

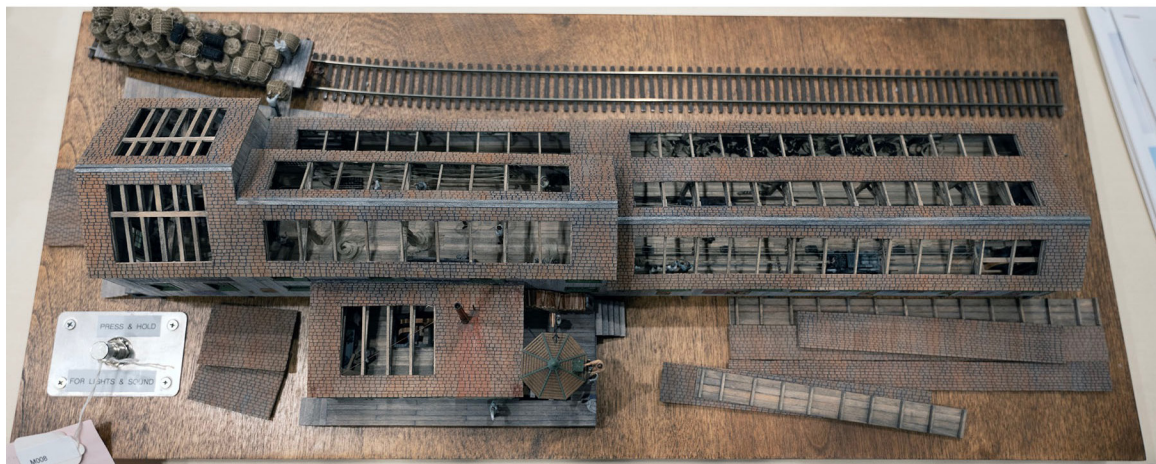


# The Kingpin

Newsletter of the  
Mid Central Region  
National Model Railroad Association  
June 2023



## Best(s) of Show



Best of Show (Photo, Arts & Crafts, and Model) in the Mid Central Region Convention Contest. Details inside.

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Special thanks to **Patrick Altdorfer**, who took photos during the banquet. We unfortunately weren't able to make a connection to transfer them to the Kingpin.

# Master Model Railroaders™

Congratulations to Susan Werner MMR® and Richard Turton MMR® on their achievement. They are shown receiving their plaques from MCR President David Neff during the convention banquet.



# Rails to Pittsburgh 2023 Contest Awards

## Favorite Locomotive



Steve Zapatowski  
Big Creek Timber Co. Speeder 3

M009

MMR

## Favorite Car



Rick Montgomery  
Flatcar Load Caboose

M001

## Favorite Structure



Steve Zapatowski  
Pacific Cordage

M008

MMR

## Favorite Display



Kevin Squire  
Boxcar Display (3 scales)

M004

## Favorite Prototype Photo



**Jerry Jordak**  
**Blowing Off Steam**

P042

## 1st Place T-TRAK Modules



**Mike DeSensi**  
**Engine Facility and Roundhouse**

T024/5

## 2nd Place T-TRAK Modules



**Richie Jodon**  
**Ocean View**

T020

## T-TRAK Modules Best of Show

Sorry, no photo

**Kevin Squire**  
**Freight House Road**

T012

## 1st place Steam Locomotive



Anthony Parrish  
Guyan Valley 2-8-4 1966

M020

## 1st Place Diesel & Other Locomotives



Steve Zapatowski  
Big Creek Timber Co. Speeder 3

M009

MMR



## 2nd Place Diesel & Other Locomotives



**Anthony Parrish**  
**M A GP40-2 Mother & F7A Slug Unit**

M021

## Favorite Model Photo



**Rick Ware**  
**Team Track- NB & F of Greg Rich**

P019

## Favorite Arts & Crafts Entry



**Rick Ware**

**Night Crew art quilt**

A001

## Favorite Module



**Mike DeSensi**

**Engine Facility and Roundhouse**

T024/5

## 1st Place Passenger Car



**Richard Turton**  
**WM Passenger Car No.835**

M025

MMR

## 1st Place Freight Car



**Robert Belt**  
**DREW Highside Gondola #1536**

M002

## 2nd Place Freight Car



Roy Allen  
D&RGW 9200 Series Hi-side

M015

## 3rd Place Freight Car



Richard Turton  
Greenbrier & Elk River Logging

M027

MMR

## 2nd Place Caboose



**Jeff Burch**  
**Norfolk & Western Class CF Caboose**

M017

## 1st Place Non-Revenue Car



**Jim Grell**  
**M1920 Railway Gun**

M005

## 2nd Place Non- Revenue Car



Mark Maynard  
CM & WS Water Car

M023

## 3rd Place Non-Revenue Car



Mark Maynard  
CM & WS Boomflat

M022

## 2nd Place Structure



Neal Schorr  
Split Entry Home

M003

## 1st Place Display



Bob Frankrone  
Sunrise Feed display

M010

## 2nd Place Display



Kevin Squire  
Boxcar Display (3 scales)

M004

## 3rd Place Display



Jerry Lauchle  
Vintage Steam Shovel

MMR



## Model Best of Show



Steve Zapatowski  
Pacific Cordage

M008

MMR

## 1st Place Model Color Photo



Keith Devault  
CSX 6487 Leading Coal Drag

P031

## 2nd Place Model Color Photo



**Neal Schorr**  
**Class J Texas at Port Royal**

P009

## 3rd Place Model Color Photo



**Rick Ware**  
**Grafton Loco Facilities - B&O of Bob**

P014

**1st Place Model B&W Photo**



**Rick Ware  
Team Track- NB & F of Greg Rich**

P019

**2nd Place Model B&W Photo**



**Rick Ware  
Coal Pier - NB&F of Greg Rich MMR**

P018

**3rd Place Model B&W Photo**



**Neal Schorr  
Mifflin Tower**

P011

**1st Place Prototype Color Photo**



**Jerry Jordak  
Welcome to Burnside**

P039

**2nd Place Prototype Color Photo**



**Keith Devault  
CSX 7869 in Snow Mountains of WV**

P036

**3rd Place Prototype Color Photo**



**Keith Devault  
NS 9662 Leading Loaded Coal Drag**

P035

## 1st Place Prototype B&W Photo



**Rick Ware**  
**Appalachian Spring - Cass**

P016



## 3rd Place Prototype B&W Photo



**Jim Braum**  
**Never Forget**

P025

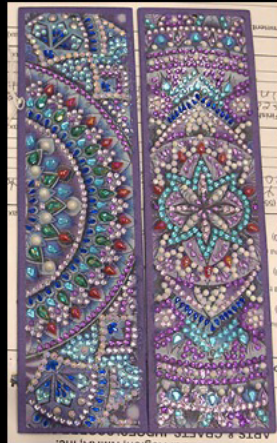
**Photo Best of Show**



**Keith Devault  
CSX 6280 Passing Signals**

P033

**1st Place Arts & Crafts - General**



**Marie Ware  
Diamond Dotz bookmarks**

A002

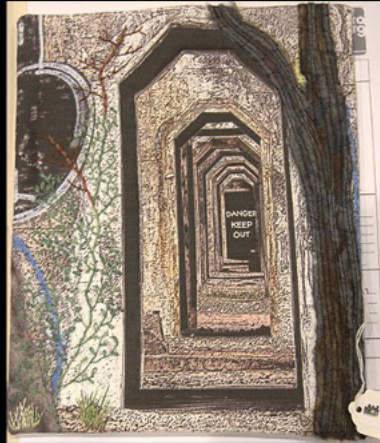
## 1st Place Arts & Crafts - Needlework



Marie Ware  
Sea Turtle

A003

## 2nd Place Arts & Crafts - Needlework



Rick Ware  
Danger - Keep Out

A004



**3rd Place Arts & Crafts - Needlework**



**Rick Ware  
Holly Heron**

A006

**1st Place Arts & Crafts - Railroadiana**



**Rick Ware  
Night Crew art quilt**

A001

## Best of Show Arts & Crafts



**Rick Ware**  
**A Tale of Two Bridges**

A005

## Martha Newberry Award

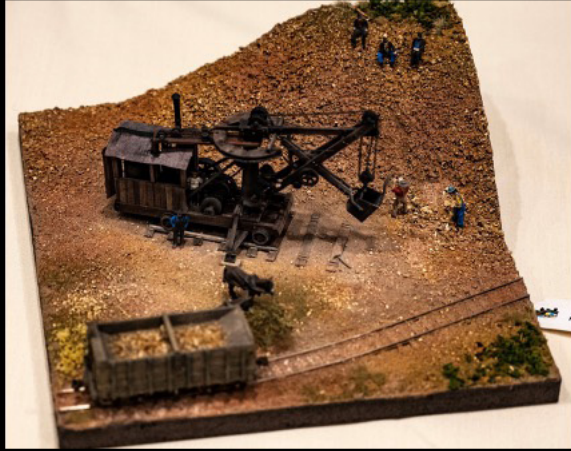


**Steve Zapatowski**  
**Pacific Cordage**

M008

MMR

## Shorty Parker Award



National Model Railroad Association Mid Central Region  
Board of Directors In-Person & Virtual (via Zoom) Meeting Minutes  
May 6, 2023

**Attendance:**

Dave Neff, President; Jerry Doyle, Vice President; Fred Soward, Secretary; John Shields, Treasurer; Jim DiPaola, Division 1; Dennis Conglianese, Division 2; Ric Zimmerman (via Zoom), Division 3; Ron Morgan, Division 4; Linda Kacprzak as proxy, Division 5; Matt Goodman, Division 6; John Shields as proxy, Division 7; Ron Ellison, Division 8; Jerry Doyle as proxy, Division 9; Larry Smith, Division 10; Al Crate, Division 11; and Mike Hauk, Division 12.

Also in attendance were Dave Williams, Kingpin Newsletter Editor; Paul Novak, Membership (via Zoom); Bruce DeMaeyer, Modules; and Bob Shreve, Nominations.

John Doehring, NMRA Eastern District Director; Bob Weinheimer, NMRA RAC Director; Mike Hohn, NMRA National Education Chair; Jerry Kreuger, Division 4 & 2024 MCR Convention Chair; Barbara Soward, Division 8; Frank Trocchia, Division 1; Jasmine Trocchia, Division 1; Steve Zapytowski, Division 1.

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Neff at 7:00 PM.

**Minutes of the last BoD meeting:**

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes from the September 16, 2022, Mid Central Region Board of Directors meeting.

**President's Comments**

President Neff reminded us that it's been a few years since the last Mid Central Region convention and that the COVID-19 pandemic is mostly behind us now. All MCR Divisions have survived this period reasonably well and reestablished in-person meetings, learned how to do virtual/hybrid meetings, and have conducted public meets. Attendance at events has come back and income from train shows is roughly as before. Divisions have been frugal with expenses and therefore are all in reasonably good financial shape.

Speaking on behalf of Frank Koch, who was not in attendance, President Neff encouraged all Divisions to move forward with their Achievement Program efforts, especially for new members. Help them work toward the Association Volunteer certificate. By working through the requirements for the Achievement Program, individuals will become better modelers, even if they do not meet the requirements for certificates.

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Both N scale and HO scale T-TRAK modules have been built across the Mid Central Region. The benefits of T-TRAK modules being smaller and lighter was highlighted, especially for an aging group of modelers.

Division 7 and Division 8 were called out for their work in using technology to enhance and extend their meetings. President Neff asked the group to read through their Division Superintendent reports for more details about their efforts on technology, taking care of members, and membership retention. He also encouraged everyone to read through the reports of all Divisions to pick up tidbits of information about how other Divisions are solving problems and making progress.

### **MCR Secretary Succession**

President Neff reminded everyone present that Secretary Soward had been declared the winner in the recent NMRA Central District Director election. Because the NMRA rules do not allow a member of the NMRA BoD to also be a member of a Region BoD, Secretary Soward has submitted his resignation as MCR Secretary, to take effect August 1, 2023. Division 8 member Bruce DeMaeyer volunteered to assume the role on that date. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to appoint Bruce DeMaeyer as the MCR Secretary effective August 1, 2023, in accordance with the MCR Regulations.

### **MCR Contest Manager Status**

President Neff asked all Superintendents to look within their Divisions to determine if there is someone willing to become the Mid Central Region Contest Manager. He also requested that Steve Zapytowski forward his documentation from previous year's contests to him. Mike Hauk asked the group to consider eliminating the contest as a convention event and instead focus on evaluating models only for the Achievement Program and for education instead of for judging for comparison and for winning awards. President Neff asked that further discussion of this proposal be added to the Fall MCR BoD Meeting agenda.

### **MCR Education Manager Status**

President Neff acknowledged that the MCR is without a Region Education Manager since Tom Miller's resignation from the position. NMRA Education Manager Mike Hohn, MMR®, addressed the group at the request of President Neff, who was looking for guidance about both the Region and Divisions interacting with and supporting the efforts of the National Education programs. Mike said that in many ways, the MCR is ahead of other Regions because we have individuals fulfilling the roles of areas that normally fall under the Education Committee (contest, MWTM, Achievement Program). There is no official NMRA document that states what a Region Education Committee should do or be responsible for. Mike said that he would take this to the program chairs that fall under the Education Committee to discern a better and more complete answer and that a similar course of action should take place within the MCR. There is not anything in the MCR Rules that requires an Education Committee or chair of that committee.

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President Neff asked each of the Division Superintendents to consider what they would like a Region Education Committee Manager to be responsible for and how that individual could be of benefit to the organization. He asked that this be added to the Fall MCR BoD Meeting agenda for further discussion.

### **MCR 2024 Convention (Cleveland) Status Update**

Jerry Krueger, MCR 2024 Convention Chair, provided a brief overview of the status of the planning and coordination for the convention.

### **MCR 2025 Convention Host**

Division 6 volunteered to host the MCR 2025 Convention in Columbus, OH. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to have Division 6 do that. The Buckeye Express will be May 15-18, 2025.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Treasurer's Report**

John Shields stated that his report is online and current.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Membership**

Paul Novak said that his committee report is online. Our numbers are dropping at 2% per year which is consistent with the National NMRA rate of loss. One of the issues today is cost. Members are saying that members are not sure they are getting their money's worth and that concern needs to be taken to the National level.

President Neff asked everyone to remind members that if they change their mailing address, telephone number, or email address, that information must be provided to NMRA HQ.

#### **Newsletter/Kingpin**

Dave Williams said that the Kingpin has not been sent by USPS mail for the last year because of an issue with the company that previously provided the mailing services is no longer providing that service. He said that MCR Rules state that the Kingpin is to be sent out by USPS mail, but that someone else will need to take care of that for future editions of the Kingpin. There was a brief discussion about the reasons the Kingpin should be sent by USPS mail and whether the MCR Rules should be modified.

### **Modules (T-TRAK)**

Bruce DeMaeyer reported that his report is online. Further, T-TRAK was successful at this convention. There were 80 modules from across the Region. There is some concern about the amount of involvement in Cleveland for the 2024 MCR Convention.

### **Special Projects**

Matt Goodman reported on behalf of Dick Briggs that there are no Special Projects currently in flight for the MCR.

### **Technology**

Jerry Doyle said that the MCR Technology Committee has met virtually several times. Among the discussion topics are how to integrate technology into meetings and how to leverage it for marketing. The meetings are open to everyone in the Region. Invitations to the meetings are sent to the Superintendents for distribution to their members.

### **Treasurer/Finance**

John Shields said the finance report is online.

### **Division Reports:**

All Division reports are online. These comments by the Division Superintendents are highlights of their online reports or items that are in addition to the comments in the online reports.

**Jim Dipaolo, Division 1.** The Division is heavily involved in T-TRAK, using a grant from the NMRA. Because of the grant, everyone in Division 1 who wanted a T-TRAK module received one at no cost from the Division.

**Dennis Conglianese, Division 2.** Beyond the involvement in this year's convention, the Division has increased in members, increased in attendance at meetings, and has presented a merit award at every meeting this past year. Also, two new MMRs this year.

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**Ric Zimmerman, Division 3.** The Dayton Train Show was a success with 4,000 attending. The Division participated in the University of Dayton Christmas Campus program. Training Day happened in March.

**Ron Morgan, Division 4.** Membership is holding steady. Monthly contests are going well and they're coming up with creative contest topics. The module group is doing well. The Great Berea Train Show is coming up in October. The Division also supports a local 4H club. Ron had a question about T-TRAK tables and was told that the venue provides them.

**Linda Kacprzak (proxy), Division 5.** Railfest was successful. They picked up three new members at Railfest. In the fall, they will do demonstrations and displays during an event at the local county fairgrounds.

**Matt Goodman, Division 6.** Membership had been fairly stable, with a recent dip in numbers. They're also working on a "car project." They recently completed their first election using Election Buddy. There were no issues, but the turnout was low. They've just completed their fourth annual (restarted) train show.

**John Shields (proxy), Division 7.** Meetings are hybrid, using a technology team. They are frequently using remote clinicians. They have several members who consistently join the meeting virtually because they are unable to attend in person. Next month is their second annual picnic. This reinforces the social aspect of joining the NMRA.

**Ron Ellison, Division 8.** Everything is in his previously submitted report. President Neff asked for a description of onboarding. Secretary Soward, on behalf of Superintendent Ellison, gave a brief overview of the Division 8 onboarding program.

**Jerry Doyle (proxy), Division 9.** Membership is steady. The Division has a small, but active T-TRAK group. They worked with the C&O Historical Society to have a T-TRAK display and a Division 9 booth at a recent C&OHS meet.

**Larry Smith, Division 10.** Membership has declined slightly. They're holding hybrid meetings with low in-person attendance. They are focusing on layout tours and other activities that will get members involved and interacting with one another. Recently had their "Train Days" at the local library for the first time in several years. It's a good opportunity for members to interact with the public.

**Al Crate, Division 11.** Membership has dropped off a little bit. Meetings are in different locations each month. They're upgrading their DCC system for their modular layout. Next meeting is at East Broad Top.

**Mike Hauk, Division 12.** The Division is meeting in a new venue. They are working thru challenges with hybrid meetings from the new location.

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### **Discussion Topics**

Secretary Soward, on behalf of Division 8 Superintendent Ron Ellison reminded the group that Division 8 has a virtual presenter list available for all Divisions in the Mid Central Region. He said the list will be shared again as soon as he returns to Louisville and updates the list. He suggested that it would be good for the Region to have a consolidated list of presenters available to all.

### **Adjournment**

The next Mid Central Region Board of Directors meeting will be a virtual meeting. It is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Friday, September 22, 2023, by Zoom. Division 8 volunteered to host the Zoom meeting. The Zoom logon information will be made available closer to the date.

Adjourned 8:21 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Fred Soward MMR®, Mid Central Region Secretary

# Officers' Reports

## MCR AP REPORT – APRIL, 2023

This reports the MCR AP activity for the period September, 2022 through March, 2023, the latest reporting period.

Overall, results have been good and there was participation in almost all Divisions. There were two new MMR during the period and both were from Division 2. There were a total of 20 Merit Awards and 21 certificates in different categories. A complete list of all who earned AP awards in the period appears at the end of this report.

Some Divisions are more active than others and there is room for higher participation in several areas. First, all new members and members building model railroads should qualify for and earn the Golden Spike Award. Second, the many volunteers at our shows and on committees in the Divisions earn credits toward the Volunteer certificate. Think about all the volunteers who worked on this convention as members of some committee – they earn Volunteer points as well. Next, the clinicians for the convention and the Division events can earn Author credits by meeting the requirements. As a final example, there are many round-robin operating groups that could earn the Chief Dispatcher certificate by documenting their operating sessions and generating some common paperwork to meet some of the requirements/

I urge each Superintendent to talk to their local AP manager and identify those members who likely can qualify for a certificate and then encourage that member to pursue a goal of making progress in the AP program. An excellent resource is the on-going series by NMRA Magazine Editor Cinthia Priest documenting her journey toward becoming an MMR.

I would like my next MCR report to be even more positive than this one and reporting even higher levels of participation across the Region.

Congratulations to all who earned AP recognition in the past six months.

Frank J. Koch, MCR AP Manager  
April 19, 2023

<u>MASTER MODEL RAILROADER®</u>		
MMR® #729	Susan Werner	Div. 2
MMR® #734	Richard Turton	Div. 2

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GOLDEN SPIKE AWARDS

Scott Eastburn Div. 4  
 Kevin Ellis Div. 10

MERIT AWARDS EARNED

Chris Lasher	Div. 2	Cars	Conrail G52X Coal Gondola
Susan Werner	Div. 2	Cars	1909 Stock Car
Raymond Helster	Div. 2	Structures	Barn
Donald Cipolla	Div. 9	Structures	Crown Point Mine
Donald Cipolla	Div. 9	Structures	Crown Point Trestle
Donald Cipolla	Div. 9	Structures	Gold Hill Depot
Donald Cipolla	Div. 9	Structures	Virginia City Sand House
Donald Cipolla	Div. 9	Structures	Crown Point Mine Wood Unloading
Donald Cipolla	Div. 9	Structures	Yellow Jacket Mine
Susan Werner	Div. 2	Cars	SH&MP Box Car
Stan White	Div. 8	Scenery	Model RR Scenery
Donald Cipolla	Div. 9	Scenery	Model RR Scenery
Roy Allan	Div. 7	Scenery	Model RR Scenery
Cecil Stewart	Div. 8	Structures	Patton Transfer
Larry Pandelios	Div. 2	Structures	PRR Ohio River Bridge
Raymond Helster	Div. 2	Structures	Log Home
Raymond Helster	Div. 2	Structures	Covered Bridge
Raymond Helster	Div. 2	Structures	Crew House

CERTIFICATES EARNED

Patrick Miller	Div. 9	Chief Dispatcher
William Grosse	Div. 9	Official
Lee Sheffield	Div. 4	Official
Lee Sheffield	Div. 4	Volunteer
Roy Allan	Div. 7	Cars
Harold Weinberg	Div. 10	Volunteer
Donald Cipolla	Div. 9	Structures
Donald Cipolla	Div. 9	Scenery
Stan White	Div. 8	Scenery
Jim Heary	Div. 11	Electrical
Richard Wehr	Div. 8	Chief Dispatcher
Roy Allan	Div. 7	Scenery
Stan White	Div. 8	Chief Dispatcher
Barry Christensen	Div. 8	Volunteer
Stan White	Div. 8	Volunteer
Jim Heary	Div. 11	Volunteer
Susan Werner	Div. 2	Cars
Richard Helster	Div. 2	Structures
Richard Turton	Div. 2	Cars
Cecil Stewart	Div. 8	Structures
Cecil Stewart	Div. 8	Chief Dispatcher

# Division 1 Report

Division 1 membership at the time this report was prepared is 77.

In the fall of 2022 the Division decided to take a new approach to the module concept by switching to T Trak modules in both HO and N scales. We viewed this change as a tool for recruitment of new members and revive the existing module group whose interest was diminishing. The old modules were very heavy, difficult to move and time consuming to set up. Our Division had a very short discussion on switching as the benefits of lightweight modules convinced the members present at the meeting to make the switch. Division 1 applied to the NMRA for a matching fund grant of \$200 for Member Retention and we were successful in obtaining the grant. Our project to retain members was to offer 1 free single HO scale or N scale module to an existing Division 1 member in exchange for a minimum commitment to set up their module at a Division 1 event. The free module includes track and wiring. Members are also offered the opportunity to purchase additional modules, track and wiring at their own expense. Our first event for the new modules will be at the Mt. Hope train show in the Fall of 2023.

Jim DiPaola, Superintendent

## Division 2 Report

The Keystone Division membership has increased to 201 as of April 2023. This is up from 182 last May. We are encouraged that the membership attrition we experienced is behind us and we are now growing.

Our webmaster is contacting members who have not renewed to find out why, whether it be illness or due to other changes. I have also been contacting members whose membership will be expiring encouraging them to renew. I also send a welcome e-mail to all new members and invite them to our monthly meetings, highlighting the opportunity to meet and engage with members at these meetings.

The Division holds meetings 10 months of the year at varying clubs or railroad historical sites throughout the Division. We have added items to our agenda to engage the members in the meeting instead of being strictly a series of committee reports. This has received favorable comments from the attendees. We are seeing increased attendance at these meetings are now see between 35 and 45 attendees.

The Keystone Flyer is published 10 times each year to coincide with each meeting. Most are e-mailed to each member as well as to others around the country and can be accessed on our website: [www.keystone.org](http://www.keystone.org). The web version is in color while a limited number in black and white are sent by mail for those who do not have email access. The website includes resources and other important news items for our division.

The primary initiative for this year has been the planning and execution of the MCR Regional Convention (Rails to Pittsburgh) which Division 2 is hosting. We have almost 50 clinics, 27 layouts open for tours and 7 layouts open for operating sessions. At the time of this report, there are 195 registered attendees with 108 attending the banquet. Registration is still open so these numbers should increase somewhat.

Our Achievement Program has produced two new Master Model Railroaders. Additionally, we have presented at least 1 Merit Award at each of the meetings during the past year.

Division 2 continues to support our hobby. We created a special award to be presented in memory of Jim Saco, who passed 2 years ago, to recognize individuals that go the extra mile to promote the hobby.

Dennis Coglianese, Superintendent

## Division 3 Report

Over the past six months, our membership has remained stable at approximately 115 +/- and our financial status is in good shape

During this period, the division conducted our annual "Dayton Train Show," supported the University of Dayton's "Christmas on Campus," and held our annual "Model Railroad Training Day."

The Dayton Train Show is our one singular event to raise sufficient funds to pay our operating expenses for the coming year. We had over 4000 people visit the show in November 2022.

The UD Christmas event provides a unique Christmas for a large number of disadvantaged children in the city. A small operating layout is set-up and the children are offered candy canes as they pass through the room. Following Christmas on Campus, on one of your long-time members, J Hedge, used the layout to support the Airman's club USO at Wright-Patterson AFB.

In March, after a late notice of the availability at Carillon Park, we set-up and accomplished our annual Model Railroad Training Day, providing free instruction and demonstration to area model railroaders. Given only a month to pull this event together, Gail Yarnall, Rick Lach and Peter Guise, did an exceptional job orchestrating the event. 25 exhibits were set up demonstrating many aspect of the hobby from DCC to scenery building and more. Children were offered the opportunity to build a small layout, which was then given to one of them chosen by a rally that they each entered.

We have used Zoom to reach out to our members, in an attempt to involve those that are at the far edges of the division and cannot make monthly meetings. Attendance at monthly meetings is down since COVID pandemic and many of our members have stopped attending in-person meetings. We are also using Zoom to obtain presentations from outside the division. As such, Zoom has offered us the opportunity to see and hear presentations on topics that we might not be able to get within our division. For example, we were given a presentation by a member of the Gateway Division (McoR), titled "2 and a half D CAD Using PowerPoint," in April.

Eric Zimmerman, Superintendent

## Division 4 Report

Attendance at our division meetings continues to be good and is averaging 70 to 80 members attending.

Our webmaster, Ben Lanza continues to enlighten us with his weekly “For Division 4 Members Stuck at Home” series. You never know what neat things Ben will find to share with the division.

Membership is holding steady. Definitely would like to see more younger members joining in on the fun. The division supports 2 4H modular model railroad clubs. Hopefully some of these members will be joining the NMRA.

Financially Division 4 remains solid.

Contests continue to be popular. Our contest chairman can come up with some rather interesting challenges.

Spring layout tours are currently being planned. This is always a good time and it gives the layout owner a chance to show off their layout.

Our module group continues to provide public education displays. This summer and fall they will be participating in the Cuyahoga County Fair, the October Fest, the Great Berea Train Show, Trees and Trains and Lights at the zoo.

Speaking of the Great Berea Train Show, the division will be expanding the show with programs from our Training Days program. More hands

on clinics for the public to enjoy.

Our convention chairman Jerry Kruger and his committee is currently moving forward with plans for the North Coast Limited 2024 MCR Convention. Convention will be held at the Crown Plaza at the intersection of I-71 and Bagley Road in Middleburg Heights Ohio. Dates for the convention are May 16-19, 2024. Hope to see a great turnout for this convention.

All in all, I am happy to report that Division 4 is doing very well.

Ron Morgan, Superintendent

## Division 5 Report

Division 5 meetings have been improving and meeting attendance has been climbing. In general, we are almost back to pre-covid normal. Meeting attendance is currently averaging around 22 compared with pre-covid average of 28. Our division BOD meetings are held online using Zoom and all division members are invited to attend.

Our division membership has been holding between 55 and 60 members. We are currently at 59. We added four new members between October and February, mainly due to current members encouraging friends to join. We added another two existing NMRA members due to them moving into our Division area. We had one previous member rejoin after dropping out for several years. At our March train show, we offered discounted NMRA memberships and were able to recruit three new members, one full membership, one family member, and one RailPass. However, even with these 10 new members over the last six months, we are not growing significantly. We have lost a number of members due to non-renewal of memberships. At least four of these said their non-renewal was due to the last dues increase.

Our annual train show, Railfest, was held in March 2023. This was our second show back after being halted for two years due to covid. In a sense, it was our first “normal” show since covid since last year’s show had a number of planning issues that were a result of covid unknowns. This year’s Railfest 2023 went reasonably well. We had a fantastic turnout of members and friends to help put on the show. The show ran smoothly. Saturday attendance was better than last year but still no where near pre-covid levels. A snowstorm early Sunday morning drastically affected Sunday’s attendance and so, overall, the show attendance was low by about 750 people compared to pre-covid numbers. We made about \$2500 which is far below pre-Covid profit levels. We have the college booked already for Railfest 2024.

Fortunately, even with the low income from our train show, our Division expenses have been relatively low and we have enough in savings to allow us to function normally for several years until our train show profits get back to normal. We have continued to curtail some of our pre-covid expenses (such as providing grants to area model railroad groups) until our income stream recovers.

We had Division layout tours the second and third weekends of October. There were eight layouts open within our Division area. We had a Division Holiday Party at the beginning of January that was sparsely attended but those that came had a great time.

We have the following upcoming events planned during the next six months: outdoor railroad movie night in July, our annual Division family picnic in August, and our annual Model Railroading Promotional Day in October. We do not hold a monthly membership meeting in July. Also, though not a Division sponsored event, a number of our members participate in the local Metro Parks “Railroads In The Parks” weekend in June.

Overall, Division 5 enthusiasm is improving and the future is looking better.

Matt Kross, Superintendent



## Mid-Central Region Division 6 Report

May 2023

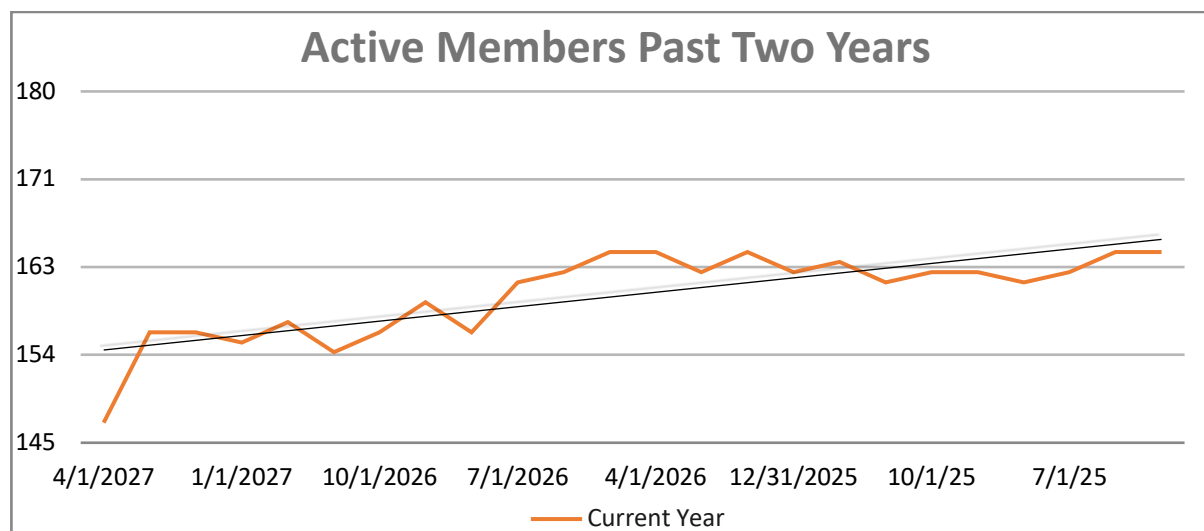
Matt Goodman – Superintendent

### Membership

Membership stands at 147 (March EOM).

#### Summary:

Division 6's membership is currently trending downward after three years of relative stability. The past year has been a bit bumpy, with the membership at a high of 164, and a low of 147. As the chart displays, our membership had relatively large drops last summer and this spring.



On this topic, we recently onboarded a new Membership Chair, with the Superintendent and Program Chairs picking up parts of that responsibility during the interim between full-time Membership Chairs. Our new Membership Chair is bringing new energy to this task, and I am optimistic that a fresh point of view and focus on following up membership lapses will help.

#### Recruitment:

Our recruiting efforts continue to focus on setting up our table at local train shows. We have set up our table at two train shows this year. This table has generated plenty of contacts, but it can be hard to connect those conversations with membership. The Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee is looking into ways to follow up with interested parties, and / or equipping our booth with a device to sign up interested parties on the spot.

#### Retention:

Our clinic program remains robust with a variety of topics presented by members and the occasional non-member modeler. Given our steady membership count, this service appears to be valuable.

## Division 7 Report

- Our financial condition is in good shape thanks to our substantial savings, two successful annual public events and our Car Project sales.
- Our 2022 Fall Train Show was again a great success, and our 2023 Spring Flea Market attendance grew by 50% over last year. We attribute this response to our street sign program and mailing thousands of reminder post cards, plus our flyers, social media presence and hobby magazine notices. Due to our high attendance, we have many more requests for sales tables than our venues can accommodate. A good problem to have!
- Our expanded membership team has an improved booth and has signed up five new members, one due to our modelers aid services (see next item) and others with the help of our new Railpass promotion: “When a Railpass member renews as a regular member, he/she will be reimbursed the cost of the Railpass by the Division.”
- Our Modelers Aid team continues to provide valuable services running our free loco test track at our events and lately has been fixing several layouts at local modelers homes, resulting in much good will and sometimes a new member or meeting guest.
- Our membership is at 219. Sadly, three of our long-time members have passed away in the last three months: Peter Weiglin, Bill Horstmann and Ron Gribler, MMR.
- We are having good success in implementing our “Leadership Continuity Plan”. Most key positions have been fortified by capable backups or co-chairs.
- Our expanded Audio/Video team and systems along with outstanding clinician and layout visit programs continue to be instrumental in producing great meetings both for those attending in person as well as online via Zoom. Our April meeting featuring Bernard Kempinski, MMR set a post-pandemic record attendance of about 84 people.
- Our webmaster and his new backup are building a new website using an integrated web-builder system internal to GoDaddy that offers a more modern appearance, friendlier formatting for mobile devices, ease in adding pages, lower costs and much easier for other webmasters to learn and edit. Rollout is planned for late this year.
- After the success of last year’s inaugural June picnic, this will now become an annual event. This year we will again offer quality picnic fare cooked on site, a team trivia contest, many coveted door prizes, corn hole and much fellowship.

Chuck Endreola, Superintendent

## Division 8 Report

We continue to experience COVID Haze in central Kentucky and southern Indiana - But we're getting better and we think we've turned a corner or perhaps we should say, gone round a bend. We continue to look for new ways to do things. Occasionally we find things that work. Most often, admittedly, these are happy accidents. Our members always present us with some surprises. Which only serves to point out that we need to be receptive. We remain Semper Gumby - always flexible.

Division 8 membership numbers have edged down since our last report to the MCR in September 2022. We were 132 then and now we are 125. We have lost a few long time members to death. But thanks to our membership team at our train show in March, we picked up 4 new members. And we have lost a few members that joined, and in spite of our best efforts to reach them, they left after 9 months or a year, And then there's the *Strange Case of James Hansen* - the subject of the April 2023 *The Pie Card* Superintendent's column. We sent each of you a copy but if you missed it, you can find it here - [The Pie Card for April 2023](#)

We are feeling pretty confident in our New Member Onboarding Program. Each new member receives a personal welcome email from our membership chairman Stan White followed by an invitation to join Groups.io from our Assistant Superintendent Fred Soward. And then a detailed welcome email from the superintendent listing links and descriptions of upcoming events for the month. We try to send these emails out as soon as possible after receiving the MCR membership updated lists from Paul Novak. And the emails go out in a specific order and contain specific details so we try to keep the information fresh by not repeating. I was pleased at our membership meeting last Saturday when I introduced myself to one of our new members and they told me they'd received a bunch of information since joining.

We continue to emphasize technology at Division 8. 71 of our 125 members have joined Groups.io. We have a couple of weekly updates that go out to members each week in Groups.io. One features video content and the other an informational update. Both are prepared by our Media Committee. Our Monthly Modeling Contest also takes place online with the results announced at our hybrid membership meeting in person for those in the room and on ZOOM for those that are unable to attend in person. Our newsletter, *The Pie Card*, continues to be published online only. 10 of our members have joined NMRA Interchange and one of those members, Kevin Jones, is a moderator. We will continue to push the technological boundaries - even if it hurts a little. It is the track to inclusion in our model railroading hobby.

We've also begun to sell tickets to our events online through ThunderTix which directly interfaces with our Square account to process online payments. Most members have chosen to pay online once they see how easy it is. Events include tickets to our twice a year train show, our summer picnic and our Christmas party. This is a very automated way to take reservations for the picnic and Christmas party. For those members who continue to want to pay by check, we still enter the payment through ThunderTix to keep track of reservations. When it comes time for the events, it's simple to print a guest list that's already up to date online and in the clouds. All the online reports make the accounting for these events a breeze for our Treasurer Mike Berry. "How's that going to work" has become "that's pretty cool" with Mike.

Speaking of events. Our summer picnic and Christmas party are ready to go. We could have both events tomorrow if we needed to. We've chartered a bus to EnterTRAINment Junction for our picnic and will hold our Christmas Party at the Corner Cafe the same as last year.

Last Christmas we gave away 2 train sets to families that couldn't necessarily afford such a luxury during the holidays. The sets were co-sponsored by our 2 local hobby shops, Roundhouse Electric Trains and Scale Reproductions and the arrangement for the gifts were in conjunction with Holy Family Parish in Louisville where we hold our twice yearly Train Show & Sale. The sets were a hit with the 2 families and we plan to give away 2 more train sets this Christmas.

Our fall 2022 Train Show & Sale was our most profitable show in our 33 year history of the show and the largest attendance to date. Our just completed show on March 18, 2023 set another attendance record for us and was the 2nd most profitable show ever. This is a direct result of our member volunteers and especially our board members who do so much to make our shows successful. As mentioned above, we now sell advance tickets to our shows. Advance tickets were not great for the fall show. But they increased dramatically for the spring show as folks discovered the advantages of purchasing tickets in advance. We also sold dealer tables through the ticket gateway which proved a popular option for some of our dealers. We also began taking credit cards for admission at the fall show. Like advance tickets, credit card admissions increased for our just completed spring show as attendees realized that option has some advantages - more money to spend with our dealers. Our dealer tables for fall 2023 are for the most part sold out already. We must be doing something right.

We continue to record our monthly meetings and gatherings and post those to our YouTube channel for those who are unable to attend our meetings at the scheduled day and time. We do edit out a few specific items from these videos, specifically any financial figures, to encourage members to attend our hybrid meeting live. We also record and post our meeting presentations separately to our YouTube channel. You can take a look at our YouTube channel here → [Division 8 Mid Central Region NMRA - YouTube](#) and of course subscribe.

We continue to market Division 8 through our monthly newsletter distribution, website, YouTube, Facebook and Instagram and now Tik Tok. We're getting the word out there about model railroading in southern Indiana and central Kentucky.

Ron Ellison, Superintendent

## Division 9 Report

**Membership:** Membership has remained steady around 40 with regular meeting attendance at almost 50%. This is very encouraging considering the very large geographic area we serve. We have a very good core group of members who are active within the Division and are not afraid to take on responsibilities.

**Finances:** The Division is very frugal with expenditures resulting in a very stable financial position. Monthly raffles, with items donated by members, helps support the few monetary obligations we have. Nine monthly meetings are held in the St Albans Historical Society Building. We rent this facility for our meetings but the cost is offset by our raffle and each month we seem to have a little left over to increase our financial position.

**Meetings:** Our monthly meetings continue to be held in the St. Albans Historical Society building. The Historical Society building gives us a very comfortable, clean, and handicap accessible place to conduct our business and be together as a group. Recently, the C&O Historical Society has established a satellite location at the St Albans Depot (adjacent to the Historical Building) and it is hoped in the future Division 9 can once again conduct our meeting there. As mentioned above our normal monthly meetings are held in St. Albans WVA but we also continue to have some meetings away from our base. In May we go to Parkersburg, WV for *Steel is King Day* and in September we meet at Portsmouth, OH to *Run the Crusty*. These events are hosted by fellow members of our Division and are something we always look forward to.

**Clinics:** Each month we try and keep the business session of the meeting short and focus the main portion of the meeting on a clinic. Our Clinic Chair, Sam Delauter does a great job of scheduling a broad range of interesting clinics for presentation to our group. Sam has also introduced a series of min/clinics for several of our meetings. Each min-clinic will last around 15 minutes or so and several will be given during the clinic portion of the meeting. Sam hopes this will give members an easy/relaxed way to present a variety of different subject matter during the meetings and help clinicians become familiar in presenting in front of an audience.

**Education:** Education is an important aspect of our division. The Division has a very nice display created by our Membership Chair John Harris and we use it at shows and events displaying information about the NMRA and our Division. This display is a great education tool serving to promote the NMRA and our Division. Internally we use the clinics and our Memorial Challenge to further educate our members. The "Challenge" has become very popular with the members of the Coal Division. The intent of the challenge is to get our members out of their comfort zone and trying something new and this is working very well.

**Achievement Program:** Participation in the AP is slow but we see a number of certificates that appear to be within reach of several members. Ideas are being exchanged within the Division to encourage members to participate in the AP program.

**Newsletter:** The newsletter is a critical communication and education tool for Division 9. Bob Weinheimer does an excellent job as editor and we always look forward to receiving the newsletter each month. Bob has recently added a "Club News" section to the newsletter. This column gives other railroad modeling clubs and railroad related groups the ability to convey information about their activities. This is a great communication tool that will grow as other groups get on board.

**Robert Osburn, Superintendent**

## Division 10 Report

**Membership:** Over the last six months membership stayed steady but it has dropped slightly in the last couple months. We have had some older members withdraw from the hobby and some who have passed away. The younger persons who we have been trying to recruit have not signed up as yet as expected. Our attendance at our meetings has increased lately mainly due to person appearing in person at our meetings. This may be due to our switch back to Sunday meetings. We use to meet on Sunday before covid hit. When covid hit, the library staff was reduced and Sunday meetings were eliminated. Now the library staffing has increased enough for us to meet on Sundays which many members prefer. A number of members had complained that Saturday was too busy with other activities. In person attendance at the meetings is still below pre covid levels.

**Finances:** With member contributions our only source of income, our out flow is greater than inflow of funds. Outflow is a combination of (1) Zoom subscription, (2) occasional equipment purchases, and (3) sending out paper copies of our newsletter.

**Programs :** Our division still meets at the local libraries since they have sufficient parking available and have the necessary electronic equipment. Many, if not all, of our clinics or presentations require PowerPoint, and the library can handle these. We have presenters who are physically located out of state and from our own local area, so this is an advantage in being able to provide a greater variety of persons to present. Our new assistant superintendent has been obtaining members to do presentations called mini clinics to all the members at our meetings which increase our providing needed information to our members. He has also done work on the Bylaws and made other contributions. Masking at the library is optional and few library patrons are now actually masked. Our meetings are still hybrid, a combination of in person and Zoom. Some members would like to discontinue Zoom, but some members would not be able to attend due to physical limitations or other reasons. In response to a question in a recent questionnaire I sent out to all members a vast majority said they preferred hybrid meetings.

We have started back with in person layout tours and the members have responded and we have been having good attendance at them. Good for socializing and learning about the how and why of building a model train layout and keeping it running. Our Trains Day at the Library is scheduled for later this month and this is a primary way to interact with the general public. The library publicizes the event and conducts activities in the week before to teach the children about model railroading and trains in general. We will have a number of layouts set up with trains running and hoping for a lot of good interaction with the children and their parents. We have some division T-trak layout visits planned which is always a fun experience.

Larry Smith, Superintendent

## Division 11 Report

Our Division meetings are being held in person each month, mainly at a member's home or hosted by a model railroad club. Our May meeting, again this year, will include a ride on the East Broad Top Railroad. We have been attempting to have a clinic or presentation at each meeting. We have been averaging fifteen members at a meeting. We have lost a few members lately, for some; the disposable income is not there, anymore.

Financially, we are stable. The newsletter subscriptions and donations have given us enough to keep us going. We recently purchased a command station, power supply, throttle, and WIFI connection to upgrade our modular railroad. We have set up for a festival in the fall in St. Mary's and at a mall in December.

Al Crate, Superintendent

## Division 12 Report

Membership of the Alleghany Western Division is steady at about 40 members, and we remain on a stable financial footing.

Division 12 continues to support the Erie Train Show at Rainbow Gardens in the Fall and Spring by staffing the concessions in return for a donation from the show promoters and hosts a division table at the event. Two of our members constructed a test track for use at our table during the show, and this has proved to be quite popular with attendees testing prospective purchases, and has resulted in increased donations during the show.

The division also purchased several lightly used Atlas locomotives from an estate sale, which were inspected, cleaned, and lubricated by division members. We now offer these engines for sale for \$20 to youngsters 16 and under at the Erie show.

The division board of directors decided not to have our MiniMeet this year, due to the number of other events in our area competing for attendees and clinicians; namely the RPM East in late March, the MCR convention in early May, and the MER convention in Altoona in October. The NKP Historical Society (for a time) was also looking at a convention in Erie in early September.

The division has been meeting both remotely via Zoom, and in-person when able, including a June picnic at the Westfield NY Railfan Park in conjunction with several other local model railroad and railfan groups, and a November visit to J.L. Innovative Design's manufacturing facility in Salamanca, NY. We are looking forward to expanding our in-person meeting venues to the restored B&LE station in Meadville, PA this Spring.

Our weekly Thursday night Zoom workbench chat remains popular, and we often have a dozen or more folks both in and out of our division and non-NMRA members in attendance. This has enticed several individuals to join the NMRA.

Also of note, several articles from our division newsletter have received mention in the "Division Business Car" column in the NMRA magazine.

We look forward to the remainder of 2023, and hope to continue to "punch above our weight" as a division.

Mike Hauk, Superintendent



# Membership Report

Below is a table that summarizes the MCR membership by Division and Month since April 2022:

Division	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	August 2022	Sept. 2022	Oct. 2022	Nov. 2022	Dec. 2022	Jan. 2023	Feb. 2023	March 2023
1	80	78	77	76	76	77	75	78	79	80	80	77
2	181	183	178	198	197	200	198	196	194	203	201	200
3	110	110	111	109	113	118	116	117	116	117	116	112
4	188	188	185	188	187	180	187	186	184	183	182	181
5	57	57	56	56	55	56	54	56	52	52	55	59
6	164	162	161	156	159	156	154	157	155	155	156	147
7	216	219	218	217	221	215	217	217	216	219	218	218
8	127	127	130	132	131	130	130	128	127	123	123	121
9	49	48	47	46	47	45	43	44	43	39	38	39
10	59	58	56	58	59	58	58	58	58	56	53	50
11	27	27	26	26	26	26	26	23	26	24	23	24
12	38	38	39	39	38	41	40	40	40	39	42	41

Deaths	0	2	1	1	3	1	3	2	2	3	0	5
Rail-Pass	40	41	39	59	59	59	57	57	54	50	49	52
New Mems	7	6	9	20	8	9	9	9	4	13	10	13

Please note that the above three rows, are part of the table above and are included in those figures.

Paul J. Novak Jr., Membership Chairman

## Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee developed the following slate of candidates for the 2023 MCR elections, for term of office starting in May, 2023:

President – Dave Neff

Vice President – Jerry Doyle

Secretary – Fred Soward

Treasurer – John Shields

The committee's slate was communicated to the members of the MCR via an email distributed on August 15, 2022. This email included a solicitation for additional candidates to be nominated via the petition process outlined in the MCR regulations. The deadline for additional nominations was September 7, 2022. As of September 12, 2022 no additional nominations were received.

As there was only one candidate for each office, Article X, Section 6 of the current MCR regulations gave the Board of Directors the option of completing the 2023 election process by executing an Election by Acclamation.

A motion to take this action was presented at the Fall BOD meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup>. The motion passed.

Respectfully,

MCR 2023 Elections Nominating Committee

Bob Shreve - Manager

Bob Belt

Jim Dipaola

## T-TRAK Committee Report

As I write this report, the convention T-TRAK physical layout planning is nearly complete. The committee has completed the very important survey of known (completed) T-TRAK modules in the 12 Divisions. This survey will be done event year in the March timeframe.

The space for the layout has been successfully negotiated and reserved by the Division 2 (Pittsburgh) coordinator. That space has been filled to optimize the use of the space for a layout of nearly 100 modules with two special legs designed by two of the Division 2 members.

We are now polling the members for their desire to participate in the layout. About a week before the convention we will know which members (or their proxy) are bringing module as we insert the modules into the plan.

We will be building the layout on Thursday morning, trains should be running by 10am, just two short hours to turn the layout on.

The registration process established during the 2019 Convention, with registration forms loaded on the MCR region website was used to coordinate the volunteer efforts necessary to build the layout in an orderly fashion.

The T-TRAK module builders with modules in the convention layout will all be given a choice of having their modules formally judged, using AP scenery criteria, and first, second, and third prizes awarded. And all modules are open to the People's Choice. Award.

All of the members of the divisions in the Region are now building T-TRAK modules, many, if not most, of those models are and will be supporting the your division's participation in support of your growth efforts, principally, your train shows and local events like "Trains Day at the Library" and Trains Day at the VA hospital.

During the past year, since Indy 2022, the members on the Region have been busy building an estimated 30 modules.

I will bring the stats of the Pittsburgh layout to the BOD meeting at the convention.

I would be very remiss if I didn't complement all of the BOD leaders of the Region. Your leadership has made T-Track a real success story.

I also complement the T-TRAK guys in Division 2 for the local support of the region project. There is a build and take clinic at the convention and those modules will be featured in the layout on Friday,

Now it's on to Cleveland.

Bruce Demaeyer

## MCR Vice President Report

It still sometimes seems hard to believe that we've been in the post-Covid world for over a year. While many of the previous shows and other activities have returned, some aspects of our hobby have markedly changed. The chief difference for most of our divisions has been the introduction of technology into most division activities. The word Zoom has become a verb of a different sort from pre-Covid. Zooming (or other video conferencing platforms) is now a regular feature of life for many of us. The MCR board of directors meetings have migrated to Zoom and are likely to remain. The reduced costs and simplification of planning are significant.

In the Spring of 2020, a number of MCR members began meeting on a regular basis to discuss the way that technology was being leveraged to better serve members during the Covid shutdown that found most of us living in virtual isolation. At first the discussions dealt with the basics of different ways to stream division meetings along with the more informal interim meetings that began to take place in many divisions. Some divisions were quite adept at making the transition and many others wanted to learn more.

Given the importance that technology has taken in our interactions it seems appropriate to discuss giving the role of technology and those who are responsible for its implementation more prominence. To this end I propose making the Technology Committee a permanent, standing committee in the MCR structure.

This committee would address emerging issues in technology for meetings, clinics, member outreach, recruiting and promotion. Membership would be composed of interested members from the divisions with a structure in line with other MCR committees.

Jerry Doyle

# Upcoming Events

Events as gathered from various websites. Check elsewhere for more details and always verify dates and times before making the trip.

National N Scale Convention- June14-18

Nugget Casino Resort

1100 Nugget Avenue

Sparks, Nevada 89431

<https://www.nationalscaleconvention.com>

NMRA National Convention Aug.20-26

Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center

1501Gaylord Trail

Grapevine,TX76051

<https://www.2023texasexpress.com>

The Great Berea Train Show October 7-8, 2023

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds

Middleburg Hts, Ohio

Hosted by Dvision 4

Division 7 Train Show October 14-15, 2023

Lakota High School

8940 Union Centre Blvd, West Chester, Ohio 45069

Round the Curve to Altoona 2023 October 19-22, 2023

Mid-Eastern Region Convention

Altoona Grand Hotel

<https://www.mer2023.org/index.html>

Hosted by the MER Susquehanna Division 11

## Events continued

Division 6 Model Railroad Train Show Sunday, 22 October 2023

Pritchard Laughlin Center

7033 Glenn Highway

Cambridge, Ohio 43725

Division 8 Train Show      Nov 11, 2023

Holy Family Parish Saffrin Center

3938 Poplar Level Road

Louisville KY

Division 5's Railfest March 16-17, 2024

Lakeland Community College

Kirtland Ohio

The Mid-Central Regional Convention May 16 - 19, 2024

Middleburg Hts (Cleveland) Ohio

Hosted by North Coast Division 4

<https://northcoastlimited2024.org/>

2024 National Convention    August 4-11, 2024

Surf Liner

Long Beach, CA

44th National Narrow Gauge Convention    September 11-14, 2024

Location: Pittsburgh, PA

Where: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel - Green Tree, 500 Mansfield Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15205

The Buckeye Express MCR Regional Convention May 15-18, 2025

Columbus Ohio

Hosted by Buckeye Division 6

**SUPERCHARGED - HIGH SPEED**

# **TEXAS EXPRESS**

**The 2023 NMRA  
National Convention**



*August 20-26*

**DALLAS/FORT WORTH, TEXAS  
GAYLORD TEXAN RESORT GRAPEVINE**

## Notes from the editor

I worked most of the Regional convention and still managed to have a good time, thanks in large part to the fun people I was with. You can put your name on that list if you were at the convention too (and put your name on the list twice if you worked at all in the contest room!). I gave the hotel 4 stars on Yelp, and it would have been 5 except that I heard more than one complaint about the clinic screens and the guest rooms didn't have enough light. The staff was excellent, the food was good and reasonably priced and the bar was well located. Perhaps needless to say, Division 2 really did a great job.

For video coverage of the Convention, check out That Train Couple's YouTube video. I can't get a decent link to copy but do a search on That Train Couple.

Representatives from the Mid Eastern Region were on hand to promote their October 19-22 in Altoona. Of course, being October, it has to conflict with something. In this case, the Division 6 Train Show. If you're ambitious, you might be able to do both.

Thanks to Susan Werner MMR® for accepting the Chair position for the Region's contest.

I want to take a moment to remember a man few of you would have known. Jon Marx was a member of the Nickel Plate Historical and Technical Society. Jon was probably not a modeler, probably didn't live in the Region, and to top it all off, I only knew him to say hello at NKP conventions. The thing is, Jon sat up front at almost every Society meeting that I attended for thirty years, doing numerous administrative things like taking Minutes and discussing procedure. If you know me (in division meetings anyway), then you understand that Jon was a role model for me.

Anybody else going to the National Convention in Texas? I'll be taking AmTrak out of Cleveland. I'm already looking forward to the air conditioning when I get there. All things permitting, I'll be at next year's Long Beach convention as well. I'd go anyway but my sister lives a short drive up the coast.



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\* Bruce Demaeyer will assume responsibilities as Secretary on August 1st as Fred moves to his new National level position.