



# The Kingpin

Newsletter of the  
**Mid Central Region**  
National Model Railroad Association  
October 2023



Union Station Chicago

Relevance? You might have been here if you took Amtrak to the National Convention. If you were there returning Monday night, the signal system died and Amtrak would have put you up in a fantastic hotel with an extra day to see the city. Or watch TV in the Metro Lounge after a long week,

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all photos in this issue: Dave Williams

## MCR President's Report

Sept. 21, 2023

This President's report is based upon reading the Division Newsletters and the semi-annual reports from each Division, hence a last-minute submission to the archives as an overview summary and observations:

----all Divisions are healthy with active meeting participation and programs, and train shows and other public event displays..

----attendance at Division meetings is 20-30% of total Divisional NMRA registration, or even better for local smaller meetings in larger geographically-spread Divisions who hold multiple location meetings.

----overall membership is fairly stable for all Divisions. Some have slightly gained, others have not quite returned to pre-covid levels. Death, re-location, and in some instances the dues cost change are cited for differences.

---active attention is being paid to member retention with reach-out efforts between existing/new members, financial incentives for bringing new members in, etc. New module programs in both HO and N Rail (NTrak and T-Trak) are gaining traction with some Divisions., with modules made available for new/newer members

---participation in the NMRA Achievement program is on the upswing in several Divisions. Continued activity in this area is encouraged, especially with guidance from Divisional MMRs, local achievement program chairs, and recent Merit award winners from regional/national shows to encourage new efforts among other members.

--succession planning for officers and committee chairpersons leaving office is proceeding in several Divisions and must continue to be emphasized

--planned non-meeting social events (picnics, special tours, movie nights, parties, etc.) for and between Division members is a good way to keep interest in Division participation.

David Neff

President, NMRA Mid Central Region



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



Early Registration is \$90.00  
through 12/31/2023



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### ***Convention Merchandise***

***The North Coast Limited 2024 Convention offers two  
Convention Cars and a Large selection of Men & Women's  
apparel***

### ***SCHEDULE of EVENTS***

***Layout Tours, Operating Sessions, 4 Clinic Rooms  
(including make & take clinics for a small fee)***

***Celebration of Modeling, Yard Sale, Prototype Tours, General interest Tours,  
Non-Rail Tours***

***More events are being added as the NCL moves closer to the convention date.  
Look for updates on the NCL site!***

***Many Restaurants  
are located  
within walking  
distance of the  
Crown Plaza  
Hotel.***



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and MERCHANDISE PRESALE  
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# The National Convention and Train Show Grapevine Texas

Our convention was located in this area on two floors. It was in the same wing as most of our hotel rooms. The elevators were fast.



I counted 14 Mid Central Region members in attendance, with the assumption that there were a few more whom I didn't know. Everybody wondered about the heat in Texas during August, and they were more than justified - it was 109 degrees when I arrived and probably over 100 every day afterward, not really a problem though, as most of the resort was indoors (with something of an outdoors feel) with very pleasant temperatures.

The host committee's white shirt volunteers were the most attentive I've ever encountered.

I only did clinics this time around but they were excellent. Of note to me, Bill Brown and Jim Zinser did a clinic on model judging that cleared up a few long standing questions - and created more. We'll just say that judging newer technologies such as 3D printing are still being worked through. One of the most astounding clinics that I attended was given by MCR's G4 Gardiner. He's somehow able to go nonstop for an hour and half, holding every single person's attention. It was mainly about building his next layout. Using what seemed like a thousand hours of research, he carefully ran through various scenarios, with all but one ending in some unwelcome compromise based on a real life situation not quite right. He has a clever idea of using hidden staging tracks to be shared with an On3 layout on one side of the room with an HO layout on the other side. The clinic ended with what was for me an eye opener on the future of the hobby. G4 indicated younger modelers are interested in today and the future, in his case, involving high speed passenger trains. The transition era that so many of us hold dear is not much of an interest.

I recommend watching Barb and Fred Soward's video on the convention. Go to the Division 8 website and click on YouTube Videos, or if you like typing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGwmWVTkOkI&t=1382s>



## Hotel Central Areas

100 plus degrees in the real outside but the pretend outside was about 70 degrees. There were two conjoined areas with separate glass domes.







Modeling with the Masters® was back in full swing with multiple offerings. There were other hands-on clinics as well.



## Contest Judging



Larry Smith MMR of Division 10 was a judge,



If Barbie had a layout .... The Lego layouts always attract attention during the National Train Show.



Bob Frankrone (left) received the Model Contest Chairman's Award and First Place in the Photo Match category from Bill Brown, National Contest Chair. Bob received the awards a little late in the ceremony as he had just wrapped one of several clinics that he presented during the week.

Dr. Neal Schorr also won several awards for his photos but was unable to attend the ceremony.





One of our tour buses waiting outside the convention area.

Train Show







Long line for the train ride.

The National Train Show had the usual big name vendors and a good number of local dealers offering low cost items. The children's section was amazing, with lines and standing room only everywhere. The hotel seems to cater to families on the weekends, so add those kids to the ones from the surrounding Dallas Fort Worth vicinity and, you've got a lot of future NMRA members!



Do it yourself Brio style layouts.



I believe this rugged "kid proof" layout made an appearance at the Portland National. I can't find the name of the designer and they were obviously too busy to talk with at the Show. Everything on the layout is made to be walked on or even safely fallen on by children.

## Editor's Job Available

I'm looking for someone to take my place as editor of the Kingpin. The ideal candidate should have won the Pulitzer Prize for Journalism, preferably multiple times. In the much more real world, some experience with publishing software such as Microsoft Publisher is fairly important. Having worked on your Division's newsletter is a plus, but church or club newsletters are good too. Maybe even just your highly formatted form letter to the relatives at Christmas? You should also be attending your Division meetings on a regular basis (Zoom attendance qualifies) and be interested in Mid Central Region activities.

Contact me at either [dave\\_wms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dave_wms@sbcglobal.net) or call 440 838-4996.

Dave Williams

editor, Kingpin



# Fall BOD Reports

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Reports that follow were submitted prior to the Fall BOD meeting. The Minutes for that meeting are still in the approval process and are not available yet for publication.

## T-TRAK Report

Many thanks to Bruce DeMaeyer for his efforts and enthusiasm over the past several years in getting T-TRAK going at the regional level.

At the MCR Regional Convention hosted by Division 2 this past May, the combined T-TRAK layout had 74 modules. Division 2 Members Mike DeSensi and Kevin Squire were the big winners in the T-TRAK Module Contest. Mike won First Place and People's Choice Favorite for his steam-era engine facility and roundhouse module set. Kevin Squire won Best of Show for his Freight House Road module.

In January 2024 MCR T-TRAK will begin coordinating with Division 4 in preparation for the Cleveland Convention in May 2024.

Mike DeSensi

MCR T-TRAK Co-chair

## MCR Nominations / Elections committee report – Fall, 2023

There is no ongoing activity at this time. President Dave Neff, Vice President Jerry Doyle, and Treasurer John Shields are all term limited in their current positions ending in 2025. Secretary Bruce DeMaeyer is eligible for election to his current position in 2025.

The nomination process for the 2025 elections is expected to begin during the 2024 MCR convention.

Bob Shreve

Nominations Committee Chairman



## Membership Report

Below is a table that summarizes the membership for the MCR as of the end of August 2023:

Division	Membership
0	3
1	77
2	193
3	106
4	183
5	61
6	144
7	211
8	121
9	40
10	49
11	25
12	42

At some time in the future, National HQ will be using a new database for membership data, stay tuned. It should not have much impact on the way data is sent out.

Paul J. Novak Jr.

Mid Central Region Membership Chairman



# Kingpin Report

The next issue of the Kingpin will go out in early October, usually dependent on my receiving the BOD Minutes from the Secretary from the Fall meeting. The content will include all the officers' reports except the Treasurer's report, pictures from the National Convention, some mention of the contest winners, and the other usual items.

The question of a paper mailing of the Kingpin in the early part of the year remains open. The gentleman who had been handling the printing and mailing was apparently no longer working at the print shop this year, and the people I did talk with were clueless on what needed to happen on their end. As a result, that Kingpin was only emailed. I can attempt to set up a mailing permit with my local post office (the previous one is with Grove City, Ohio – a four hour round trip for me). How important is it that we send out a paper copy? Bob Weinheimer MMR said at the Spring meeting that it was an important way to be sure members knew about the Regional Convention. That may be true. My thought is that twenty years ago, a member without a given email address just hadn't caught up with times. I suspect that now, a member not giving us an email address probably has a email address but doesn't want to receive anything from us – and would not bother to read the printed version either. A brief meeting with Bob at the National indicated that we both see both sides. Another consideration is the cost – I haven't been involved at all in that part, so that would have to be looked at by the Board if it's a factor. Finally, I do need to note that the Bylaws currently require the paper mailing once a year, and that would have to be changed if it's no longer required.

For reports – I don't use Pages or Numbers and have trouble trying to do anything with reports written with them. Don has been good enough to provide me with translated copies where necessary. Frank: I can work with Excel. The one place I can't get reports is from a web page because it's filled with invisible commands that do bizarre things. Thanks again to Don for providing usable reports for the Kingpin. Also, I try to format all reports nearly the same, so please don't take offense if I drop extraneous (e.g., Respectfully submitted) words or your division's logo (they don't copy well at all).

Thanks also to Barb and Fred Soward MMR for their help in watching for region contest winners during the awards ceremony at the National. Pretty sure it was Bob Frankrone and Neal Shorr, and not sure what awards they received – I think it was multiples for each. I've given up trying to get a list from National – those guys are swamped with work and probably burnt out for three months afterward!

Finally, my resignation letter as editor is on file, but only with the stipulation that a replacement editor is willing and capable. I don't have any major issues with the job but I'm moving in other directions in the NMRA and don't quite have the enthusiasm – which I'd like to see in someone else's work.

Dave Williams

Kingpin editor



# MCR AP REPORT - JAN-AUG 2023

## GOLDEN SPIKE AWARDS

Name, First	Name, Last	Division
Kevin	Ellis	10
Kevin	Squire	2
Michael	Percy	6

## MERIT AWARDS

Name	Division	Category	Description
Steve Zapytowski	1	Motive Power	Big Creek Timber Co. Speeder #3
Steve Zapytowski	1	Structures	Pacific Cordage
Richard Turton	2	Cars	Greenbrier & Elk River Logging Flatcar
Jim Braum	2	Cars	N-scale P&WV 40' Gondola (scratch)
Richard Turton	2	Cars	WM 55-Ton Fishbelly Hopper #12609
Richard Turton	2	Cars	WM Steel Caboose \$1860
Raymond Helster	2	Structures	Covered Bridge
Raymond Helster	2	Structures	Crew House
Raymond Helster	2	Structures	Ferguson House
Raymond Helster	2	Structures	Log Home
Larry Pandelios	2	Structures	PRR Ohio River Bridge
Wil Davis	3	Scenery	Logging Operation Near End of Steam Powered Logging
Stuart Merl	3	Structures	Train Station - 118 points
Wil Davis	3	Structures	Western Sawmill - 110 points
Jim Grell	4	Cars	ATSF BX-3
Jim Grell	4	Cars	Crook'd Bros. #102 36' Gondola
Jim Grell	4	Cars	M-1920 Railway Gun
Mark Pekelnicky	4	Scenery	Conrail Toledo Subdivision
Roy Allan	7	Cars	D&RGW 6500 Fishbelly Flat in Fn3
Roy Allan	7	Cars	D&RGW 9200 series High Side Gondola (2nd Grapevine)
Roy Allan	7	Cars	D&RGW 9200 Series Highside Gondola (Local)
Roy Allan	7	Cars	RGS Stock Car (2nd - Grapevine)
Robert Kress	7	Structures	L&N Car Inspector's Shack
Robert Kress	7	Structures	L&N Hazard, KY Yard Tower - 100 points, scratch
Cecil Stewart	8	Structures	MKT Freight House - kitbashed - 113 points
Cecil Stewart	8	Structures	Patton Transfer
Donald Cipolla	9	Civil	Trackwork for Civil - Turnout, Crossover, Gauntlet
Anthony Parrish	9	Motive Power	MA GP40=2 Mother & F7A Slug Unit
Robert Belt	10	Cars	DREW Highside Gondola #1536
Jeff Burch (MER)	14	Cars	B&O M15-E Boxcar #174831
Jeff Burch (MER)	14	Cars	MA & PA Boxcar #1150
Jeff Burch (MER)	14	Cars	Norfolk & Western Class CF Caboose

## CERTIFICATES

		Division	Certificate
Frank	Trocchia	1	Electrical
Susan	Werner	2	Cars
Richard	Turton	2	Cars
Kenneth	Hanawalt	2	Electrical
Michael	DeSensi	2	Scenery
Richard	Helster	2	Structures
Richard	Jodon	2	Volunteer
Laura	Jodon	2	Volunteer
Frank	Benders	2	Volunteer
Jack	Honeycutt	3	Dispatcher
Philip	Gliebe	3	Electrical
Mark	Stiver	3	Official
William	Davis	3	Scenery
Edward	Durkin	3	Volunteer



## Division 01 Report

Division 1 membership stands at 77. At our September meeting we had 19 members attend, which is 24.6% of the total membership. Pre-covid we had 25 – 30 members attend meetings and our membership was in the 90's. So, we've stayed somewhat consistent with the percentage of the membership attending our meetings. Division 1 is currently wrapping up construction of our HO and N scales T-Trak Modules and our first setup and display of the new modules is in December at the *Age of Steam* in Sugar Creek, OH. We will hold our annual Christmas Lunch in December at Hartville Kitchen in Hartville, OH.

Jim DiPaola, Superintendent

## Division 02 Report

The Keystone Division membership has decreased slightly from our last report to 193. We are reviewing the members that did not renew and will attempt to get some information about their decision.

Meeting attendance has varied from a low of 24 (our recent picnic) to 54 (March 2023), which is approximately 19 to 27 percent of the membership. Note that because the geographic footprint of the division is very large, we hold our meetings in multiple locations so that we are “local” to different segments of our membership. Additionally, we have yet to begin to hold virtual or hybrid meetings because of the difficulties of setting up the necessary technology in each of these locations as well as inconsistent (or non-existent) wireless access in these locations. We expect the number of attendees to fluctuate since the members more local to the meeting venue are more likely to attend and those a distance from that venue will not.

Our Membership Chair has decided to resign from this position after 16 years. Tom Gaus has served very well, and we are happy that one of our long-time members, Ken Hanawalt, immediately volunteered to fill the vacancy. The transition process has already started. Tom will continue as webmaster.

We have already started a recruitment incentive program for our members. This program is designed to provide financial incentives for members to recruit a new member and for the new member. This incentive is tied to meeting attendance for both the recruiting member and the new member so that we can increase the engagement of both parties. The details are below:

- 1) The current member tells the potential recruit about the NMRA's RailPass program and that the division will pay for that RailPass if the following takes place.
  - ☐ The new member will complete an application on the NMRA website and purchase a RailPass membership.
  - ☐ The new member comes to a Division 2 meeting in one of the next 3 months that meetings are held.
- 2) The new member will be issued a check for the RailPass membership (\$19.99) when their membership is confirmed on the Divisions Membership list provided by the Mid-Central Region on the first of each month and they fulfilled the above. Note that if the new member enrolls in any other membership level, we will only award the cost of a RailPass membership.
- 3) The recruiting member is issued a check for \$10.00 when the new member fulfills the requirement to attend a Division 2 meeting.

This program is currently running for the rest of this year, but it is likely to be continued on a year-by-year basis.

We are also working on a new member on-boarding process. The current outline of this process will have existing members volunteer to be a personal contact for each new member. Where possible, they would meet personally with new members and learn about their modeling interests and projects. Where possible, they will connect the new member with other members that match these and help them “break the Ice” getting to know other members. They will also encourage the new members to attend meetings and help them become acquainted with other members at monthly meetings. The goal is to help new members connect with new members quickly.

This process is one of the first “assignments” for our new Membership chair.

We are also looking at leveraging the twice-yearly Greenberg shows that are held in Pittsburgh. We typically have our Free-Mo and T-Trak layouts on display at these events as well as a membership table. We are exploring the possibility of providing 1 or 2 basic model railroading clinics at these in the future. We are also considering a test track so that purchases can be tested. We believe there are many people at this event making their first purchase. An active presence at these events and helping attendees get a favorable start in the hobby is a recruiting opportunity.

Dennis Coglianese, Superintendent



# Division 03 Report

## Membership Status:

Over the past six months, our membership has remained relatively stable at approximately 105 members, although we have experienced the loss of several Rail Pass members, as their trail period ran out. Our average monthly attendance is about 25-28 people in-person with another two of three on our Zoom link. This represents approximately 25 percent of the total membership. Our financial status is sound.

## Past Activities:

In late June the Division participated in Carillon Historical Park's annual Rail Fest. The park unveiled a new 3ft narrow gauge steam engine that brought in a large crowd. Several members participated in the "Wheels-Rails-Wings" event at the National Museum of the Air Force. We are also excited to have Gordy Robinson attend our October meeting and present a clinic, as well.

## Membership Initiatives:

Division 3 participates in as many modeling activities as possible in attempt to interest people in our hobby. Due to the lack of a good quality hobby shop in the immediate Dayton area, there has been a general lack of interest in model railroading. The two quality shops in Dayton specialize in RC cars and RC model aircraft. We usually get a lot of interest at our events, people seem to want to observe rather than participate.

When we are able to find an interested person, our membership chairman aggressively pursues the individual's interest by attempting to get the individual involved through at-least a Rail Pass membership. When a new member is identified, the membership chairman sends a personal letter to the members and I follow-up a week later with another personal letter.

We have used Zoom to reach out to our members, in an attempt to involve those that are at the far edges of the division and cannot make monthly meetings. Attendance at monthly meetings following the COVID pandemic and many of our members stopped attending in-person. We are also using Zoom to obtain presentations from outside the division. As such, Zoom has offered us the opportunity to see and hear presentations on topics that we might not be able to get within our division.

## Upcoming Events:

The Dayton Train Show will be held on 4-5 November at the Montgomery County Fair Grounds. This is our one singular event to raise sufficient funds to pay our operating expenses for the coming year. Last year we had over 4000 people visit the show.

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

Eric Zimmerman, Superintendent

## Division 04 Report

Attendance at our division meetings continues to be good and is averaging 70 to 80 members in person attending, about 40+ percent of the membership. We are not offering virtual at this point in time.

Membership is holding steady. Definitely would like to see more younger members joining in on the fun. The division supports 2 4H modular model railroad clubs. Hopefully some of these members will be joining the NMRA. We have membership information wherever the modular railroad is displayed and at our annual train show.

Financially Division 4 remains solid.

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

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

Our module group continues to provide public education displays. This summer they participated in the Cuyahoga County Fair and the Octoberfest. Coming up in the Fall and Winter will be the Great Berea Train Show, Trees and Trains, and Lights at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

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

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

Ron Morgan, Superintendent



# Division 05 Report

## Membership

During the last 7 months, our membership has ranged from 55 to 63. We are currently at 61 members. We lost two life members during this period. We have lost a number of members due to non-renewal of memberships. At least four of these said their non-renewal was due to the last dues increase.

## Meeting Attendance

During the last 7 months, average in-person meeting attendance was 22 which is 37% of our average membership during this period. We do not offer a virtual meeting option. In general, our meetings are held at the same location every month.

## Membership Recruiting

During our large train show in March, we offer discounted Rail Pass and Full NMRA memberships. We had three people sign up for memberships at this event in March 2023. At some other train displays, several modular railroad groups that have received grants from Division 5 display NMRA and Division 5 literature. In the Fall, we hold a Model Railroad Promotional Day where we put on various demonstrations of basic model railroading skills and have operating displays. During this event, we have an NMRA/Division 5 promotional table.

## Membership Retention

We have several social events during the year to promote member camaraderie and to get spouses and family members involved. There is our Holiday Party in January, our Division Family Picnic in August, and our Outdoor Movie Night in September. Our major train show in March gets a large percentage of our membership out to help put on the show and work together.

## Next Six Months

We will have our annual Outdoor Movie Night on September 16 where we gather at a member's home and watch train videos outside on a large screen. Anyone that wants to come to this event is invited.

On October 21 we will hold our Model Railroading Promotional Day where we try to attract new people to the hobby and educate the public about model railroading. During this event we will have eight demonstrations of basic model railroading skills, several operating displays, some static displays, and an NMRA/Division 5 information table.

In January we will have our annual Holiday Party for members and guests which is a purely social occasion.

In March we will have our big train show.

## Finances

The Division has sufficient savings to get us through rough patches in generating income. However, during the last four years, we have had to eat away at those savings due to two years of not having any train show due to Covid and the last two years with poor profits from our train show. Things are improving and we have high hopes for our 2024 train show profits. We plan to once again start providing financial grants to area model railroad groups starting in January 2024.

Matt Kross, Superintendent

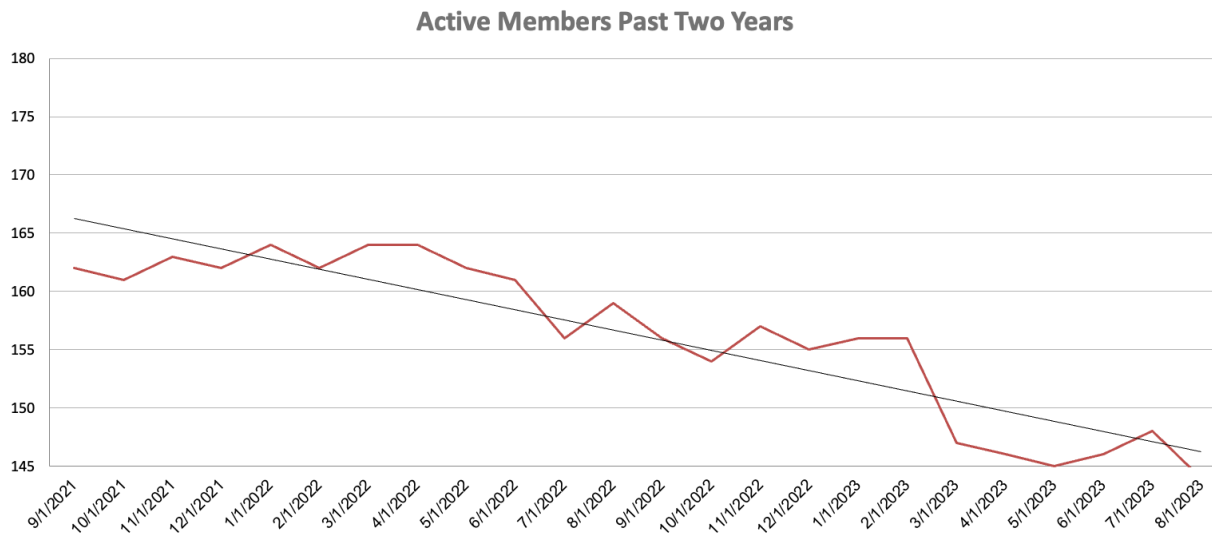
## Division 06 Report

### Membership

Membership stands at 144 (August EOM)

#### Summary:

The membership downturn that we reported in May has stabilized into the 145-member range. On reflection, the decrease has occurred in two relatively distinct steps in the summer of 2022 and spring of 2023. A positive development is 9 new members in the past four months.



We have not surveyed past members on their reasons why they left the roster, but informal discussions tend to focus on the cost/value relationship, or confusion about how dues and national convention money is being spent. Our last survey of members who have left the Division was three years ago and it will be interesting to repeat the exercise in the future.

### Finances

Division 6 is in good financial shape and expenses remain stable. In early 2023, our Board voted to transfer a significant portion of our reserves into higher-earning CDs.

New expenses since our last report have been made to support a car project (Accurail gondolas) and minor expenses related to our 2025 *Buckeye Express* convention.

continued on next page



## Division 06 Report continued

### **Education/Other**

#### Achievement Program

The Division AP Chair has begun AP work sessions to walk some of our under-certified yet very accomplished modelers through the AP process.

#### Meeting Operations

Meeting attendance continues to be modest this past year compared to last, hovering in the 25-attendee range.

Our meetings consist of a relatively compact business meetings, usually followed by a single longer clinic, a series of “mini clinics” or a club layout visit.

Our Program Chair tried a new clinic concept last month that he called a “Bring and Brag”. This didn’t follow the shorter bring and brags we’ve done in the past. The first session with this format had meatier content than the previous attempts, but with a lighter-weight presentation format (i.e., no Powerpoints) than the mini-clinics we found so successful in the past two years. Both our “braggers” and the audience were very supportive of this format.

#### Other Initiatives

Our fourth annual train show in Cambridge, Ohio, is scheduled for October this year, and table sales are about where our show chair expected at this point, with five weeks to go.

Our first car project since 2016, a reprise of the Buckeye Steel gondola (Accurail), was delivered in August and sales are going well. We have three car candidates in the backlog of what we hope to be a regular cadence of releases.

We’ve begun producing Division shirts after a too-long hiatus. We are working on a cadence of sales that balance the needs to keep shipping costs (to our embroidery vendor) low, without making new members wait too long for delivery.

We have formed a new ad-hoc committee to address two tax-related topics; sales tax collection and re-establishing our 501(c)3 status. The former is associated with our interest in regular car project releases, the latter with our 2025 Buckeye Express convention. Many thanks to Jerry Krueger for the advice on the latter topic.

Matt Goodman, Superintendent

## Division 07 Report

Our average attendance is 56 in person and 14 virtual on Zoom for a total average of 70 per monthly meeting. That is a 34% attendance rate.

We are presently developing a new member mentorship program to help new members feel welcome, valued, and encourage active participation. Also in development are quarterly workshops at experienced members' homes for instructional and social interaction. This is on top of our previously instituted renewal incentive to reimburse RailPass members for the cost of the RailPass membership if they become a regular category member.

We will be hosting two nationally known out of town clinicians. On September 10<sup>th</sup> we will have Mike Tylick, MMR®, and on October 8<sup>th</sup> we will have Lou and Cheryl Sassi. All MCR members and guests are welcome to join us. Please consult our **NEW WEBSITE** for time, and location of each meeting.

Our 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Cincinnati Model Train & Trade Show will be held Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and on Sunday, the 15<sup>th</sup>, 11am to 5pm both days, at Lakota High School, 8940 Union Ctr. Blvd., West Chester, OH 45069

November's meeting will feature a clinic by division member Ed Swain on "Coal Mines of the Middle Division", December our annual Potluck Social with Electronic Slide Show, and January a clinic by a Cincinnati Museum Center speaker on the "Planning & Construction of Union Terminal."

Chuck Endreola, Superintendent



## Division 08 Report

Division 8 membership continue to edge down since our last report to the MCR in May 2023. In September 2022 we were 132 and in May 2023 we were 125. At the end of August 2023 we were 120. Our group is of course aging. But we have replaced some members who have passed away with younger members which is a positive. We continue to lose members that join, and in spite of our best efforts to reach them, they leave after 9 months or a year. And every month, we have a couple of active members who fail to renew their membership. Once we find out, we reach out and get them back in the fold. Almost universally, they say a renewal reminder was not received. Our understanding is the NMRA is moving to email reminders. We currently only have 1 member who doesn't use email. We feel email reminders will be more effective. We email all our members at least a couple of times a month and follow up if there is an email delivery problem. We also occasionally remind our members to log in and review their membership information on file with the NMRA. Especially when we become aware of any digits changing with a member for any reason. The burden of making this all work is the responsibility of our Membership and Media committees. We have come to realize that membership issues are going to be ongoing and have become part of the regular business of running our division.

We still have confidence in our New Member Onboarding Program. We reported about this program in May but repeat it in hopes it might be helpful for another division who might take the time to read this report. Each new member receives a personal welcome email from our membership chairman Stan White followed by an invitation to join Groups.io from our Assistant Superintendent Fred Soward. And then a detailed welcome email from the superintendent listing specific links and descriptions of upcoming events for the month. We try to send these emails out as soon as possible after receiving the MCR membership updated lists from Paul Novak. And the emails go out in a specific order and contain specific details so we try to keep the information fresh by not repeating. It is always a pleasure when a new member responds and starts participating.

We continue to emphasize technology at Division 8. Although our overall membership declined as previously mentioned, our active number of participating members remains much the same. 70 of our 117 members participate in Groups.io. We also have a group of around 12 members who are active and that we communicate with directly with regular email (as opposed to Groups.io) We have a couple of weekly updates that go out to members each week in Groups.io. One features video content and the other an informational update. Both are prepared by our Media Committee. Our newsletter, *The Pie Card*, continues to be published online only. As mentioned previously, we are in contact with every member a minimum of 2 times during the month.

We continue to record our monthly meetings and gatherings and post those to our YouTube channel for those who are unable to attend our meetings at the scheduled day and time. We also record and post our meeting presentations separately to our YouTube channel. You can take a look at our YouTube channel here ➔ [Division 8 Mid Central Region NMRA - YouTube](#) and of course subscribe and hit the bell icon to be notified of new content.

Our Monthly Modeling Contest continues to take place online with the results announced at our hybrid membership meeting in person for those in the room and on ZOOM for those that are unable to attend in person. We consider the contest one of our successes. We have a few members that voting in the contest is their only connection to the division. Contest entries are linked to our Google Photos account via our website. Contest results are also always included in our monthly newsletter *The Pie Card*.

continued next page

And speaking of contests. Our member Bob Frankrone, frequent contributor to our Division 8 contest and author of the *NMRA Magazine Love Those Loads* column, has just returned from the NMRA National Convention with 2 wins. First Place People's Choice Photo Match - Freight Cars for "Gondola with Creosote Tie Load" and Model Contest Chairman's Award for "Scrap Train". Congratulations Bob Frankrone!

We chartered a bus to EnterTRAINment Junction for our picnic in July and will hold our Christmas Party at the Corner Cafe in Louisville again this year.

Our efforts to sell tickets to our events online with ThunderTix continue to grow. Events include tickets to our twice a year train show, our summer picnic and our Christmas party. This works for members for our own events as well as the public and dealers at our train shows. All the online reports make the accounting for these events a breeze for our Treasurer Mike Berry.

At our July Board of Directors Meeting, we approved the 2023/2024 budget. We are budgeting more community outreach in the next fiscal year. We plan to give away 2 train sets to families that couldn't necessarily afford such a luxury during the holidays again this year as we did in 2022. We have also given funds to the library where we hold our monthly meetings for a new larger TV set in our meeting room. The TV is somewhat self serving however, many other groups from the surrounding community meet in the same room. A small plaque will be placed next to the new TV acknowledging the gift from Division 8, the Mid Central Region and the National Model Railroad Association.

We look forward to our fall 2023 Train Show & Sale. All dealer tables are sold and we have a waiting list. We will report the results of this show and our Spring 2024 show in our next MCR report in May 2024.

We're getting ready for our 2024 election of officers. All existing officers except our clerk have agreed to serve another term. Bob Dawson, an NMRA member since 1975, and who has served as clerk since 2012, has decided to give another member an opportunity to serve the division. Bob will continue to edit our newsletter *The Pie Card*. Bob was the recipient of the President's award in 2020. And he will still be around to keep us on the track.

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

Ron Ellison, Superintendent



# Division 09 Report

## Division 9 Report to the MCR Board of Directors

September 13, 2023

Submitted by Robert Osburn, Superintendent

The Coal Division has seen a steady membership of around 40 members for the last several months. Our average monthly meeting attendance is around 50% with a small percentage of that attending virtually. Our group is small but we are encouraged that we have a very loyal and active membership that we can always count on to keep us going in a positive direction.

Our annual August *"Picnic on the Platform"* seems to be the most popular meeting we have every year and draws a large participation from current members, former members, and guest. The next meeting that receives very high attendance is our December Christmas Luncheon that includes the *"Gary Burdette Memorial Challenge."* The Challenge has become very popular and this will be the Seventh year Division 9 has sponsored the program.

We are always looking for addition ways to increase our membership and meeting participation. Our Membership Chair keeps a close eye on the membership roster and is active in notifying members if their membership has expired and also sends a reminder of pending membership lapse. Membership retention and recruitment has been an important topic during our monthly meetings with several great ideas discussed. Bob Weinheimer has begun including information submitted from other clubs and organizations about their activities into our newsletter. We are also looking forward to presenting a series of clinics, our T-Trak layout, and our NMRA display booth at several upcoming model railroad shows.

Robert Osburn, Superintendent

## Division 10 Report

- (1) The average attendance for the last 6 months is 15.2 of which the average In Person attendance was 6.3 and the Zoom attendance was 12. The two do not add up to total average attendance for the 6 months since In Person was only done for 3 of those 6 months. Our Zoom guy spends summers at his cottage in Iowa.
- (2) The average membership for the last 6 months we have data for is 49, which is down some. With an average membership of 15.2 at meetings and 49 as the total membership, we have 31.0% of our members attending meetings. In the pre covid times, we would have usually 25 at a meeting (all in person), so 15.2 is still only 60.8% of what I hoped we would be back to at some point. I would love to average 25 again.
- (3) I have tried some things for recruitment and retention such as: (A) having interesting clinics with good presenters and good information, (B) having layout tours for members and any other interested persons to attend and interact, (C) trying to link up new members with older members, (D) trying to improve website, and (E) trying to gauge support for some type of social event for the members which resulted in basically no interest from them at all. I may still try to organize a picnic, or Christmas party, or whatever and see what the involvement from the members will be. Other divisions seem to have success with these.
- (4) I have planned some interesting clinics for the months ahead and have been including mini-clinics in the meetings to involve more local members and other individuals. Mini clinics are short presentations which provide modeling information and information on local or national events of interest. I will plan more layout tours. We also have our T-trak at the VA Hospital in December and we are arranging our Trains Day at the Library early next year.
- (5) We did implement groups.io for all members. We did not get all members to join but only about half. I think it has been good because we have a lot more interaction on groups.io from the members on it. I like to see the increased interaction between the members. One member volunteered to put short modeling advice on groups.io and a number of the members have responded to these modeling shorts to give additional comments and advice. Some members of other divisions have attended our meetings on Zoom which I think is a good idea. I guess we could do more to advertise the topics besides publishing on our newsletter.

editor's note - copy I received does not have a signature.



## Division 12 Report

Division 12 membership remains steady, and our finances are sound.

Average meeting attendance, both virtual and in person, is about 10-12 members, or about 20-30 percent of our listed membership. However, given the small size of our division, the presence or absence of one or two members can skew this number significantly.

Regarding member recruitment and retention, our main focus has been varying the meeting locations and programs in order to keep the members we do have engaged. For example, our recent September meeting event was a “field trip” to the Kinzua Bridge State Park in Pennsylvania. Despite the inclement weather and travel distance, there were 10 members in attendance, which we felt was an excellent turnout. We maintain a Division presence at the Erie Train Show with a small T-trak layout on display, and have a stock of refurbished older locomotives, for sale at our \$20 cost, to younger modelers under 18, as a way to keep the youngsters interested in the hobby. We also give away back issues of model magazines to any interested youngster. In addition to general goodwill, we have gotten a few new members and small donations via these efforts.

Regarding future programs, we may again be visiting a private steam railroad in October. Given the weather uncertainties, our November meeting event is TBD. In December we again plan on a joint holiday luncheon with the Independent Railroaders group. Our board will meet on September 18<sup>th</sup> to develop a slate of future programs, in addition to other business, including the future of our one-day MiniMeet event.

Mike Hauk, Superintendent

## Events

### **Division 6 Model Railroad Train Show**

Sunday, 22 October 2023 10 am to 3 pm

Pritchard Laughlin Center

7033 Glenn Highway

Cambridge, Ohio 43725

Please double-check all dates, times, and locations before making plans. Where applicable, the related Division website or newsletter can provide additional information.

As usual, we recommend Division 11's newsletter as a good source of event listings. (Thanks Bob Netzlof)

### **Dayton Train Show (Division 3)**

November 4 (11am- 5 pm) and 5 (11 am -4 pm), 2023

The New Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds & Event Ctr.

645 Infirmary Rd

Dayton OH 45417

### **Division 8 Train Show and Sale**

November 11, 2023 10 am to 3 pm

Holy Family Parish Saffin Center

3938 Poplar Level Rd

Louisville KY 40213

### **Amherst Society Show (Springfield Show)**

January 27/28, 2024

Eastern States Exposition Center

1305 Memorial Avenue

West Springfield, MA



**Division 2 Jamboree**

April 13, 2024

Community Campus of Alleghany Co. Boyce Campus

595 Beatty Rd

Monroeville PA

**Mid Central Regional Convention**

North Coast Limited

May 16-19, 2024

See full page posting earlier in this issue

Details to appear in the next issue.

**2024 National Convention**

August 4 - 11, 2024

Surfliner

Long Beach CA

**44th National Narrow Gauge Convention**

September 11-14, 2024

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel - Green Tree,

500 Mansfield Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15205

**Mid Central Regional Convention**

The Buckeye Express

May 15-18, 2025

**2025 National Convention**

July 14-19, 2025

Novi, MI

# MCR CONTACTS

**MCR President**

David Neff  
president@midcentral-region-nmra.org  
440-269-1229

**Webmaster:**

Donald Wilke  
webmaster@midcentral-region-nmra.org  
614-846-2558

**MCR Vice President:**

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

**Kingpin Editor:**

Dave Williams  
davidwilliams480@gmail.com  
440-838-4996

**MCR Secretary:**

Bruce Demaeyer

**MCR Treasurer:**

John Shields  
treasurer@midcentral-region-nmra.org

**Achievement Program:**

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

**Contest:**

Susan Werner MMR®  
contest@midcentral-region-nmra.org  
724-379-8584

**Membership:**

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

**Special Projects:**

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