



The Kingpin



Newsletter of the
Mid Central Region
National Model Railroad Association
November 2017



photo: Dave Williams

A structure on the old mining trail east of Cripple Creek Colorado in 2006. Modern large scale operations looked ready to consume everything in the area but a Google Map© check indicates that the trail is still there. Don't stray from the trail - the visitors' bureau cheerfully informs you that rescue operations are too dangerous. There are remnants of rail tracks throughout the area.

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From the President

We just had another Board of Directors meeting October 22 so that means it's time for another issue of the Kingpin which means I have to write another column. It's not really an onerous chore, there are a number of interesting things happening.

The biggest news is that we have created a new Division: Division 12. This Division, most recently part of Division 5, includes the counties moved to the Mid Central Region from the Niagara Frontier Region. This area had been an inactive Division in the NFR but now there are more members and the desire to stand on their own once again. David Neff, Superintendent of Division 5, has done an outstanding job of working with these members to make sure that this will be a successful move. The Division 5 membership approved the move of the affected counties at their November 3 business meeting. The MCR Board then approved it November 10 by way of an email ballot of the Board members. I have appointed Brad White to be the new Superintendent pending a proper election in the coming year. Please warmly welcome the members of Division 12.

The Mid Central Region now has a Facebook page: NMRA Mid-Central Region. Matt Goodman from Division 6 created the page in late July. If you are on Facebook, please look it up and like it. Matt and I have full administrative privileges. We have also given posting rights to Christina Ganzer Zambri, the NMRA marketing consultant. What will you see on this page? My vision is that it is a place to see much of what is happening in the Region. In recent weeks several Divisions have been promoting their train shows on their respective Facebook pages, these have all been shared to the MCR page. A growing number of Divisions are posting the availability of their latest newsletter via Facebook, these posts are being shared. As conventions approach we can share any posts that are meant to promote them. If your Division posts a bunch of photos showing how much fun you had at a recent event, that gets shared. We also post items about recent events or other MCR news. Finally, items of national interest such as the Partnership Program are also shared or posted. The goal is to make this information easily available to MCR members. Also, since this page is available to anybody on Facebook, we hope that some non-members might see what's happening and join.

In the previous paragraph I mentioned the NMRA Partnership Program. This program was announced August 7 and includes a growing number of online hobby suppliers who offer discounts to NMRA members. These partners are chosen to not be a threat to traditional hobby shops, in nearly every case the products offered are sold directly by the supplier and not through hobby shops. How do you learn more? Go to the Members Only part of www.nmra.org then look under the Benefits menu. Note that if you don't already have access to the site you will need the email address on file with the NMRA (the one by which you received notice of this newsletter) as part of the registration process. Why do we have such a program? Quite simply, it is meant to add a tangible benefit to your membership that has a measurable dollar value. For example, during August I spent about \$100 at Micro-Mark. They offer a 15% discount to us so I saved \$15, or about one third of my annual membership dues. Over the course of a year it is entirely possible to recoup your entire membership cost by shopping from these merchants. You can't afford to ignore this program.

The next Kingpin will contain convention information. Save the dates now: May 17 to 20, and plan to be in Cincinnati for what promises to be a wonderful event.

Bob Weinheimer MMR
MCR President

NMRA National Convention in Orlando



The convention was held at the Rosen Plaza Hotel. There were about thirty of us from the MCR (including family members). Division 1.1 clearly beat everyone on their percentage of membership in attendance.

The hotel's pool offered plenty of room. A lot of us preferred the comfortable air conditioning.



Four different styles of lunch in the hotel, including this deli/convenience store that moved quickly. Many more restaurants were available across the street. No problem getting to the first afternoon clinic.

Where exactly was the hotel? The correct answer was “near the upside down house.” Everyone seems to know where that landmark is.



The National Train Show held in the adjoining convention center.



National Contest Results for the Region

Thanks to Bob Hamm, National Contest Director, for providing this information.

Richard Turton, Division 2, entered his CSX Plate Girder Bridge at Ronson WV. He received 100 merit points and placed third in Scrathbuild Stuctures category.

Mark Norman, Division 8, took 2nd place in Freight Cars- Kits with his UP50028 Heavy-duty Flat Car with Solid Rocket Booster. The entry received 74 merit points.

Steve Zapytowski, Division 1. had the following entries:

- In Scratchbuild Stuctures: Fairclough Sails took 2nd place and received 107 merit points.
This model also won the Dean Freytag Industrial Structures Award for Best Industrial Structure.
- In Passenger Car - Kit: The City of Boring won 1st place and received 90 merit points.

Congratulations to these winners, and thanks to everyone who entered.

National Convention Videos: MCR Connection

NMRA Vice President Gerry Leone MMR decided to ramp up efforts to record clinics at the National Convention in Orlando this year. His request for volunteer camera operators was answered by Division 7 Superintendent Bob Shreve, Kingpin editor Dave Williams and former Pittsburgh resident John Crellin. The team recorded about 15 clinics, including some two camera efforts that Gerry was able to merge in his edit room. Some of the clinics can be found in the members section of the NMRA.org website.

October BOD Meeting

The Regional Board met on October 22, 2017 in Columbus. Prior to the meeting, President Bob Weinheimer MMR called for reports to be emailed for attendee review, with any updates to be given during the meeting. Secretary Jerry Doyle recorded updates in the meeting's Minutes, shown below. Individual reports follow the Minutes. Reports with updates were requested by the Kingpin; those received have replaced original reports.

National Model Railroad Association Mid-Central Region
Board of Directors Meeting
Schmidt's Restaurant - Columbus, Ohio
Minutes
October 22, 2017

Attendance:

Bob Weinheimer, President; Mike Hohn, Vice President; Bob McKay, Treasurer; Jerry Doyle, Secretary; Steve Zapytowski, Division 1; Keith DeVault, Division 2; Rick Lach, Division 3; Steve Kaplan, Division 4; Dave Neff, Division 5; Greg Short, Division 6; Bob Shreve, Division 7; Russ Weis, Division 8; Jerry Doyle (Proxy) for Dan Mulhearn, Division 9; Bob Belt, Division 10; and Howdy Veihdeffer, Division 11.

Also in attendance were Eric Zimmerman; Dave Williams, Newsletter; Ron Ellison; Paul Lapointe, Contest Chair; Lee Sheffield, Asst. Super Division 4; Bruce DeMaeyer Asst. Super Division 10; Dick Briggs, Special Projects; Donald Wilke, Webmaster; Bernadine Zapytowski, Dave Ellis, Bradley White, and Mike Hank.

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Weinheimer at 12:48 p.m.

Minutes of the last BOD meeting:

A motion was made by Bob Shreve to accept the minutes from the September 25, 2016 BOD meeting as published in the last issue of the Kingpin newsletter. The motion was seconded by Rick Lach and carried with no opposition.

Treasurer's Report:

Bob McKay reported a balance of \$29,489.17.

Vice-Presidents Report:

Mike Hohn recently circulated a list of principal contacts for the Region for updates. He noted the lack of phone numbers in the current contacts and that a few division officers didn't have email addresses. The updated list will be available on the MCR website. Mike mentioned his role as advisor in setting up regional conventions. The issue of clinicians of having out of date contact information was mentioned. President Weinheimer informed Mike that updating this list will be his next task. Mike will be contacting division superintendents soon for updated information. He also noted that keeping the list current in an ongoing task. Dick Briggs mentioned that Paul Novak can provide convention chairs current contact information if needed.

The Superintendents breakfast meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m. Sunday. Per a request from Division 1, Mike provided answers to questions and advice regarding the submittal of Division 1's proposal to sponsor the 2019 Mid-Central Region Convention.

Committee Reports:

Contest – Steve has a six-person contest committee. A judging clinic and contest administration clinics will be offered for judges and committee members. Paul Lapointe will be handing over convention materials over to Steve after today's meeting.

BOD Minutes continued on next page

Achievement Program:

There are two new MMRs in the MCR: #600 Sam Swanson and #602 John Hemsath.

Webmaster:

Don Wilke is undertaking a revision of the MCR website. He is now able to link to division newsletters and will be doing the same for division projects in the near future. He is also remaking logos. On the topic of emails Don explained the method that the MCR website uses doesn't create a privacy issue. We will soon have to renew our webhosting. We will be upgrading to a higher level of security using SSL. Don mentioned we may find a better price for this from another party.

King Pin:

The last issue went out ok. Next issue will be going out in two weeks. Reports are needed as soon as possible.

Special Projects:

Dick Briggs provided an update of inventory on school house kits. Currently some information is missing regarding kits transferred to the divisions. Dick asked that each division provide an update as to what they have on hand. He also asked that divisions send payments to him instead of the MCR Treasurer so he can accurately track sales and revenue in the future.

Division Reports:

Division 1 - Nothing new to add to the report already submitted for the meeting.

Division 2 - Membership is up to 275.

Division 3 - Joint meeting with Division 12 November 12. Stephen Priest will be a guest speaker.

Division 4 - Steve mentioned the Great Lakes Science Center will have a three month railroad exhibit with Division 4 providing an exhibit. He hopes to pick up new members.

Division 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 - Nothing new to add to the report already submitted for the meeting.

Division 11 - Three new members, total is up to 37.

Old Business:

2018 Convention – Bob Shreve had updated information for the 2018 Cincinnati convention. There will be 68 layouts open at some point during the convention. Early registrations will have an advantage in signing up for tours and operation session. Convention hotel registration is now available.

2019 Convention - Steve Zapytowski reported on the 2019 convention to be held in Boardman, Ohio. The name will be the AC&Y Bullet, which was a mixed train on the AC&Y. Planning meetings have been ongoing for over a year. They are still seeking someone for help in the marketing area. The first deposit has been made at the Holiday Inn with two more payments to follow. The division reports that it is in a good financial position and is able to handle the finances for the convention. There will be vendor tables, HO and N layouts; a dedicated non-rail clinic room. Fred Soward provided complete documentation from the 2017 Louisville convention which has proved extremely helpful.

Division 12 formation – Several members from the Niagara Region requested to be moved to the MCR. As part of the process the MCR Divisions 5 and 11 agreed to take on these members. Due to logistical issues the MCR subsequently voted to move all the members to Division 5 temporarily with the intention to ultimately create a new Division. Several organizational meetings have been held with good attendance. Division 5 has voted to provide a grant to provide funds to start the new division. Bob Weinheimer advised that a verbal vote by the BOD was all that was required to approve the new division's formation. He suggested a formal written petition be ready for the May meeting. The issue of other counties

BOD Minutes continued from previous page

joining the new division was brought up. The bylaws are silent as to the formation of a new division. Bob said that once a formal vote has been taken by Division 5 membership for officers he would feel more comfortable appointing officers for the new division (12). Once this vote has been taken the MCR BOD will vote via email. After this is done Bob will appoint a superintendent for the new division.

2020 Convention – Keith DeVault, Super Div2, submitted a proposal for hosting the 2020 convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania April 23-26 or May 7-10, 2020. The proposed location is the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel. The proposal included 8 potential rail and 11 potential non-rail tours. The provisional name is Trains, Family, and Fun 2020 in Pittsburgh.

Mike Hohn moved, many seconds. Vote was unanimous.

Nomination Process – Bob provided some thoughts regarding the nomination process. Currently there is a contradiction between the normal nomination process and the petition process. Bob appointed Steven Kaplan, Russ Weis, and Rick Lach will have proposed new language ready for the May meeting.

MCR Facebook Page – Matt Goodman and Bob Weinheimer have set up the MCR page “NMRA Mid-Central Region.” The NMRA national marketing director has rights to post as well. Content thus far has included train show notices, division newsletters, and various pictures. This page allows non-members to also access information, making it a good marketing tool. It provides a good one-stop source for newsletters and information.

Superintendent’s Breakfast – This has been a traditional part of the MCR convention on Sunday morning. The cost of last year’s breakfast had a record high cost. Bob suggested we consider making the breakfast like the Fall board meeting where attendees pay their own way with a cap of \$20. It was moved and seconded. Passed with one nay by Steve Kaplan.

T-Track modular layout – Bruce DeMaeyer gave a brief overview of the T-Track movement. The focus is on a younger demographic for people with limited space using small N Scale modules. Bruce is exploring information for the 2018 National convention where several hundred modules will be exhibited. Bob Weinheimer asked if there might be a similar appeal from the Free-Mo concept. Bruce noted that the MCR might want to allocate space at the 2019 convention for such a display. A concern was voiced over the potential welcoming of a new N Scale group. Mike Hohn mentioned the appeal of the smaller modules designed to use existing table tops. Bruce expressed a hope that this would attract newer, younger members.

MCR Division Websites - Mike Hohn talked about his recent experience in visiting each division’s websites and contrasted it with the same experience a few years ago. He complimented the division webmasters on how accessible their information was available via the web.

For the Good of the Order:

Dick Briggs is seeking information on a MCR Division 6 showmanship award car from 1982. It’s in his collection and he doesn’t know anything about it.

Keith DeVault asked about liability insurance. He said NMRA National was charging the division \$50 each time he requested an insurance certificate.

Rick Lach asked about division elections. Most divisions have elections every two years on even years. About half the superintendents will not be running again due to term limits.

Mike Hauk thanked David Neff for his work in bringing members and forming Division 12.

Respectfully submitted:

Jerry Doyle, MCR Region Secretary

Vice President's Report

I was responsible for putting out a call for the Superintendents' Breakfast on Sunday Morning at the Louisville convention earlier this year. Fourteen people indicated that they were going to attend; in the end the number might have been a little higher. For those planning future regional conventions, this seems to be a typical number for this breakfast.

Division 2 will be presenting a proposal to host the MCR annual convention in 2020 in Pittsburgh, PA.

I was asked to assemble a list of all division officers with email addresses for posting on the MCR website, replacing one much out of date. I gathered most of this information from the respective division websites. Although not explicitly part of my task, I did have a chance to look at all eleven division websites and can say that the information was easily found in almost every case. Two divisions do not include email addresses with their list of officers; I obtained addresses from other sources, including newsletters posted on the respective websites or from my own address book. The list I assembled is appended to this report.

Michael E. Hohn, MMR

Mid Central Region Vice President and Conventions Chair

Achievement Program Report

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER

Sam Swanson Division 7 MMR# 600

John Hemsath Division 4 MMR# 602

AP Certificates	Division	Category
Steve Zapytowski	1	Author
Steve Zapytowski	1	Electrical
Steve Zapytowski	1	Volunteer
John Hemsath	4	Structures
Matt Goodman	6	Volunteer
James Kehn	6	Structures
Darell Logan	6	Scenery
Greg Short	6	Scenery
Pat Homan	7	Civil
Pat Homan	7	Scenery
Dave Puthoff	7	Scenery
Rick Stern	7	Scenery
Sam Swanson	7	Civil
Robert Dawson	8	Dispatcher
Tom Guenthner	8	Dispatcher
Tom Guenthner	8	Electrical
Tom Guenthner	8	Scenery
Tom Guenthner	8	Volunteer
Robert Kuchler	8	Volunteer
Richard Maloney	8	Volunteer
Mark Norman	8	Author
Fred Soward	8	Dispatcher
Howard Veihdeffer	11	Volunteer

Merit Awards	Division	Category and Judged Item
Steve Zapytowski	1	Structures- Fairclough Sales
Steve Zapytowski	1	Structures- Idiotville Water Tank
Richard Turton	2	Structures- Western Maryland Engine House
Sam Swanson	3	Structures - Reed's Cove Pier
Chuck Klein	4	Motive Power - NKP #617 Mikado
Darrell Logan	6	Scenery - Cheyenne Denver & Laramie RR
Greg Short	6	Scenery - Zanesville Model RR Club
Pat Homan	7	Civil - Model Railroad Track
Sam Swanson	7	Civil- Model Railroad Track
Peter Weiglin	7	Motive Power - C&LE Lightweight Interurban
Rick Stern	7	Scenery- CMRYC Layout
Pat Homan	7	Scenery - HO Layout
David Puthoff	7	Scenery - Home Layout
Mark Norman	8	Cars- HD Flat with Rocket Motor Cover
Chris Brouahton	8	Motive Power- NYC Dreyfuss Hudson
Chris Brouqhton	8	Motive Power - PRR Alco Critter
Chris Broughton	8	Motive Power - RJ Corman SD40-2 Snoot
Chris Broughton	8	Motive Power - SD40-3
Tom Guenthner	8	Scenery - L&N Layout
Larry Smith	10	Structures - Peach Creek Yard Office

Golden Spike Awards	Division
Arley Mitchell	2
Sam Delauter	9
Chales Ravert	11

Submitted by Frank Koch
MCR AP Manager
October 2017

Webmaster Report

Facebook Link: Matt Goodman (Division 6) was asked to create a FaceBook Page for the Mid Central Region and he made a FaceBook Page. Bob and Matt decided it would be a good idea to link to the FaceBook Page from the MCR web site. There is now a link at the bottom of the menu on each of the pages of the main MCR site. The link is below and not directly a part of the menu. Clicking on the link will take you directly to the Facebook Page. Please share this information with the members of your division. Division Newsletters Link: In the past I tried to copy each division newsletter to the MCR site and that did not work out well. The Newsletter Page in the MCR Archive has been simplified and now the individual division newsletter icon links directly to that division's Newsletter Page. Revised MCR Logo: When the region was applying for its charitable status the region found that the IRS does not allow symbols in the name of organizations. The region therefore changed the official name of the region, dropping the hyphen in the official name. The MCR logo was also changed, also dropping the hype. The revised MCR logo is available in four sizes under "Graphics" at the bottom of the MCR Officer's Archive menu. Also available are four different NMRA logos in various sizes. And two railroad logos from the 2016 MCR convention.

Division Logos: As time permits I plan on adding the division logos to the same page. Note: The MCR logos and the division logos are the property of the MCR and the individual divisions and I'm asking permission to copy and post them. They are on this page to archive them and allow other divisions to use them in promotional materials.

Mail Forward Update: I hope all of the new officers, supers, and managers have been updated correctly. I will bring a list to the meeting so you can check. Addition information below. WEB Host Renewal: The MCR WEB Site is hosted by GoDaddy and it is up for renewal in September of next year. They have been asking for money at this time. GoDaddy would like \$616 for a 5 year web registration and hosting, plus another \$70 a year for a SSL certificate—which we do not have at the present time. I will check other web hosting sites and report back at the next BOD meeting.

FYI: Last week it was reported that the best security protocol for Wi-Fi had been breached allowing "other people" to gather your personal information (think bank records or family information.) There are two ways to combat this problem; One-update software, which most computer companies have done. (You do keep your software up to date-right?) Two-use a secure web site (one that begins with https:) The SSL certificate would make the MCR web site secure by encrypting the data sent to and from the web site and provide us with a site that began with https:.

Corrections, additions, or comments: I will be at the BOD Meeting to answer questions. Or please contact me at: webmaster@midcentral-region-nmra.org Please include "MCR" in the subject line so the email doesn't end up someplace weird. I will try to respond within 48 hours.

The Three MCR WEB Sites: The MCR WEB Site contains information about the region that has an ongoing interest to the MCR Members. (www.midcentral-region-nmra.org/mcr_home2.html) The MCR Archive WEB Site is set up to act as a place to keep information MCR Members might be interested in for for a longer time. (<http://archive.midcentral-region-nmra.org/MainPage.html>) The MCR Officer's Archive WEB Site is set up for the Directors and the Officers (Superintendents) If the MCR. It requires a LogIn, that will be changed after the Spring BOD and the new LogIn will be sent about ten days after the BOD Meeting. The MCR Officer's Archive WEB Site contains documents relating to the BOD Meeting, BOD Correspondence, and The Clinician Database. Information on setting up Conventions [not yet provided to the WEB Site]; and Division, Region,

and National logos. (<http://officer-archive.midcentral-region-nmra.org/logIn.html>) E-mail Address Forwarders: Each Division Superintendent and MCR Officer have their own MCR supplied E-mail address; sample: Division2super@midcentral-region-nmra.org. This address is listed on the BOD and Committees Pages of the MCR WEB Site, and in the Kingpin. Any E-mail send to these E-mail addresses goes to the MCR WEB Site sever, and is then forwarded to your E-mail of record.

Group MCR Officers E-mail Address Forwarders: The following group e-mail forwarders are active:

officer@midcentral-region-nmra.org

forwards to: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary of the MCR.

super@midcentral-region-nmra.org

forwards to all eleven division superintendents.

managers@midcentral-region-nmra.org

forwards to: achievement, agent, asst. webmaster, contest, conventions, editor, education, membership, nominations, webmaster, 2018convention.

Donald Wilke

MCR WEB Master

webmaster@midcentral-region-nmra.org

Note: We have outgoing Contest Chair Paul LaPointe's report for the Louisville Regional convention on this page and incoming Chair Steve Zapatowski's report on the next page.

Contest Chairman Report

2017 Pan-American Contest Results:

Entries:

- 34 Model Entries
- 46 Photo Entries
- 3 Arts and Crafts Entries
- 83 Total Entries

Awards:

- 14 1st Prize Plaques
- 10 2nd Prize Ribbons
- 9 3rd Prize Ribbons
- 3 Best of Show Plaques
- 7 Popular "Favorite" Plaques (46 Ballots submitted)
- 14 Merit Level Ribbons
- 5 Honorable Mention Ribbons

Judging:

- 12 Model Judges
- 1 Photo Judge
- 2 Arts and Crafts Judges

Photo Judge was Mike Brestel

Judging Clinic was given by Steve Zapytowski

Model Photos by Dave Williams

Based on the numbers from the last three Regional Contests, there remain enough prize ribbons on hand for another 4 to 5 conventions. The contest spreadsheet was fine-tuned to increase reporting and reduce manual steps.

2018 Cincinnati Express Convention:

Worked with Division 7 Contest Chairman Brad Jonas about award design and early questions.

Current:

Transferring contest materials to incoming MCR Contest Chairman, Steve Zapytowski.

Paul Lapointe

MCR Region Contest Chairman

Incoming MCR Contest Chair Report

1. Contest materials, laptop, spreadsheet, ribbons, etc. to be transferred from Paul Lapointe to Steve Zapytowski at the October 22 BOD meeting in Columbus.
2. The contest will now be handled by a committee rather than a single person during the convention to allow those involved in running the contest opportunities to enjoy other aspects of the convention.
3. Current committee members are Steve Zapytowski, Division 1, Chair, Dave Williams, Division 4, and Bruce Hukill, Division 1. One or two additional members are being recruited from the current division contest chairs.
4. Steve Zapytowski will continue judge training at the convention and also hold a training session for the Contest Committee Members on contest administration.
5. 2018 Cincinnati Express Convention: Worked with Division 7 contest chairman Brad Jonas on language for published information on the 2018 contest.

Steve Zapytowski
Incoming MCR Contest Chair

Education Manager Report

Executive Summary

1. Each of the NMRA MCR Divisions has received an announcement and the primer PowerPoint for the EduTRAIN® Program.
2. Bob Blake [rm7blake@earthlink.net] reports that the EduTRAIN program is growing throughout NMRA.
3. The EduTRAIN® program offers a national curriculum which has reviewed and approved several programs.
4. Bob Weinheimer, our NMRA MCR President, has an approved EduTrain Clinic entitled Getting Started in Operations and presented it for MCR Division 10 in October 2017.
5. The curriculum committee for EduTrain is comprised of experienced modelers and MMRs from several regions and most with education or training backgrounds.
6. Introduction to EduTrain may be accessed at the following website:
www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/education/edutrain/articles/introducing_nmra_edutrainm.pdf
7. Information on how to create a clinic available on the following website:
Creating a clinic http://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/education/edutrain/articles/creating_an_edutrain_clinic.pdf
8. There are 16 NMRA EDUTRAIN CLINICS available and listed on the NMRA EduTrain site which is available at the following link <http://www.nmra.org/edutrain/edutrain-approved-clinics?page=1>

Tom Miller
Education Manager

The AC&Y Bullet - MCR 2019 Convention Update

Presented at the Fall 2017 BOD Meeting

1. The Convention name is the AC&Y Bullet which was a named AC&Y mixed train that was definitely not faster than a speeding bullet.
2. Jim DiPaola (Co-Chair), Steve Zapytowski (Co-Chair), and Mike Bradly (Treasurer) have met regularly for more than a year on the convention.
3. Our first meeting of the full convention staff is Saturday, October 28 at Jim DiPaola's house.
4. We have a signed contract with the Holiday Inn, Boardman and gave them a deposit last March. A second payment is due in early May of 2018 with a third installment payable in December of the same year.
5. Each conference registration comes with a 10% discount coupon on the hotel's restaurant for the run of the convention. (Does not include adult beverages)
6. In the ballroom we plan vendor tables and our division's HO and N scale modules in the hotel ballroom up until noon of the convention Saturday. We have commitments from 3 vendors. There is room for 30 eight vendor foot tables beyond the space taken by our modules.
7. We have a dedicated non-rail clinic room.
8. Thanks to Fred Soward we have the complete documentation from the Pan American in Louisville. This resource is invaluable to us.
9. We are still looking to fill the marketing position on our convention committee.

Respectfully submitted

Steve Zapytowski

AC&Y Bullet Co-Chair

Division 1 Report

Division 1 currently has 97 members. On a somber note we had two members pass away since the last MCR BOD meeting; Don Deakins and William Bigler. William Bigler's widow, Cathy Bigler, presented a check to Division 1 in memory of her husband and his love of trains. We are currently working hard to host the 2019 MCR Convention. The committee has secured a nice hotel and working to line up tours and clinics. If anyone would like to give a clinic please contact Superintendent Jim DiPaola or Assistant Superintendent Steve Zapytowski. Division 1 currently has two projects for sale. Project 1 is a HO scale and N scale laser cut freight and passenger station kit. Project 2 is a N scale AC&Y boxcar kit. Our module group was invited to display at the Summit County Fair this past summer. This was a nice venue to setup at and the modular layout was a big hit. We look forward to setting up again in 2018. Division 1's annual flea market will be held on November 5, 2017, from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Akron Yacht Club, 3575 South Main Street, Akron, OH.

Jim DiPaola, Superintendent

Division 2 Report

Our membership currently stands at 271, up six from May 2017 and up 29 member since September 2016, which our records show is the highest membership total in our Division. We are ready for our recruiting table at the Greenberg Show for National Model Railroad Month next month. This has shown a tremendous improvement in our recruiting efforts.

As mentioned, our recruitment efforts through our presence at the Greenberg Train Show several times per year and the exhibit of our Free-Mo modules at which we invite guests to run trains, has shown great success in securing new members. Our Annual Model Railroad Jamboree held in the spring is open to regular NMRA and non NMRA members, providing us another opportunity for recruiting members. We usually have over 100 members and guests at the Jamboree, which is held in April of each year. We feature well known guest speakers at the dinner banquet.

Division meetings are held 10 months of the year at different sites in the Division. Each August, the division hosts a family picnic at a park near the mainline of Norfolk Southern. We wish the trains would wait before passing while we hold our business meeting.

Our newsletter, The Keystone Flyer, published 10 times a year to coincide with each meeting, is mailed to each member as well as numerous "expatriates" around the country. The Flyer can be accessed on our website: www.keystonedivision.org. We continue to mail the newsletter, but with people having computer access, the web version is now in color and our website chairman, has it posted before the mailing goes out by USPS.

Keith DeVault, Superintendent

Division 3 Report

Period Covered: May 2017 – October 2017

Division Three membership continues to be steady with monthly averages at 172. Monthly meeting attendance also remains steady averaging 45-50 members. The Division remains in good financial shape with the balance of our assets in certificates of deposit. All our legal documents are in good shape both with the state of Ohio and the IRS. We continue to have hired both a local lawyer and a tax agency, have obtained the appropriate vendor's license, and now pay our state taxes for our company store sales. We continue to be a 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Organization.

Our monthly newsletter, the Call Board, continues to be published by our Editor, James Hedge.

Our webmaster, Dana Yarnall, has both division websites (one for the actual division and the other for the Dayton Train Show) current and up to date, and both show significant activity. Our Facebook account, managed by Gail Richardson, is busy mostly with train show activity.

Since the last MCR BOD meeting in May 2017, we have participated in the 2017 Dayton Carillon Park Railfest, the Van Wert Train Show, and our own 11th Annual Division Bus Trip in which we visited 4 fantastic layouts in the Cincinnati area and the new Cincinnati Street Car Maintenance Facility and a ride on the entire street car route. The division continues to rent a storage unit to house our Loop Layout, test track, tug o war and hill climb tracks, company store inventory, VHS tape library, and train show supplies in an effort to consolidate our assets and ease the storage burden in our homes.

At the BOD meeting a year and a half ago, we reported that we had lost the Hara Arena for our Dayton Train Show, and subsequently we signed a contract for a vacant mall store front in Springfield, OH. This represented a loss in square feet from 89,000 to under 70,000. That vacant store front has become unavailable, and in July we signed a contract for another vacant store in the same mall. I am ecstatic to report that last year's train show was extremely successful; that we conducted all events as scheduled; we had an overall respectable attendance of 4300 attendees; and that we made a profit. We were able to pull off this show due to the valiant efforts of Gail Richardson, Dana Yarnall, Rick Lach, Peter Guise, and Ron Sturgis. At this time, we have been furiously planning for our show in November, for which we think all items are on track. We plan to be busy for the next five months: Our 42nd Annual Dayton Train Show is 4-5 November; we will participate in a Springfield Ohio Christmas event on November 26 with 6 small running trains layouts, we will also participate in the University of Dayton's Christmas on Campus Program in which we will run trains for 3000 underprivileged children from the Dayton area. Our Model Railroad Training Day is March 18, 2018 and this year we will add building an N scale module sponsored by Dayton N-Trak, and we will continue with our Diorama Contest, Hill Climb, and Engine Pull contests. On Nov 12, we will host a joint meeting with Cincinnati Division 7 and invite MRC Editor Stephen Priest to be our featured speaker; he will speak on his involvement in designing various products for model railroad manufacturers.

During the past 6 months, Div 3 has had the following members pass away: Ralph Gordon, Dick Sine, and Gene Smith (owner of Smitty's Hobby Shop); we have also had at least 5 major surgeries of members ranging from hernia, knee replacements, heart by-pass, and gall bladder surgeries. Our elections for Supt, Ass't Supt, and Chief Clerk will take place in April 2018, and we have just established a nominating committee to come up with a slate of potential volunteers for our elected positions. We continue to thank our volunteers and committee members who keep our programs going, and we eagerly anticipate another successful train show, holiday season, and program year with great activities.

Rick Lach, Superintendent

Division 4 Report

Membership

Division 4 membership is currently at 188.

Finances

The Division's finances are stable, with about \$50,000 in liquid assets. The total will continue to decrease since we are committed to spending down the windfall profits from the 2014 National Convention on our current membership. In addition to its ongoing donation program to railroad related non-profits, the Division purchased an AED Unit for the Church where monthly meetings are held.

Community participation

The Division is participating with Midwest Railway Preservation Society to staff a 3 ½ month railroad display at the Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC). We will be furnishing and staffing a 25 or so foot modular dogbone layout. During periods when at least one of our members are not available, the GLSC staff will actually run the layout, using motive power which is being donated by Scale Trains. Other members will be participating in small how-to-model table presentations or clinics. In addition to displays of model railroad equipment (most furnished by the Division), there will be displays of actual prototype equipment and memorabilia. We are expecting to see an increase in membership from this exposure.

At the same time, the module group will again be having our annual month long modular setup in Lorain for its Black River "Trees and Trains" holiday festivities in December.

Our module group continues to set up at about 10 to 12 shows and libraries throughout the year, and will be displaying at the 2018 NMRA show in Kansas City (along with the Hub Group from Boston). One significant aspect of our module group's operations, is that members are out in front of the modules instead of lurking behind, and are quick to hand the controllers to interested youths to allow them to run the trains. Several of our new members have come to us through these displays – including some recent father/son combos.

Other Division Four matters and accomplishments

Attendance at Division meetings is averaging 85 to 100. Our clinic programs are carefully thought out to inspire members to participate, and we see that 80 to 85% of the meeting attendees are in fact staying until the end of the ensuing clinics. Contest entries have continued to increase, and the competition is tough. The monthly contests now each have two sections – individual model and diorama. Members now vote on each section. To further interest in the Achievement Program, if a member brings a structure, item of rolling stock, or even the paperwork to a meeting, they can have it judged there and comments on the why's of the result are reported as a regular part of the meeting.

Steve Kaplan, Superintendent

Division 5 Report

Since the May 2017 report, the annual audits of the Division finances and Railfest event have been completed successfully with no irregularities reported. Our financial condition is excellent.

The Division participated in the annual Rails in the Park event at Lake Farmpark in June.

Unfortunately, a Division trip to Entertrainment Junction scheduled for July had to be canceled for lack of reservations to cover the bus cost. The annual Division picnic was held in early August at the Painesville Depot, accompanied by much railfanning on the CSX mainline.

An outdoor movie night (plus popcorn!) was held at a member's home in September---despite a seasonally poor weather that evening.

The Division held its October meeting in Erie PA at the Lake Shore Modelers Club, with specific invitations to all NMRA members in a seven county area in western NY and PA---currently assigned to Division 5---to discuss and move forward with the objective of gaining support for a new, separate Division 12 encompassing those counties. This topic will be further discussed at the MCR Board meeting Oct. 22, 2017.

Before the next report in May 2018, the Division will be participating in the month-long Country Lights Holiday event at Lake Farmpark with both HO and N Scale modular layouts, our annual Christmas party, and planning for the annual Railfest meet held at Lakeland Community College in mid-March.

Dave Neff, Superintendent

Division 6 Report

Membership: The membership in the Division has dropped some our last report. This is due mainly to the loss of family members and railpass members from the 2016 convention. This was expected and outside of this our numbers have been steady.

Finances: The Division is very healthy financially. We have still have a cash flow from past projects.

Projects: The Division still has a number of items in stock. If any division wishes to add any of the items to their company store Division 6 will sell them to that division at a deeply discounted price, this is to insure that a profit can be made by the purchasing division without having an outrageous price.

Boy Scout Merit Badge: The Division is in the final planning for a second merit badge program for this year. It is being held in November and is for the Eastern Ohio Council. We are also working to get ready for the 2018 programs. As stated before Division 6 has 2 different Boy Scout Councils in the area and we plan on working with both annually on these programs.

Train show: This is still being planned. It is taking longer that first planned but will happen in the future.

Meetings: We are in the process of planning the 2018 schedule of meetings. We are going to look at a different venues to hold our meetings. Some meetings will be the same like the annual June meet in Marion. As always any member from any Division is welcome to visit, and even enter the contest as we had 2 members of Division 9 win awards for photos entered in the contest at our joint meeting in September.

Greg Short, Superintendent

Division 7 Report

Our membership count at end of September was ~260. Our monthly meetings draw about 60 to 80 people, depending on the meeting location and speaker.

Our latest car project is an Accurail 36' double sheathed wooden boxcar. The cars are available in four versions. Two are lettered for Virginian & Ohio revenue service, one for Virginian & Ohio MOW service, and one for the Miami Valley Railroad, a V & O predecessor railroad. The cars are in stock and available from Division 7. Publicity will begin appearing in various model Railroad publications in the next several months.

Our previous project was Virginian & Ohio 40' steel, plug-door boxcars, in the traditional V&O blue, with damage-free loading symbols (DF-2). Our 2015 project was C & O 40' single sheath ood door boxcars. Both car sets are available in four numbers. Both projects have had sufficient sales to cover production costs, and still have car kits available.

We had another successful Model Train show the weekend of October 14th and 15th. This was he 50th consecutive year the division has had a show in the October / November timeframe. In February we will once again work with the local Boy Scouts on their Model Railroad merit badges. This involves two or three instructional sessions including an operating session at a local model railroad club.

Planning is progressing for the 2018 MCR regional convention. We currently have over 60 registrants. Priority for Op sessions and tours will be based on registration numbers, so the earlier you register, the better chance you have of being able to participate in the extra fare events you want. There will be lots of activities for both modelers and spouses.

Bob Shreve, Superintendent

Division 8 Report

The Division 8 membership has remained pretty constant.

Our Division is still in good financial shape as we had a successful convention.

With regards to the 2017 convention: We had a combined registration of 179.

Having the convention at a downtown hotel proved to be popular as there were many attractions for all to see, however, we think that was also why we didn't get as many members to sign up for our four tours. We did lose money on our tours as when it became apparent to us that we were not going to fill our large buses, the smaller ones were already committed. A couple of years ago, Division 8 purchased a complete AV set, which we use for some of our monthly programs. It was decided to buy two more complete AV sets to use in the clinic rooms, which proved to be a big savings over what the hotel wanted for their equipment. For additional savings, after the convention we sold the two AV sets.

The raffle/white elephant/company store yielded good income, however, the room charge to accommodate those functions out-weighed the income. The bottom line is Division 8 ended up with a net profit of \$3,421.

Russell H. Weis, Superintendent

Division 9 Report

Division 9 is in good shape financially and our money is spent frugally. We intend in the future to host another Regional Convention and the funds will be used as seed money for that event. For a large Division, geographically, we enjoy a core attendance of 15 to 20 members at most events. We have two NMRA members from Virginia, the Mid East Region who continue very active. Our headquarters continues to be the former C&O depot at St. Albans, WV. We do have our "Steel is King" event at Parkersburg. Our September meeting is our annual barbecue and operating session at Portsmouth, OH which we share with Division 2. In November we travel to the east end of our territory to attend the Pocahontas Chapter, NRHS annual train show in Bluefield, WV.

I have tried very hard to keep the business meeting portion of our events as short and sweet as possible. The MADD (Models, Artifacts, Displays and Discussions) program continues to be popular. We have had a plethora of displays from old timetables to paints, tools, electronics and mini clinics through this program. We have also enjoyed many excellent clinics on topics from prototype to scratch building and everything in between. Our monthly contest changes themes each month and some excellent models and photos are entered. We have recently established a monthly Company Store where members can offer for sale more expensive items they wish to dispose of. Our raffle continues, with less expensive items donated by the members. Another recent innovation is each member is receiving a cardboard building and a one foot square of insulation board as a challenge to see how creative they can.

We are blessed with an active and very inventive Assistant Superintendent in Bob Osborn, who is doing a great job. Also our committee chairs and newsletter editor are competent and reliable. All we are looking forward to going in to 2018 with a full head of steam.

Dan Mulhearn, Superintendent

Division 10 Report

Membership: Remains relatively constant with current at 62 and monthly meetings averaging between 25 and 30. Between losses and gains, we have remained about the same. We did have a spike after the 2015 Convention but have stabilized since in the low 60's.

Finances: Basically sound with income and outflow balanced. We have recently had several donations of equipment with sales donated to the treasury.

Programs: The regular meetings are held on the 1st Sunday of each month except July and the meetings are rotating between Lexington Public Library Branches.

In June the Division sponsored a 'Trains Day at the Library' for the first time with three layouts operating on Saturday and four on Sunday. Attendance was not overwhelming but was better than expected. The horn on the HO Layout recorded 1,500 beeps (by kids). We only recorded 4 or 5 happy-hands derailments, none serious. A new "starter HO layout" was built by members for demonstration following the Model Railroader Video Plus series. We had the full complement (six modules) of the Division's N scale T-Trak running with two trains. A member brought his Z scale oval and ran a full train. Another member manned the information table and explained and demonstrated prototype track plate, rail, spike, and air hoses at least 50 times. The resource table was a very busy with a range of scale engines and buildings from Z to O gauge to demonstrate scale sizes. The free magazine table was practically all gone by the end of the second day. Another member brought three exquisite N-scale dioramas for display. We had two objectives, the first was teaching the kids about model trains and how they operate, and the second was getting parents and grandparents to join the NMRA. We were very successful at achieving the first objective, but the second still needs more work. The best we expected was maybe two or three new members based on Rail Pass interest at the Division 10 table but none have followed through. We are planning a 2nd Trains Day next spring with greater local publicity and a broader Kentucky area T-Trak representation – which appears to be an opportunity market.

Bob Belt, Superintendent

Division 11 Report

Membership: We just added 3 new members, brings us up to 37.

Finances: We are holding steady, which is better than losing money.

Projects: Division car sales are a little slow, have sold about 50 %

Newsletter: We now have a new Newsletter Editor, Jim Heary. Our OLD editor is working with Jim to work his way into it.

Web Page: As always our web page is one we are proud of.

Modules: New modules are in the works to enlarge the layout

Train Shows: Since our last report, we have done a show at the Ridgway Strawberry Fest. And have 20 more planned this year. We are returning again to the Indiana Mall Oct, 21st and the Brookville Victorian hristmas on Dec 1st 2nd and 3rd.

Achievement Program: 20 Achievement Awards were given out, Chuck Ravert golden spike and Howdy Veihdeffer Association Volunteer.

By-monthly Op sessions: Our Op sessions are still a hit.

Bring and Brag: Just keeps getting better.

Build and take: This has been going over so well at our shows that it seems to take longer and longer to get the materials together and build up the scenery blanks and ready the car kits for assembly.

Howdy Veihdeffer, Superintendent

Division 12

Watch this space!

Kingpin Staff

Bob Weinheimer, President

Dave Williams, Editor

Patrick Miller, Assistant Editor

Rick Tipton, Advisor on Call

The Kingpin is the newsletter for the Mid Central Region of the National Model Railroad Association. The Region is comprised of twelve Divisions. Your NMRA membership means that you are also a member of both a Region and a Division as well as the national organization. Your Division has regular meetings - probably about once a month, and the Region hosts an annual convention in varying locations within its geographical boundaries. If you are new to the NMRA - welcome! - and please contact me for assistance if you aren't already in contact with someone from your Division. Dave Williams dave_wms@sbcglobal.net.

The Kingpin regrets that it cannot accept any third party material for publication. We don't have the staff to determine what constitutes legal use of copied photos, documents or excerpts originating from outside of the NMRA. Thank you for your understanding.

Area Articles Wanted

There are places in the Region - or perhaps close to it - that are always too far away to ever be considered for a Regional or National convention tour destination but are worth seeing. We're looking for readers to help identify such locations for Kingpin articles. If you can provide even a brief description, it's a good start for us. An article, even in very rough form containing all the important information is even better, and original pictures would be appreciated. Please provide some kind of directions to reach the location (GPS coordinates are a good option).

Schoolhouse Kit Status

Special Projects Chair Dick Briggs MMR provided some of the Region's schoolhouse kits "on spec" to a few of you. If you were one of those people, could you let Dick know the status of the kit(s) and double-check that any sale proceeds didn't accidentally go into the wrong account. Contact Dick at (614) 277-0314 or projects@midcentral-region-nmra.org.

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Upcoming Events

Once again we point you in the direction of Division 11's listing:

www.div11-mcr-nmra.info/events.htm

Thanks to Division 11 Webmaster Bob Netzlof.

Of note: The annual Route 30 Express layout tour takes place this Saturday, November 18. Their website is gone but details can be found on their Facebook page (search: Route 30 Express).



Cincinnati Express 2018 MCR Convention

Cincinnati Division 7 is pleased to be hosting the 2018 NMRA Mid-Central Region Annual Convention.

The action packed Cincinnati Express convention will be held on May 17 through 20, 2018 at the Cincinnati Marriott North hotel in West Chester, OH.

Registrations and Hotel Reservations are now open!

<http://www.cincy-div7.org/convention.html>



CINCINNATI EXPRESS

Mid-Central Region Convention
West Chester, Ohio, May 17-20, 2018

Hosted by Cincinnati Division 7, MCR, NMRA

Mail to: CX Registrar

Questions to: 6526 Hollowview Ct.
 rhord@fuse.net Liberty Township, OH 45011

EARLY REGISTRATION FORM (Sets Priority for Tours, Banquet, Ops Sessions)

Name _____
 NMRA # _____ Region _____ Division _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email Address _____ Phone _____

REGISTRATIONS

Item	Quantity	Price	Amount
Full Regular Registration*		\$75	\$
Family Member (Spouse or Teenager)		\$25	\$
Family Member (Child 12 or Under)		Free	\$
NMRA Full Membership with NMRA Magazine**		\$75	\$
NMRA Full Membership without Magazine**		\$47	\$
Total Amount Enclosed			\$

* Primary Registrant must be an NMRA member at the time of the convention

** See NMRA.org website for other classes of membership

Names for Badges:

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PAYMENT INFORMATION

Make Checks Payable to "Cincinnati Division 7, MCR, NMRA." Check # _____

Credit Card: Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date: (MM/YY) ____ / ____ CVV: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Make your **hotel** reservation directly with the **Cincinnati Marriott North** at 6189 Mulhauser Rd, West Chester, OH 45069, (513) 874-7335. Use Code "**National Model Railroad Association**". Special pre-tax room pricing is \$109 for a King Bed and \$119 for Two Double Beds.

OFFICE USE ONLY: Date Processed: _____ Reg. Number(s) _____