



# The Kingpin

Newsletter of the  
Mid Central Region NMRA  
November 2013



**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**  
Merlyn Jarman  
MCR President

*From the President's Desk.....*

Fall is in full swing and that means lots of model railroading activities to celebrate **November as Model Railroading Month!**

During our recent Fall MCR Board of Directors meeting, your Division Supers shared information on what your local Division is doing to support promoting our hobby to the general public and to the model railroading community. I hope you will consider volunteering to participate in your Division's local activities whether it's a train show, swap meet, or modular meet.

**You'll notice a new look to "The Kingpin"** in this issue. Our MCR Vice President, Bob Weinheimer, has taken over the throttle as Editor and you'll see a different layout and features as we seek to upgrade this venerable publication. Let Bob know how you like it and any additional information which you think merits a column or mention in our newsletter.

In order to provide this publication to as many MCR Members as possible, the electronic version will be electronically sent to the entire membership and is now "opt out". However, I hope you will continue to choose to receive it as your way to keep up with news and events in your Mid-Central Region.

**A big tip of the hat** to our longtime Editor, Don Wilke, who faithfully edited and published The Kingpin for many years. We appreciate your hard work, Don, and look forward to your continued service as our Webmaster.

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**Did you know** that many of the Divisions in the Mid-Central Region have **special car projects**? You may be looking for a special holiday gift suggestion for your favorite model railroader (that would be you!). Special run cars include: Virginian and Ohio outside braced boxcars and some remaining V & O reefer cars offered by Dayton-Division 3, a Fairport, Painesville & Eastern boxcar and Western Reserve Railroad reefer (N-scale) offered by Western Reserve Division 5, Merchants Dispatch reefers and Allegheny Midland steel gondolas offered by Cincinnati Division 7, and a single dome Louisville and Nashville tank car offered by Louisville Division 8.

You'll also find various structure kits being sold by some of the Divisions. Connect to the various Division websites through the MCR website and "take a tour" around the Region to look at all these special run projects!

**Now is the time** for you to make your plans for the **N.M.R.A. 2014 National Convention in Cleveland, OH.** ! The hardworking and dedicated ladies and gentlemen of Divisions 1, 4, and 5 are putting together a premier event for you to enjoy next **July 13-20, 2014.** A full cadre of clinics, layout and prototype tours, local activities and destinations, contests, and model railroad operations await you. Check it out and register to attend at [www.2014cleveland.org](http://www.2014cleveland.org)

As a result of our good fortune to have a national convention being hosted in our Region next year, we will forgo a Regional convention and instead host a **2014 Membership meeting** available for all Mid Central Region Members to attend. Plans right now are to meet with our gracious friends of Columbus Division 6 at the Marion Union Station in Marion, OH. on Saturday, June 14, 2014. There will be clinics, short business meetings for Divisions 6 and 9, as well as a short MCR Board of Directors meeting. As well, plenty of prototype train action is right there at the depot. There are food venues close by for your dining needs. More details to be announced soon. It should be a fun day-hope you will plan on attending!

**In National news,** it was announced by NMRA President, Charlie Getz that the "Magic of Scale Model Railroading" Gallery Exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum is now under construction. Many of our own MCR Divisions have generously contributed to this project. The NMRA Board of Directors also voted to accept an offer by the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum to purchase the long-time NMRA headquarters building in Chattanooga, TN. The NMRA physical office space needs will now be better served by leasing modern offices and will continue in the Chattanooga area. The great news is that the staff and functionality of serving our national organization will continue uninterrupted and we will profit from sale of this underutilized asset.

**As the holidays approach,** I hope you will take the time to enjoy the many seasonal displays featuring model trains that will be popping up all over. It is indeed a time to revisit childhood memories of that special train that started your fascination and enjoyment for our great model railroad hobby. Peace be with you and your families....talk to you soon.

Best Regards,  
Merlyn Jarman  
President, Mid-Central Region

## MCR CONTACTS

## MCR President:

Merlyn Jarman  
 president@midcentral-region-nmra.org  
 812-539-3232

## MCR Vice President:

Robert Weinheimer, MMR  
 vp@midcentral-region-nmra.org  
 304-343-1428

## MCR Secretary:

Arthur Bumpus  
 secretary@midcentral-region-nmra.org  
 440-526-9184

## MCR Treasurer:

Jerry Doyle  
 treasurer@midcentral-region-nmra.org  
 304-638-2826

## Achievement Program:

Frank Koch  
 achievement@midcentral-region-nmra.org  
 513-732-6208

## Contest:

Dick Briggs, MMR  
 contest@midcentral-region-nmra.org  
 614-277-0314

## 2014 NMRA Convention (Cleveland):

Jerry Kruger & Chuck Klein  
<http://www.2014cleveland.org>

## 2015 MCR Convention (Lexington):

Pete Birdsong  
<http://thoroughbredlimited2015.yolasite.com/>

## Education:

Tom Miller  
 education@midcentral-region-nmra.org  
 859-224-8563

## Membership:

Paul Novak  
 membership@midcentral-region-nmra.org  
 440-235-2620

## Special Projects:

Tom Beutler  
 projects@midcentral-region-nmra.org  
 419-231-1038

## Webmaster:

Donald Wilke  
 webmaster@midcentral-region-nmra.org  
 614-846-2558  
 See: [www.midcentral-region-nmra.org/committees2.html](http://www.midcentral-region-nmra.org/committees2.html)

## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

## Bob Weinheimer MMR

I have been joking that in a moment of weakness I told Merlyn I would be glad to take on editorship of the Kingpin. On the serious side I am looking forward to this task, I already do the layout work on our Division newsletter so the work process is not at all unfamiliar.

Moving forward the emphasis will be on making the Kingpin an electronic publication. While all members will receive necessary communications in written form if necessary, and while all members will receive paper ballots for elections, an electronic format gives us the flexibility to offer a greater variety of content. For example, the electronic version of this issue contains reports from the Division Superintendents, the paper copy does not for lack of room. Also, this issue contains an article by Tom Miller about model railroading operations.

Surely there are other members like Tom who have something to share with the membership. Doing so gives the member credit toward the Model Railroad Author certificate in the Achievement Program. Articles in Region newsletters such as this one earn two points per full printed page, credit is also given for partial pages in quarter page increments. Tom, with his article, earns 3 of the 42 credits he needs for that certificate. It may not sound like much but all of these add up. Indeed, I earned the certificate, in part, with articles in the Kingpin.

If you have something to contribute, please send it to me in Microsoft Word or other word processing format. I cannot handle documents sent in PDF format, there is too much involved in reformatting the text. Also, any photos should be in JPG, GIF, or other photo formats. PDFs are unacceptable and will not be used.

I'll close by thanking the outgoing publisher, Don Wilke, for all his help in this transition. Don has offered many little but important tidbits of advice as well as the various graphic files needed to make the Kingpin come to life.

**NATIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE**  
**Chuck Klein and Jerry Krueger**  
**Co-Chairs 2014 NMRA Convention**

The Cleveland Convention Committee is inviting members of the Mid Central Region to attend the NMRA National Convention in Cleveland July 13 – 19, 2014.

The convention activities will take place at the new Cleveland Convention Center. Lodging for the convention will be at two magnificent downtown hotels. The Renaissance just blocks from the Convention Center and the Marriott Key Tower just steps away from the Convention Center. The special convention rate (\$139) will be available for reservations sometime after January 1, 2014.

The Committee has been working hard to put an exciting program together for conventioners. We have just recently put the schedule together for clinics and tours. This will appear in the February issue of NMRA magazine.

There will be 80 layouts available, many will be self guided so you can arrange your schedule accordingly. Highlight of layout tours are several club layouts. The Cuyahoga Valley and Westshore featured in recent NMRA magazine. The Youngstown Model Railroad Club will be featured in an upcoming NMRA magazine article and the Sebring Model Railroad Club also will be featured in a spring edition of Model Railroader Magazine.

We will have numerous clinicians on varied model railroading themes, a number of historical and prototype presentations plus some new hands on clinics. We will have some nationally know model railroaders who will be giving clinics for the first time at a National Convention. Operation Road Show will teach us how to operate our layouts using Time Table and Train Orders.

The tour schedule will be a no repeat schedule. The varied prototype and general tours include a visit to the General Electric Diesel plant in Erie, PA., The AC&J Railroad in Ashtabula and a ride on the local RTA light and heavy rail system with a visit to the maintenance shops.

For those interested in steel take a visit to Charter Steel or Reichard Industries where bottle cars are built and reconditioned. In addition to a ride on the Cuyahoga Scenic Railway we will visit their maintenance shops and one evening the wives and husbands can take a relaxing dinner ride on the train. A couple of walking tours are being offered. Visit the Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank which has one the largest vault doors in the world. Built in the 1920's this architecture represented the power and security of the United States. See Cleveland from the 42<sup>nd</sup> floor observation deck of the Terminal Tower. This is part of the original Cleveland Union Terminal built by the Van Swearingen brothers.

The most popular tour will be the Ages of Steam Roundhouse in Sugar Creek, OH. This is a private facility owned by Jerry Jacobson. It is not open to the general public and accessed by invitation only. The Cleveland Convention Committee was fortunate to receive an invitation. This will be a limited number of guests tour. A number of these tours will sell out early. Sign-up now before the February insert comes out. Go to the web site [www.2014cleveland.org/](http://www.2014cleveland.org/).

We look forward to seeing everyone in Cleveland, OH this coming July.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN AND NEAR THE MID CENTRAL REGION

9-Nov-13	Winchester MRC Train Show & Sale	Winchester VA	<a href="#">web page</a>
Nov 9-10, 2013	Greenberg's Train and Toy Show	Monroeville PA	<a href="#">schedule</a>
Nov 9-10, 2013	Western PA Model RR Museum Holiday Show	Gibsonia PA	<a href="#">web page</a>
Sunday, Nov 10	Greater Wayne County Train & Toy Show	Buckeye Event Center - Dalton, OH 44618	Phone Jon Ulbright at 330-262-7488
Nov 15-17, 2013	Western PA Model RR Museum Holiday Show	Gibsonia PA	<a href="#">web page</a>
Nov 22-24, 2013	Western PA Model RR Museum Holiday Show	Gibsonia PA	<a href="#">web page</a>
24-Nov-13	Beaver County Fall Train Show & Sale	Monaca PA	<a href="#">web site</a>
24-Nov-13	Kittanning Train & Toy Show	Kittanning PA	<a href="#">map</a>
Nov 29-Dec 1, 2013	Western PA Model RR Museum Holiday Show	Gibsonia PA	<a href="#">web page</a>
Nov 30-Dec 1, 2013	Mid Mon Valley MRC Open House	New Eagle PA	<a href="#">flyer</a>
Sunday, Dec 1	Springfield Model Train Show	Clark County Fairgrounds - 4401 South Charleston Pike, Springfield, OH 45505	Phone 937-399-6647
Dec 6-8, 2013	Western PA Model RR Museum Holiday Show	Gibsonia PA	<a href="#">web page</a>
Dec 7-8, 2013	Mid Mon Valley MRC Open House	New Eagle PA	<a href="#">flyer</a>
Dec 7-8, 2013	Greenberg's Train and Toy Show	Timonium MD	<a href="#">schedule</a>
Sunday, Dec 8	Massillon Train & Toy Show	K of C Hall, 988 Cherry Rd NW, Massillon, OH 44647	Phone Jon Ulbright at 330-262-7488
Dec 13-15, 2013	Western PA Model RR Museum Holiday Show	Gibsonia PA	<a href="#">web page</a>
Dec 14-15, 2013	Mid Mon Valley MRC Open House	New Eagle PA	<a href="#">flyer</a>
Dec 21-22, 2013	Mid Mon Valley MRC Open House	New Eagle PA	<a href="#">flyer</a>
Dec 21-23, 2013	Bellefonte Hist. RR Santa Express	Bellefonte PA	<a href="#">web page</a>
Dec 26-31, 2013	Western PA Model RR Museum Holiday Show	Gibsonia PA	<a href="#">web page</a>
Dec 28-29, 2013	Mid Mon Valley MRC Open House	New Eagle PA	<a href="#">flyer</a>

If you have an item to add to this list, please send it to the editor at [editor@midcentral-region-nmra.org](mailto:editor@midcentral-region-nmra.org).

## National Model Railroad Association Mid-Central Region Board of Directors Meeting October 6, 2013

The meeting was held at Schmidt's Restaurant in Columbus, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 12:35 PM by MCR President Merlyn Jarman. The roll was taken. Secretary Art Bumpus was absent. Divisions 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 9 were represented by their Superintendents. Divisions 3 and 10 were represented by Proxies. Divisions 4, 8, and 11 were absent. Committee Managers present were Contest, Webmaster, Kingpin, and Education.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2013 meeting as published in the Kingpin and posted on the MCR web site.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted to board members at the meeting.

### Vice President's Report

Bob Weinheimer thanked Division 11 for showing us a good way to post upcoming events around the region on the MCR web site. This format is much cleaner and easier to read. The MCR roster of Region and Division Officers and key Division positions will be emailed to the Superintendents, any changes should be brought to my attention. Also, the Clinician Database will also be emailed to the Superintendents for any additions, deletions, or corrections that may be in order.

### Committee Reports

**Membership:** Paul Novak was not present but Merlyn presented a Division by Division summary of membership. The current MCR membership is approximately 1550.

**Contest:** Dick Briggs noted that the next MCR contention would not be until 2015.

**Achievement Program:** Frank Koch was not present but submitted a written report showing that MCR members had earned 2 Golden Spike awards, 8 AP Certificates, and many merit awards since the last meeting.

**Webmaster:** Don Wilke noted that the password for the Officers Archive will change shortly. Don also circulated a list of all the email redirects that he has assembled, please advise him of any necessary corrections.

**Education:** Tom Miller reported that Jim Six will be developing the Education and Training Program and will coordinate the Train the Trainer Program. Jim also needs a representative from each Region and Division that he can use as a contact. Superintendents should send the name of their Division contact to Tom.

### Division Reports

All Divisions except 4, 8, and 11 presented brief reports. The written reports will be published separately in the electronic version of the Kingpin.

### Old Business

**Conventions:** Bob Weinheimer reported that MCR has convention locations through 2018.

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**2013 Convention Recap:** Jim Montgomery reported that the convention was a success with 187 primary attendees, 47 family attendees, 6 one day attendees, and 1 two day attendee. Of these 143 registered early. Banquet attendance was 131. There were 54 clinics. Eleven evaluation forms were returned, the highest rated event at the convention was the banquet. The convention netted \$5600 for the Division, much of this will be donated to the Scale Model Railroad Exhibit at the California Railroad Museum.

**2014 National Convention:** Dave Neff reported on progress for the Cleveland Nation. A more complete list of convention activities will be printed in the Kingpin.

**2015 Convention:** Pete Birdsong reported on the progress of the planning for 2015. He noted that the plan is mimicking the National Narrow Gauge conventions by having clinics early in the day with operating sessions, layout tours, and other tours in the afternoons and evenings. It should be noted that the Narrow Gauge Convention typically has an attendance that is nearly double the NMRA National Convention, perhaps this will work at the Region level.

**2016 Convention:** Dick Briggs reported that the 2016 convention would be at the Embassy Suites in Dublin, OH (greater Columbus). Room rate (including breakfast and evening drinks) is \$129.

**Audit:** the MCR books were audited July 26 by Merlyn Jarman, Dick Briggs, and Bob Weinheimer. Outgoing Treasurer Paul Smith and incoming Treasurer Jerry Doyle were also present. The audit was passed with flying colors.

#### **New Business:**

**Kingpin:** Bob Weinheimer is the new editor, he reported that the Kingpin will be issued four times per year. We will focus on electronic delivery with an opt out email program. Paper copies of key issues such as convention materials and election ballots will be mailed to all members. Electronic issues can be of any length and can include modeling, trip report, and other sorts of appropriate articles. The electronic issue can also be in full color. The next issue will be prepared in November, the deadline for article submission is November 1.

**Kit Projects:** It was noted that we still have 5 S scale, 31 N scale, and 9 HO scale kits remaining. Total net profits from this project was almost \$4,000. We are looking for ideas for the next project.

**Contest Judging:** Dick Briggs presented a report showing the division of responsibilities for convention contests. These are taken from the MCR Regulations. Generally, the Division is responsible for the facilities while the Region is responsible for the operation of the contest. This includes data entry, judge recruitment and training, and the like.

**Regulations:** Dick Brigg will take the carefully annotated copy (prepared by Don Wilke) of the regulations and prepare a new clean copy. The regulations will be reviewed to assure compliance with National.

**Spring 2014 BOD Meeting:** Merlyn noted that we are required to have an annual open membership meeting. This is tentatively scheduled for Saturday June 14 in Marion, OH in conjunction with a joint Division 6 and 9 meeting. If June 14 is not workable, we will look at Sunday June 1.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted  
Robert M. Weinheimer MMR

## Model Railroad Operations and Unstoppable: Educational and Fun

by Tom Miller

Education Manager, NMRA Mid Central Region

Model railroading operations is a very special experience for model train hobbyists. So much so that the National Model Railroad association has its very own Special Interest Group that produces a quarterly journal titled *The Dispatchers Office*. Model railroading operations is the process of bringing to life the roles and functions of critical railroading personnel on a model train layout. It provides the opportunity for model railroading hobbyists to better understand what came to life in the movie *starring* Denzel Washington as an experienced diesel engineer and how he works with a young and inexperienced railroad conductor to rescue a run away train in southern Pennsylvania.

### So what is Model Railroading Operations?

Operations the opportunity for model railroaders to learn the roles and functions of all the key players in working, coordinating and understanding the complexity of today's railroading industry. It provides opportunities to for hobbyists to discuss, develop and disseminate ways of operating model railroads to realistically emulate practices of the prototype. This may often include utilizing various methods of generating, moving and controlling railroading traffic. The storyline and setting for the movie *Unstoppable* originates in a rail yard with a number of diesel engines being aligned by the yardmaster for another day of railroading on a fictitious railroad called the Allegheny and West Virginia (AWVR). This railroad yard is located in the Pennsylvania town of Fuller, where a pair of hostlers are ordered to move a freight train off its current track to make way for an excursion train carrying a group of schoolchildren who were being educated about railroad safety.

As with OPS, a series of errors occur. . One of the hostlers, Dewey (Ethan Suplee), chooses not to connect the locomotive's air hose to save time. He does this knowing that the train's air brakes will only apply on the lead locomotive in this configuration of diesel locomotives, but decides to connect the hoses after parking the train on another track. Dewey sets the locomotive's throttle at 100% in order to enable the train's dynamic brakes, but sees that an approaching switch is not set to the correct track decides to leave the locomotive's cabin unoccupied by anyone to correct the switch. the train begins to gain speed, and Dewey is unable to mount the moving train. With an unoccupied cab, the train begins its journey as it enters the main line and becomes an unstoppable run away train. .

### Who are the key players on Operations?

As in the movie *Unstoppable*, the key players include the *yardmaster*, the *dispatcher*, *engineers*, *conductors*, *hostlers* and *railroad welders*, all of whom require knowledge, skills, precision and abilities that produce a successful day in railroading. *Hostlers* are railroad mechanics who service and move locomotives in the rail yard. The veteran engineer Frank Barnes (Denzel Washington) and Colson (Chris Pine) meet by their locomotive for the day in the Pennsylvania city of Stanton, where Barnes, a 28-year employee, finds out that Colson, who will be in charge of the train, is only four months out of training.

They take the locomotive out to where they will attach their train, where Colson makes the mistake of picking up more cars than ordered. Their diesel train leaves Stanton bound along the mainline of track. In the town of Fuller, the hostlers let yardmaster Connie Hooper (Rosario Dawson) know that that they have a runaway train headed into opposing traffic on the main line. They assume the use of the dead man's switch will trigger the brakes and turn the train into a "coaster" but this fails. The yardmaster calls Ned (Lew Temple), a veteran railroad welder, and tells him to set a switch. When he arrives at the switch, after waiting for a short time, the hostlers arrive, and it becomes clear that the train has already passed this point. The hostlers proceed to catch up with the train, but do not succeed in boarding it. The yardmaster and the dispatchers work to get every train on the main line onto railroad sidings. The runaway train gains speed and it is up to Barnes and Colson to try and stop this train. The rest is for you to see and enjoy at the theatre.



### **What goes into Planning for Model Railroad Operation?**

Just as in the movie *Unstoppable*, OPS sometimes provides unexpected problems that emerge as a part of the scenario. Incorporate there solution into the OPS experience. There are several elements of track planning to consider when deciding about model railroad operations. Joining a group of experienced operators is the easiest way to learn. With respect to designing a layout, create portions of the layout to include both main-line and side track options. One needs a rail yard where trains can be loaded and unloaded and cars can be engaged with the use of a switcher engine. The minimum number of staging tracks should be the number of engines or trains you have plus at least two more for arriving and departing trains. If your tracks are long enough, you could potentially double-up and have two trains on one staging track. The flow of your operations layout would work best with moving railcars to and from their set locations. Operations that our club has include both passenger and freight trains in operations. Passenger trains always have right of way. As always model railroading operations can be an exciting part of model railroading for all.

### **References**

*Realistic Model Railroad Operation*, by Tony Koester, 2003, Kalmbach Publishing.

"Unstoppable – Production Credits." *The New York Times*. <http://movies.nytimes.com/401469/Unstoppable/credits>. Retrieved Jan 17, 2011.

Ebert, Roger (November 10, 2010). "Unstoppable". *Chicago Sun Times*. <http://rogerebert.suntimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20101110/REVIEWS/101119995>. Retrieved January 17, 2011.



## **MID CENTRAL REGION ANNUAL MEETING**

**JUNE 14, 2014**

**MARION, OHIO**

**HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

**CLINICS**

**DIVISIONS 6 AND 9 JOINT MEETING**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

***LOTS OF TRAINS AT A REAL HOT SPOT!***

## AROUND THE REGION REPORTS PREPARED FOR THE OCTOBER 4, 2013 BOD MEETING

### **Randy Dettmet Division 1**

Membership: Current membership is at 114 up from 103 in May 2013.

Finances: We are financially solvent. We have submitted our 990 EZ for 2012 and received approval for our 501c3 status in June. In August, we received a letter from the IRS rejecting our 501c3 status because we haven't filed a tax return. A rebuttal letter with a copy of our 2012 return was mailed but no response from the IRS yet.

Newsletter: We still are sending our Peddler Freight publication out to every active member and club in the division. We still have several members that receive mailed copies. We did retain three of the four hobby shops that were advertising with us.

Website: We are in the process of getting our new webmaster settled.

Modules: Our HO modules will be at the Dalton, OH show in November and March. We are in the process of getting a Ntrak module group started within our division. They will most likely shadow our HO module group. Our module chairman has been kind to lend us his command stations and boosters for these shows but the Division will need to get their own in the near future.

Train Show: The membership has decided to not hold a train show this year. It seems most of the membership has sold off their extra stuff. Instead we are working towards having a training day.

### **Michael Hohn MMR Division 2**

Our membership currently stands at 252, up one from a year ago; our membership has been stable at about the same number for several years. We continue our recruitment efforts through our presence at the Greenberg Train Show and the exhibit of our Free-Mo modules at which we invite guests to run the trains. Our Model Railroad Jamboree held in the spring is open to non-NMRA members, providing another opportunity for recruiting members.

Division meetings are held 10 months of the year at sites all around the Division. Each August, we have a picnic to which the entire family is invited. The picnic has been within sight of a railroad line for added interest to the members. This has been a successful event each year.

We held one monthly meeting in Johnstown, PA, in conjunction with an MER division meeting. Although not particularly well attended, it did offer our members something different to see and supported one of the most rural divisions of our region to the east.

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 Keystone Flyer can be accessed on our website, [www.keystonedivision.org](http://www.keystonedivision.org).

Division 2 constantly strives to find new ways to recruit new members, bring members to the meetings, and encourage participation in Division events. We now have a welcoming committee to help new attendees and members to feel a part of our meetings and activities.

### **Wil Davis Division 3**

Division Three membership continues to grow and is now 169. Monthly meetings have shown a steady increase in attendance now averaging 50- 55 members. In August we had our annual bus tour to visit neighboring division layouts. This year we returned to Indiana and visited layouts in the MWR and rode the Indiana Transportation Museum "Fairtrain" from Fishers, IN and return. The division subsidizes the bus to keep the cost affordable.

We hosted the MRC convention which emphasized operations, including two modular layouts

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in the convention hotel, which were available to attendees for most of the convention. **Continued from Page 10**  
 By all accounts the convention was a success. We produced a convention car which honored member Al McClelland's Virginian & Ohio railroad. There were six cars, which included two types of refrigerator cars and a total of six different numbers. The numbers were all significant dates for the V&O or for Division 3 and included 2013 for the convention. The cars proved popular and now that the convention is over we are offering them to everyone. One primary goal of the convention was to provide a fun event at a break even cost for the division. When the final numbers came in we netted a little over \$5,600.00. Our members voted to send \$5000.00 of the proceeds to National for the Scale Model Railroad Exhibit at the California Railroad museum.

Our November train show is only a month away and proves to be a popular event as well as providing the division with a modest income. The tables have been selling out within months of the end of the show, with the bulk of the dealers signing up at the end of the show for the next one. Our show manager is stepping down at the end of the year and is working with his replacement to ensure a seamless transition. At these shows we subsidize NMRA memberships at 50%. Each year we typically enroll 7 or 8 new members for the NMRA, regardless of which division they live in.

The Division is remains in good financial shape with the balance of our assets in certificates of deposit.

The Call Board, our monthly newsletter, continues under the management of Mr. J. Hedge as Editor. We supplement our hardcopy Call Board publication with an excellent division web page under the expert guidance of Mr. Norm Courtney. The web page has become a timely asset in keeping our members informed. Our Face Book page continues to attract a following with over 314 "likes" from around the world and we get over 200 visits a week.

We anticipate having another "Model Railroad Training" event this winter, but no specifics yet.

#### **Art Bumpus Division 4**

Membership – The division membership remains stable, about 200 members.

Division initiatives – On October 5 and 6 the Division puts on its only fund raiser, the Berea Train Show (which is why I am unable to attend this Regional Meeting). I am happy to report the show is a dealer sellout with a wait list of dealers, as of August. Our TRAINing Day initiative will be held on November 9th. Besides the various clinics we provide, we have successfully partnered with Walthers and Accurail who are providing us with kits at very deep discounts (well below dealer net). The kits will be provided free to chosen recipients. Instructional classes will be held to assemble the kits at the event. We are also engaging our sponsored group, the Medina 4 H model railroaders, to help direct arrivals to a resource on "how to" activities and to assist providing technical assistance in assembling kits. We are reviewing the idea of moving the location of the event next year to a branch of the County Library System. Our module group already sets up at various County Library branches. The Library has found us to be a great magnet for attracting public into the libraries. If we partner with the library system for TRAINing day, there is a possibility of a serendipitous event for both organizations.

Finances – The Division remains financially sound. The Division has operated on balanced budgets for the last 5 years.

National Convention – The Host Committee (comprised of Division's 1, 4, and 5) are finalizing plans for NMRA Cleveland 2014. I would urge you to register for this event early and be prepared to attend one HUGE party. The Cleveland Convention Center is now open and holding events. We have toured the completed facility and find it to be an excellent venue for a convention. Clinic rooms are huge. The facility is state of the art. And it has spectacular views of the lakefront. Our signature tour, The Age of Steam Roundhouse, has generated tremendous interest. We will be setting the date of this all day tour shortly. The tour will include the newly constructed turntable, roundhouse, the restoration shops, and lots of operational steam locomotives. The tour will also include an Amish country lunch and a visit to the famous Warther Carving Museum full of hand carved steam locomotives. We are limited to only 4 buses for this tour. From the interest seen at the Atlanta Convention, we anticipate a very quick sellout on this particular tour and once these tickets are sold, there will be no more. We have finalized several other great tours, including bus tours to Charter Steel production facilities, a hot metal car building manufacturer, Cleveland Track Builders, General Electric locomotive erection shops, model layout tours, Cuyahoga Valley Line train trip, Regional Transit System repair facilities, and others. Naturally, there will be well over 100 clinics and dozens and dozens of layout tours.

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BOD Meetings – Next year there is no Regional Convention in the Spring. Instead, there is the Cleveland National Convention, July 13 to 19. Some thought needs to be given as to the date and place of the next couple of meetings. Please, no meeting on the first weekend of October

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### **Robert E. Lee Division 6**

Our membership level has drop once again since our last report. We were successful in transferring the members of Division 6, who live in the Wooster, Ohio zip code of 44691 to Division 1. The move was sanction by the members involved and approved by the Region at the last BOD meeting in April 2013.

Our financial status is firm. Our last project (Track Cleaning Pads) has done well. We are looking forward to the 2016 Regional Convention to enhance our coffers.

Our meeting attendance has remained constant. We still enjoy our outing in June of each year at The Marion Station in Marion, Ohio and our joint meeting with Division 9 in September in Portsmouth, Ohio.

We have done well with our media exposure on face book and twitter. We have had quite a few hits and we have updated the site with some new information [www.youtube.com/user/nmrabuckeyedivision](http://www.youtube.com/user/nmrabuckeyedivision).

The Super's Signal news letter has continued to improve. We have added a few more editorials to our line-up of information. We hope to go totally electronic at a future date.

This will be my last BOD Report as Superintendent of Division 6. Due to the National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio next spring 2014 we will not have a BOB meeting. I have enjoyed the last four years it was a great learning experience and I have met and talked with some fine members. I will continue to be involved in Division 6 activities in the future. However the conductor has called my station as the next stop and I must get off.

### **Randy Kerka, Division 7**

Membership: Recently our Membership Chairman retired after 10 years. We have found a replacement and he should be a good one. He has promised to keep our new member recruiting program (my pet project) going. As you know, we have worked hard over the last three years to grow our numbers and it is a comfort to know that that program will be passed on to capable hands. Peter Weiglin is a former Division 7 Super and a definite people person. Our Cincinnati Model Train Show is in October and we will once again begin our annual New Member Drive.

Finances: Division 7's budget is running right on target for 2013.

More about Marketing: Our Cincinnati Model Train Show Postcard Database now contains about 7,000 targeted names. We now feel comfortable promoting the show with only the database, the Cincinnati Enquirer (hardcopy and electronic), and hobby shop and member distributed flyers. All other "throw-away" newspapers and all radio spots have been eliminated and are not missed.

Monthly meetings: The secret to a successful division is to put great people in a position to affect positive results. Asst. Super, Bob Shreve (soon to be my successor) has secured great clinicians and well thought out topics keeping meeting interest high. With many new members, it is especially important that our meetings and clinics remain fresh and maintain the interest of all members. 2014 clinics will be emphasizing basic modeling and layout building. We also see to it that ALL division meeting attendees wear a name tag. If a member does not have an "official" Division 7 name tag, we give them a HUGE stick-on paper name tag to wear.

Newsletter (Oil Can): US Mail version of the venerable old paper *Oil Can* was, until June, was our single largest monthly expense item. Since the enhanced (full-color and more pages) *Electronic Oil Can* is available both on our Web Site and via email, the Division 7 Board of Directors made the bold decision to replace the paper *Oil Can* with a post card detailing only the basic information necessary to direct the membership to the next meeting. The result is that our newsletter expense has been cut almost precisely in half! It was a bold decision and we thought it had the potential to create an avalanche of angst among the membership. Actually, the members have actually embraced the idea and are either going to the website to read the *E-Oil Can* or signing up for the Email version to be sent directly to them each month. There is now no excuse for anyone to miss my article each month.

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**Bob Weinheimer MMR, Division 9**

**Membership:** Membership has holds at about 60 with regular meeting attendance of 20 to 25. We seem to be doing better at holding onto RailPass members but have lost a few members who are not regular meeting attendees. Long time NMRA member David Robinette passed away last month, his son Nathan remains a member in good standing.

**Finances:** The Division is in good financial shape. Our new Raffle Manager has done a good job of arranging for interesting and profitable raffles. The proceeds more than cover the cost of the newsletter.

**Meetings:** As noted above meeting attendance is good. Our new home in the C&O station in St. Albans, WV has been a big improvement over our older digs. We have more room for contest and raffle displays in addition to the occasional interruption by full scale CSX trains going by. Given the large area covered by the Division we still plan to venture out to the corners. Our May meeting was in Parkersburg, WV where we visited a couple of steel mill themed layouts hosted by a couple of our members. We were joined by five member of Division 2 from Steubenville, OH. Our September meeting in Portsmouth, OH was a joint event with Division 6, we were blessed with great weather and a good turnout from both groups. Our November meeting will be in Bluefield, WV, the southernmost extent of our Division.

**Clinics:** We have a good lineup of clinicians for the rest of the year and into 2014. We are still considering bringing clinicians from outside the division from time to time, more so now that we have a much nicer meeting location.

**Education:** Gary Burdette, Assistant Superintendent, has been working to develop ideas for an education section for our web site. For now there are a few pages on the site but not quite finished enough for public viewing. Gary is also working with the group chaired by Jim Six at the national level. Finally, Gary is working with our hosts at the St. Albans Depot to develop displays for visitor education.

**Newsletter:** Our monthly newsletter, Up the Holler, is meant to be in the hands of members 7 to 10 days before the next meeting. Editor Dan Mulhearn has done a good job of packing 8 to 12 pages with lots of interesting reading, we hope you enjoy it. All but 10 members receive the newsletter electronically. We print very few copies; the printing is done on a wide format ink jet printer owned by one of the members.

**Rick Cobb, Division 10**

**Highlights:** The membership for Division 10 remains in the seventies. Attendance for our monthly meetings has increased to upper twenties and with a high of 34. Our summer field trips included a tour of Ray Grosser's 7.5 gauge scale railroad in Eubanks, KY and our annual trip to Cass, West Virginia in August. August also ended our yearly Bring and Brag Modeling contest with many of our members participating each month. Brian Jones was this year's winner. The division continues to host local clinics and tours most occurring during our monthly meetings. Monthly auctions have returned to generate income for the division, with several donations from club members and a few from people outside the of division. We also received a projector through a generous donation.

**Finances:** Our Finances remain steady with a balance of \$3395.29 at the end of August. Our main income remains donations and our revenue from the auctions.

**Plans:** Throughbred 2014 convention planning is in full swing. Pete Birdsong has the convention planning ahead of schedule but there is still much work to be done. He will be making a trip to Dayton to meet with Division 6 members to review their breakdown of the most recent convention. The Division will also be involved with the Train the Trainer Program with the help of Tom Miller.

**Summary:** We continue to try and find new ways to reach out and increase membership and attendance, have fun, and grow our skill levels.



ROBERT WEINHEIMER MMR  
398 MOUNT VIEW DR  
CHARLESTON WV  
25314-1041

**MID CENTRAL REGION  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**JUNE 14, 2014  
MARION, OHIO**

**HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE  
CLINICS  
DIVISIONS 6 AND 9 JOINT MEETING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
LOTS OF TRAINS AT A REAL HOT SPOT**