

BUILDER'S PLATE

March 2025

Volume 8, Issue 3

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

Superintendent's Letter

Well, it's been a long winter and it's not over yet, and that puts me in the mood for a good rant, and what's the use of a bully pulpit if you can't indulge in a good rant, tirade, or polemic once in awhile...Anyway....

Zoom. We (and I mean us in the hobby, not just Division 12) have been using Zoom for various types of meetings since 2020; five years! Zoom is an excellent tool in our toolbox for getting things done on the admin side of the hobby, and just for getting together on the "fun" side of the hobby. Our Thursday night Zoom workbench session/chat is still going strong after all these years.

And yet...There are still many people who do not know or understand how Zoom works or understand the etiquette of being on a Zoom chat. So, next time you find yourself in a Zoom meeting:

- As soon as you log in, **mute yourself**. Nobody wants to hear you rustling around and squeaking your chair as you get settled in.
- If you don't have anything to say, **mute yourself**.
- If you have something to say, unmute yourself, say it, then **mute yourself**.
- If you have a cold and are coughing/blowing your nose, or whatever, **mute yourself**.
- If you are watching a ball game, listening to music, running a belt-sander, or eating anything while on the chat, **mute yourself**.
- If you don't have a headset with a microphone, **mute yourself**. Nobody wants to listen to your spouse yell at you from across the kitchen about letting the dog in. Bare laptop and cellphone microphones pick up every ambient sound, including if you are sitting in the can.
- If you are going to pick your nose or floss your teeth while on the chat, **close your video**. Nobody wants to see that.

There, now I feel better...

Here is a link to the headset I've been using for the past 5 years, not only for Zoom, but also when I've been on podcasts. Lightweight, sounds good, and durable (I've sat on it once or twice...) Less than half the cost of a new Rapido freight car: [Sennheiser Headset](#)

See you on our next Thursday night chat!

Mike Hauk
Superintendent, Division 12, MCR



Division 12, MCR, NMRA, Inc.
The Allegany Western Division:
Expanding your model railroading horizons

Please visit our website: www.div12mcr.org

Or  [NMRAAlleganyWesternDivision](https://www.facebook.com/NMRAAlleganyWesternDivision)

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

Officers and BOD

Superintendent: Mike Hauk — superintendent@div12mcr.org

Assistant Superintendent/ Clerk: Brad White — asst.superintendent@div12mcr.org

Clerk: VACANT — clerk@div12mcr.org

Treasurer: Larry Dodge — treasurer@div12mcr.org

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

Committee Chairs

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T-Trak & Clinic: Doug Sandmeyer – ttrak@div12mcr.org

Web Editor: Brad White – asst.superintendent@div12mcr.org

Operations Coordinator: Dale Desser – operations@div12mcr.org

Achievement Program: Mike Hauk – ap@div12mcr.org

Next Membership Event:

Saturday, March 8th, 2025. Program: “Photography 101 for Railfans and Modelers, Pt.1 & Pt. 2” by Mike Hauk. Lincoln Library, 1255 Manchester Road, Fairview PA 16505. Mike’s Susquehanna & New York layout will be open for visitation following the meeting. Directions will be given to attendees at the meeting.

Next Division 12 BOD Meeting:

The next Division 12 BOD meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday May 19th, 2025 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

March 2025: Saturday, March 8th, 2025. 10 AM **Program:** “Photography 101 for Railfans and Modelers, Pt.1 & Pt. 2” by Mike Hauk. Lincoln Library, 1255 Manchester Road, Fairview PA 16505. Mike’s Susquehanna & New York layout will be open for visitation following the meeting from 12:30-2:30PM. Directions will be given to attendees at the meeting.

April 2025: Saturday, April 5th, 2025. 10 AM. (Note change of date!) **Program:** “The L. S. & M. S. Ry.’s Emergency Brake Tests of 1909”, presented by Vince Skibo. French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society’s restored B&LE freight depot, 136 Mead Avenue, Meadville, PA, 16335.

May 2025: Saturday, May 10th, 2025. 10:30AM (Note time change!) **Programs:** “Power-On Board (Dead Rail)”, presented in-person by Darby Marriot; and “Scratchbuilding in Styrene” presented via Zoom by Matt Woods. James Prendergast Free Library, 509 Cherry St. Jamestown, NY 14701.

June 2025: Saturday, June 14th, 2025. **Division 12 Annual Picnic.** Westfield, NY Railroad Park. 102-106 N Gale St, Westfield, NY 14787.

July 2025: Saturday, July 12th, 2025. Location and topic TBD. Possible railfanning and lunch at the Lake Shore Railway Museum, 31 Wall St, North East, PA 16428.

August 2025: Saturday, August 9th, 2025. James Prendergast Free Library, 509 Cherry St. Jamestown, NY 14701. Program **TBD**.

September 2025: Saturday September 13th, 2025. Lincoln Library, 1255 Manchester Road, Fairview PA 16505. Program **TBD**.

October 2025: Saturday October 11th, 2025. French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society's restored B&LE freight depot, 136 Mead Avenue, Meadville, PA, 16335. Program **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: 3rd Saturday, 7PM-10PM. **Open Crew Call-Ohio Northern Railroad**, Hambden, OH. For more information and address please contact Brad White at valleyln55@gmail.com or phone 814-490-7798.

Gowanda & Buffalo Model Railroad Club Open House, 2nd Sunday of December, January, February, March and April. Noon to 4 PM. 14267 Taylor Hollow Road Collins, New York 14034 In the basement of Building #73 on the Collins/Gowanda Correctional Facility.

March 2025: **Erie Train Show**, Sunday March 2nd, 2025, 9 AM-3 PM at Rainbow Gardens, Waldameer Park, 200 Peninsula Drive, Millcreek, PA. (Note the new show times!!)

March 2025: **Railfest 2025**, Saturday and Sunday March 15th and 16th, 10 AM-4 PM, Lakeland Community College, 7700 Clock Tower Dr., Kirtland, OH 44094. Sponsored by Division 5, MCR. (See attached flyer.)

March 2025: **31st Annual Midwest Narrow Gauge Show**, March 20-22, 2025. First Friends Church 1028 Jennings Ave., Salem, OH 44460. <https://www.portlandlocomotiveworks.com/> See attached flyer.

March 2025: **RPM-East**, March 21st and 22nd, 2025. Westmoreland County Community College Student Achievement Center, 145 Pavilion Lane, Youngwood, PA 15697.
https://hansmanns.org/rpm_east/index.htm

April 2025: **Youngstown Model Railroad Association Model Railroad & Toy Train Flea Market**, Sunday, April 6th, 2025. 10AM-3:30PM. Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Center, 4490 Norquest Blvd., Austintown, OH 44515. See attached flyer.

May 2025: **2025 Pittsburgh Model Railroad Jamboree**. Saturday, May 3rd, 2025. [2025 Keystone Division Jamboree](#). See attached flyer.

May 2025: **Buckeye Express**, Mid Central Region 2025 Annual Convention. 15 - 18 May 2025, Dublin, Ohio. <https://buckeyeexpress.div6-mcr-nmra.org/Main.html>

July 2025: **Station No.VI**, 90th NMRA National Convention, July 14-19, 2025. Novi, MI.
<https://nmra2025.com/>

Detailing and Decaling Proto-2000 ALCO FA & FB units for NYC

Text and photos by Rob Bennett

Painting and decaling these- even though it looks simple- is a ROYAL PITA. There is a lot (and I didn't add them all...) of small stuff on these units along the lower sides and on the rear- and it is hard to see what things "say" by looking at photos. Very few are clear enough to actually READ the wording.



The front Cigar Band on this is four parts- the two side stripes, the front white Oval, and a NYC Herald to add into the white oval. This one done over multiple days- the two stripes first, Micro Sol, dry. Then the white oval over the stripes, Micro Sol, dry. Tonight the NYC herald. It doesn't look perfect, but there was no way I could cut and match up the stripes with the white oval- I would have messed it up even more.



There was a fair amount done on the A-unit: fixed the "warped" area above the side portholes on both sides, removed the cast stack on and relocated the exhaust stack and added a Cal Scale appropriate FA stack, then added a 3D Print half round spark arrestor. Added wind deflectors. Removed the second headlight and filled in with a new front door panel. Added the MU receptacle (Cover only...) to the right of the HL. Added MU hoses to front pilot.





I'm not totally happy with the decals- these are (mostly...) rather thick decals from K4 Decals. The decal film is still visible if you look from a close distance and in photos. I may need to try a different decal softening solution as the Micro Sol was only "okay". I have some Tamiya and Mr. Hobby solutions. I am rather happy with how the front NYC herald turned out- this was a FOUR piece decal- the two side strips, the white herald background, and the herald itself. I think it looks pretty damn good...



The number boards ("1071") also came out good- there are K4 decals in two pieces- "10" and "71"- on black painted Proto HL glass. Not perfect, but they look okay. A bit of fun was had with the small DANGER decal on the back of the A Unit and both ends of the B unit. I noticed this in a Morning Sun photo that showed the back end of a B Unit. I found the decal on an older decal sheet I picked up second-hand. But it is OLD, and on the A unit the decal ripped and was a real PITA to apply. I got it on, but it looks BAD. So, I got some Microscale Liquid Decal Film and painted it on the old decal sheet- it looks goofy but dries very nicely.



Then I cut out the decals and applied- worked great! Decals aren't the greatest, but you can tell something is there. So, both ends of unit A and all four ends of unit B, have the DANGER decal ("DANGER- Disconnect Cable Jumpers Before Uncoupling"- do you know how hard it was to figure out what this said???)

On to the next project!

In Memoriam – Dave Cole

Photos courtesy of Lee Farnsworth

Division 12 has received sad news that our member Dave Cole, of Jamestown, NY, passed away on Saturday, February 8th. Arrangements have yet to be announced at the time of this writing. Dave was an active and enthusiastic supporter of Division 12, despite declining health. Dave especially liked modeling the Erie Railroad at a time prior to the DL&W merger, and his model railroad included the Kinzua Bridge.

You can see Dave and his layout in Rob Bennett's YouTube video from April 2022:
<https://youtu.be/UNwEWwy5dnY?si=fAOmdvM-7W1Ma76E>

Dave will certainly be missed by our Division. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.



“Until next time, keep ‘em polished!”

The *Builder’s Plate* © 2025 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.

Current editor: Mike Hauk.

Direct all comments, suggestions, and corrections to: buildersplate@div12mcr.org



Erie Railroadiana & Model Train Show

Model Trains - Books/Magazines - Collectables

Sunday, March 2nd, 2025

9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Rainbow Gardens - Waldameer Park

220 Waldameer Park Road, Erie, 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

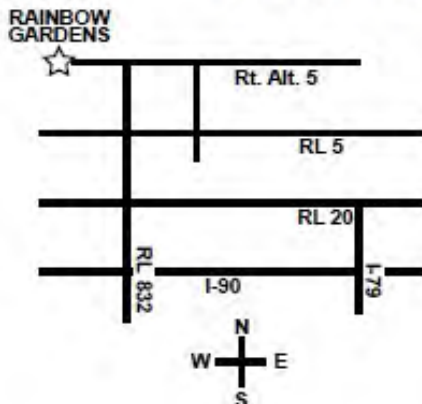
FROM RT. ALT. 5: Take Rt. Alt. 5 turn left go 1/4 mile, turn right and drive through the arches marked Rainbow Gardens.

DOOR PRIZE

---ADMISSION---

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

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



DEALER TABLES AVAILABLE

8FT. -- **\$30.00 per Table**

Online Sales Available

CONTACT: IRON SPIKE PRODUCTIONS
244 Crestview Rd
Slippery Rock, PA 16057
(724) 992 - 2035



RAILFEST 2025



Saturday and Sunday

March 15 & 16, 2025

10 am to 4 pm

New & Collectable

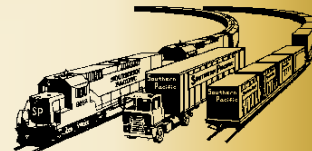
Located at:

Lakeland Community College

7700 Clocktower Dr.

Kirtland, Ohio 44094

State Rt. 306 at Interstate 90 – exit 193



Operating Layouts

N Scale Layouts
(LENS)

O Gauge layout
(Mod-Squad)

**S Scale & American
Flyer**
(Cuyahoga Valley S Gauge
Association)

Lionel O Gauge

LGB G Gauge

Live Steam Display
(Lake Shore Live Steam)

Features

Dealers

RR Flea market

Exhibitors

Operating Layouts

Video Tapes
Historical Displays
Train Ride Info

Test Track
Available

ATM

Admission \$9.00

Two Day Pass \$14.00

Family (couples) \$14.00

Family (max) \$16.00

(2 Adults with Children under 18)

Food Service Available at reasonable prices

For Information Write:

NMRA MCR Division 5
PO Box 5081
Mentor, Ohio 44060

Phone: **(216) 598-8842**

Email: railfest@mcr5.org



Free Parking

Free Shuttle Bus
9:30am – 4:30pm

Presented by

National Model Railroad Association

MCR – Division 5 Event

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**JOIN US AT THE
31st Annual Narrow Gauge Show
March 20-22, 2025**

All Scales and Gauges Welcome
HOn30, HOn3, Sn2, Sn3, On2, On30, On3

NEW SHOW LOCATION

**First Friends Church
1028 Jennings Ave.
Salem, OH 44460**

- * Vendors
- * Manufacturers
- * Clinics
- * Operating Layouts
- * Model Contest/Display
- * Food

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gary Kohler
P.O. Box 133, Washingtonville, OH 44490
330-719-0264
m2fq@aol.com
www.portlandlocomotiveworks.com

THE YOUNGSTOWN MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS:

Model Railroad & Toy Train

Flea Market

Sunday, January 5th, 2025

Sunday, April 6th, 2025



Great location!!! One of Ohio's Premier Flea Markets featuring all gauges of model railroad equipment, memorabilia, & railroad related items. Come check out our new location, plenty of parking, easily accessible from the freeway!

**Immaculate Heart of Mary
Parish Center
4490 Norquest Blvd
Austintown, OH 44515**

Hours: 10am-3:30pm

Admission: Adults - \$7.00 per person

Children 11 & under free

For info or reservations call:

Rick Austin or Ray Wawrowski

832-622-8637

330-469-0405

Please leave a Message

8ft tables - \$25.00

www.ymra.org

(Detach Here)

Flea Market Table Reservation Form

Dealer Name: _____ Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Number of Tables needed: _____ Total Due : _____ Electric Required Yes _____ No _____

Ohio Vendor License # (if applicable): _____

Make Checks Payable to: YMRA Send to: Rick Austin, 1437-A Shaw Rd. Niles, Ohio. 44446

Complete Terms and Conditions available on our website: www.ymra.org

2025 Pittsburgh Model Railroad



Jamboree

Saturday, May 3, 2025 CCAC Boyce Campus

Modeling Clinics
Modeling Contests
Door Prizes & Raffles
Displays
White Elephant Tables
Sunday Layout Tours

**Enjoy a Full Day of Model
Railroading Activities**

Clinics run all day on a variety of topics – modeling and prototype railroading, scenery building, detailing rolling stock, local railroad history, and much, much more!

Open to EVERYONE!

Registration opens 8:00 AM
Activities run all day!

General information and questions: (412) 496-1575 or email gekuehn@comcast.net. Registration questions should be directed to Registrar shown below.

Register early to guarantee meal availability. Very limited space is available at the door.

No banquet registrations will be taken after April 25, 2025

Registration information will be distributed upon arrival

No confirmations will be mailed.

Payment by mail MUST be by check.

Please check our website for ONLINE REGISTRATION!

Program subject to change without notice. Full refunds given two weeks prior to event. No refunds for no-shows.

Registration includes buffet lunch & continental breakfast!

**Check our website for the list of
clinics, program schedule,
contest rules and all the
latest information!**

www.keystonedivision.org

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH PERSON REGISTERING. PAY ONLINE OR BY MAIL!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

NMRA Member # _____

Jamboree Registration Fee Per Person – includes lunch and continental breakfast.

NMRA Members \$50.00 = _____

Non-NMRA Member (\$10 fee applicable to a trial membership. See reverse) \$60.00 = _____

Children under 18 with parent/guardian (members or non-members) \$20.00 = _____

Buffet Dinner Banquet \$45.00 = _____

TOTAL _____

MAIL TO: NMRA Jamboree c/o Tom Gaus
3357 New Texas Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15239
Email: webmaster@keystonedivision.org
Ph (412) 731-8846

Make checks payable to: DIVISION 2, MCR, NMRA

YES! Please sign me up for a trial membership. I have read and agreed to the conditions on the back of this form.

Please note: This is NOT a model train sale or show. More details can be found on the back of this flyer.

Sponsored by the Keystone Division of the NMRA's Mid-Central Region



THE BEST DEAL IN MODEL RAILROADING JUST GOT EVEN BETTER!

ATTEND THE PITTSBURGH MODEL RAILROAD JAMBOREE AND GET A TRIAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE NMRA!

The BEST deal in model railroading!

If eligible, see conditions below.

- GET THE NMRA MAGAZINE! Enjoy product reviews, modeling articles and more!
- TAKE PART IN LOCAL ACTIVITIES! Make new friends and learn at the same time!
- GAIN ACCESS TO THE A. C. KALMBACH LIBRARY! Possibly the largest RR collection on Earth!
- AND MANY MORE BENEFITS! See www.nmra.org for a complete list of benefits

NMRA Rail Pass offer is good in the U. S. only and is for new members and those who have not been NMRA members for two years or more. Individuals can only join ONE TIME at Rail Pass rates. Rail Pass members can attend conventions and participate in contests, but cannot hold office or vote in NMRA events, and will not receive a New Member Pak. Membership will renew at the regular membership rate.

What is the Pittsburgh Model Railroad Jamboree?

It's a one day gathering of model railroaders where modelers can share their hobby with others, learn more about the hobby and have fun in the process! It is not, however, a train sale or show. Our event is different and features the activities listed below.

What goes on at one of these events?

There are a variety of activities. Some of the most popular are instructional seminars or clinics presented on a variety of topics. There are also model contests, space to display models you've built, a large raffle of high quality railroad items, the opportunity to meet other modelers, a buffet dinner and after dinner program. It's a way to learn more about railroading and meet others who have the same interests.

Do you have to be an NMRA member to attend?

No! But with the special offer above, everyone who qualifies can enjoy a trial membership and enjoy all of the local activities that nmra members enjoy year 'round! You'll get our local newsletter informing you of who we are and what is taking place locally.

What are the clinics you mentioned?

Each one runs an hour and there are about 12 different topics to choose from. They may include slide presentations, actual demonstrations and open discussion on a variety of prototype railroad subjects. The clinics are informal and open to everyone who attends. We will try to have a timetable available ahead of time so that attendees may plan out their day.

What model contests do you have?

We have three separate categories for models – Motive Power, Rolling Stock and Structure/Displays. Anyone may bring models to enter and judging is by popular vote of those in attendance. Plaques will be given to the winners in each category. Bring you models to share with others! Special contests may be added. See our website for details.

What other activities do you have?

A white elephant table will be available where everyone can bring items to sell. Bring any train related items you can find in your closet and we'll sell it for you for a small commission! There may also be small switching layouts in operation throughout the day. There will be space where attendees can gather, relax, and meet. Our local division will have it's "Company Store" open for modelers to purchase a variety of items. There's a little of something for everyone.

What about meals?

A lunch buffet is included with your registration along with coffee and doughnuts in the morning.

How formal is the banquet?

It's not formal at all. It's a buffet dinner that concludes the days activities. Dinner is followed by a brief awards presentation and after-dinner speaker. A great way to end a day of fun and friendship!

Visit www.keystonedivision.org for the latest information and contact information.

