



The Kingpin

Newsletter of the
Mid Central Region
National Model Railroad Association
November 2021



A scene from the Youngstown Model Railroad Club's HO layout (2013 file photo). The club is currently hosting weekend open houses. Check their website: www.ymra.org.

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President's Report

As the year progresses, many Divisions of the Mid-Central Region are starting to meet once again in person, and some are doing hybrid virtual/in-person meetings as well. Attendance at Division meetings has been reasonable given the circumstances. Member retention and recruitment of new members continues to be challenging, with some members opting out until meetings are held in person. Hopefully they will now return.

Several Divisions have held Train shows and other meets, although attendance of vendors and visitors has been somewhat less than at pre-pandemic events.

Four key members of our Region are very active in the planning process for next year's Indy Junction Convention featuring three Regions (MCR, NCR, MWR). You'll hear more about this at the Fall BOD meeting and this convention will also be featured in the Spring Kingpin to be available in February.

There are new officers in national NMRA, and former MCR President Bob Weinheimer is the Director of the recently formed Regional Advisory Council. Meetings are convened virtually with all Region Presidents as a group to communicate news directly from National, and to provide better sharing of best practices and concerns among all. Useful information emanating from the RAC meetings will be transmitted downward to the Divisions in the Regions.

A new issue emerging is the question of going to a Digital NMRA magazine---at extra cost---which is now undergoing discussion at the National Board level. Some believe this is an inevitable evolution as the 'digital revolution' has taken over many other aspects of our society. Will there be an option? Digital or Print magazine? Or just digital? Will moving to just a digital magazine mean lost members? Highly possible. How will loss of membership affect our local Divisions? Will a lower overall membership result in an increased cost anyway for remaining members and create even further loss?

Another question to ponder.....an increasingly aged and experienced membership exists whose layouts are 'finished' (except for maintenance and minute details). Much technical information on 'how-to' model a railroad is readily available on line from individuals and manufacturers, so for some, local Division clinics and train show demonstrations are 'old hat' and so are avoided. Socialization needs of these seldom-seen members is offered by smaller groups---operations, specialty railroad interest clubs and historical societies, modular groups, meeting up with just a few fellow modeler friends. Therefore, what does and/or should NMRA membership on national and local Division membership actually mean and contribute to participation for some in the hobby? Of course, we know the 'positives' and can 'sell' NMRA membership. But what of the nay-sayers reflected in the above who do not appreciate the positives of active NMRA membership? I ask you to think on these things and discuss at your meetings. Reply comments are welcome. Not only growth, but survival is at stake.

Dave Neff, President

MCR AP REPORT -May 1, 2021 - October 1, 2021

GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD

Name	Division
John Witt	4

MERIT AWARDS EARNED

Name	Division	Area	Model
John Witt	4	Structures	Saw Mill
John Witt	4	Structures	Wood Drying Shed
John Witt	4	Structures	Coaling Tower
John Witt	4	Structures	Ash Pit Engine Service
John Witt	4	Structures	Sand House
John Witt	4	Structures	Arcadia Mine
John Witt	4	Scenery	Copper Peninsula Railroad

CERTIFICATES AWARDED

First Name	Last Name	Division	Certificate
Fred	Soward	8	Official
Robert	Ashley	1	Volunteer
John	Witt	4	Structures
John	Witt	4	Scenery
John	Witt	4	Electrical
John	Witt	4	Volunteer
Jim	Braum	2	Dispatcher
James	Montgomery	3	Dispatcher

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER EARNED

None this period

Comments: There has been a slow return to AP activity in the past five months. Now that many areas are returning to more in-person events and members are opening their railroad., I would expect AP activity to slowly increase. For the year-to-date, MCR total certificate count is right at the 18 Region average. Almost every Region is seeing a pent-up flurry of model activity that needs AP evaluation.

Contest Chair Report

Contest planning for Indy Junction 2022 continues.

1. The contest budget was presented to the convention committee and approved last spring.
2. As there is no traditional banquet at this convention, thus the contest awards will be presented at a special presentation scheduled for 7:00 PM on Saturday May 21, 2022.
3. The Contest Administration Committee is fully staffed at this writing with the following members:

Lloyd Horst Frank Benders Dan Mulhearn Alyce Altweise
George Keller Bob Belt Steve Zapytowski MMR®, Chair

4. A minimum of 15 judges are needed, but we only have eight at the moment:

Michael Hauk Patrick Hreachmack George Keller Dennis Vacarro
Dan Mulhearn Richard Turton Richard Jodon Lloyd Horst

5. I still need to recruit at least four more people to handle the contest room security. Jeff Stone has agreed to head up room security for the convention, but he will need some help with that task.
6. Hopefully, we will have both a contest and convention next year.

Steve Zapytowski MMR®

MCR Contest Chair

National Model Railroad Association Mid Central Region

Board of Directors Meeting

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

October 29, 2021

Attendance:

Dave Neff, President; Jerry Doyle, Vice President; John Shields, Treasurer; Fred Soward, Secretary; Bob Ashley, Division 1; Frank Bender, Division 2; Mark Stiver, Division 3; Lee Sheffield, Division 4; Matt Kross, Division 5; Matt Goodman, Division 6; John Shields, Division 7; Fred Soward, Division 8; Jerry Doyle (proxy), Division 9; Larry Smith, Division 10; Rich Kosakowski, Division 11; and Brad White, Division 12.

Also in attendance were Frank Koch, Achievement Program; Bruce DeMaeyer, Modules; Bob Shreve, Nominations; Don Wilke, Webmaster.

Bob Weinheimer; Chuck Endreola; Doug Sandmeyer; Ron Ellison

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Neff at 7:30 PM.

Minutes of the last BoD meeting:

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as corrected from the May 21, 2021, Mid Central Region Board of Directors meeting. Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

President's Comments:

Dave Neff said that based on reading the Division reports, we are still slowly recovering from the pandemic with in-person generally at our favorite spots. Also, train shows are starting to reemerge, albeit with slightly fewer in attendance, both visitors and vendors. But vendors have generally been happy with their sales. National NMRA officers have changed, and we have a new initiative headed by our own Bob Weinheimer as the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Director to get all Region Presidents together in a virtual meeting. The idea is to exchange information and provide a forum for NMRA National to provide some top-down in-person information. The charge is for the Region Presidents to transmit useful information to the Divisions, including ideas that originate in the RAC meeting. There are still challenges to continue to recruit, as well as retain current members. We all need to continue to work on building membership and building membership.

Treasurer's Report:

John Shields reported that his report is online and current. He said that there have been some expenditures since last May and that we did receive our refund from Schmidt's Restaurant when we cancelled the in-person meeting. Financially, we are in good shape. The transition of MCR financial account holders went well. Dave Neff briefly discussed the Indy Junction 2022 expenditures in support of the upcoming convention.

Vice-President's Report:

Jerry Doyle reminded us of the curse that's associated with the saying "may you live in interesting times." We've been there the past couple of years and here we are today, in this Zoom room. He said he thinks it's great that things are opening up, but that there's no going back to the way we did things in the past. Virtual meetings will be part of our hobby going forward. Looking at the success of NMRAX, RPM meets, and a lot of our own Division meetings. We've really pushed the envelope on making it happen. It's important for us to capitalize on this. It's a way for us to have another tool. Although the pandemic seemed to be tailor-made for our hobby in that it allowed us to stay in our basements and work on model railroad projects, but it was missing the one cornerstone of the social aspect of the hobby. Jerry proposed that we continue the Ad Hoc technology committee that was formed last year when we worked to get all Divisions online with virtual meetings with an emphasis on exploring new ways to use technology. Jerry also mentioned that the MCR clinician database is a way to capitalize on technology.

Committee Reports

Achievement Program:

Frank Koch said that he had nothing to report beyond the online report.

Kingpin

Dave Neff reported that the next Kingpin will be out early in the new year and will focus on the Indy Junction 2022 convention.

Membership

Dave Neff reported seeing that several Division reports showed that there continues to be errors on the membership spreadsheets received from HQ NMRA. It is the responsibility of the Divisions to notify HQ NMRA and Paull Novak (MCR Membership Chair) of any corrections. Frank Koch reinforced the need to provide the member updates because without them, the members will be left out of elections, the eBulletin, and other things. Every individual up for renewal receives a postal mail letter reminding them to renew at 60-days prior, 30-days prior, at time of renewal, and 30-days after renewal. Brad White brought up a problem with members formerly with the "Allegheny Highlands Division" being removed from the Division 12 spreadsheet. Frank Koch asked Brad to send him an email with specifics and said that he would get to the bottom of it.

Modules:

Bruce DeMaeyer said that the committee is making progress toward modules at Indy Junction 2022. The challenge is that T-TRAK is not as strong in either the MWR or NCR. Bob Ashley asked about other modules at the convention. Bruce said that he should contact the Train Show committee for all other module displays/layouts.

Nominations:

Bob Shreve said that the committee will begin work in the spring for the next MCR election cycle.

Webmaster:

Don Wilke said that there are now three email group forwarders (officers, members, supers @midcentral-region-nmra.org).

Division Reports:

Division 1 – Bob Ashley: Nothing new to add to the report already submitted for the meeting.

Division 2 – Frank Bender: Membership dropped down to 189 since he submitted the report. The division found that 11 members who had not been participating in division activities had passed away.

Division 3 – Mark Stiver: The division has lost three long-time, active members since the start of the year. The major emphasis for the division over the past few months has been the train show. Every table and exhibitor space is sold. The theme is “Back on Track to having fun.”

Division 4 – Lee Sheffield: The division is back to normal operations now. The train show was a success. He said that there is no interest in T-TRAK modules in the division, primarily because of their continuing efforts with the HO scale modular layout.

Division 5 – Matt Kross: Nothing new to add to the report already submitted for the meeting.

Division 6 – Matt Goodman: The division had a successful train show two weekends prior. Thanks to everyone who has a hand in the traveling Indy Junction 2022 banner. John Shields offered documentation about Division 7’s marketing efforts for train shows. He said that post cards and yard signs. He said that flyers aren’t doing much good anymore because people are not going into hobby shops and mainstream media is fairly expensive. Don Wilke suggested that John send the document to him, and that Don would make it available on the MCR Officer’s Archive. Lee Sheffield said that they had more families at their recent train show because they setup the modular layout at family-oriented events prior to the show and had flyers available for the train show at that event.

Division 7 – John Shields: The division has been highly successful at hybrid meetings. He is sending hybrid meeting training materials to Don Wilke to have posted to the MCR Officer’s Archive.

Division 8 – Fred Soward: Trainshow is coming up next month. All tables are sold. Marketing for the train show includes flyers and Facebook. Doing hybrid meetings since August (officially). There were no additional costs for the technology for the hybrid meetings.

Division 9 – Jerry Doyle (proxy): Doing hybrid meetings for several months. The division is also using repurposed technology to conduct their hybrid meetings.

Division 10 – Larry Smith: The division’s first hybrid meeting will be in November after buying new equipment so that they could do the hybrid meetings. They’re hoping to be able to resume their “Train Days at the Library” in the spring.

Division 11 – Rich Kosakowski: During virtual meetings, attendance was very low. The division is now doing in-person only meetings.

Division 12 – Brad White: The division is working with the Western New York division (Niagara Frontier Region) and the Lakshore Division (North Central Region) on joint NMRA activities including area train shows. Picked up four new members in the last four months.

Old Business

Clinician Database

Dave Neff reminded the group he encouraged everyone during the May 2021 to follow Division 8’s lead in developing a clinician database that can be shared throughout the region. With hybrid meetings becoming the norm for most divisions, it will make it easier to find clinicians from other divisions. The current clinician database on the MCR website is many years old and has not been updated recently. He said that by January 1, 2022, he would like everyone to send a list of reasonably good clinics that can be given by division members at other division meetings either by a short drive or virtually. Indy Junction 2022 is also looking for clinics and there are few being offered by MCR members. Frank Koch suggested that divisions include names and contact information for people outside their own division. Dave said that for now, and until he can assign the task to someone else, he will be responsible for the database at the region level.

New Business

NMRA Digital Magazine

Bob Weinheimer

Bob suggested that everyone take a look at the survey email and then take a good look at the test digital magazine that’s currently online. Moving to an online version of the NMRA magazine is not a “slam dunk.” The current proposal is that every member would have access to the digital magazine and would have the option of unsubscribing from the print version of the magazine. There are fixed costs to publishing the magazine, including paying authors, so there will be an increase to membership dues for everyone. The NMRA BoD has acknowledged that there is a risk of losing members. The real risk is to 100% NMRA clubs. Distribution would be through email with a link to the online magazine, but only if an individual has a current email address on file with the NMRA and if they’ve also registered with the members-only side of the NMRA website. Bob suggested that superintendents strongly encourage their members to register their email addresses with the NMRA and register for the members-only side of the NMRA website, and that the superintendents spend part of an upcoming meeting demonstrating how the members-only side works. The paper magazine will continue for now. The delivery cost of the magazine in the US is about \$4.00 per year. In Asia, Europe, or the UK, the delivery cost is about \$38.00 year. In the US, about 75% of members subscribe to the magazine. If all goes according to plan, it will likely be next April before the digital magazine is offered. Initially, a downloadable version will not be made available. Some individuals are concerned that a downloadable version would be passed along to others who are not NMRA members. It would be available online forever, but access would stop when an individual ceases to be an NMRA member. There will be additional cost to Life Members. They will have access to the digital version, and they will continue to receive the paper version. It is

BOD Minutes continued

possible for a Life Member to drop the paper version by contacting HQ NMRA. There about 2,500 Life Members and 12 do not receive the magazine. It is possible that the NMRA magazine will lose advertisers. When MRH went to the subscription model, they lost 90% of their advertisers.

Bob also talked about an extension of the member recognition program for individuals reaching milestones (2, 5, 10, 25 years). The plan is to add the 2- and 5-year recognition with a letter from the NMRA. As written, it will be a paper letter. Frank Koch suggested that the region and divisions recognize people often for service.

Indy Junction 2022 Convention

Fred Soward

Fred reminded everyone that although there are three regions and the RPM conference involved, it is our convention for 2022. Fred reminded everyone of the dates, basic features, and website (<http://www.indyjunction2022.org>). All but one division is scheduled for a presentation by either Dave Neff or Fred by the end of 2021. The convention fare goes up from \$85 to \$95 on January 1. Although the convention hotel website shows a \$9.00 per night parking fee, that does not apply for individuals registered at Indy Junction 2022. The first clinic is scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM Wednesday morning. The banquet will be Friday nite and will be a social rather than a formal event. The MCR BoD will be Saturday afternoon. The contest award ceremony will be Saturday evening as a separate event. All events are open to all attendees (NMRA or RPM) except for the contest which is open only to NMRA members. There are currently no non-rail tours, but the non-rail group does have a dedicated room just for their activities. Individuals should check out the <http://www.visitindy.com> for additional information about things to do in and around Indianapolis. Brad White asked about flyers to download and print. An email is being sent within the week to the MCR groups.io email group with links to all downloadable marketing materials. Contact either Ron Ellison or Fred Soward if you can't find what you need. Dave Neff asked all superintendents to continue to remind their groups during monthly meetings.

2023 MCR Convention Update

Frank Benders reported on the 2023 MCR convention that will be held in Pittsburgh, May 4-7, 2023. The new location is at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh - Cranberry, 910 Sheraton Dr, Mars, PA 16046, which is about 20 minutes north of the previous Pittsburgh convention hotel. The convention planning is on schedule. The only challenge mentioned by Frank was space for T-TRAK, but a compromise was made in the early stages of planning.

2024 MCR Convention

Dave Neff asked for any takers for the 2024 MCR convention. No one volunteered. Lee Sheffield said that Division 4 may be interested, but he is unwilling to commit to it because he will be leaving the Superintendent position in May 2022. He said he will discuss it with the group. Dave suggested that Divisions 1, 4, and 5 go together to host the 2024 convention. Bob Ashley said that he would address the concept at the next Division 1 meeting. John Shields said that the third weekend in May is the standing date for the Ohio N Scale weekend and we should avoid it if at all possible, for future convention planning. Bob Ashley suggested that with this much lead time it may be possible to move the MCR convention date into April or June.

For the Good of the Order

Dave Neff said that not all divisions in MCR or other regions have active N scale groups. Attracting new members through N scale operations with either N-TRAK or T-TRAK is an opportunity to help build membership. The move to do this requires that the traditional membership be open to change. He has seen this happen in several MCR Divisions and outside the region as well. Lee Sheffield said that 90% of his division's new members have been as a result of their HO scale modules. Bob Ashley said they have a wide range of scales represented in Division 1, from O to Z. Jerry Doyle said that Division 9 has several N scale modelers. Lee said that he believes there are just three people modeling N scale in Division 4. Fred Soward said that there is a large number of N scale modelers in Division 8, but that they model in different groups (Free-moN, N-TRAK), not just T-TRAK. He said that although he is not an N scale modeler, he built a T-TRAK module to support the effort. Dave asked about participation by N and Z scale modelers in division activities. Larry Smith said that Division 10 has a large number of N scale modelers that actively participate. Jerry Doyle said that both the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent are N scale modelers in Division 9. John Shields said that he is the second N scale Superintendent in Division 7. He also said that there is probably less than a third of the N scale modelers in the Division 7 area who have joined the NMRA. Rich Kosakowski said that there are two N scale modelers in Division 11. He said that everyone in the division who wanted to build a T-TRAK module when the MCR initiative was started a few years ago, did so. He said the N scale group in Clarion, that includes the Division 11 members, has setup at area family-oriented events. That group has also created plans and kits for new participants to build and bring into the layout. Lee said that there is an N scale group with 15 members in the area, but except for one individual, they do not have any desire to join the NMRA. Matt Kross said that about one third of the Division 5 members are N scale modelers and are all members of the Lake Erie N-TRACK group. Most of the new Division 5 membership has been through the recruiting efforts of that group. Most of the leadership in the division has come from the N scale group. He said that N scale is thriving in Division 5. Dave Neff said that when he first became active in his division there was a rift between N scale modelers and others, but as more N scale modelers became active in leadership, that went away. He encouraged all to ensure that we are doing all that we can to welcome everyone, no matter what scale they are operating in.

John Shields said that what they're finding in their area is that people will join one railroad-related (model or prototype) group, but they will usually not join multiple groups. Matt Goodman said that they found as a result of a survey his division ran a few years ago is that when an individual's group socialization basic needs are met, the individual stops looking

further. Bob Weinheimer said that it is cultural shift with younger groups who are not “joiners.” Frank Koch said that the cultural change is real and that the under 40’s are not joiners of anything. The Internet has made it easy to be a looker, rather than a participant of anything. They don’t want commitment or to even belong in a social sense, because on the Internet you can be anonymous and get everything you want. A lot of people will join for the club insurance. A lot of people will join then find a specific group (N scale, Narrow Gauge, Operations) and will no longer see the need for the NMRA to fill their socialization needs. Bob Ashley said that other groups of which he is a member are seeing the same issues. Rich Kosakowski said that within his division, people want to be a part of the group, but not a part of the administration of the group. He has, for the past six months, asked the membership to step up to ask someone to take over the role of treasurer with no results. Lee Sheffield said they had the same problem with some of their vacated positions.

John Shields suggested that we spend time in a future meeting to discuss effective ways to recruit new members so that we can share it across the region. Dave said that one-to-one relationships are some of the best ways to recruit and retain. Fred Soward suggested the others watch the Division 8 Clinic August 2021 YouTube video with James Knabb (<https://youtu.be/45ZCTDwY>) about recruiting new members. In the video, he talks about getting others his age involved with the NMRA. He said that HO scale is popular because it is close in scale to the Matchbox vehicles they grew up with and that N scale is popular because of T-TRAK. Bruce DeMaeyer suggested that superintendents spend time with new members to determine what motivated them to join and what it will take to keep them as members, especially focusing on people who have been there less than 5 years. Bob Ashley said that they recently started using name tags for all members. They’ve found that it has significantly increased the conversations with newer members of the division. It also helps if the individual’s position within the organization on the name badge. Lee Sheffield said that Division 4 does the same but also color codes the badges for new members.

Bruce DeMaeyer suggested that we try to not hold MCR conventions in the same geographical area of the region in consecutive years. He suggested that each division should be hosting a convention at least once every twelve years and by alternating between the west and east or north and south, that it will potentially help with attendance as well. John Shields suggested that there should be an expected rotation for the divisions within the MCR. That would give each division a target date and would be better than trying to plan a convention with only a year and a half or less lead time. Dave Neff said that if we went with a rotational basis for the 2024 convention, then either Division 4 or 5 would up next. He said that the reason he suggested they go together is that Division 5 has neither the workforce nor a site within their geographical area to host a convention at this time. Lee restated that he would talk with Division 4 about hosting the 2024 MCR convention.

Adjournment

The next Mid Central Region Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for 4:00 PM, Saturday, May 21, 2022, at the Indy Junction 2022 convention hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dave Neff closed the meeting with a reminder about dates and times of events during Indy Junction 2022 and to check the <http://www.indyjunction2022.org> website for additional information about the convention.

Adjourned 9:31 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Fred Soward, MCR Region Secretary

Divison Reports

These reports were prepared in advance of the October BOD meeting.

Division 2

The Keystone Division membership, which stood at 201 in May of 2021, now stands at 195. Four members have passed away. After 18 months of staying home, we are once again participating in public events. During the Greenberg train shows, we normally display our HO Free-Mo, and N-Gauge T-Trak modules, and provide a Division membership table displaying information about the NMRA and Division 2. We had three interested people get flyer info and pick up some membership papers at the Greenburg Show in July. We will be present at the upcoming Greenberg Show on November 6th and 7th. Our annual Jamboree, a popular event, is scheduled for this coming April 23rd. Along with a mentorship program for helping new members get involved, we hope this return to public exposure will spur our membership growth.

The Division 2 holds meetings 10 months of the year, usually at varying club sites throughout the Division. Our meetings were all virtual between April 2020 and June 2021. Beginning January 2021, we started using Zoom as our platform and have included programs presented by Division 2 members, as well as members from other divisions, using slide shows and videos. The cost of holding Zoom meetings was covered by member contributions. In August 2021, we resumed in-person meetings, beginning with our Annual Picnic. The current attendance for in-person meetings is comparable to the Zoom meeting participation. Our Bring N' Brag is held at every meeting with the entries displayed and the results tabulated during the meeting. Our Company Store, the main source of our revenue during the pandemic, is now again present at each in-person meeting.

The Keystone Flyer, our Division 2 newsletter, is published 10 times each year to coincide with each meeting. It is emailed to each member as well as to others around the country and can be accessed on our website: www.keystonedivision.org. The web version is in color while a limited number are printed in black and white and sent by mail for those who do not have email access. The website includes resources and other important news items for our division.

With the cancellation of the 2020 Mid-Central Region convention, we have turned our efforts to hosting a convention in 2023. Keith DeVault is our Convention general chair, with an advisory committee to assist him. Known as Rails to Pittsburgh, with a logo designed by Jim Sacco, the convention will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Cranberry, PA, May 4-7, 2023. Preparations are on schedule.

We look forward to our meetings once again providing social interaction, opportunities to learn from the layouts of members and clubs throughout the Division, and encouragement for our hobby.

Frank Benders

Superintendent

Division 3

Division 3 has remained as active as practical since the start of this year. Led by Gail and Dana Yarnall, we held Zoom meetings throughout the year up until June. In July, we held an in person auction that was well attended. Following an off month in August, our plan was to begin hosting hybrid meetings. However, our usual meeting place did not have enough bandwidth to support a hybrid meeting, so we hastily went back to Zoom for September. And since our presenters for October, November, and December all needed to use an online presence to do their clinics, the BOG has decided to continue with meetings thru the end of the year via Zoom. Hopefully we can return to live in person meetings in 2022. Our contests have continued, also on line, with mixed participation. Our monthly newsletter, the “Callboard” has now gone into an online format, with a few hard copies available to those members who do not receive mail electronically.

Our membership has held fairly steady at around 120. We have lost 3 longtime members in Bob Fink, John Reck, and Tom Sorauf, as well as a few former members and at least 3 spouses. Member Jim Montgomery has received his AP certificate as Chief Dispatcher, and several more are in the works. Division 3 remains in good financial shape, despite the cancellation of last year’s Dayton Train Show.

This year’s Dayton Train Show will be held on Nov. 6 and 7 at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. Planning is well underway and all the vendor and exhibitor space is spoken for and there is a waiting list. Gail Yarnall and her DTS committee have worked hard to ensure the success of the show. Many improvements in the process and organization have been made and we are all looking forward to putting on another great show and interacting with the public again.

Mark Stiver, Superintendent

Division 4

The bug is back but Division 4 is soldiering on. We had our summer picnic, which was well attended, and we started our monthly meetings in September. As said in previous reports we have a large meeting place which allows everyone to spread out. Our biggest accomplishment so far this year, The Great Berea Train Show went on without a hitch. Attendance seemed to be off slightly but those who attended spent money, lots of money. Many of our dealers said it was their best show ever. The Timonium show decided to have their show the same weekend which stole a couple of our big dealers. But we heard through the grapevine that one of those dealers wishes he came to Berea instead of Timonium.

Our webmaster, Ben Lanza has continued to enlighten us with his “For Division 4 Members Stuck at Home” series. He has scaled it back to weekly from daily. Members of Division 4 submit plenty of subject matter for Ben to choose from.

Membership

Membership is holding its own at 191. The module group continues to be our key magnet that attracts new members. Some of those new members are youth which fall under the new youth policy and we have been dealing with each of those in a case by case basis.

Finances

Division 4 remains in very good financial shape. We still have our nest egg from the National in 2014 to fall back on. When we get the final numbers from the show we will see where we stand. Our hopes are to once again award some grants to some worthy projects.

Activities

Our Module Group continues to be our leading connection with the public. We had a module display at the Cuyahoga County Fair and at the Cleveland Oktoberfest. Both shows afforded us some great exposure to the public. Training Day is on course for November 7th. We will observe all current health standards which may include wearing of masks when indoors. The holiday season brings us the annual Trees & Trains Display in Lorain and our third appearance at the Cleveland Zoo’s Wild Winter Lights. We are hoping we are inside a building as last year’s layout was in a tarped pavilion. It was a little cold some evenings. We are fortunate to have a great group in our division that loves to work with the public and promote model railroading and have fun running trains.

Meetings

We have started our normal season having meetings in September and October. Attendance has been running close to 70. The new meeting place affords us plenty of room for social distancing. Contests continue to be popular with some interesting themes thought up by our Contest Chairman and the clinics following the meetings are well attended. We are planning on having our Awards Banquet in December. I expect a smaller turnout as our median age continues to creep upward and those which would like to be cautious attending events indoors remain home.

Lee Sheffield

Superintendent

Division 5

Division 5 continues to get by but activity has been low.

The community college where we hold our annual train show fundraiser is once again saying that we probably can't use their facility in March 2022 and that we should look for a new location. If we are unable to put together a train show for 2022, that will make three years in a row that we have not had any income. We are looking at a couple of possible alternative locations for our annual Railfest but nothing is definite so far. Our financial reserves are sound and expenses have been down so the Division is able to get through this but we have cut back on some spending and curtailed donations to other train groups.

Division 5 had been having virtual meetings since September 2020. We had our first indoor in-person meeting on October 1, 2021. Attendance (12 members and 2 guests) was less than half of what it was pre-pandemic (typically 25 to 30 people). A number of people that said they wouldn't participate until we returned to having in-person meetings did not show up for this first meeting. We currently are not providing an online option when holding an in-person meeting.

We had our annual in-person outdoor movie night meeting in August. We held our annual Division 5 picnic in August at the Painesville Railroad Museum for members and their families. Attendance was low at both of these events.

We decided to cancel our annual "How To Build A Model Railroad" event in November. Between Covid issues, venue issues, event coordinator dropping out of the NMRA, and low public attendance the last few years we have held the event, it was decided to cancel it this year and work towards a more organized and focused event next year.

We continue to publish our monthly newsletter, The Trainwire.

Our membership has been holding at 56 for a while now. Attendance at the last few Zoom meetings dropped off the last few months with an average of about 12 attendees. Several members have said that they are not going to renew their NMRA membership until we are back to in-person meetings. We notified people that we are back to holding in-person meetings as of the October meeting but it is too early to know if those people are ready to renew their NMRA memberships.

Matt Kross

Superintendent

Division 6

High Level Information

Membership

Membership stands at 162 (September EOM).

Summary:

Membership is down 1.21% compared to Spring (last BOD meeting), but up 1.25% compared to last year.

Recruitment:

Division 6 deployed our recruiting table at our Cambridge Train Show in mid-October. This was the first outing since January, 2020 at the World's Greatest Hobby show in Columbus. Cambridge table volunteers reported about eight good contacts, and one transfer from another region. This represents about 4% of the paid gate.

New to our table this year was an extended T-Track module to attract attention, with one loop DC powered, the other powered by an PC with/JMRI + Arduino with motor shield. From a hands-on perspective, one member spent the afternoon building trees. Both the Arduino setup and the trees were used as object examples of the type of education that members can expect at Division 6 meetings.

Retention:

Our clinic program remains robust with a variety of topics. We continue to focus on this as our primary member service, based on feedback received from a survey conducted two seasons ago. During the shutdown period, the program necessarily presentation-based, with our return to in-person meetings in June in Marion celebrated with an explosion of clinics; two full-length clinics in the morning and a "Scenery Extravaganza" in the afternoon consisting of seven mini-clinics covering variety of topics.

Finances

Division 6 is in good financial shape

Summary:

Expenses have remained stable, with no significant spending since the last report. Our October Train Show was successful, paying for itself and returning money to the treasury in its second year at the Cambridge location.

Education/Other

Achievement Program

continued on next page

Multiple people are working on various Certificates, but there have been no new ones awarded since the last report

Meeting Operations

Meetings returned to in-person starting in June, 2021 at Marion, Ohio, and have continued in that manner since that time, excepting our mid-summer break in July and the Train Show in October.

One significant change compared to pre-pandemic is our experimentation with hybrid meetings – i.e. in-person meetings that are also video-streamed via Zoom. We have had two of these types of meetings and they have been marginally successful, with 7 and 4 remote attendees. This represented about 15% of our attendance in both cases, and was really appreciated by those who couldn't travel.

We've learned a few lessons from these two hybrid meetings. For example, all day events (our first attempt) are tremendously taxing for the production staff, and limits their participation in the actual meeting. Also, connectivity isn't a given, even at sites with WiFi services. This is frustrating for the remote attendees and disruptive to the in-person meeting if there isn't a dedicated Zoom producer.

Meeting attendance has been robust since our return to in-person, down only slightly from our remote-only meetings. It's too soon to tell if this is a trend – summer/autumn has a mix of high and low turnout locations in normal years, let alone recovery from the pandemic meeting operations.

Other Initiatives

As noted in the last report, we planned for a “go” with our train show this October, and this occurred on October 17th. While final numbers haven't been reported, we project a modest profit, which should roughly double that of 2019 (our first year at this site). Just over 80 tables were sold, and 163 attendees came through the door (not all paid), exclusive of vendors and volunteers. An interesting early observation was that at least 10% of the attendees heard about the event through Facebook advertising that started only three days before the event. At a cost of about \$1 per person, we will probably lean into this more next time, and less in distributing flyers to hobby store (higher time and \$ cost). The last phase of this year's train show is a review of what worked and what didn't. We have committed to the same location next year, pending confirmation of a date from the venue.

Matt Goodman

Superintendent

Division 7

Our membership count at the end of September was ~215, which is steady over the last 5 months. This is still notably down from 3-4 years ago. We have created a “blue ribbon” committee of the last 3 supers to discuss both recruitment and retention. The committee is tasked with reporting 3 steps to take on each subject at our December quarterly BOD meeting. A likely change is to view our monthly meetings as “activities” rather than “business meetings”. Reports from the various committees would be done in the monthly newsletter rather than at the live meeting. This could make the monthly meetings shorter and more fun to attend AND do a better job communicating more information to the members since only about 20-25% of members attend the meetings.

Prior to the pandemic, we drew between 40 and 70 people to our monthly meetings, depending on the meeting location and speaker (we rotate meeting locations around our division to encourage attendance and to make layout visits convenient). During our virtual meetings since May 2020, we had about 50 attending each month. So we were holding our own. We resumed live meetings in September which include streaming on Zoom for any who cannot attend in person or choose not to. This has worked very well for us. We have actually had more total attendees than our prior average both months.

To have this hybrid capability, we invested in new A/V equipment. Honestly, about 80% of the cost was for needed upgrades just to support our usual live meetings. It did require a video camera, a sound mixing board, and a second computer. But the true key has been recruiting and training a new group of volunteers to be our “tech crew”. We have enough trained volunteers to rotate the job (so far typically 3 per meeting) so that each member will only need to work 4-6 of the meetings per year, which we believe makes it sustainable.

We have extensive documentation of the equipment we decided we needed and the training materials that have been used. We would love to share this with any divisions that might like to follow our lead, and would also be willing to consult with any divisions already doing some version of hybrid to share ideas and learnings.

The division continues to be financially strong and able to plan and execute our yearly plans. We have now resumed our two main sources of income (our Fall Cincinnati Model Train Show and our Spring Flea Market.) Our first in-person event was a Summer Train Sale in July (a down sized version of our normal Flea market), which exceeded our attendance expectations. Our just completed Fall Show had a few less dealers signing up, but the public attendance was in line with pre-covid numbers. We hope to introduce a Summer picnic event next June.

John Shields

Division 7 Superintendent

Division 8

Despite the challenges of COVID19 restrictions in the Louisville Metro area, Division 8 is continuing to find ways to thrive and to keep our members engaged.

Division 8 membership continues to maintain a relatively steady state. We gained a few “new to the NMRA “ members and a few new to Division 8 (moves from other Regions) members over the past few months. We continue to see monthly issues with the spreadsheets we receive from NMRA HQ. Our membership chair, Stan White, is working directly with NMRA HQ staff and with the MCR Membership Committee as issues are identified. We have continued to contact new members as we are notified of them, placing them into a mentor program as quickly as possible to bring them on board with Division 8 activities and opportunities. We contact members who are within a month of membership expiration by email and follow-up with email and phone calls if they do not renew prior to the membership expiration date. We have noted several instances of non-notification of renewal by HQ NMRA to some of our Division 8 members.

The Division is in good financial shape. Because there was no expected income for the previous Division 8 fiscal year, we significantly pared down the annual budget, limiting planned spending to cover only absolutely necessary expenditures. Fortunately, we have had few expenses over that same period.

We cancelled the last three Division 8 Train Show & Sale events (March 2020, November 2020, and March 2021). With the COVID-19 restrictions slowly being lifted, we are fully committed to holding the November 13, 2021 event, as originally scheduled.

Our efforts at using Groups.io email groups for BoD-only and for all members has been hugely successful. The majority of our members are engaged in the email group. It has continued to be extremely beneficial at keeping our members involved in the organization and in communicating with each other. Members freely discuss upcoming events, model railroad subjects, and prototype railroad subjects. After 15 months, the daily email blast with links to model and prototype videos and webpages that was sent alternatively from the Superintendent and Trustee Ron Ellison was reduced to twice weekly beginning in July. The email blast continues to create significant email discussion between our members.

The 5-minute “back to basics” presentation as part of the monthly General/Business Meeting continues to be successful. It generates discussion and, as admitted by some of our more seasoned modelers, has opened eyes to things they thought they might have known, but really didn’t fully grasp. Topics have included scale vs gauge, prototype couplers, HO scale couplers, N scale couplers, NMRA Achievement Program, and ACI (Automatic Car Identification) labels.

The monthly virtual model contest has done well. We now have more participation than we did during our face-to-face meetings. Our concern about some of our members not having the resources to produce quality photos for the virtual contest was completely unfounded. With a bit of one-on-one coaching, the quality of the photographs has significantly improved during this past year. To make it happen, Trustee Ron Ellison devised a plan for us to use a combination of Google Forms, Google Photos, and the Division 8 website. The Google forms voting ballot is emailed to all voting members and includes a description of each entry and from 1 to 3 photos of each entry. The photos are also available in Division 8 Google Photos in a higher resolution. We continue to tweak the process and procedures as needed.

Our monthly Zoom business/general membership meetings have been a success with attendance being about the

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same as our previous face-to-face meetings. Some of the attendees are members who had never made it to a face-to-face meeting because of challenges with travel since Division 8 covers 31 counties beginning with seven counties in Southern Indiana and extending south to the Tennessee border. Officially beginning with our August 2021 meeting, we started hybrid meetings (in-person and simultaneously on Zoom). We made one minor administrative tweak to the initial hybrid event and have had no problems with audio or video quality. Attendance is above the average of what we previously had during in-person only meetings prior to COVID-19 restrictions.

In addition to the monthly business/general membership meetings, we hold a monthly “Gathering” event where the intent is for Division 8 members to show off recent modeling work. The basic concept is to allow up to three individuals to each take a 20-minute block of time (or less) to show off some model railroad project they’ve each individually been working on. To date, we’ve seen a lot of completed buildings, signals, rolling stock, locomotives, layout tours, and electronic projects. The attendance has been about the same as the business/general meetings, but not always the same individuals. Every third month of the quarter, we hold a Division 8 “Bull Session” where the floor is open to any model railroad or prototype railroad topic. Attendance and participation have been about the same as the other monthly meetings with the discussion lasting up to two hours.

To make it possible for individuals who cannot attend when it is scheduled, our business/general meeting and the Gathering/Roundtable are recorded. After some editing, we make those events available on YouTube. We continue to announce the publishing of the videos through Groups.io and on the Division 8 Facebook page. Compared to our in-person meeting attendance, we have more than doubled the number of people who are experiencing our meetings through the virtual meetings and the YouTube videos.

We took the initiative to create and share a list of Division 8 members who are willing and able to present virtual clinics to other MCR Divisions. Division 8 member Barbara Soward contacted every Division 8 member who had presented a virtual clinic since the time we started having virtual meetings. She obtained permission from nine individuals to share their contact information and the topic of the clinics they were willing to share with other Divisions for a total of 24 clinics. The response has been overwhelmingly positive with some individuals adding clinics to the list she had initially created. Her next task is to go back further in the calendar and ask people who had presented in-person events if they are willing to modify those in-person clinics for a virtual audience and to then be added to the list. The initial list was shared with the MCR groups.io email group in mid-April.

Our marketing efforts continue to expand and gain new ground. Our Facebook page consistently has more interactions than the ten similar pages we are tracking and with one exception has nearly twice the number of total page likes and followers of any of the others.

We recently created a Division 8 Instagram account. We did so based on recommendations from talking with younger (15- to 30-year-old) model railroaders. Within the first month, and with very few posts, we managed to acquire 60 followers.

We held our annual picnic at the Salem Depot Museum in Salem, Indiana on July 31. The attendance was 90% of what we usually have at the annual picnic.

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Lastly, Division 8 and the K & I Model Railroad Club in Louisville hosted the Scale Trains Road Show on September 29. There were various Scale Trains models on display and marketing materials available. The program included a discussion of Scale Train's history, challenges and processes involved in manufacturing model railroad locomotives and rolling stock, future endeavors (including what's happening around the acquisition of MTH product lines), door prizes, and a lengthy Q&A session. Most of the attendees were NMRA members. Our membership chair, Stan White, met every non-NMRA member as they arrived at the event and provided them with Division 8, NMRA, K & I Model Railroad Club, and Indy Junction 2022 information to take with them.

Fred Soward

Superintendent

Division 9

Membership: The Coal Division saw a slight decrease in membership during the Covid-19 pandemic but membership seems to have leveled-off. Membership now totals 45 from a high of 48 pre Covid-19 era and we are working hard to keep in touch with those that have let their membership lapse. Our Membership Chair, John Harris has sent a survey to those members requesting information about their reasons for not renewing and reported the results during a recent meeting. It seems the main reason for not renewing is a financial decision. We will continue to keep in touch with these former members, encouraging them to again join our group. On the good side, we have gained two members who have moved into our Region. Both live quite a distance from where we conduct our monthly meeting but we will encourage them to join us virtually when they can't participate in an in-person meeting.

Finances: The Division is very frugal with expenditures resulting in a very stable financial position. A monthly raffle with items donated by members is now being used to cover the building rent we occur for our current meeting location.

Meetings: After 14 long months of virtual meetings, Division 9 has gone back to meeting in-person as of our June 2021 meeting. We have had to change our meeting location slightly. The old C&O St. Alban's Depot is currently under renovation so we have moved next door to the St. Alban's Historical Society building. We are currently renting this facility for our meetings. The Historical Society building gives us a very comfortable, clean, and handicap accessible place to conduct our business and be together as a group. The Society members are very helpful and cordial affording our every need. Our meetings are now hybrid, giving members a choice of attending in-person or virtually. It has been a challenge for our "producers" Jerry Doyle, Bob Weinheimer, and Sam Delaughter especially since the location does not have internet accessibility. They have overcome many problems as have other divisions who have also encountered issues with this type of meeting. Working together and with the help, encouragement, and information from other Divisions we keep improving. The hybrid type of meetings seems to be the future trend for communicating to all members regardless of health reasons, bad weather or how far away they may be.

It has been really great to be together in-person again. I think we all needed the camaraderie we have missed. The June and July meetings featured our normal agenda; the August meeting was our "Picnic on the Platform" and very well attended. The September meeting found us once again back at West Portsmouth, Ohio running the "Crusty" and enjoying a barbecue lunch. This is a joint outing with Division 6 and it is always great to share stories and ideas with them. We were concerned with the surge of the Delta Covid-19 variant, so it was decided to go back virtually for our October meeting. Since infection rates are trending down by encouraging social distancing, using common sense, and with many of our members being vaccinated against Covid-19, we intend to go back to the hybrid/in-person format in November.

Clinics: Each month during the meeting we have a clinic. Our Clinic Chair, Sam Delauter does a great job of scheduling a broad range of interesting clinics for presentation to our group. During the October meeting, Bob Frankrone from Louisville presented an excellent clinic virtually pertaining to "Open Loads". This type of virtual clinic is a good example of what the virtual world has to offer. Sam is in the process of compiling a list of Division 9 clinicians and identifying their willingness to present to other divisions.

Education: Education is an important aspect of our division. The Division has a very nice display created by our Membership Chair, John Harris that is used at shows and events displaying information about the NMRA and our Division. Hopefully as the pandemic subsides, we can once again use this great tool to educate and attract new members. Internally, once a year we conduct the Gary Burdette Challenge. This will be the fifth year for this challenge and it features a wooden trestle craftsman kit with landform for members to complete and display at our December meeting. The purpose of the activity is to get our members out of their comfort zone and try something new and challenging. We have had great success with this endeavor and it continues to be a popular activity.

Achievement Program: Participation in the AP has been slow during the pandemic but we see a number of certificates that appear to be within reach of several members. As things get back to a new normal, hopefully issues with paper work and final requirement can be completed.

Newsletter: The newsletter is a critical communication tool for Division 9. Bob Weinheimer does an excellent job as editor, conveying information on a monthly basis to every member either electronically or by regular mail. During these difficult times, the newsletter is our most important link to those members who cannot join us virtually or in-person.

Robert Osburn, Superintendent

Division 10

Period covered: June 2021 - September 2021

Membership: Slight decrease with new and renewing members with the 2 year moving average continuing at 67. As of September 2021, NMRA reported 68 active members. Looking at the graph of membership by month, we seem to be declining slightly in the last 5 months or so. Our overall membership is 68 for the last 7 months which is only one below the average for the last two years although we have 62 members in September.

Finances: No income but outflow recently for equipment and mailing. The board voted to continue the Zoom subscription. We purchased a new computer to handle hybrid meetings, a combination of in person and Zoom. The board also authorized purchase of microphone if needed for hybrid meetings. We have a continued outflow each month for sending out paper copies of newsletter.

Programs: No in-person meetings have been held since June 2020 due to the COVID19 pandemic. We have decided to hold our first hybrid meeting on November 6, a Saturday. We utilize the Lexington Public Library system because they have large enough rooms available and they also have the electronic equipment that we need and use. We figure it is about time to do a hybrid meeting since Covid is not at a high level and the anxiety level of the members may have lessened. If some members still feel uncomfortable meeting in person, and some may, we will have Zoom available for them. Meeting attendance is down slightly with Zoom only, but we averaged about 18 for the last 8 months.

Our activities with the public are beginning to open up. Since some of our activities are held at public libraries and since the libraries have been closed for groups, we have not been able to hold events. However, we have tentatively scheduled the next Trains Day for the spring of 2022. We are also looking to hold a Trains Day in other counties in our division. We also have at least the interest of another county in our division area for a Trains Day at the Library there. Our first venture outside in public was going to Ravenna KY where the KY Steam Heritage Corporation is located. The attending members got a tour of all the facilities, including steam engine 2716. Later in the month we took part of our T-Trak modules to display and run at the Ravenna Train Festival. Another outing was a tour of a very well made and detailed layout of one of the members. The members seem to enjoy getting out again. We will be planning more activities for our division in the future.

The Division newsletter – The Lantern – and our website are active and continue being updated. Continuing updates have included NMRA Merit Awards and Achievement Certificates by members and awards. We are trying to expand the electronic version of the newsletter with modeling provided by members and with any other subject that might be of interest to the members that is related to model railroading or full size trains.

The Facebook page has continued to be active as reported by the host, Brian Jones. Brian has continued to take over the Monthly Modeling (ex Bring and Brag) and he has done a great job in getting topics and members to participate. Members continue to participate in Monthly Modeling and we are always interested in getting more to participate.

Larry Smith, Superintendent

Division 11

Division 11, like many divisions in our region, has done what has had to be done to remain on an even keel. Covid continues to have a major say in all division affairs. Current numbers indicate we have 29 active NMRA members in our division. Attendance at monthly meetings is around half that number. My records show we have 24 members in participation on a semi-regular basis.

In spite of covid and our small numbers this has been a good year for The Allegheny Plateau Division. We started virtual bring and brag competitions last year and have found it to work out great for us. As a matter of fact, we expanded it to include a photography category and normally have 6 to 10 entries in both categories. We were able to re-rail our traveling layout with code 100 track and recently operated the layout at a recent event in St Marys, Pennsylvania which was a great success. In addition to its improved operation, we are currently working on improving its visual impact with additional scenery. The 2022 list of meeting hosts has already been completed as is the category lists for bring and brag contests. We are also continuing regular bi-weekly operating sessions at member layouts. A visit to the East Broad Top R.R. Museum is planned with a train ride included.

We continue to be positive about all phases of Division 11 and are ready to improve upon all we offer to our membership and the communities within our borders. With diligence and hard work we plan to make it so.

Rich Kosakowski

Superintendent

Division 12

Division 12's roster currently has 38 members. This is down from a high of 45 prior to Covid 19. We are now starting to trend in upward direction, in the last 6 months we have had 3 new members join the NMRA.

The division is looking forward to the return of the Erie Train Show Sunday October 31st at Rainbow Gardens. This is a week earlier than in past years. Division 12 will be assisting Iron Horse Productions with this show again this year.

We have attempted to have in person meetings the last 3 months with somewhat limited attendance. Our September and October events were held either outside or at larger venues, with the event at the Salamanca Railroad Museum in October being very well attended.

This January through March we will be hosting Hybrid meetings, as we will be doing a 3-part clinic with Clark Kooning, MMR©. He offered to present a series of clinics he has previously done with the "Modeling with the Masters" series, involving the construction of a plaster kit (the "First-timer Bar") by Downtown Deco. Clark will proceed step-wise with construction hints and tips, including staining and weathering a hydrocal kit. Downtown Deco will also include extra wall sections to practice on. This is a great opportunity to learn some new techniques from a well-known Master Model Railroader.

Division 12 will once again be hosting our Mini-Meet Saturday September 10th at the Ambassador Hotel and Convention Center at I-90 and US19 in Erie, PA.

Dave Ellis, one of the founding members of Division 12, has relocated to eastern PA. Dave was our Clerk, Treasurer and Newsletter editor. Mike Hauk has stepped up to be the Clerk and co-edit the Builders Plate along with Bill Schopf. Dale Desser has taken over the Treasurer duties. We wish Dave and Renee the best of health. The Susquehanna Division has gained a valuable new member.

Bradley White

Superintendent

Membership

October 23, 2021

Paul J. Novak Jr.
Mid Central Region
Membership Chairman

MCR B.O.D. Report

Below is a table that summarizes the MCR membership by Division and Month since December 2020:

Div.	12 of 2020	01 of 2021	02 of 2021	03 of 2021	04 of 2021	05 of 2021	06 of 2021	07 of 2021	08 of 2021	09 of 2021
0	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
1	83	83	81	78	78	78	79	78	79	80
2	200	200	197	194	192	188	189	188	188	185
3	127	123	125	120	120	122	119	115	116	116
4	191	189	190	187	189	190	188	191	192	191
5	59	58	58	57	57	56	56	57	56	56
6	158	162	161	164	164	163	164	161	162	162
7	212	211	212	209	206	210	208	210	212	216
8	125	124	125	125	123	124	124	123	121	123
9	43	44	41	41	42	41	44	45	45	45
10	67	69	69	68	65	63	64	64	64	62
11	34	35	33	34	34	33	32	33	30	29
12	36	36	34	35	36	35	40	35*	34	38
Deaths	4	3	1	6	1	0	2	3	0	3
New Mems	5	8	4	6	5	6	3	8	6	13
Rail Pass	3	1	1	2	2	3	0	4	3	6
Renewals	52	143	118	123	79	50	68	55	45	69

*number not accurate as some members (Life and N.Y. state) were missing from roster info from HQ.

Respectively submitted,

Paul J. Novak Jr.

Webnaster Report

WEB Host: We have three websites on Go Daddy, one main site, and two subsites called subdomains. The subdomains are the Region Archive and the Officer's Archive.

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

officers@midcentral-region-nmra.org

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

supers@midcentral-region-nmra.org

forwards to all twelve division superintendents.

managers@midcentral-region-nmra.org

forwards to the Managers.

Note the "s" before the "@" in each case.

Division Logos: Did you know all the division logos in predetermined sizes are available on the Graphic Page in the Officer's Archive?

MCR Regulations: The MCR Regulations are available at the bottom of the BOD Page on the main website.

Web Site Host: Our Web Site Host (the computer in the cloud that contains our website) is GoDaddy. GoDaddy has been running slow lately. When I upload information to GoDaddy it takes 30 to 40 seconds instead of the 10 seconds in the past. Download times are a little faster, but not by much. And of course, the download times are not consistent. So if the website runs slow for you, please be patient. Maybe it will faster next time.

Main Website Changes: I have cleaned up the Region's Main website. I'm still finding a few little problems. If you find any, please let me know. Two pages to look at; MMR®, I do not have the most current members or their division. Projects, I will look at each division's project page to update the region information. Please let me know if is current. Some browser bookmarks may have changed.

Thanks,

Don Wilke,

MCR WebMaster

A Treasurer's report was presented but is not published.

Indy Junction 2022 Convention

We recently received four separate monthly updates for the convention, each with unique information. They are presented here in order.

Update for July 15, 2021

Our Marketing Update for July 2021 is mainly about the Train Show which will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the Indy Junction 2022 Convention. Your convention fee includes entry to the Show and also entitles you to early access for convention attendees only on Friday.

Here's the flyer for the Train Show with some further details ↓



The flyer graphic features a central blue arrow pointing down towards the text 'Indy Junction 2022'. To the left is a red arrow pointing right, and to the right is a green arrow pointing left. Below the arrows, the text reads 'MWR NCR MCR RPM Conference' and 'TRAIN SHOW'. The dates and times for the show are listed below that.

**Indy Junction
2022**
MWR NCR MCR
RPM Conference

TRAIN SHOW

Friday May 20, 2022	~	5:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Saturday May 21, 2022	~	10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Sunday May 22, 2022	~	10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Indianapolis Marriott East
7202 East 21st Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219**

Exhibitors will include small to medium sized manufacturers of model railroad products and supplies who will have their products for sale

Modular Layouts ~ Door Prizes ~ Food Concessions

FREE Parking

ADMISSION: \$8.00 per person - good for all 3 days of the show

Children 13 and under FREE with a paid adult

Ticket sales to the public are on site only - no advance ticket sales

Early entry and free admission to Indy Junction 2022 Convention Attendees

As a convention attendee, the Train Show will be open exclusively to you on Friday May 20, 2022 for 4 hours from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Just show your convention credentials to attend the show.

The Train Show will take place in Liberty Hall and Veterans Hall. A floorplan map of the Marriott East will soon be available on the Indy Junction 2022 website.

Expect up to 156 exhibitor tables.

Modular Layouts will be placed in the Atrium area so the 2 exhibition halls will be strictly for exhibitor's.

If you're not a convention attendee, tickets to the Train Show will be on sale at the Registration Table also in the Atrium.

We do have some additional marketing materials available to share with you. If you'd like copies of any of the following to share with your region, division, or group, just send an email to info.indyjunction2022@gmail.com and we'll reply and attach any of the files.

- Indy Junction 2022 news release PDF
- Indy Junction 2022 postcard handout printed 2 sides PDF
- Indy Junction 2022 full page color flyer PDF, PNG, or JPG
- Indy Junction 2022 Train Show flyer PDF or JPG
- Indy Junction 2022 small color ad TIF or JPG
- Indy Junction 2022 color logo JPG or PNG
- Indy Junction 2022 black & white logo JPG or PNG

We have many new subscribers to our Marketing Updates. For their benefit, we are including below information from the June update. You can skip or review. There are no changes to the information shared in June. We can say that Registration for Indy Junction 2022 will be open soon. It's being tested to make sure everything is working as expected.

Indy Junction 2022 Convention fees

- **\$85.00 Early Registration** - Opening Registration to December 31, 2021
- **\$95.00 Registration** - January 1, 2022 to April 27, 2022
- **\$110.00 Late Registration** - April 28, 2022 to May 21, 2022
- **\$25.00 additional Family Member(s) Registration** - any date

Marriott East Indianapolis Room Rate

- \$132.00 per night plus applicable taxes

When does Indy Junction 2022 begin?

The first clinics begin Wednesday morning May 18, 2022 at 9:00 AM. You may want to plan to arrive Tuesday May 17, 2022. Check-In and Registration for the Convention will be open Tuesday after noon. Check-in time is 4:00 PM (and check-out time is 12:00 PM). The RPM clinics begin on Thursday at 1:00 PM.

What is the clinic schedule?

In general there will be 2 clinics in the morning starting at 9:00 AM with a half hour break in between. An hour and a half for lunch. 3 clinics in the afternoon with a half hour break in between. An hour and a half for dinner. 3 clinics in the evening with a half hour break in between.

What activities besides clinics will there be?

Afternoons are for layout tours or stay in and enjoy clinics. Any clinic that is scheduled in the afternoon will always be offered a second time either in the morning or the evening so you won't miss anything. In addition there will be prototype tours, ops sessions, contests, Railyard Sale, and non rail activities.

Share this update with someone who hasn't signup yet for updates on the Indy Junction 2022 website -

<https://www.indyjunction2022.org/>



Hello!

We've promised you Registration would be open soon. Well at long last, soon is NOW. Registration is OPEN. You can register for the Convention, and while you're on the website, make a room reservation.

GO HERE now - <https://www.indyjunction2022.org/>

If you've registered for a lot of conventions, you can probably wing it. But if you're a "manual reader", the Registration Committee has provided some great instructions. And we suggest you read through the instructions before you get started.

If you run into any problems, the Registrar is standing by to help you. He's a person so he'll get back to you within 24 hours. (Likely sooner if you make contact during daylight hours.) Here's the contact link if you need help registering - registration@indyjunction2022.org

As a reminder, the only way to register for **Indy Junction 2022** is online and through the website.

We shared the Convention fees before, but here they are again ↓

- **\$85.00 Early Registration** - Opening Registration to December 31, 2021
- **\$95.00 Registration** - January 1, 2022 to April 27, 2022
- **\$110.00 Late Registration** - April 28, 2022 to May 21, 2022
- **\$25.00 additional Family Member(s) Registration** - any date
- **\$40.00 Saturday May 21 ONLY**, Individual Registration (One-Day includes Train Show)

And while you're on the site, get a room reserved. We strongly suggest you use the link on the website to reserve your room. Marriott is experiencing some staffing problems for telephone support. They give you some outstanding help once you connect - but there can be some extended hold times to speak with someone on the phone. (We're not kidding - wait times can run from 10 to 30 minutes. Everyone in hospitality is experiencing labor shortages.)

Marriott East Indianapolis Room Rate

- \$132.00 per night plus applicable taxes

If you're new to these updates, most of the information we've previously shared is now on the **Indy Junction 2022** website. Take a look around while you're there. But we encourage you to tell your fellow model railroaders to sign up on the Homepage for Convention Updates. We'll continue to keep you updated with the latest Convention Information with an update in the middle of each month. More often when there is something important we think you need to know right away.

One final registration tip - If you are accessing the Indy Junction 2022 webpage on your mobile device, phone or tablet, you'll need to click the menu icon on the top of the homepage to see all the pages. Here is a screenshot ↓



Share this update with someone who hasn't yet signed up for updates on the Indy Junction 2022 website - <https://www.indyjunction2022.org/>

Indy Junction 2022 Marketing Committee

<https://mailchi.mp/79eaab03fb5c/may-16-2021-indy-junction-update-4952741>



Hello!

Did you already register for **INDY JUNCTION 2022**? And reserve your room at the **INDY JUNCTION 2022 rate**? And you signed up for **INDY JUNCTION 2022 Updates** on the website? Great! You are set! All you have to do now is pack your suitcase and head to The Crossroads of America, Indianapolis.

If you've done all that, you are good to go. If not, read on. We'll tell you about some of the reasons you should register below or just ↓

GO HERE now - <https://www.indyjunction2022.org/>

Why you should register and attend **INDY JUNCTION 2022** hosted by the NMRA, Midwest Region, North Central Region, Mid Central Region, the RPM Conference and Visit Indy

You can expect the best of ↓

- NMRA Regional Convention
- NMRA National Convention
- National Narrow Gauge Convention
- RPM Conference Meet

There will be ↓

Clinics

continued on next page

Layout Tours
Operating Sessions
Prototype Tours
Non-Rail Activities
Friends of the Freight Car Dinner
Rail Yard Sale
Contests
T-Trak
Three-Day Train Show
Four Full Days

Some additional details ↓

Clinics

- NMRA Clinics and RPM Conference Clinics run concurrently
- All attendees can attend either/both
- 2 in the morning, 3 in the afternoon and 3 in the evening during each time slot
- A minimum of 70 unique clinics each presented twice during the convention
- Modeling with the Masters - Extra fare clinic, 3 to 4 hour hands on assembly make and take guided by 3 or more MMR's

Layout Tours

- Self-Guided and Self-Driving
- During the afternoon Wednesday through Saturday
- Afternoon clinics you might miss will be repeated mornings or evenings

Operating Sessions

- Self-Guided and Self-Driving
- During the afternoon Thursday and Friday

- Afternoon clinics you might miss will be repeated mornings or evenings

Rail & Industrial Prototype Tours *

- Whitewater Valley Railroad
 - Friday all day
 - Bus Tour
 - Limited to 40 Participants
 - \$65
- Amtrak Beech Grove Shops
 - Saturday afternoon
 - Self-drive to facility
 - Limited to 20 Participants
 - \$20

* These 2 tours are confirmed. Other tours may be added. Because of COVID-19 some other facilities are holding off confirming other Prototype Tours. The Convention Committee is working on some additional tours. You can of course sign up for additional tours as they become available. As a registered attendee, you'll be first to know about additional tours.

RPM Activities

- Similar to Chicagoland RPM Meet (and then some)
- RPM Clinics
- Dedicated Display and Modular Layout Room

Non-Rail Activities

- Dedicated clinic room
- Activities planned in conjunction with **VisitIndy.com**

Friends of the Freight Car Dinner

- Friday at 7:00 PM
- Menu options
 - Breaded Pork Cutlet (a midwest favorite)

continued on next page

- Angus Pot Roast
- Tilapia
- \$55.00 per person
- After dinner speaker - to be announced

Rail Yard Sale

- Sell your excess Good quality Model Railroad items
- Buy someone else's excess Good quality Model Railroad items
- Register items Wednesday & Thursday
- Sales Thursday & Friday
- Pricing in \$5 increments
- Cash only Sales
- Seller Reconciliation Saturday (10% of Sales to indy Junction 2022)

NMRA Contest

- Open to NMRA attendees only
- Entries accepted Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
- Judging Saturday morning and afternoon
- Award Ceremony Saturday evening

Train Show

- Three days
 - Friday 10 to 2 - Convention attendees only
 - Friday 5 to 9 - Open to the public
 - Saturday 10 to 6 - Open to the public
 - Sunday 10 to 3 - Open to the public
- On site at the Indianapolis Marriott East
- Up to 156 National small/unique exhibitors

- Exhibitors will be small to medium sized manufacturers of model railroad products and supplies who will have their products for sale
- FREE to convention attendees
- Door prizes
- Food Concessions

Indy Junction 2022 Fares

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Have we convinced you to attend - If so, ↓

GO HERE now - <https://www.indyjunction2022.org/>

Indy Junction 2022 is a New Convention Model for a New Era

A shorter convention

4 days vs 7 days

A less expensive convention

\$638 vs \$1,850 (pre-tax without travel costs)

FREE parking at a venue away from Downtown

But "*We've never done it that way . . .*"

NMRA and RPM Conference Clinics together at one convention

Layout Tours & Operating Sessions in Daylight hours and Self-driving

Train Show Exhibitors selling product, not just talking or displaying product

continued from previous page

And while you're registering for **INDY JUNCTION 2022**, get your room reserved.

Marriott East Indianapolis Room Rate

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Indy Junction 2022 Marketing Committee



T-Trak at Indy Junction 2022

A very large T-TRAK layout is being planned as an invitational event at Indy Junction 2022. The invitation is extended to all Indy Junction 2022 registrants. The event will occupy the entire Freedom Hall B. Registrants will bring their modules for display and train running during Indy Junction 2022. Set up is planned for Wednesday morning and tear down is planned for Saturday afternoon so there will be plenty of time for you to run your trains, attend really good clinics, see some great layouts, visit the Train Show and meet with your friends as well as prototype and non-rail tours. The layout will be powered by Digitrax DCC and will be running with JMRI WiFi so bring along your smartphone.

The event is being sponsored by the NMRA Mid Central Region who have a T-TRAK invitational layout at their annual convention. So those of you from other NMRA regions will see it for the first time.

A Call for Modules has been issued (see below). Up to date information will be provided in future marketing emails, as well as to an email list that will be composed of all who sign up to participate in the T-Trak layout at Indy Junction 2022.

So, bring those cool modules that you have worked so hard to build and show us your skills and ingenuity.

T-TRAK Call for Modules

The logo for Indy Junction 2022 is centered. It features the text "Indy Junction" in a large, bold, black font, with "2022" below it in a slightly smaller font. Underneath "2022" are the abbreviations "MWR NCR MCR" and "RPM Conference" in a smaller font. Three arrows point towards the text: a blue arrow from above, a red arrow from the bottom left, and a green arrow from the bottom right. Each arrow has a stylized train track pattern at its tail.

This Call for Modules is intended for those modelers planning to attend the Indy Junction 2022 Convention May 18th to 22nd 2022.

Hosted by the
North Central Region, Midwest Region, Mid Central Region,
and the Railroad Prototype Modelers Chicagoland.

The large layout during Indy Junction 2022 will be hosted by the NMRA Mid Central Region as an invitational layout.
It will be open to all modelers attending the convention.

The layout will occupy the entire Marriott East Hotel's Freedom Hall B, a room 84' by 35', and tentatively will be a five branch E shaped layout.
The layout plan will support 260 single equivalent modules.

This Call for Modules is particularly directed at T-TRAKers residing in the geography of the North Central Region and the Midwest Region.

If you are interested in participating in this invitational Layout,
please send an email to

t-trak@indyjunction2022.org

If you are from the North Central or Midwest Region, or any other NMRA Region around the globe and you would like to join with members from the Mid Central region or if you are not an NMRA member, send an email to:

t-trak@indyjunction2022.org

If you are from the Mid Central Region, please contact your Division T-TRAK committee member.

2022 MCR T-TRAK Regional Modules Committee

MCR T-TRAK Regional Committee Chair
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Judging
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Registration
Bob Belt (859) 263-2170. beltbob1@gmail.com

More information about T-Trak at Indy Junction 2022 can be found on the web page here ↓

[Indy Junction 2022 - May 18-22, 2022 - Indianapolis, Indiana](#)

If you want to stay updated on information related to Indy Junction 2022, you can subscribe to our mailing list by filling out the form on the main web page. We'll be sending monthly updates as the event approaches. This list will only be used for Indy Junction 2022 updates and your information will not be used or shared for any other purpose.

Don't forget, Indy Junction Early Bird fares end December 31, 2021. Seems like a long ways away now but it will be here before you know it along with the year 2022.

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Visit the Indy Junction 2022 YouTube Channel for more information. Our videos are a simple and easy way to share Indy Junction 2022 with your Region, Division or Club ↓

[IndyJunction 2022](#)

Share this update with someone who hasn't yet registered for the Convention and signed up for updates on the INDY JUNCTION 2022 website.

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