Plate* 10/2020

The membership of Division 12, MCR, NMRA met outdoors at the "Meadow" space at the Venango General Store on Saturday, September 12 from 10:20 – 11:55 A.M. The following members were present: Rob Bennett, Bruce Bloomster, Tim Clint, Dale Desser, David Ellis, Lee Farnsworth, Mike Hauk, Bill Schopf, Brad White, and Alan Zehe. A quorum (at least ten members) was established with ten Division 12 members present.



### Announcements

- Brad mentioned that the Mid Central Region board of directors would be meeting on Zoom on October 23, 2020. If any members have questions, please submit them to Brad ahead of time, so that he can add them to the agenda.
- He also mentioned that the November Erie Train Show has been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. The March 7, 2021 event is still on and planned for Rainbow Gardens.
- Two other announcements were mentioned: The current PRR Keystone features the Northern Express original watercolor painting commissioned for the *Northern Express* convention. Also mentioned was that Gordy Robinson from NMRAX is running as a write-in for president of the NMRA. (Since then, it has been announced that he will be on the ballot.)

## **General Discussion:**

### **Moving forward, what does the membership want from their division?**

- With Zoom meetings in the foreseeable future, what kinds of clinics are the members interested in? One possibility mentioned is that folks can present from a distance; folks from outside the division can put on clinics.
- Several members mentioned an interest in signaling.
- Bruce and Brad mentioned other advanced technologies such as Raspberry Pi and Arduino applications.
- Bill mentioned the resources affiliated with the NMRA such as op-sig and layout-sig.

### **Modeler's Question:**

Rob asked for suggestions on making mortar lines on brick buildings, as he was unhappy with the results he has gotten so far.

While several options were presented (joint compound later sealed with Dullcoat, Floquil wash, using a pink eraser to remove excess wash from the brick faces), a consensus was that using Roberts Brick Mortar Formula was highly recommended.

### **Three short presentations:**

1. Bill Schopf shared how he has been harvesting Oakleaf Hydrangea blossoms to make easy and inexpensive deciduous trees.
2. Rob Bennett shared some interior and trackside details that he has found to add to the realism of his scenes. He shared some Faller industrial tools that he has painted to add some interest to the interior of a structure.

He also shared some excellent 3-D printed trackside details from a 3-D printer with whom he has been collaborating.

3. Bruce Bloomster shared some N-scale containers that he has weathered. Some of them were also 3-D printed.

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