

THE

Oil Can

March 2012



Volume VI Issue 3



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The Editor's Corner

Don Phillips

Those who made it to the February meeting in Mason were treated to a great clinic by fellow Division 7 member Doug Campbell.

Pastor Doug explained how he scratch builds museum quality models using paper, card stock, strip wood and what ever else he can scrounge up out of the found material in his junk box.

Doug asked us to express his gratitude for the response he received after the clinic. He also apologized for not bringing enough handouts and forwarded an electronic copy. If you were among the few unlucky enough not to get one at the meeting and would like one, send an email to editor@cincy-div7.org and ask for a copy of the "Scratch Building Handout".

Jerry Michaels reports that the Division Library recently added several more DVDs to its collection but to complete the program we still need the following:

Rocks & Basic Scenery.....	Ops Live #s 1 & 2.....
Finishing Your Scenery.....	Bear Creek #s 3 & 4.....
Masonry Wall Techniques...	Roads & Highways.....

You may already own one or more of the above. Consider this, ninety nine per cent of the time that DVD is just sitting on a shelf gathering dust. It might have been a year or even more since you looked at it. Why not donate it to the library so others can get a chance to look at it. Then if you ever decide you want to look at it again to refresh your memory about some technique, you can always borrow it back, take it home and watch it again as many times as you want.

Or even better yet, if it's a video you've been wanting to see, how about buying a copy and when your finished with it donate it to the library? If your interested, contact Jerry at:

grm@go-concepts.com

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The Oil Can is a publication of Cincinnati Division 7, Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc. Opinions expressed herein are the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Division 7, the MCR, the NMRA, it's officers, or it's members.

Space permitting, The Oil Can welcomes news items, articles and letters on Model Railroading and related topics. Deadline for submissions is generally the fifteenth of the month preceding the next meeting.

Cover:

A typical busy Saturday afternoon in a small town in Tennessee. This is just one of a thousand scenes from Bob Lawson's incredibly detailed layout.

It's all about the modeling...

It is seldom the case... but deciding on a topic for this month's column was very easy. You should know that each month I receive phone calls and emails from members, many of whom I have never met, with general questions and concerns related to Division 7 activities. Some of the more common questions are related to modeling. After all, that is what we are all about! And with a Division membership of over 300 modelers, these questions and comments come from modelers of all skill levels. These folks usually just want to know where to turn to improve their own modeling skills.

On February 12th Bob Lawson and Ed Swain opened their homes to us after the meeting. If you were fortunate enough to visit these two fine layouts, you must agree that they are two of the very best... anywhere! Last meeting, as part of his Special Projects Report, John Burchnall dazzled us with a recap of the unusually large number of Division 7 layouts that have been photographed and have appeared in the national model railroading magazines. With several more layouts waiting to be published and still to be photographed, Division 7 modelers will no doubt be featured in the national "spotlight" for many years to come! The large number of nationally "published" layouts in and around Cincinnati proves that we live in a hotbed of excellent modelers.

The good news for us is that these exceptional modelers are generally more than willing to share their layouts and their expertise with those of us that have a ways to go with our own skills. Think about it, at one point they were all "newbies", had much to learn, and a desire to learn it. Most of our exceptional modelers will freely admit that they are still learning. Modelers, like salesmen, are not born... they are "made". Years of practice, more than a few failures, and then a mounting number of successes. Yes... we all learn our skills from those that went before us!

So what is my point? Sometimes folks comment that our clinics are too "advanced"... others complain that they are too "basic". Creating a "balance" is the toughest job that your Assistant Superintendent/Program Chairman faces when scheduling clinicians. Bob Shreve has done an excellent job of balancing the experience level of clinics so that everyone had the opportunity to learn something every month.

Most modeling skills are developed from several sources; including but not limited to model railroad magazines, web sites, round-robin work sessions, clinics and one-on-one instruction. But I feel that the very best way to develop one's skills is to "just do it"! Buy a kit and take a shot. A desire to succeed, imagination, imitation and determination are the first "tools" that need to be in the old tool box!

Need more help? Try "Modelers Aid. Bruce Knapp and Pat Homan are excellent sources of help. They can quickly direct you another Member/Modeler that will be very willing to answer questions and help you develop your skills. At Division meetings, ask around... you will be surprised how eager other members are to help.

Sad to report...

I received word the other day that Eva Norman had passed away. Eva and Walter have been fixtures at the Cincinnati Model Train Show for many years with their Buckeye Farms booth. Way back before Cincinnati Limited 2005, Eva has been our sole source for silk-screened and embroidered Division 7 apparel. Eva loved to chat with our members and will certainly be missed. Our thoughts go out to Walter.

Don't miss the bus...

Once again, the Burchnall/Jarman team has come up with another "Don't Miss" bus trip! On May 5th, one bus load of intrepid travelers will head towards Columbus for the "Buckeye Express". The featured stop will be to Marion Tower and Station plus visits to five premier model railroad layouts. I have said it before and I'll say it again... this is the Division 7 "Event of the Year". Don't miss it. Find more information in this issue of the *Oil Can* or the Division 7 Web Site.

Lastly...

On March 10th and 11th, the World's Greatest Hobby Tour hits town at the Duke Energy Center. We have been provided free booth space for the Division 7 Membership Booth to promote Division 7 and the NMRA in general. Bob Adams and Brad Bove are now staffing our booth with Volunteers to promote our organization and activities! New members are the future of our club so please feel free to help with this effort!

See you at The Spring Flea Market and Swap Meet on March 17th,

Randy

March, 2012

SECOND SECTION

Bob Shreve
Asst. Super

Great, interesting, and fantastic are the words to describe our February meeting. Great weather, interesting clinician, and 2 fantastic layouts. Pastor Doug Campbell demonstrated the wall “sandwich” technique he uses to make those great looking structures the folks at the Lebanon Sub meetings have been seeing. After the meeting, we were treated to visits to Ed Swain’s and Bob Lawson’s beautifully detailed layouts. Thanks to Doug, Ed, and Bob for a very enjoyable and inspirational afternoon

The next three months are going to be busy for Division 7. The “Worlds Greatest Hobby Tour” train show is in town on March 10th and 11th. We will have a booth space at the show where we can pitch the advantages of NMRA membership to the attendees. The Division 7 swap meet is the following weekend on the 17th at the Lakota West Freshman School.

The April meeting will be in Kenwood. Allen McClelland will bring us up to date on how the V & O railroad lives on in new venues. One of those is Gerry Albers’ layout, which will be open after the meeting along with Jim Stewart’s layout. April 26th to 29th are the dates for the MCR Regional Convention in Pittsburgh. I’m sure many Division 7 members will be making the trip to the realm of the Steelers.

The weekend following the Regional Convention (May 5th) will be the annual Division 7 bus trip. This year John and Merlyn have put together a trip to Marion, Ohio and several layouts along the way. Look for information elsewhere in the Oil Can or on the web site. The bus trip will be the only Division 7 activity in May.

In June, we will be in the eastern suburbs of Cincinnati at the Anderson Township Senior Center. Dave Keith will give a clinic on Time Table / Train Order Operations.

That’s all for this month.

Bob

February 2012 Car Projects Report

Jim MacKnight

Our current Division 7 car project, Virginian & Ohio 50’ plug-door boxcars, in V&O blue, with “The Ridge Runner” slogan in white lettering, are now available. These cars are offered in four numbers, priced at \$17 for singles, and \$64 for a four-car set, plus Ohio sales tax. We have now sold 328 V&O boxcars during the first 5-1/2 months, mostly through mail order sales. We are in the black for this car project, and have 152 car kits remaining to sell. Our V&O boxcar announcement appeared in the March issues of Railroad Model Craftsman and Model Railroader magazines.

We have sold 554 Allegheny Midland triple hopper car kits, and are including an advertisement with each V&O boxcar mail order sale. We have 12 car kits currently in inventory, plus 30 car bodies.

Ideas for the 2012 car project will be presented to the Board of Directors in March.

Division 7 Spring Flea Market and Swap Meet

Don't Forget: Saturday March 17 at Lakota West Freshman Campus, 5050 Tylersville Rd. West Chester. Show hours are from 10 AM to 4 PM so plan on coming early and staying late to help with setting up and tearing down. If you signed up to help man one of the booths, please try to be at your assigned location at the designated time.

February Competition Results

Models:

Passenger Cars

Box Stock

1st Pl Jim Corbett
2nd Pl Rick Stern
3rd Pl Rick Taylor

Kit-Bashed

1st Pl Jim Rollwage
2nd Pl Perry Simpson
3rd Pl Bob Chapman

Scratch Built

1st Pl Perry Simpson
2nd Pl Georgia Dahlberg
3rd Pl Rick Stern

Photos

Railroad Signs and or Signals

Proto Print

1st Pl Jim Corbett
2nd Pl Roy Hord
3rd Pl (tie) Jerry Baston
3rd Pl (tie) Roy Hord

No other entries

Overall Standings for 2012

Models

Jim Bonnett - 08	Perry Simpson - 03
Ron Gribler - 06	Georgia Dahlberg - 02
Rick Stern - 05	Tom Brueggemann - 01
Jim Corbett - 03	Bob Chapman - 01
Jim Rollwage - 03	Rick Taylor - 01

Photos

Roy Hord - 05
Jerry Baston - 04
Jim Corbett - 03
Georgia Dahlberg - 02

February Competition

Jack Laubisch

February's competition Model category was "Passenger Cars". The category included and car that would appear in a normal passenger train consist such as Head-End cars like Baggage or RPO as well as Coach, Observation, Dining Car, etc. We had 14 entries in this category. FANTASTIC !!!

The Photography category was "Railroad Signs and Signals". We had 9 entries. GREAT !!!

As an added note: Rick Taylor is a new member. This was his first meeting and he entered our competition for the 1st time and took a ribbon. CONGRATULATIONS RICK.

Jack

"The Buckeye Express"

Saturday, May 5, 2012

Deluxe Motor Coach Tour of Historic Station and Tower in Marion, Ohio plus Five Premier Model Railroads in and around Columbus, Ohio

*Departing 7:00 AM and Returning by 7:00 PM, from and to Mason, Ohio
Venue Restrictions Limit this Trip to the First 47 Registrants that Sign Up
Registration Deadline Sunday, April 22, 2012 – No Refunds after this Deadline*

Exclusive and Rare Tour Package

Exclusive Tours of Marion Tower and Station!

Guided tour of restored tower, station and HO layout
See heavy prototype action on 6 mainline tracks!

Single Departing Location: Mason, Ohio

Exact location disclosed later only to registrants
Park at own risk - Provide car and license info below

View Five Premier Model Railroad Layouts!

Four nicely scenicked HO layouts and a huge O scale layout
within the Buckeye Division 6, Mid-Central Region, NMRA

Fantastic Inspirational Day for a Great Price!

Deluxe motor coach transport, scenic roads, bottled waters
Experienced guides, Panera Bread deluxe box lunch

Dick Wagner – huge recently enlarged 2 rail O-scale empire set in the steam-diesel transition era, featuring many New York Central trains and locomotives across lots of track, scenicked in old basement, incredible new mileage in new basement

Gerri Doebelin – rare visit to exquisite HO layout inspired by Colorado narrow gauge prototypes, featuring large number of beautiful wood craftsman structures (almost every Campbell Scale Models kit) with geared, rod and articulated steam locos

Howard Smith, MMR – very nice, nearly completely scenicked, HO representation of the 1953 Sandpatch Division of the Baltimore and Ohio, featuring meticulous construction, realistic operations, signals, dispatch console, helpers and staging

Dick Briggs, MMR – huge mostly scenicked HO version of PRR's Pittsburgh, Youngstown & Ashtabula Branch, set in the 1950's, featuring many scratch or kit-bashed structures including Ashtabula coal and ore docks, large steel mill, 6 ft lake boat

Fares and Registration

Basic Fare of \$65 per person includes:

- **Deluxe Motor Coach** round trip transportation from Mason, Ohio to all included Columbus, Ohio area attractions
- **Transport and admission to Marion Tower and Station, 5 premier model railroads, deluxe box lunch, waters**
- **Rare guided tour up inside fully restored historic Marion Tower**, with cameras and photography permitted
- **Visits to 4 other premier model railroads in the Columbus area** - all never seen before on Division 7 bus tours

Other Terms and Conditions:

- Long pants and fully closed shoes required - umbrellas not permitted (bring caps, hooded jackets or ponchos instead)
- Registration exclusively limited to Cincinnati Division 7 members, spouses and children (at least 12 years of age)
- Do not delay in registering - due to venue restrictions this trip is limited to the first 47 registrants that sign up!
- Cincinnati Division 7 reserves the right to modify or cancel this event due to matters beyond our control

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Parked Car Make & Model: _____ Lic. Plate: _____

Number of people _____ x \$65 ea. = \$ _____

Pay by check or money order to: Cincinnati Division 7, NMRA

Mail to:

Buckeye Express Registrar

17765 Horizon Way Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

Further info: Jean Jarman jjarman1@comcast.net

Tel: (812) 539-3232

White Elephants at the 2012 Spring Flea Market

I'm back again for any individual Division 7 members with items they wish to sell, but not enough to justify the cost of a table. Prepare an inventory showing your name, address, telephone and/or e-mail address. List each individual item with a description and code so I can match it back to you and your **firm** asking price (I won't negotiate to a lower price). **Each individual item must be clearly marked with your ID code and priced as shown below.** If there is more than one of an item, list them separately. Put all your items in a bag or box and bring them to the show before it starts. I'll log them in, sell them, and calculate how much you get back. (The division will keep 10% of actual sales), and you can, preferably, pick up your unsold material and money Saturday night right after the show closes or at a later division meeting. You will find the inventory form on the following page of this Oil Can.

**Example: FJK – 12
\$10.00**

Items are placed in the White Elephant Sale at your own risk. Neither Division 7 nor Frank Koch assumes any liability for any items damaged or stolen during the show, though we will provide due diligence for their safety. We will not accept items that are not prepared as indicated here. If you want to help out at some time during the show, let Frank know. We reserve the right to refuse any material that we deem unsuitable.

If you have any questions or need an additional form, send me an e-mail at fjkoch@hotmail.com with "white elephant" as the subject.

Frank



February Clinician

Pastor Doug Campbell

All you need is a couple of pieces
of paper and some sticks



Editors note:

*"And a lot of
god given talent"*

2012 Division 7 Train Show White Elephant Sale
 (10% of actual sales retained by Division 7)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Initials	Item #	Description	Price \$	Office Only
	1			
	2			
	3			
	4			
	5			
	6			
	7			
	8			
	9			
	10			
	11			
	12			
	13			
	14			
	15			
	16			
	17			
	18			
	19			
	20			
	21			
	22			

2011 Competition Winners



Ron Gribler
1st Place Models



Jerry Baston
1st Place Photos



Georgia Dahlberg
2nd Pl. Models



Jim MacKnight
3rd Pl. Models

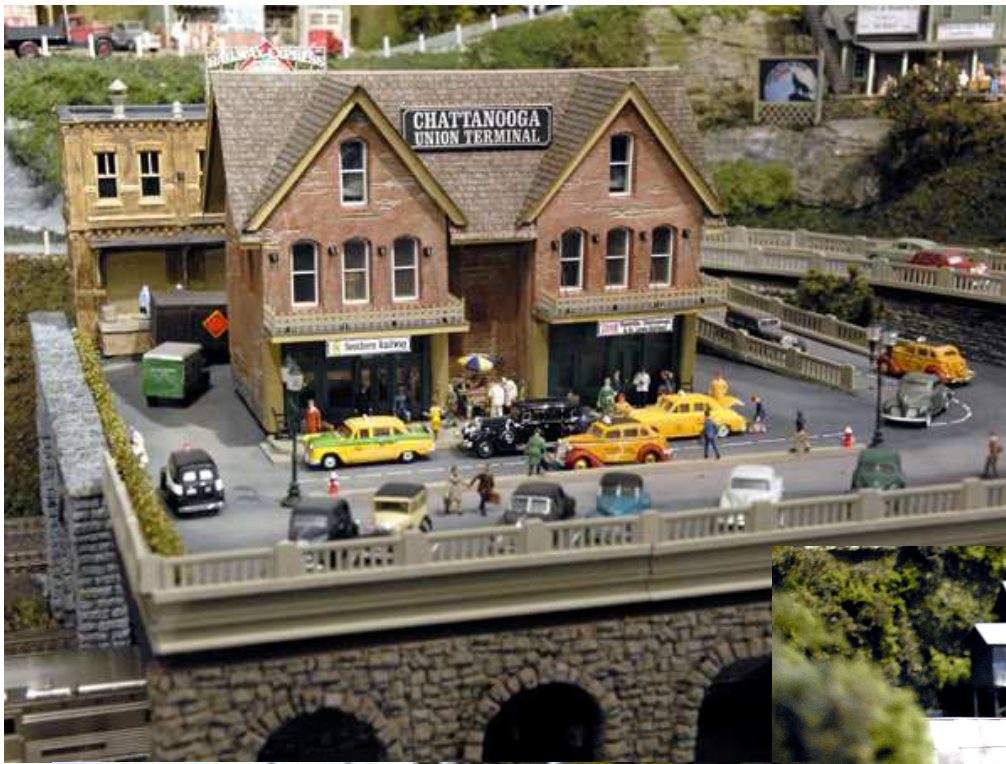


Georgia Dahlberg
2nd Pl. Photos

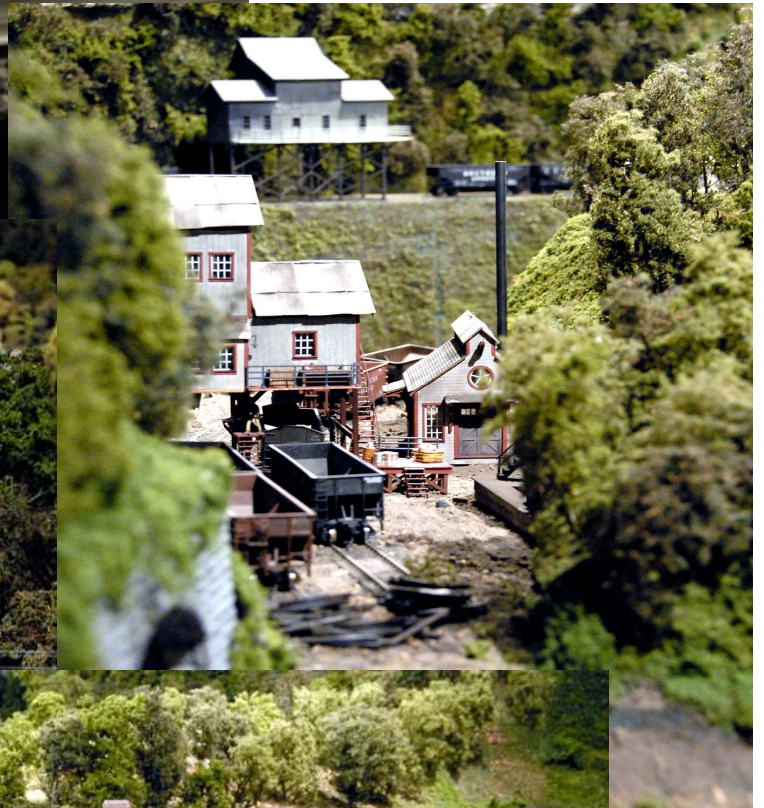
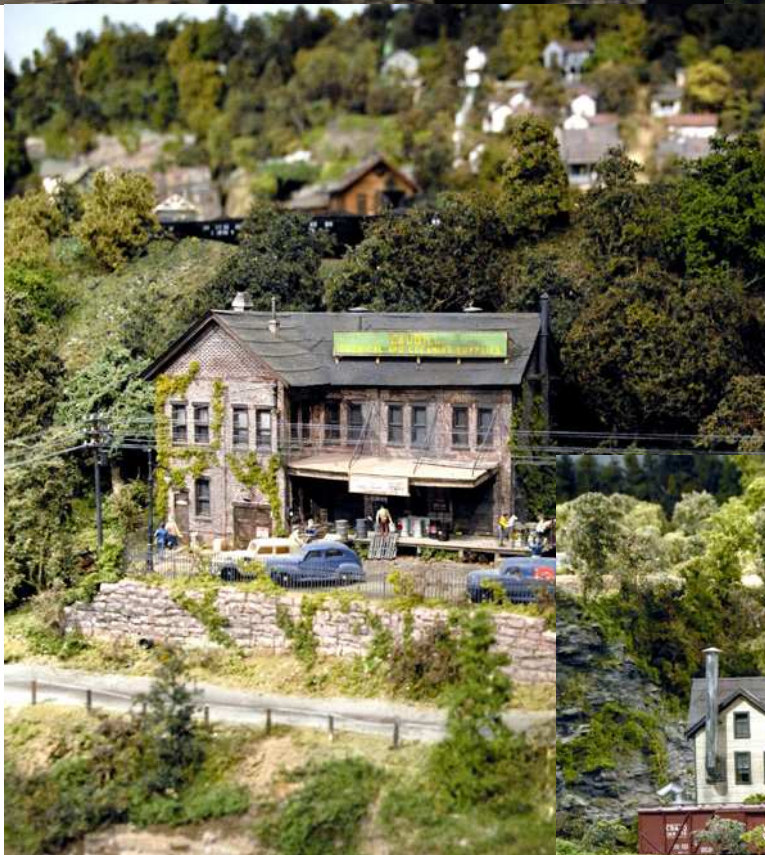


Bob Adams
3rd Pl. Photos





**More from
Bob Lawson's
Layout**



Our apologies to Ed Swain, we were unable to get to Ed's after the meeting. Next time Ed, I promise.

Another DCC System

North West Short Line has announced a new DCC system. They call it the **Stanton Radio CAB**. A new DCC system in itself is not very surprising since there are more and more manufacturers getting into DCC. Although we have only seen preliminary information from their press release, this one seems to have some unique features. First of all there is no base station. Everything is contained in a hand held wireless controller that appears to be the size of an I-Phone. One CAB can control up to 15 locos but only one or two at a time. It has a self-contained battery that is rechargeable. (*No more changing batteries in your throttle, just plug it in and let it recharge over night*) The controller is compliant to NMRA Standards and has a range of from 50-100 feet. Evidently it will work with a short list of various approved decoders with more to be added. (*The press release shows the radio receiver banded to a NCE DCC decoder and they also mention a Tsunami sound decoder*) See www.nwsl.com/S-CAB_Radio_DCC_Control.html for the current list.

Secondly, the digital signal is not sent thru the track but by radio waves directly to the locomotive. There are no connections to the track at all. The decoder in the locomotive contains a radio receiver with a built in antenna. (*Brass or die cast metal locos require an additional antenna located outside the shell in order to receive the signal*) The decoder can be programmed with all the usual features such as direction, speed, lights, and/or sound and it operates no matter what kind of power you have on the track, AC, DC, DCC, or NO power. That's right, NO power.

Now this is the interesting part. As an option you can install a battery pack that plugs into the decoder and acts as a power backup. Utilizing a 3.7 volt, lithium-polymer cell with a built-in charger and a 12 volt step-up converter, the idea is if your loco hits some dirty track or other dead spot, as soon as the decoder senses a loss of track power it instantly switches over to battery power. It then keeps the loco running on battery power until it hits clean track again and switches back to track power. No more five-finger helper to get over the dirty track section. And, as long as it has track power it automatically recharges the on-board battery and keeps it charged.

BUT consider this NWSL claim; they offer two battery options depending on the scale of your loco, either of which when fully charged, they say will typically give 1 ½ to 2 hours operating time. That means a locomotive not dependent on track power at all. (*From a truly electrical standpoint, a small loco with one or two light cars on level track would run a lot longer than a heavier loco with a string of hoppers pulling a lot of grades.*) The on-board battery can be recharged through the locomotive's wheels using any voltage between 7 and 20 volts, AC, DC, or DCC.

Now just imagine: A layout with no wires underneath. No more complicated hook-ups for such things as return loops, insulated frogs etc. No more loose connections or dirty track problems. Each locomotive operating independently under its own power anywhere on the layout (*Even off the track*) with an hour or better operating time until it has to be recharged. A \$4.00 sixteen volt door bell transformer hooked up to the tracks in your roundhouse stalls where you can park your engines to be recharged when not in use. (*Once fully recharged, to conserve battery power, the decoder disconnects the battery until you send it a signal to power-up again*).

Now that is the way to run a railroad. No question about it, if this system performs as promised, this is probably the future in model railroading. It will certainly appeal to someone who has never progressed from an out-of-the-box train set to a real layout because they were intimidated by what they consider the complexity of the wiring required. As when DCC or sound first came out, it's a little pricey now, but as has happened in the past, the cost will come down as more competitors enter the field and the demand increases.

John Shields, Esq.

I knew that John was the right man for the Division 7 monthly raffle, his honesty, like mine, has never been questioned. Last month's raffle lived up[?] to my expectations, so I was very disheartened to hear the many negative comments. I don't believe that the raffle is rigged just because Randy Kerka won again; Randy had the foresight to buy \$34.00 in N scale tickets. Does anybody really believe that John Burchnall deliberately drew my ticket? [By the way, John, you took the calendar I wanted] I promised, when I turned over the raffle to John, I would report any questionable behavior with our new raffle chairman. As long as I keep winning, the raffle seems very fair to me.

John Burchnall, NON-Esq.

Besides pulling my ticket during the raffle, John did his usual excellent job of promoting our annual pilgrimage to a well-known model [and prototype] railroad town. This year's jaunt is to Marion, Ohio. The positive side is this is truly one of Ohio's busiest railroad "hot spots", plus we will see some outstanding model layouts. This is balanced by John's always[?] entertaining commentary. Fortunately, Ruth Ann tries very hard to keep John under control. We have contacted Crowell Bus Company to see if the driver can keep the microphone looked up. Better yet, bring plenty of railroad videos; you can't use the mike. when a video is playing. I plan to bring one of my favorites; Debbie does Raton Pass. Seriously, we always have a great time on one of our famous [or is that infamous?] Jarman-Burchnall tours.

Awards, Etc.

February's meeting included some honors to Division 7 members. The most prestigious went to member, Georgia Dahlberg with the presentation of her well-deserved Master Model Railroader plaque. This was soon followed by the presentation of yearly awards for outstanding modeling and photography. Again, one of the big winners was Georgia: congratulations to all for their outstanding efforts. John Burchnall also stated that Division 7 has surpassed all the other Divisions in the amount of local layouts recognized by the national model railroad press, including Great Layouts, Model Railroader, and the NMRA Magazine. The Cincinnati Northern's club layout was featured in the latest Model Railroad Planning 2012 from Kalmbach. I can't speak for other members, but I am very proud to be a member of this Division. I also believe that the MCR is the strongest region because of the many outstanding divisions.

Raton Pass Update

I would like to report fantastic progress on the Raton Pass, but there hasn't been much this month. Between, New Horizon Band, Cincinnati Community Orchestra, private teaching [with solo & ensemble contest], and work at St. James Episcopal Church, I have been very busy. [I don't know how I had time to work]. I am enjoying retirement; although I don't always have the hobby time I would like; I am having a great time. Remember the great clinics at Tim's Trains and Hobbies; I hope to see everyone at the World's Greatest Hobby Show and the Division 7 Flea Market.

Keep 'em rolling,

Bruce

John's Honest Raffle

The Raffle will be taking a month off for the Flea Market, returning at the April meeting. For April, we will be doing another non-scale raffle where we feature things like tools and books, and scenery supplies, and probably a couple of other left over items or escapees from the Company Store. See you at the Flea Market!

John

No March Meeting

Next Meeting

2 PM Sunday April 15

@

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
7701 Kenwood Rd.**

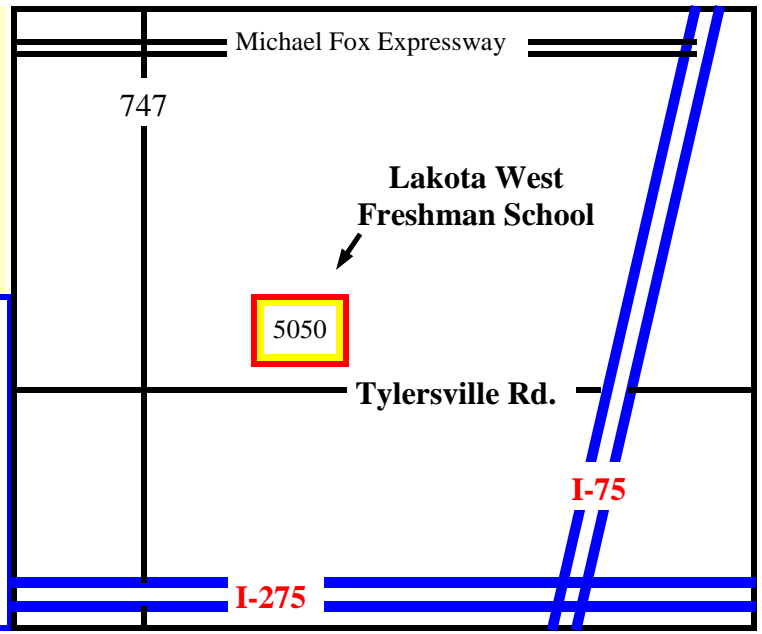
Spring Flea Market & Swap Meet

Saturday March 17

10 AM to 4 PM

@

**Lakota West Freshman Campus
5050 Tylersville Rd.
West Chester, OH**



Coming Down the Line

Cincinnati Division 7, MCR, NMRA
2012 Schedule

NOTE: ALL REGULAR MEETINGS START AT 2 PM
(Unless otherwise notified)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Program/Speaker</u>	<u>Layout Visits</u>	<u>Contest Topic</u>
Mar 15	Resurrection Church Lebanon, OH	Div. 7 Lebanon Sub	None	Show and Tell
Mar 17	Annual Spring Flea Market Lakota West Freshman School	None	None	None
Apr 15	Kenwood Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Allen McClelland The V&O Today	Gerry Albers Jim Stewart	<u>Models:</u> On-line Dioramas <u>Photos:</u> Shots of Div. 7 Members Layouts
Apr 19	Resurrection Church Lebanon, OH	Div. 7 Lebanon Sub	None	Show and Tell

Around the Region

3 /10-11	World's Greatest Hobby	Duke Energy Center
3/17	Div. 7 Swap Meet	Lakota W. School
3/22-24	Mid-West NG Conv.	Greenford, OH
4/26-29	MCR Regional Conv.	Pittsburgh, PA
5/5/12	Buckeye Express	Cincinnati, OH

National

3/23-25	Prototype Modelers	Malvern, PA
5/4-5	National Z Ga. Conv	Denver, CO
6/27-7/1	National N Ga. Conv.	Medford, OR
7/18-21	National O Ga. Conv.	Parsippany, NY
7/29-8/4	National NMRA Conv.	Grand Rapids, MI
8/7-11	National S Ga. Conv.	Chattanooga, TN
9/12-14	National NG Conv.	Bellevue, WA

Modeling Problems ? Member Aid Committee

Pat Homan (513) 861-2057
Bruce Knapp (513) 941-2713

Div. 7 Hot Line (513) 662-RAIL
Div. 7 Web Site www.cincy-div7.org
MCR Web Site www.midcentral-region-nmra.org