

THE

# Oil Can

September 2012



Volume VI Issue 8



## Division 7 Officers

<b>Superintendent:</b> 8217 Fox Knoll Dr. 513 378-8108	<b>Randy Kerka</b> W. Chester, OH 45069 <a href="mailto:rkerka001@gmail.com">rkerka001@gmail.com</a>
<b>Asst. Super:</b> 827 Quailwood Ct. 513 398-1355	<b>Bob Shreve</b> Mason, OH 45040 <a href="mailto:bshreve@fuse.net">bshreve@fuse.net</a>
<b>Secretary:</b> 8520 Indian Hill Rd. 513 561-8691	<b>John Shields</b> Cincinnati, OH 45243 <a href="mailto:qcengineers@aol.com">qcengineers@aol.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b> 8278 Lakenoll Ct. 513 847-4089	<b>Laddie Henninger</b> W. Chester, OH 45069 <a href="mailto:pjhljh777@yahoo.com">pjhljh777@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Oil Can Editor:</b> 513 226-2233	<b>Don Phillips</b> <a href="mailto:editor@cincy-div7.org">editor@cincy-div7.org</a>

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<b>Secr.</b>	<b>Bob Weinheimer</b> <a href="mailto:secretary@midcentral-region-nmra.org">secretary@midcentral-region-nmra.org</a>
<b>Treas.</b>	<b>Paul Smith</b> <a href="mailto:treasurer@midcentral-region-nmra.org">treasurer@midcentral-region-nmra.org</a>

## The Editors Corner:

**Don Phillips**

As something different this month we're running pictures of a prototype railroad. Cass Scenic Railroad is a West Virginia State Park on the eastern edge of the state some 400 miles from Cincinnati. Trust me if your into geared locos, its well worth the trip. I've been there 4 times and plan on going back as often as possible. It makes for a great 3 day weekend trip as it gives you a full day Saturday at the park. Week days are even better. (not as crowded)

The town of Cass was a company town and the state has restored the company houses into cottages that can be rented for the weekend and while very comfortable will give you a good idea of what it was like to live in a lumber town in the early 1900's.

As for the trains they have 6 Shays, including the biggest and oldest Shays still running, a restored Heisler, a Climax that is still being restored and the usual compliment of logging cars, cabooses and converted rail fan cars etc. A restored lumber camp in addition to the company store and houses in the town of Cass complete the experience. Three rail trips are offered. The one to the top of the mountain is a 4 1/2 hour 11 mile train ride to Bald Knob (elevation 4842 ft).

If you plan to stay in one of the company houses advance reservations are required especially in the fall when the leaves are changing. Each spring they hold a special Cass Rail Fan Weekend. For 2013 it's May 17-19. Check it out at [www.cassrailroad.com](http://www.cassrailroad.com)

## **HOC MODO FERROVIA OPERARE INFERNO EST**

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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:

Early morning scene at Cass Scenic Railroad in Cass, West Virginia. One of the stable of Shays gets spruced up while Heisler # 6 waits its turn in the background.

It is Saturday afternoon and it is coal-fired hot. So Momma says, "It's too hot outside and I don't want you painting the house today. Why don't you stay in your office/modeling dungeon, watch the Reds... and model something?"

Having been married to my own little model railroad widow for over 40 years it is pleasing to me that she finally "gets it". So I put away the ladder and brushes, sealed up the paint cans and got busy doing some serious modeling for the FIRST time in months. God bless her!

I hope you are all looking forward to the coming **Cincinnati Model Train Show** as much as I am. Certainly we have other revenue sources that we could not exist without... but this is the BIG ONE! This year we are sending out over 6,000 reminder postcards and a couple of huge email "blasts". We are also using the Enquirer, as it has always been effective for us but who knows what the future of newspapers in general will be. Ed Wagner does a super job of making sure we are listed on every events calendar and events board he can find on line and in print. If you know of some that he has missed please let him know.

Flyer distribution by individual members and their availability at area hobby shops is also a mainstay of our "direct" advertising program for the Cincinnati Model Train Show and continues to be effective. This year we are also considering the use of "yard signs" on a limited basis... again, direct, relatively cheap and, we hope, effective advertising.

But unquestionably, the absolute best tool we have to promote your big event is YOU! Please print a few copies of the CMTS show flyer (available at the Division Web-site). Take them to work, church, school, senior center, work sessions, club meeting or just stuff them in your neighbors' mail boxes. You may also pick up flyers at the next Division meeting. If each of you could encourage just one person to attend that would not otherwise come, (are you ready?) our "gate would increase by over \$2,200. That would be significant!

BTW, member involvement is the big reason that Nick Folger and our brothers to the North (Dayton, Div 3) have amazing attendance for their Dayton Train Show on a consistent basis. They draw 4 to 5 thousand to expensive Hara Arena. We draw about 2 thousand. In the words of my favorite American philosopher, let's "git 'er done"!

We are indeed fortunate to have use of Lakota West High School year after year. You should know, however, that it does get more expensive to rent that facility each year. (I think we all realize that schools are just as susceptible to our down economy as the rest of us.) This is why it is critical that we continue to seek out innovative and low-cost ways to promote the Cincinnati Model Train Show and keep the attendance numbers on the rise. Rising attendance numbers also keeps our vendors coming back! So please don't be shy about sharing any ideas you may have. My email address is rkerka001@gmail.com.

We are always on the lookout for new ideas for activities that we might be able to add to the Cincinnati Model Train Show program. This should be something that the general public will find interesting and worthwhile. Naturally, cost is a factor and so is finding someone to flesh out and lead any new show feature or activity. If you have an idea and are the guy or gal that can make it happen, be a hero. We definitely want to talk to you.

Assistant Super Bob Shreve has officially blown the balance of his 2012 budget to bring us a couple of the most exciting clinicians you are likely to see! This month our good friend Bob Weinheimer, MMR, MCR Secretary and Division 9 Super will tie together and expose all the mysteries that us operationally challenged schleps need to know.

In November, Lou Sassi, prolific free-lance model railroad photographer, author, model railroad technique innovator and ground-breaking modeler will regale us with... well... something very cool! Both Lou and Bob's clinics are a "DO NOT MISS"! What a member benefit! Bring a guest that might be on the fence about joining. Done deal!

I'm pretty sure you will agree that the rest of this year will be pretty exciting for Division 7. And, 2013 looks even better! See you in Kentucky on September 9<sup>th</sup>,

*Randy*

# SECOND SECTION

Bob Shreve  
Asst. Super

In August we made our annual visit to the Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church. The meeting room there is bright and spacious, and the staff goes out of their way to provide everything we need for the meeting. Mike Mereness gave a presentation on coal mines and how they generate traffic on your model railroad. Mike presented many statistics on how much revenue the railroads receive due to this one commodity. After the meeting Pat Homan and Jim Hodde had their layouts open. Both layouts are nicely scenicked, although at the opposite ends of the spectrum as far as number of trees. Thanks to Mike for his presentation and to Pat and Jim for their hospitality.

On September 9<sup>th</sup> we will be heading down to the Kenton County Library in Erlanger Kentucky. This will be a new venue for our meetings. The room is very nice with lots of space. Bob Weinheimer is coming over from Charleston, WV to give a presentation on getting started in operations on your model railroad. Bob Adams and MMR Georgia Dahlberg will have their layouts open after the meeting. Carpooling to Georgia's house should be considered, as she lives further south in Williamstown, KY. This will be our chance to see how all of those great structures she brings to the meetings look on her layout. Georgia assures us, and rightfully so, that it really isn't that far down in Kentucky. We are actually lucky to have so many members in a relatively small area. Division 9, where Bob Weinheimer hails from, extends as far west as Portsmouth, Ohio, north to Parkersburg, and south to Bluefield in West Virginia.

October will take us back up to the northern suburbs. The meeting will be at the West Chester library next to Lakota West High School. We'll have a Bring-n-Brag contest and a couple of mini-clinics. The weekend after the meeting (Oct 20, 21) will be the Fall Show at Lakota West. Be sure to sign up for one of the many opportunities to help out at the show. More information on that will be available at the meetings.

The November meeting will be on November 4<sup>th</sup>, one week earlier than the normal second Sunday meeting date. The date change was needed to coordinate with the schedule of our guest clinician, Lou Sassi. Lou will explain how he researched and constructed a module featuring a tannery located near the town where he grew up.

The December meeting will be our annual "Westwood Picture Show and Food Fest".

In 2013, I am looking to get back to more basic modeling clinics. I'm looking for people to give presentations on backdrops, scenery, rolling stock, weathering, etc. I would also like to add some more layouts to our post-meeting visitation list. Contact me if you have an idea for a clinic, or if you would be willing to have some visitors over to see your handiwork.

See you in Kentucky on September 9th.

*Bob*

*Did you Know ?*

*Division 7's membership stands at 317 as of August 1*

There was no contest at the August meeting

Both the August and September contests will be held at the September meeting

August Competition (Held Over)

**Models: Thin Line Models** (false front) This is not a diorama format. You must provide a means to support your model.

**Photos: Railroad Stations and/or Freight Houses**

September Competition

**Models: Vehicles** Railroad related and marked

**Photos: Diesel or Steam Locomotives** (B&W or Color)\_

2012 Overall Standings

Models

Junior Division

Photos

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

Anthony Zillich 05

Jerry Baston 12  
John Listermann 06  
Roy Hord 05  
Georgia Dahlberg 04  
Jim MacKnight 04  
Bob Adams 03  
Jim Corbett 03

*Jack Labisch*

Competition Chairperson

PS Each month I have been posting on the contest table a laminated copy of the rules for our local competition, as outlined by the BOD of Div 7. Hopefully this posting will help you should you have any questions.

### Another Battery Powered DCC System

In the March Oil Can we reported on North West Short Line's radio controlled, battery powered DCC system that utilizes on board batteries to power a locomotive thus eliminating all the usual track problems. Meant primarily to eliminate the jerks and stalls when the loco hits dirty track or dead spots, it can also be the sole on-board power source thus eliminating all track wiring entirely.

Another system available from Tam Valley Depot ([www.tamvalleydepot.com](http://www.tamvalleydepot.com)) accomplishes the same thing but goes a few steps farther. The TVD system has the advantage of being compatible with all existing DCC systems, which means no matter what DCC system you use, nothing in your present system needs to be replaced, only added to. However, it is primarily meant to be 100% battery powered.

The radio controlled model air plane industry has been developing this type of remote control for years and the government has been throwing millions at developing military drones

The TVD system requires a radio transmitter that is connected using the two wires that formerly went from the controller to the track. Now the DCC signals that were sent thru the track are sent out thru the air by radio waves. This is different from the wireless DCC systems many of us have been using where the signal is sent from a hand controller to a receiver that is hard wired to the track. In this case the signal is sent directly to the locomotive. To accomplish this, a receiver is installed in each locomotive you want to control. The receiver is connected directly to the existing decoder using the wires that formerly went to the wheels. Now the DCC signals that were picked up thru the track are received by radio signal and each locomotive acts independently just as they did before. To complete the installation a small Lithium Polymer battery is installed in the loco or tender making it completely self-contained and no longer track dependent.

As does NWSL, TVD claims depending on the size battery you chose, normal operating time can last as long as a couple of hours between charges. Obviously a locomotive pulling a long string of cars or climbing steep grades will consume more power than a lightly loaded train on flat track.

One big difference between the two is, the battery of the NWSL is recharged thru the wheels and if used as standby power will be kept charged even when running or parked on a siding. The battery of the TVD system is recharged using a separate charger that is connected to a plug in the on-board wiring harness while the locomotive is idle.

Even though the components are small, the big draw back is of course finding room to install them. Especially if you are in one of the smaller scales and already have sound on board. Even the intermediate scales will be challenged if you're trying to install the system in a critter or tank engine with out a tender or B unit available to carry the extra parts.

Keep in mind that these two are pioneers in what could quite possibly become the future in model railroading. As history has shown, as more and more companies enter a field and competition picks up, new innovations will pop up, components will become more efficient and smaller and all the while prices will continue to decline. My first mobile phone probably weighed 6 pounds, had a full size handset, sat on the floor of the car, plugged into the cigarette lighter, required a special antenna and if I remember correctly cost several hundred dollars. My current cell phone rides in my shirt pocket, takes pictures and a lot of other things I don't use, is lucky to get recharged every two or three days and cost \$79.00. And in the scheme of things, that really wasn't all that long ago so look for continued progress in radio control trains.

## Lebanon Sub Meetings

By Bob Chapman

The August Lebanon Sub meeting was well attended, and featured presentations by Ron Gribler and Doug Campbell, both with scratch built structures. Pictures taken on Bruce Chubb's Sunset Valley RR in Grand Rapids in August were shown with our new projector system and many adjourned for pie at Frische's following the meeting.

The September meeting on the third Thursday of September (20<sup>th</sup>) will feature more fine model presentations from attendees and a digital picture tour of the White Creek RR (7 1/2" gauge) in Michigan. A hobby shop gift certificate will be given to the modeler who brings in the most interesting model project and explains the work involved. Selection will be by popular vote. Gerry Michaels will also be there with the video lending library for check out and returns. Refreshments are always available at the meetings and a pie run will follow the session.

Everyone is welcome to Lebanon Sub meetings. At 7:30 pm, at Resurrection Lutheran Church located at the north end of Lebanon. Look for the RR cross bucks at the parking entrance.

## John's Honest Raffle

by John Shields

In September, we will once again have a non-scale raffle of various tools, books, and other railroad items. We will be back with the regular HO and N scale choices in October. Also, looking ahead, we will begin our annual engine(s) raffle at the October meeting and continue through November and December, with the drawing at the December meeting, just in time for it to be *your* Christmas present. And for those *really* looking ahead, we will have O scale items (instead of N) at the January meeting.

While we had a really good sale of tickets at the August meeting, I sense that there may still be a few of you who are not buying tickets. Now if you are in O scale and you are saving your money for January, that's fine, but please note that the September raffle will have things you can use. The same applies if you are in S, Z, G, TT, or even live steam. And if your excuse is that we don't have the things you might want in the raffle, let me know what that would be. Seriously, in the couple of years I have been running the raffle, I have not had any input; and I would be glad to try to cover anything I knew there was an interest in. So send me an email or offer suggestions at the meetings.

*Watch for the White Elephant Form in the October Oil Can*

CASS  
SCENIC  
RAILROAD

**Big # 6**  
**It's big**  
**(162 tons)**



**And Thirsty**  
**(6000 gallons)**

**Heisler # 6**  
**Not as big**  
**But Interesting**





## Mike Brestel

It should be obvious to all of you that, Mike and I have been friends for a good many years; 45 to be exact. I first met Mike in the fall of 1967 at the old Model Railroad Shop on Montana Ave. I had just taken the band directing position at Taylor High School and finally had the time, space, and funds to return to the hobby. Mike worked at the store on Saturdays, so we soon got to know each other. I was impressed by Mike's enthusiasm and knowledge of the hobby. I started dating my wife in 1968; my trips to visit Margaret in Mount Lookout were often combined with visits to Walt's Hobby Shop. Imagine my delight to see Mike had moved to Walt's, then a few years later he returned to the west side [the obviously better side of town] and Western Hills Photo & Hobby. My Saturday visits to Western Hills Photo & Hobby often included having lunch at the store with such model railroad luminaries such as John Roberts, Keith Corman, and Frank Koch. Mike soon encouraged my participation in Division 7, by appointing me to the Division 7 Board of Directors. That appointment was followed by two terms as Assistant Superintendent, one term as Superintendent, and two terms as division clerk. [now you know who to blame] Mike has served the NMRA on a host of different assignments; culminating with two terms as our national president. Mike has guided the Association through some difficult times and has had to make some very tough [and sometimes unpopular] decisions. The National is a much stronger, healthier organization because of his efforts. I suspect Mike isn't through serving the association and the hobby, as I have a strong feeling that Charlie Getz, the new NMRA president, will call on Mike's expertise and love of the hobby, to continue to serve in new capacities. Meanwhile, Division 7 will continue to be the recipient of Mike's leadership and dedication.

## WMPA

To the poor uninitiated among you, WMPA stands for the Western Modelers Protective Association. The group was formed to counteract some of the unfortunate negative influences that our Appalachian modelers have had on Division 7. Our membership includes Pat Homan, Merlyn Jarman, Ray Lienesh, John Altshool, Keith Corman [he models Western Indiana] plus several other worthy modelers. WMPA held its August meeting at Pat Homan's enjoying watching CB&Q equipment in operation and discussing the latest threats posed by the heavy influence that the Appalachian modelers seem to have on our Division. We are watching to see how many western road items show up in the raffle, or how many negative comments are made at our monthly meetings. WMPA retribution will be swift and sure to any miscreants caught. We still plan to burn coal tipples in the front yards of frequent offenders.

Just remember **WMPA** is **WATCHING YOU!**

**See you in September**

**Keep 'em rolling!**

*Bruce A Knapp*

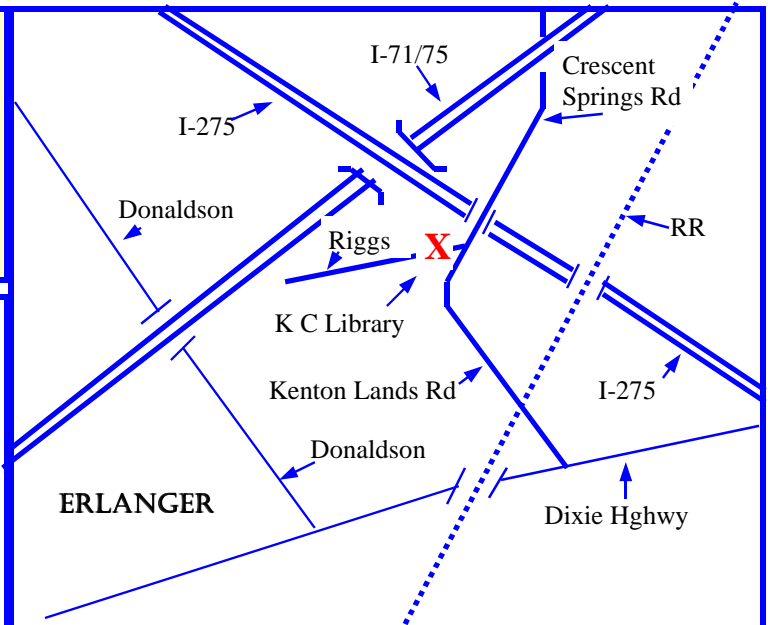
*Don't forget to sign up on one or more of the volunteer sheets for the  
Cincinnati Model Train Show*

**Next Meeting**

**2 PM Sunday**

**Kenton County Library  
401 Kenton Lands Rd.  
Erlanger, KY**

(intersection of Kenton Lands Rd and Riggs Rd.)



Directions: From Dixie Hghwy. Turn West on Kenton Lands Rd. Continue across railroad track until you reach Riggs Rd. on your left. Kenton Lands runs off of the Dixie Hghwy approx. Half-way between I-275 & Donaldson Rd.  
From I-71/75, Turn West on Buttermilk Pike. (exit 186) Go west to Anderson Rd. & turn left. Anderson becomes Crescent Springs Rd. Continue under I-71/75 and across I-275 to Riggs Rd. on your right.

**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>
Sept 9	South <b>Kenton County Library</b> Erlanger, KY	<b>Bob Weinheimer</b> Operations	<b>Bob Adams</b> <b>Georgia Dahlberg</b>	<b>Models</b> Thin Line Models <b>Models</b> Vehicles (RR related ) <b>Photos</b> RR Stations or Freight Houses <b>Photos</b> Diesel or Steam Locomotives
Sept 7	Resurrection Lutheran Church	<b>Lebanon Sub Meeting</b>	None	Show and Tell
Oct 14	North <b>West Chester Library</b> West Chester	<b>Bring &amp; Brag</b> <b>Mini Clinics</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Models</b> On Line Structures <b>Photos</b> Trains on Trestles or Bridges
Oct 18	Resurrection Lutheran Church	<b>Lebanon Sub Meeting</b>	None	Show and Tell

**Around the Region**

**2012**

9/15 All Trains Flea Market Greenville, OH  
10/20-21 Cincinnati Model Train Show W. Chester, OH  
11/5-6 Dayton Train Show Hara Arena Dayton, OH

**2013**

5/15-18 Mid-Central Region Conv. Dayton, OH

**National**

**2012**

9/12-14 National NG Conv. Bellevue, WA  
10/11-13 Fine Scale MRR Expo Lancaster, PA

**2013**

7/14-20 NMRA National Conv. Atlanta, GA

**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