

# BUILDER'S PLATE

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September 2024

Volume 7, Issue 9

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

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## Superintendent's Letter

I sincerely hope all our readers had a safe and successful summer! Perhaps you used the time to do some railfanning , visit a tourist line like the EBT or Strasburg, see some well-known railroad landmarks like Horseshoe Curve or Cajon Pass, or just sought refuge from the heat and humidity in your basement or train-room to work on a few projects.

While the summer may be winding down however, “model railroad season”, i.e. fall and winter, will be ramping up. Your Division has a full slate of meetings and events coming up through the fall and winter, and we are even looking ahead to events into the spring of 2025.

Some of these events will need YOUR participation to be 100% successful though; most significantly the Erie Train Show and the Festival of Trees, both coincidentally scheduled during National Model Railroad Month. We'll need volunteers for the Division tables and the kitchen concessions at the Erie Train Show, and volunteers in the “train room” at the Festival of Trees over Thanksgiving weekend. Even if you can only spare an hour or so at either of these events, the help will be appreciated and it's a great opportunity to get more involved and support YOUR Division!

Check out these and other upcoming great events in the newsletter below, and we hope to see you there at one or more!

Mike Hauk  
Superintendent, Division 12, MCR



**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

As face-to-face membership meetings return, they typically include announcements and limited business; “Modeling Question” and “What’s On Your Workbench” 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](mailto:Superintendent@div12mcr.org)

## Officers and BOD

**Superintendent:** Mike Hauk — [superintendent@div12mcr.org](mailto:superintendent@div12mcr.org)

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

**Clerk:** VACANT — [clerk@div12mcr.org](mailto:clerk@div12mcr.org)

**Treasurer:** Larry Dodge — [treasurer@div12mcr.org](mailto:treasurer@div12mcr.org)

**Board of Directors:** Rob Bennett, Doug Sandmeyer, Chris Mincemoyer, Jim Holtgreffe

## Committee Chairs

**Social:** Lee Farnsworth — [social@div12mcr.org](mailto:social@div12mcr.org)

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

**Web Editor:** Brad White — [asst.superintendent@div12mcr.org](mailto:asst.superintendent@div12mcr.org)

**Operations Coordinator:** Dale Desser — [operations@div12mcr.org](mailto:operations@div12mcr.org)

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

## Next Membership Event:

**Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. 10 AM.** In-person meeting at J.L. Innovative Design's "Institute for Model Railroading Excellence" in the former Cow Palace, Limestone, NY. 72 Hillside Drive, Limestone, NY 14753. Program: "Fast Tracks turnouts Make-and-Take". Division members will bring their Fast Tracks jigs and fixtures and materials to scratchbuild turnouts and crossings on-site. See attached tool and supply list later in this newsletter.

## Next Division 12 BOD Meeting:

**The next Division 12 BOD meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:30 PM.** Zoom link will be sent to the membership prior to the meeting. If anyone has item(s) they wish to be included on the agenda, please let one of our leadership team members know.

## Division 12 Upcoming Events

September 2024: Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. **In-person meeting at J.L. Innovative Design's "Institute for Model Railroading Excellence" in the former Cow Palace, Limestone, NY.** 72 Hillside Drive, Limestone, NY 14753. Program: "Fast Tracks turnouts Make-and-Take".

October 2024: Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. 10 AM. In-person meeting at the restored B&LE freight depot in Meadville, PA. Program: Part 2 of Vince Skibo's **Bridges and Tunnels of the Jamestown, Franklin & Clearfield Railroad.** (Note date change from our regular meeting!)

November 2024: **Division 12 Layout Open Houses** (Tentative). Date(s) and times TBD.

November 2024: **Erie Train Show.** Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9 AM-3 PM. Volunteers will be needed for the kitchen concessions and the Division table.

November 2024: **AHN St. Vincent Festival of Trees 2024.** Erie Bayfront Convention Center. Div. 12 will be present in the train room; volunteers will be needed. Dates/times TBD.

December 2024: **Division 12 Holiday Luncheon.** Date and time TBD.

## Upcoming Meeting Programs

*To ensure that the membership meetings are of value, please let the leadership know what you would like to see in upcoming meetings by communicating directly with officers or board members.*

## Upcoming Model Railroad Events

Monthly: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 7PM-10PM. **Open Crew Call-Ohio Northern Railroad**, Hambden, OH. For more information and address please contact Brad White at [valleyln55@gmail.com](mailto:valleyln55@gmail.com) or phone 814-490-7798.

September 2024: **National Narrow Gauge Convention**, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. [44th National Narrow Gauge Convention – September 11-14, 2024 — Pittsburgh, PA \(44nngc.com\)](http://44nngc.com)

September 2024: **Lakeshores 2024**, Sept. 19-22, 2024. Northeastern Region, NMRA Convention. RIT Inn and Conference Center, 5257 West Henrietta Road, Henrietta, NY 14467 <https://conventions.nernmra.org/home/home-2024/>

October 2024: **Great Berea Train Show**, Saturday and Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 10 AM-4 PM each day. Sponsored by Division 4 MCR, NMRA. (See attached flyer.)

October 2024: **Lake Shore Model Railroad Association Open House**, Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 12-3 PM. Lincoln Library, 1255 Manchester Rd, Erie, PA 16505.

October 2024: **8th Annual WNY Layout Tour**, Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Erie & Niagara counties. HO, N, S, O, O gauge, and narrow gauge layouts represented, approximately 20 layouts on the tour. Free. Open to all NMRA members, family and friends. Website will be updated approximately October 1st. [www.wnylayouttours.com](http://www.wnylayouttours.com) Any questions call Frank Pastore at 716-909-6898.

November 2024: **Erie Train Show**, Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, 9 AM to 3 PM Rainbow Gardens at Waldameer Park, 200 Peninsula Drive, Millcreek, PA 16505.

# Mid Central Region Elections

The Mid Central Region Elections Nominating Committee has identified the following slate of candidates for the 2025 elections:

President: Jerry Doyle  
Vice President: Frank Trocchia  
Treasurer: Barbara Soward  
Secretary: Bruce DeMaeyer

Per MCR regulations Article X, Section 3, members of the region can make nominations for Mid Central Region offices by presenting a petition to the Region Nominating Committee Manager, signed by fifteen (15) members of the Mid Central Region. Petitions must be received by September 20th, 2024.

Contact the Region Nominating Committee Manager at the following address with any questions, or to arrange delivery of petitions.  
[bshreve8103@gmail.com](mailto:bshreve8103@gmail.com)

Regards,

MCR Elections Nominating Committee  
Bob Shreve, Chairman  
Jim DiPaola  
Bob Belt

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## Railroad Book Disposal

Mostly prototype, some model  
Mostly hardbound, some softbound  
About 12 feet of them!  
A couple nearly 100 years old, a few recent model publications.  
Heavy on RRs in Pennsylvania, little on western RRs.

There'll be a box for contributions.  
Bring your totes, haul them all away

Each day Sunday, September 15th through Wednesday, September 18th 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Dick Bradley  
19 Hinkle Street  
Warren, Pa.  
[dbradley@atlanticbb.net](mailto:dbradley@atlanticbb.net)

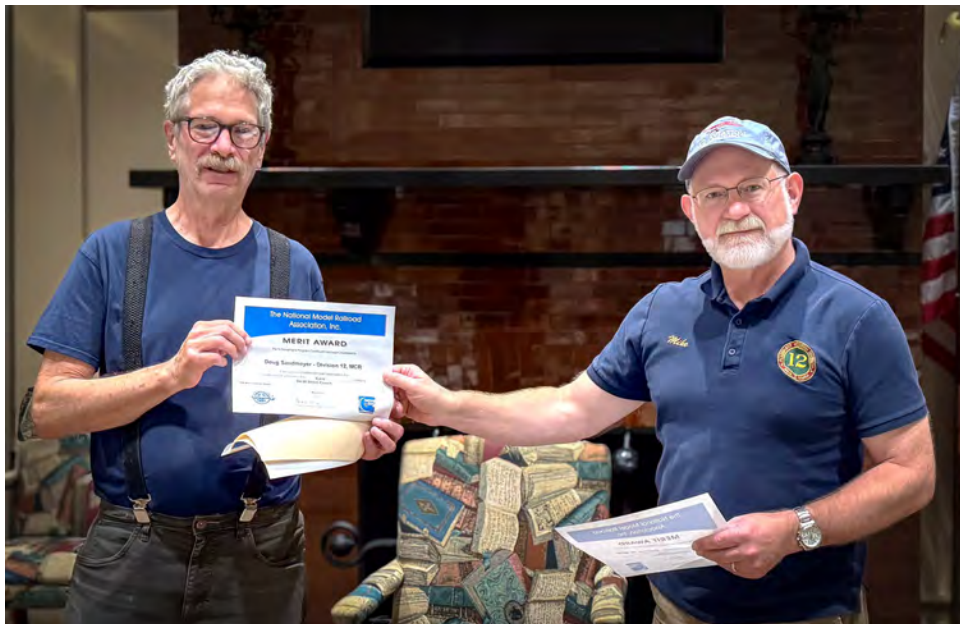
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## Division Meeting August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The August Division 12 meeting event was held at the James Prendergast Free Library in Jamestown, NY. The program was a “free-form” version of our prior “Make-and-Take”. Several members brought several small projects and worked on them while there so fellow division members and several guests could observe and ask questions.



Division member Doug Sandmeyer was presented the AP Certificate for Civil Engineering; a Merit Award for 3 scratchbuilt track structures; and 2 Merit Awards for an On30 Short Coach and Combine shown at this year’s MCR Convention in Cleveland. Congratulations and Well Done, Doug!



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## Adding an ATS Control Box to an Atlas RS-3

*Text and photos by Rob Bennett*

I needed an ATS control box for an NYC RS-3, as the box is a distinctive feature. This is what I used for my version, however crude, of the box. I used Evergreen strip for the box, at about 2 scale feet long. I then cut a "cover" for it from 0.005 Evergreen sheet styrene. I happened to find some thin brass strip laying around, so I cut that and bent it into "legs". I then fashioned a piece of Tichy 0.020 wire into a conduit- just ACC'd it under the box and ran it to the bottom of the ATS M-G set. I then painted it and affixed it to the walkway behind the railing. Close enough!



The engine started off as an Atlas Erie RS3. It was stripped, primed, and decorated in the NYC Cigar Band scheme. I added the ATS Shoe, the scratchbuilt ATS Box as seen on the NYC RS3s as described above, one new horn (I broke the original!), an all-weather cab that is actually on the prototype 8342, and a round top spark arrester. I used the original handrails. They look kinda big, but whatever. Added the higher marker lights per the prototype (non-working). I also installed an ESU Nano decoder on the MB with a PowerPack, a Scale Sound speaker, and new LED lights. I may have weathered it a tad too much, and when you look close you can see my decaling "issues". But overall, I like it, as it is a unit you can't get otherwise.



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## A History of the Reading I-10sa in Model Form (Part Four of a Three-Part Series)

*Text and photos by Jan Nagle*

I thought I had covered all the variations of mass-produced models of the Reading Company I-10sa Consolidation in HO, but I stumbled on another variation that I think is worth mentioning. So here is Part 4 of 3!

As I mentioned in earlier parts, the Bachmann version is a pretty decent model, but has an unusual spur gear drive, as do the ones I have. However, it turns out that Bachmann apparently responded to model railroaders' comments, and produced a later version with a can motor and worm gear drive. I stumbled on a pretty cruddy but serviceable one on Ebay, which I now present here.



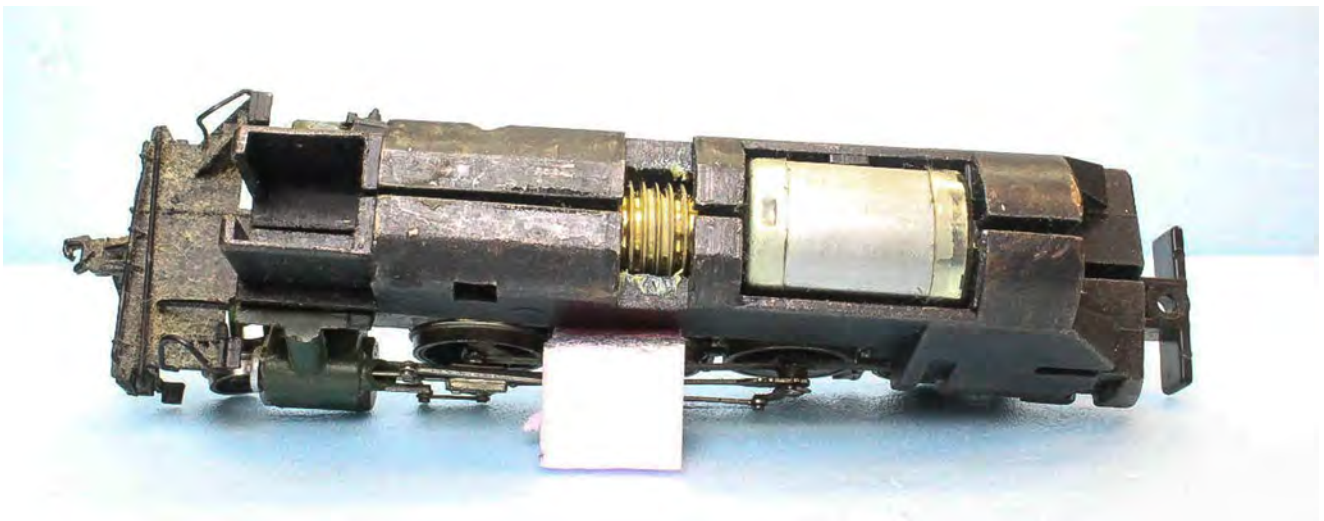




Above are two photos of the model as received. It is dirty and a little beat up, the cab roof is loose, and so is the boiler, but the running gear is in pretty good condition. And it appears to be painted for Great Northern, as if they would have had a Wooten firebox locomotive!



Since the cab roof was loose, I took the opportunity to show the backhead cast in "details", such as they are...



Above are views of the internal workings. The can motor and worm gear are visible between the two sides of the boiler weight. The worm looks big enough to act as a sort of flywheel. The side pieces are separated by an air gap and are directly connected to the rails. A pair of contacts on the underside of the boiler shell contact the weights to power the head light.

So how well does it run? Since it picks up from both rails, it doesn't need a tender, so I put it on the track for a little test run. It was a little shaky at first, with track contact problems, but it improved as I ran it back and forth. Running light, the current was about 0.15 amps, and between contact interruptions it ran smoothly enough. You probably could convert it to DCC, but there is no room inside the boiler. The equipment would have to be installed in the tender and a means figured out to get connected to the motor.

Now my problem is, what do I do with this example? I could swap out the mechanism with one of the other I-10sa locomotives I have, or maybe add another one to the fleet. I do have at least another matching tender shell around somewhere, but that's another project...

***The End!***

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“Until next time, keep ‘em polished!”

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Current editor: Mike Hauk.

Direct all comments, suggestions, and corrections to: [buildersplate@div12mcr.org](mailto:buildersplate@div12mcr.org)

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Allegheny Western Division 12 MCR NMRA program:

Building Fast Tracks switches.

Below is the list of recommended tools for building Fast Tracks switches. Bring what tools you may have. Do not worry if you don't have any of the Fast Tracks fixtures, they can be shared by other division members that have them. We will also have extra tools available to use.

From the Fast Tracks FAQ page here: <https://handlaidtrack.com/kb/?v=7516fd43adaa>

Tools & Supplies You Will Need

1. Your Fast Tracks Assembly Fixture
2. QuickSticks wood ties
3. A sharp, 10" mill cut file (TL-0007)
4. Small triangle needle file (TL-0002)
5. Points file (TL-0016) \
6. Fast Tracks own Track Building Flux Paste (SP-0063)
7. Small diameter (.020") solder (SP-0003)
8. 35 watt or higher soldering iron with pencil tip.
9. Xuron rail cutters (769-2175B)
10. Jewelers Saw (35-750) and fine tooth (43 TPI) blade (Consider the high end Knew Concepts Saw)
11. CopperHead PC Board ties
12. A sharp point marker
13. Scriber (TL-0010)
14. Hand Drill (TL-0024)
15. Throwbar drill bits (TL-0031)
16. Rail
17. Pliobond adhesive (SP-0001) with micro-applicator tip (SP-0023)
18. PointForm points filing tool
19. StockAid stock rail filing tool (Optional, but highly recommended)
20. Wire brush (TL-0038)
21. Micro applicator (TL-0025)
22. Wheel set
23. A copy of the track template for the turnout you are building. (Not shown) You can download the most recent version of the template from our website at [www.handlaidtrack.com/track-templates](http://www.handlaidtrack.com/track-templates)

# THE GREAT BEREA TRAIN SHOW

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# Erie Railroadiana & Model Train Show

Model Trains - Books/Magazines - Collectables

## Sunday, November 3rd, 2024

### 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Rainbow Gardens - Waldameer Park

200 Peninsula Drive, Millcreek, PA

FROM PITTSBURGH: Take I-79 to Rt. 90 West to 832 North to Alt. 5 West

FROM BUFFALO: Take I-90 West to 832 North to Alt. 5 West

FROM CLEVELAND: Take I-90 East to 832 North to Alt. 5 West

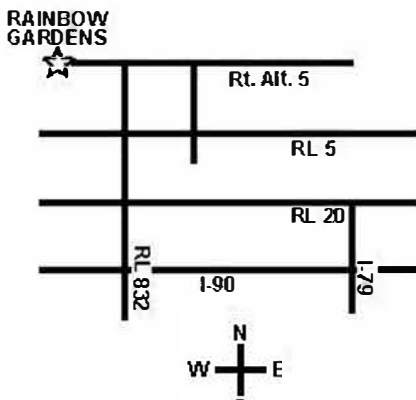
FROM RT. ALT. 5: Take Rt. Alt. 5 turn left go 1/4 mile, turn right and drive through the arches marked Rainbow Gardens.

## DOOR PRIZE

---ADMISSION---

Adults --- **\$5.00** Senior Citizens & Students 12-18 --- **\$4.00**

Under 12 accompanied by an adult --- **FREE**



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