



December, 2013

# THE Oil Can



Volume VII Issue 12



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<b>Layout Ops.</b>	<b>Rick Stern</b>	<b>513 729-1051</b>
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<b>Modelers Aid</b>	<b>Pat Homan</b>	<b>513 861-2057</b>
<b>Monthly Raffle</b>	<b>John Shields</b>	<b>513 561-8691</b>
<b>Publicity</b>	<b>Ed Wagner</b>	<b>513 563-8409</b>
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## The Editors Corner:

**Don Phillips**

It appears that Amtrak is on a roll. Last year it collected \$2 billion in revenue. This past October they announced they have reached cost sharing agreements with 18 States. Those states will pay a portion of operating costs on the short haul routes within their borders. In August this year, those short lines carried 1,469,990 riders, a 5% increase over last year. This would appear to be a boon for both Amtrak and those states that are participating. For Amtrak it's a shot in the arm to increase revenue in addition to helping with the bottom line making them less dependent on federal funding which congress recently reduced. For the states it means less stress on already overloaded and deteriorating highways, an answer to the airlines reducing the number of short distance flights, and less pollution as a result of fewer cars on the road. The usual short haul takes roughly the same or less time as driving between the same destinations. Unfortunately, while Indiana is, Ohio and Kentucky are not among the states farsighted enough to take part.

## Contents:

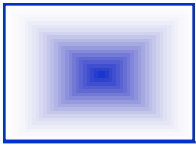
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*The Oil Can* is a publication of Cincinnati Division 7, Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc. Opinions expressed herein are the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Division 7, the MCR, the NMRA, it's officers, or it's members.

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

## Cover:

This scene is from Jim Bonnett's beautifully detailed Kettle Valley RR. More pictures of his and Ric Case's East Broad Top layout appear on page 10.



# HEADLIGHTS

Randy Kerka  
Superintendent

As 2013 comes to a close, I write this article a week before Thanksgiving. And folks -- I have a lot to be thankful for! As you well know, I am finishing up four years as your Superintendent. The support I have received from your officers, the Board of Trustees and the entire division in general (that's you!) has certainly made my job easy! My wish for the future is that the incoming administration receives the same support.

So please oblige me for a moment while I review some of the features of the last four years that are foremost on my mind. Some may view the following as a gratuitous attempt at self-promotion. I assure you that I have no reason to do that as I am, frankly, about "done". More to the point, without the support of a host of Committee Chairpersons and unselfish volunteers NOTHING is possible!

In the past four years we have enjoyed four successful Cincinnati Model Train Shows. Rick Crumrine and Roy Hord are indeed the flag bearers here as well as a host of volunteers. (BTW, I missed recognizing Tom Brueggeman, MMR last month while listing those folks. Sorry, Tom... and thanks.

In the past four years we have enjoyed four successful Spring Flea Markets. The formidable union of Dianne and Don Rowland are the ramrods for that one and, of course, couldn't pull it off without the same ubiquitous host of volunteers.

In the past four years we have enjoyed four successful Division Car Projects. Jim MacKnight is a Division 7 "Treasure" as he continues to "find 'em, build 'em, promote 'em and sell 'em. Thanks, Jim. Want to learn how it's done? Ask him!

In the past four years Division 7 made a very generous contribution to the NMRA effort with respect to the NMRA Gallery Exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum. This was made with the full support of your Board of Trustees AND the general membership. After we "stepped up", many other Divisions were seen to make donations of their own.

In the past four years budgetary considerations forced a bold decision to make wholesale changes to the venerable old black and white *Oil Can* for years mailed to all Division 7 members. It was replaced by a brightly colored post card with only information necessary to inform the membership about the next Division Meeting. With the emergence of the popular, in-color and expanded *Electronic Oil Can* delivered by email and posted on the Division 7 Web-site, the USPS delivered old *Oil Can* is now a fond memory. *Oil Can* Editor Don Phillips modestly dodges the credit for this... but I can assure you, the credit is his!

And finally, in the past four years we have emphasized new member promotion and new member retention programs. Most of you know that this has been a pet project of mine. During a period when a majority of NMRA Divisions are suffering declining membership numbers, Division 7's membership numbers remain strong! New member "involvement" is key to these programs and it is personally gratifying to see that so many of the newer members are stepping up and getting involved in various capacities.

Now that the initial fervor over the proposed sale of the National Headquarters building in Chattanooga has died down a bit, down-sizing the office venue makes a lot of sense to me. During a period where declining membership numbers can contribute to financial anxiety and pressure on a non-profit organization largely dependent on dues for financial support, the proposed sale will facilitate a much needed infusion of cash. I am in full support of the National board for this bold move. (BTW, if you have been staying current on National NMRA news... you all saw it coming!)

Did you see the awesome ad in *Railroad Model Craftsman* featuring the Division 7 MDT Reefers? Car Project "guru" Jim MacKnight does a fabulous job of gaining prominent placement concerning our car projects virtually guaranteeing success. Yes, Jim does sometimes give the impression that all 500-600 cars of a project should be purchased by Division 7 members in the first four weeks of an offering. ☺ But seriously, being a practical man he knows that these national ads are the ultimate key to success. The contribution to the Division's bottom line is undeniable. Thanks again, Jim!

There will be a Division 7 BOD meeting on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

As always, buy Division 7 cars and buy raffle tickets while it's still "honest"! (Sorry, Bruce.)

That's it for now. See you all on December 8<sup>th</sup> at Westwood Methodist Church.

*Randy*

# SECOND SECTION

Bob Shreve  
Asst. Super

Well, the temperatures are dropping. It's time to get going on all of those modeling projects we've put off until the colder weather. Of course, I still haven't cleaned out my basement. Maybe this winter will be different.

Our November meeting was in Hamilton at Partners In Prime. Lou Sassi gave a presentation titled "Roadways For Our Railways" based on the information in his latest book. Lou showed the methods he used to model dirt, gravel, concrete, and asphalt roads. There was also a short video showing Lou mixing up his "ground goop" material. The Whistle Stop Train Club had their basement layout open for visitors before and after the meeting. After the meeting, Ric Case's version of the East Broad Top and Jim Bonnett's Kettle Valley RR. were open for viewing. Thanks to John Burchnall for making the arrangements for Lou's visit, and to Lou, Ric, Jim, and the Whistle Stop crew for entertaining us.

The last meeting of the year will be on December 8<sup>th</sup>. We will have our end of year snackfest and picture show at the Westwood United Methodist Church. As we have done the past couple of years, we are planning to present pictures in electronic format only. So start culling the best shots from your picture collection and bring them to share at the meeting. Show us where you've been and what you've seen. Put the pictures in groups of 15 or so. USB memory sticks work best, but we can read CDs also. We'll go through everybody's first set, and, if time permits, run through any other picture groups. The layout visits in December will be Jerry Strangarity and Dennis Malloy.

We will start off 2014 on January 12<sup>th</sup> at the Harmony Lodge in Spring Grove Village. The Cincinnati Model Railway Club will be our hosts. Bruce Knapp will be Beta testing a weathering clinic. It will be interesting to see the progress the CMRC folks have made on their layout in the past year.

Happy Modeling. See you in Westwood on December 8th.

*Bob*

## John's Honest Raffle

by **John Shields**

In December we will have the regular HO and N scale raffle choices; plus we will conclude our annual engine(s) raffle. The N scale engine this year is a Life Like Burlington Northern SD7 (in the green and black scheme). The HO engine this year is a Bachmann Alco 2-6-0 – Pennsylvania RR # 3234. [DCC "ready"] Remember, tickets are discounted if you buy multiple tickets. Tickets are \$3.00 a piece, or 4 for \$10.00 (or 9 for \$20.00).

I will also have the final Christmas-themed item available which can be selected with either an HO ticket or an N scale ticket.

Looking ahead, in January, the raffle will be HO and O Scale ( in keeping with the meeting being at the O Scale Club )

*John*

## November Contest Results

### Models: Servicing Facilities:

#### Box Stock

1st Pl. **Randy Kerka** Icing Platform

#### Kit bashed

1st Pl. **Frank Hermanek** Platform and Crane

2nd Pl. **Bob Chapman** Caboose Servicing Facility

3rd Pl. **Bob Chapman** Yard Office

#### Scratch Built

1st Pl. **Bob Lawson** Coal and Sanding Facility

2nd Pl. **Bob Lawson** Water Tower

### Photography: Diesel and/or Electric Powered Units

#### Print Model

1st Pl. **Randy Seiler** Virginian #126 on Gerry Albers' Layout

2nd Pl. (tie) **Jim Hodde** C&O E8 on Gerry Albers' layout

**Randy Seiler** V&O #325 on Gerry Albers' layout

#### Print Prototype

1st Pl. **Jerry Baston** C&I #2001 at Blue Ash, OH

2nd Pl. **Bob Chapman** Nickel Plate #901 at Lebanon, OH

3rd Pl. **Georgia Dahlberg** Orange Empire Railroad Museum #1956

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## 2013 Overall Standings (as of Oct. 31)

### MODELS

<b>Bob Lawson</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Perry Simpson</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>Tom Brueggeman</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>Frank Hermanek MMR</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>John Listermann</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>Bruce Knapp</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>Georgia Dahlberg MMR</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>Randy Kirka</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>Michael York</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>Chuck Endreola</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>Ron Pearson</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>Rick Stern</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>Ron Gribbler MMR</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>Don Phillips</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>Anton Zillich</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>Charlie Atkinson</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>Butch Sage</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>Jim Rollwage</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>Bob Chapman</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>Bob Adams</b>	<b>02</b>		

### Junior Division

**Anthony Zillich 06**

### PHOTOS

<b>Randy Seiler</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Tom Brueggeman</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>Anton Zillich</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>Jerry Baston</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>John Listermann</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>Tom Bredestegge</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>Georgia Dahlberg MMR</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Chuck Endreola</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>Bob Adams</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>Jim Hodde</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>Jim Kreissinger</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>Frank Hermanek MMR</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>Jim Rollwage</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>Butch Sage</b>	<b>03</b>		

### Junior Division

**Anthony Zillich 09**

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## December Competition

### Models: MOW Equipment

Photos: "Fallen Flag" Rolling Stock (railroad no longer in existence)



NMRA, MCR, CINCINNATI DIVISION 7

**MODEL AND PHOTOGRAPHY  
2014 CONTEST THEMES**



<b>2014</b>	<b>MODELS</b>	<b>PHOTOGRAPHY</b>
January	<b>MOW EQUIPMENT</b> – <u>Maintenance of Way</u>	<b>MOW EQUIPMENT</b> – <u>Maintenance of Way</u>
February	<b>CABOOSES</b>	<b>CABOOSES</b>
March	No Contest (Flea Market)	No Contest (Flea Market)
April	<b>DIORAMA (On Line)</b> - NOT in False Front Format - “On Line Diorama” has structure/s OWNED BY or SERVICED BY a railroad	<b>TRAINS Approaching GRADE CROSSING/S</b> - You must show a power unit and the crossing signal/s
May	No Contest (Bus Trip)	No Contest (Bus Trip)
June	<b>ON-LINE THIN-LINE STRUCTURE/S</b> (False Front/Backdrop) - NOT in Diorama format - You must provide support for your structure/s - “On-Line Structure/s” is ANY structure/s OWNED BY or SERVICED BY a railroad.	<b>SWITCH MACHINES</b> - If Automatic, show the “Control Box”; if Manual, show the Lever
July	<b>SERVICING FACILITIES</b> - Examples: Repair Shops, Roundhouses, Sanding Facilities, Coaling Towers, Water Towers, Ash Pits, etc.	<b>RAILROAD STRUCTURE/S</b> - This means ANY Structure found on a railroad and/or OWNED by a railroad - This would be similar to an “On-Line structure” in the “Model” category
August	<b>PASSENGER CARS</b> – Any car found in a passenger train	<b>PERSONNEL WORKIN’ ON THE RAILROAD</b>
September	<b>FREIGHT CARS</b> – Any car found in a freight train	<b>MID-CENTRAL REGION LAYOUTS</b> - Photographer can be ANY NMRA member entering this competition, the print MUST be of a Mid-Central region member’s layout - Give credit to the owner of the layout on a small slip of paper below the print entry
October	<b>BRING–N–BRAG OFF-LINE STRUCTURES</b> - “Off-Line Structure” is ANY structure NOT OWNED BY a railroad or NOT SITTING ON TRACKAGE of ANY railroad line	<b>WEATHERED/DAMAGED FREIGHT CARS</b>
November	<b>RR VEHICLES</b> - This can be ANY vehicle found on a railroad that has a sign designating it as being OWNED BY a railroad, but is NOT considered to be ROLLING STOCK (such as a Locomotive, Passenger Car or Freight Car) - Examples: BNSF Highrailer, Baltimore & Ohio Panel Truck, Union Pacific Tractor Trailer Delivery Truck, etc.	<b>RAILROAD BRIDGE/S without Trains</b> - Just show the bridge/s
December	<b>ANYTHING GOES</b> - Obviously, RAILROAD related	<b>LOCOMOTIVES</b> – Diesel or Steam locomotives or any other powered railroad unit (Electrics, etc.)

Jack Laubisch and Brad Jonas  
NMRA, MCR, Cincinnati Division 7

## December 2013 Car Projects Report

by Jim MacKnight

Our 2013 Division 7 car project, Merchants Despatch Transportation's 40' ice reefers, by Accurail, in wood or all-steel versions, are offered in two numbers for each type of reefer, priced at \$18 for singles, and \$70 for a four-car set, plus Ohio tax. We have sold 175 cars during the first 5-1/2 months, and have 328 car kits available. Our announcement with photograph appeared in the November issues of The NMRA Magazine and Railroad Model Craftsman.

Our 2012 car project, Allegheny Midland 41'-6" steel gondolas, by Accurail, are offered in three numbers, priced at \$18 for singles, and \$51 for a three-car set, plus Ohio sales tax. We have sold 219 cars during the first 17-1/2 months. We have 172 car kits available. We anticipate breaking even after the sale of 7 more car kits.

Our company store has plenty of AM gondolas and MDT reefers, as well as a limited number of colorful Virginian & Ohio reefers for sale. We also have a few beautiful N&SS outside-braced 40' boxcars.

Jim MacKnight  
Division 7 Car Projects

## Annual Holiday Train Show

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Train Display in Oxford will take place the weekends of Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. The address is 3088 Oxford Millville Rd. (south of Oxford) Admission is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. All proceeds go to charity and in the first 6 years they have raised over \$50,000. The layout consists of over 1 ½ miles of track above a 21 car garage. According to Trains Magazine, it is the largest private collection and is capable of running 43 trains at a time thru the towns and villages. If you go, parking is at Marshall school immediately to the north.

# Cincinnati Division 7 N.M.R.A. - 2014 Program Schedule

NOTE: All DATES, TIMES, AND EVENTS are subject to change. Check back often for updates All REGULAR meetings begin at 2:00 PM

Month	Date	Location	Program/Speaker	Layout Visits
January	01-12-14	West - Central Harmony Lodge - Winton Place	Bruce Knapp Weathering	CMRC Hadley / ?
February	02-9-14	North - St. Susanna Mason	?	?
March	03-8-14	Annual Spring Flea Market Lakota West Freshman School	None	None
April	04-13-14	Central - Hyde Park United Methodist Church	Burchnall Roadbed	?
May	05-31	Division 7 Bus Trip	None	On trip
June	06-8-14	East - Anderson Senior Center	?	?
July	07-6-14	North - Forest Park	?	?
July	7-13 thru 7-19	NMRA National Convention Cleveland, Oh.	Convention	Convention
August	8-10-14	Kenwood - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	?	?
September	09-14-14	South - Northern Kentucky	?	?
October	10-12-14	North - West Chester Library	Mini Clinics Bring & Brag	?
October	?	Annual Fall Train Show Lakota West HS - West Chester	None	At Show
November	11-9-14	Far North West - Partners in Prime	?	?
December	12-14-14	West - Westwood U. Methodist Church	Annual Pot Luck Picture Show	?

Easter April 20, 2014

Mother's Day May 11, 2014

Father's Day June 15, 2014

Updated: Nov 23, 2013



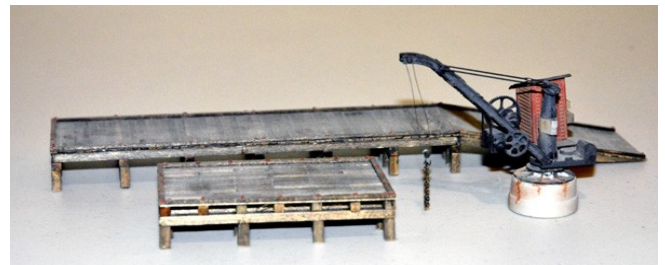
## November Meeting



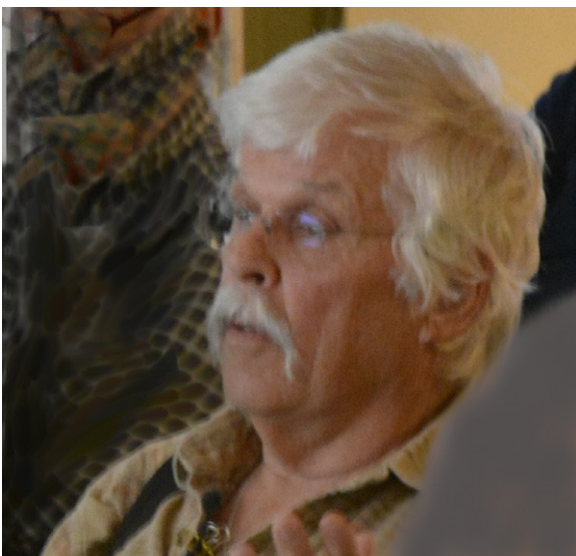
Super **Randy Kerka** presents **Bob Adams** with an award for 10 years service as Membership Chairman



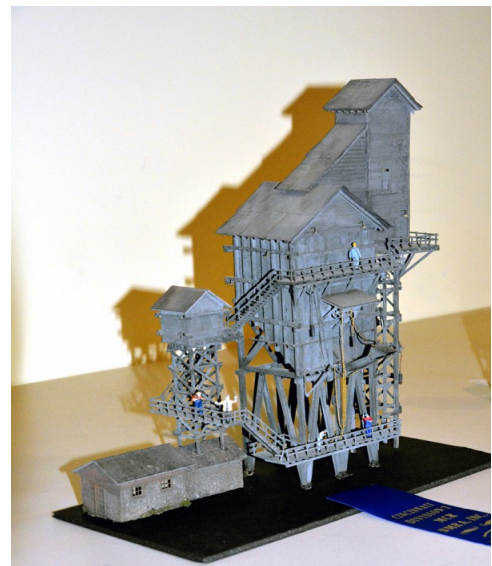
First Place - Box Stock  
**Randy Kerka**



First Place - Kitbashed  
**Frank Hermanek**



November Clinician  
**Lou Sassi**



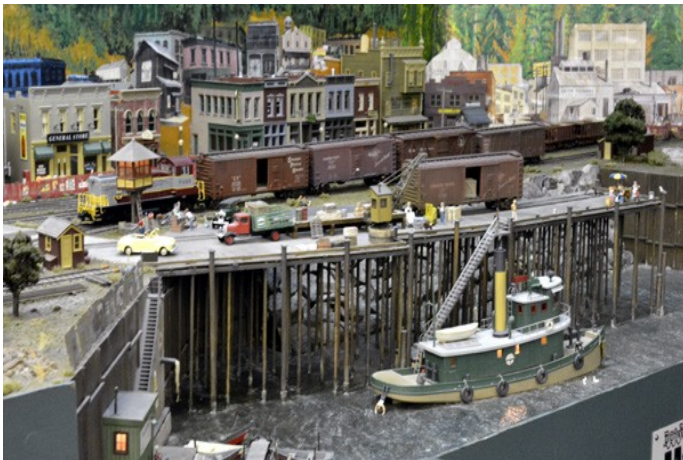
First Place - Scratch Built  
**Bob Lawson**

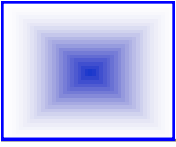
## November Layouts

### Ric Case's East Broad Top



### Jim Bonnett's Kettle Valley RR





## Election Photo

I opened Division 7's November Election Special Edition of The Oil-Can and was absolutely horrified at my picture on the ballot, in fact, it was so bad, I didn't vote for myself. One of the secretary's duties is to run the club's monthly raffle; I ask you, would you trust that character to continue the work done by Honest John Shields. Today's raffle continued in the same high[?] standard we have grown to expect. [Eat your heart out John Burchnall, you didn't win again] Speaking of high standards, Randy Kerka has done an excellent job as Division 7 Assistant Super and now Superintendent. Our new executive board is following an outstanding group of officers, but since three are either moving up or returning, I am sure we will do well. The real secret isn't the officers, but the many hard-working individuals, who make up the division.

## The Fall Show

I mentioned the Division 7 Fall Train Show in last month's "Knapp's Notes", so I was pleased when Rick Crumrine reported that the show was a financial success. Sometimes we are so busy at Modeler's Aid/Test Track table we don't get a feeling for the entire event. Pat, Nancy, Sam, and I certainly enjoyed the many great people we interacted with and the many modelers we were able to assist. I am going to refurbish the test track before the Spring Swap Meet, which will involve a complete rewiring, plus the addition of Marklin test tracks and Z scale test track. I was pleased that we didn't do a lot of dealer testing and the items being sold by our dealers was high quality. I even had some time to work on some of my locomotives. By the Way, I am sorry to report that Mr. Weiglin didn't finish his homework assignment. I suspect he didn't see the seriousness of the problem, which is even more troublesome as he is now our membership chair. I do hope he is not adding more "Model Railroading is Fun" types to our group. THIS IS A HOBBY IT IS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE FUN!!

## OVGS&SS and WMPA

Now, on to another but equally serious subject; that being the attitude of some of our Appalachia modelers. I am still hearing derisive remarks about the Santa Fe, the Burlington, the Southern Pacific, the Rio Grande, and the many other railroads that travel through God's Country [the western part of this great land]. Pat Homan and I both heard some very questionable comments about western railroading from a certain former NMRA president and C & O fan. Do we have to send Vinnie and Alphonse over to make you an offer? I do hope we don't have to bring this topic up again.

## The Monthly Raffle

I didn't win again this month, I even pulled the first ticket, enough said as changes are coming.

**Keep 'em Rolling**

*Bruce A Knapp*

Next Meeting

**2 PM Sunday December 8**

@

**Westwood United Methodist Church**

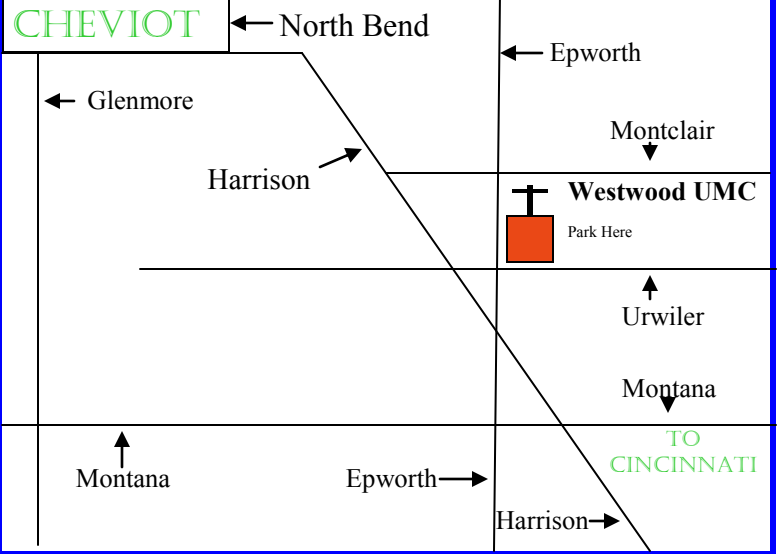
Directions:

Epworth crosses Harrison Ave. just north of Montana Ave.

**From I-74:** Take Montana west to Harrison Ave., turn right to Epworth

**From Cincy:** Take Harrison to Epworth & turn right.

**From the North:** Take North Bend to Harrison, turn left to Urwiler and turn left.



Coming Down the Line

Cincinnati Division 7, MCR, NMRA  
2013 Schedule

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Program/Speaker</u>	<u>Lavout Visits</u>	<u>Contest Topic</u>
12/8	Westwood United Methodist Church	Annual Pot Luck Digital Show	Dennis Malloy Jerry Strangarity	<u>Models:</u> MOW Equipment <u>Photos:</u> Fallen Flag Rolling Stock
12/20	Resurrection Lutheran Church	Lebanon Sub Meeting Lebanon, OH	NA	Show & Tell
1/12	Harmony Lodge Winton Place	Bruce Knapp Weathering	CMRC ?	<u>Models:</u> MOW <u>Photos:</u> MOW
1/15	Resurrection Lutheran Church	Lebanon Sub Meeting Lebanon, OH	NA	Show & Tell

<u>Around the Region</u> 2013
12/7,8,14,15 Train Show in Oxford

<u>National</u> 2014
6/25-29 National N Scale Conv.
7/13-19 NMRA National Convention Cleveland, OH
7/17-20 NMRA National Train Show Cleveland, OH

<u>Modeling Problems? - Ask the Member Aid Committee</u>
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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