

Division 12 October Meeting from the *Builder's Plate* 11/2020

The membership of Division 12, MCR, NMRA met virtually on ZOOM at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, October 10, 2020. The following members were present: Rob Bennett, Bruce Bloomster, Dick Bradley, Dale Desser, Larry Dodge, David Ellis, Lee Farnsworth, Kevin Garben, Doug Sandmeyer, Bill Schopf, and Brad White. Also joining us were Matt Goodman from Division 6 and Wayne Lette from Division 5. A quorum (at least ten members) was established with eleven Division 12 members present.

Announcements

- Brad again 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 we are finalizing a wine bus tour and a self-guided tour to the Comedy Center in Jamestown, New York for the *Northern Express* in May.
- Also mentioned was that Gordy Robinson from NMRAX is running for president of the NMRA in next year's NMRA election.
- Several upcoming railroad events were mentioned:
 - Painesville Station's Model Railroad Garage Sale;
 - Virtual PRR Day
November 7th! An all day Zoom session with presentations about the PRR! Registration at <http://www.prrths.com/>
 - Lakeshore Model Railroad Association is holding several open houses with an open invitation to Division 12. Details are elsewhere in the newsletter.

Modeler's Questions:

Larry asked for suggestions on troubleshooting his crossover turnouts that are exhibiting sporadic DCC connectivity. Checking the gauge seemed to be the consensus suggestion.

Brad asked for suggestions on how to use an Arduino to control a section of track for simple automated back and forth. Wayne noted that he used an Arduino with Reed switches and magnets to automate a switchback section on one of his modules.

Another modeler's question was answered by Brad, suggesting that he has had success attaching cork to his foam sub roadbed with Dap Dynaflex 230 latex caulk. He uses the same product to attach his track to the cork. He then showed a quick slideshow of progress on his N scale layout.

Three short presentations:

1. Dave Ellis shared a short presentation on railroad signaling. It was a basic overview called *Signaling 101*; the PDF is available on the "Presentations" page of our website: <https://www.div12mcr.org/presentations/>
2. Rob Bennett shared a short presentation on implementing C/MRI for signaling and layout control on his model railroad. A PDF of his presentation is also available on the "Presentations" page of our website.
3. Brad White shared a presentation on using Digitrax equipment and technology to implement signaling on his model railroad.

For the Good of the Order/Further Discussion:

- Larry mentioned both his technique for mounting Tortoise turnout motors under foam insulation board and how helpful some of Lance Mindheim's planning questions are.
- Rob discussed the question of super detailing versus layout quality in modeling.
- Lee brought up questions of layout realism
- Other topics for future discussion included "goals and how they changed" and motivation for operations plans: the how and why of different folk's operations style or system.

Submitted by David Ellis
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