



May, 2014

THE
Oil Can



Volume VIII Issue 5



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The Editors Corner:

Don Phillips

After the April Division 7 monthly meeting we had the last chance to visit Jim Hodde's CSX layout. This was the final running of one of the top layouts in the Tri-State area. Jim has made the decision that it had to go. In case you missed it, you'll find a few pictures on page 7.

Last month we mentioned that we had a suggestion to add a "Buy or Sell" column to the Oil Can. The idea was that any Division 7 member who was looking for a particular item or had something he wanted to sell, could have it listed in the Oil Can at no cost. Sort of like our very own Craig's list. We asked that Division 7 members take a minute to email us and let us know if they would like to see or would maybe even use the service. Evidently, there is not much interest in our adding it as out of a membership of almost three hundred we got a grand total of one (1) response. That person said he thought it would be a good idea but no one else was interested enough to reply.

There will be no regular Division 7 monthly meeting in May. The next regular meeting will be June 8.

The National NMRA convention will take place in Cleveland this coming July 13th-19th and the National Train Show the 18th-20th. If you've never been to a NMRA National Convention or Train Show, this is your chance to go to one in driving distance. There will be dozens of clinics on all phases of Model Railroading, plenty of layout visits in addition to prototype, industrial, and general interest tours that include Dinner Trains or Dinner Cruises on Lake Erie etc. The Train Show attracts just about every major model railroad manufacturer in the country.

Next years National will be in Portland, OR. A little far to drive so if you're thinking of going to one, this is the year.

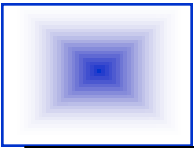
<u>Contents:</u>	3-Headlights	7-Jim Hodde's layout
	4-2nd Section	8-Pat Homan's layout
	5-April Competition	9-Knapp's Notes
	6-Div 7 car project	10- Down the line.

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

Cover: A Last Goodbye.

Caboose 124 disappears into the tunnel one last time on the final run of Jim Hodde's beautifully detailed CSX layout. We really hate to see it go. Check the pictures on page 7. In case you didn't make the final run, everything with a tag on it is for sale. Here was your chance to pick up some really neat HO structures and/or rolling stock.



The weather is finally warming up. We did have Sunday it looked a brief relapse into winter the week after the April meeting, but by Easter like spring was here for real. Oh well, another winter has come and gone and I still haven't started my layout (or cleaned out the basement). I hate to admit this, but I remember looking at the plans for our house when we were building it back in 1986 and pondering how to fit a layout in the basement. It's definitely time to get out of the planning stage (numerous layout configurations using several CAD programs) and build something. I liked the drop bridge design in a recent *Model Railroader* article and think that might help resolve my walk-in / duck-under design consideration.

I was reading the "Mail Car" section in the May issue of the NMRA magazine and noted several letters on the subject of benefits of membership in the NMRA. To me, one of the biggest benefits has always been the friends I have made while being a member of Division 7. While I have not been actively building my own layout, I have been fortunate to have been a part of the work crew building Gerry Albers' layout. This has afforded me an opportunity to build friendships with fellow modelers from both our division and many people from Dayton who are working and operating on Gerry's railroad.

Jim Hodde is one of those people whose friendship I have enjoyed during this activity. I have been to Jim's layout many times over the years and have always enjoyed watching it in operation. Of course, my fondness for West Virginia scenery added to the enjoyment. I was disappointed when Jim informed me earlier this year of his intent to dismantle his layout. I'm glad we were able to see the layout one last time after the April meeting. It's sad to see the demise of another fine local layout, but I suspect some of the rolling stock, structures, and possibly even some large sections of Jim's incredible scenery will find homes on other layouts.

The annual Cincinnati Model train Show (aka the Fall Show) is the major money making activity for the division. The show has consistently shown a profit, but that profit has decreased year over year for the last two years. During the past three years (2011, 2012, 2013) we have been able to hold the show expenses relatively flat. However, the show income has been decreasing. This income shortfall is directly tied to the decrease in attendance in 2012 and 2013.

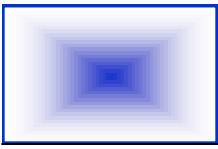
This subject has generated the most lively discussions at the division BOD meetings in several years. Everyone agrees we need to do something to bring in more people, but there are differing ideas on how to do it. One method we have again been using in recent years (thanks to Randy Kerka's efforts) is the attendee database. This database currently totals over 5000 names of people who have attended our shows in the past. By using this database, we can be sure that past attendees (who took the time to fill in a door prize entry blank) will be notified of the date and time for this year's show. The people we need to attract to the show fall into 3 main categories:

Active modelers: People currently active in the hobby.

People not currently active, but do have an interest in the hobby: This includes people who may have been active in the past, or people looking for a new hobby.

General public: Families looking for something to do with the kids on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. Actually, someone in the family might actually fall into the second group since something would need to draw them to the show.

The first group is the easiest to reach through the use of hobby shop fliers, announcements in the model press, and postcards from the database. It's the people in the last two groups that we need to reach out to and draw them to the show. The trick is to reach the greatest number of people in our target audience at the lowest cost per resulting attendee. This is the question that has been driving the discussions. Next month I will discuss some of the advertising methods we are investigating for this year's show.



SECOND SECTION

John Shields
Asst. Super

April meeting was at the Hyde Park United Methodist Church on April 13th. Bruce Knapp was our clinician, with his clinic on weathering. This was not a “how to”, but rather a “what to” survey of all of the elements that might be included broken out by car type. Afterwards we visited the layouts of Pat Homan and Jim Hodde. For Jim, this was the end of the line, the final run on the The layout. Jim is selling off most of his things and a number of people were selecting items they wanted to have. In a number of cases, I was hearing people say they wanted to preserve or continue to use items to honor Jim and his layout. The April model contest for on-line dioramas only had one entry; but the photo contest for trains at grade crossings had quite a few entries.

There is no May regular meeting. Instead, we have our annual bus tour. This year, John and Merlyn have arranged for us to see 5 outstanding layouts in Louisville Kentucky AND stop at the Louisville Slugger Museum. The date is Saturday, May 31st. The trip is officially sold out. There is a waiting list, in case of cancellations that you can still put your name on. If you are booked on the trip, and find you will not be able to go, PLEASE contact John Burchnall; so we can pass the spot on to someone on the wait list. And if you are booked, you should have received an email with details by now. If you have not, again contact John Burchnall.

Looking ahead, in June our meeting will be at the Anderson Senior Center on Sunday June 8th. Our clinic will be a program presented by Ed Swain, talking about the Pennsylvania Railroad in Dennison, Ohio. Afterwards we will be visiting the layouts of John Listermann and Bob Shaw. The model contest in June is for on-line thin-line structures. The photo contest theme is switch machines.

In July, we will be meeting on the **first** Sunday - July 6th - instead of the usual second Sunday, because the NMRA National Convention in Cleveland begins on the 13th. The location of the July meeting will be St. Mathias Catholic Church in Forest Park. Our clinician for July has changed. Phil Gliebe will be presenting a clinic on kitbashing HON30 motive power. The monthly model contest will be for servicing facilities, and the photo contest will be for railroad structures. Afterwards, for the layout visits, we will be returning to Bill Doll's and John Miller's layouts in Colerain Township. [Dick Briggs' clinic has been moved to November.]

In August, we will meet in Kenwood, at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Our August clinician will be Mike Finkler, talking about Oil Refineries. The contest subjects are models of passenger cars and photos of railroad people. The layout visits will include Gerry Albers and one more (assuming I get to work on confirming one!). In September, we will be in Northern Kentucky. Chuck Bogart from Lexington will be presenting on Street Cars and Interurbans of Kentucky.

Did anyone else notice that our newest board member was asked to draw the first ticket in the raffle, and promptly drew Bob's ticket? Bruce, it's good to see that you do recall the training that you gave me. Now... about the fact that **my** ticket has not been drawn since I gave up the duties.....

I know November is model railroad month, and for many of you model railroading absorbs more of your time in the winter than when the weather is warm; but for me it can be the other way around. Just look at May. Even without a fantastic Division 7 regular meeting in May, I've got a lot of things happening. First of all, there are clinics at Tim's Trains on Saturday mornings. Then there is a regular meeting of my club, the Queen City N-Gineers on May 5th, where we will be having an auction (which means I need to finish setting up the paperwork over the next two weeks). There is a NRHS event on the LM&M Railroad on the 10th. The next weekend is the Sixth Annual N Scale Weekend in Columbus, which also means a night at the Ross club room between now and then to take down our modules and get them ready for transport. Later in the month is the Lebanon Sub meeting and the Northern Kentucky meeting. There is also an operating session that I hope to be able to attend. And the month ends up with our Louisville Slugger Express bus tour to Louisville. And somewhere between all of those activities I need to complete my entries for my club's modeling contest in July. Oh yes, there is also grass to start cutting; so I can't spend all of my time on trains. But I could ---there is just that much stuff going on! See you on the bus on May 31st.

John



**NMRA MCR DIV. 7
APRIL 2014 CONTEST RESULTS**



MODELS: ON-LINE DIORAMAS

Box Stock:

No Entries Submitted in This Category

Kitbashed:

1st Place: Don Phillips: On30 Single Stall Engine House

No Other Entries Submitted in This Category

Scratch Built:

No Entries Submitted in This Category

PHOTOGRAPHY: TRAINS APPROACHING GRADE CROSSINGS

Print Prototype:

1st Place: Jerry Baston: Iowa Chicago & Eastern #6427

2nd Place: Randy Seiler: C of I at Valley Junction

3rd Place: Jerry Baston: Norfolk Southern #6956

Print Model:

1st Place: John Listermann: Steam Engine at Crossing w/Red Truck in Foreground

2nd Place: Randy Seiler: Union Pacific #7549 w/Car at Crossing

3rd Place: Randy Seiler: Union Pacific #7549 w/Tractor Trailer at Crossing

Junior Division – No Entries Submitted in Any Category

2014 OVERALL STANDINGS (as of April 2014)

MODELS

Bob Lawson	12	John Listermann	02
Frank Hermanek, MMR	09	Bob Chapman	01
Frank Fieler	06	Tom Brueggeman, MMR	01
Ron Gribler, MMR	05	Jim Ruisinger	01
Don Phillips	03		
Warren Ossman	02		

PHOTOGRAPHY

Randy Seiler	13
Jerry Baston	12
Georgia Dahlberg, MMR	06
John Listermann	06
Anton Zillich	02

JUNIOR DIVISION - PHOTOGRAPHY

Anthony Zillich	06
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NO CONTEST IN MAY DUE TO BUS TRIP

JUNE CONTEST:

MODELS : ON-LINE THIN-LINE (FALSE FRONT) STRUCTURES (NOT IN DIORAMA FORMAT)

PHOTOGRAPHY: ON-LINE RAILROAD STRUCTURES

Brad Jonas

NMRA, MCR, Div. 7 Contest Chair

Division 7's Current Car Project

Virginian & Ohio USRA 2-Bay Hopper Car

The Virginian & Ohio had extended their tracks west to Gauley Bridge by late 1927, and gained access to new coal fields in the area. They found that more coal hoppers were needed to serve the local coal mines in this area. However, they could not afford this large capital investment until after the stock market crash in the fall of 1929, when freight car manufacturers were happy to reduce their prices for even a modest 100-car order. In November, 1929, the Virginian & Ohio ordered 100 USRA 2-bay hopper cars from the Pressed Steel Car Co. These cars were built during 12/29 and 1/30, and numbered in series 1000-1099. The cars are painted black, and feature the V&O "dog bone" herald. The model is Accurail's 2400 series USRA 2-bay open hopper, with correct Bettendorf-style trucks. This kit comes with a lever-operated hand brake, hopper door beams, door closing mechanisms, and AB brakes.

References: "Coal Cars – The First Three Hundred Years", by Martin R. Karig III, "The Post War Freight Car Fleet", by Larry Kline and Ted Culotta, and "The V&O Story" by W. Allen McClelland.

4 car numbers are available: 1021, 1057, 1078 and 1099

Prices: \$18.00 per car, or a set of 4 cars for \$70.00

Ohio residents must include 6.75% sales tax on the **total price** of the kits **and** the shipping/handling fee.

Shipping (Priority Mail) & handling is \$6.00 for one car, and \$9.00 for 2 to 4 cars

Note: Customers outside the USA must contact us for shipping charges

Mail check/money order (US dollars) to: Division 7, MCR, NMRA, PO Box 62501, Cincinnati, OH 45262

Decal sheets with 6 additional numbers may be ordered directly from Accurail for \$4.00, including postage. An order blank will be included with any order of one or more sets.

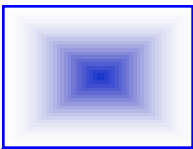


Final Run for Jim Hodde's CSX



Pat Homan's Layout





KNAPP'S NOTES

by Bruce Knapp

Writer's Block [Again!]

Well it has happened again, I am dealing with a case of "Writer's Block". With all the great things happening around the hobby and especially here in Division7, I am at a loss for something to report. I am pleased to see our annual Jarman-Burchnall bus trip is sold out. The trip promises to be one of these gentlemen's best efforts. I won't be going this year, as Margaret and I are sharing in the very joyous occasion of the marriage of Keith and Martha Corman's daughter on the same day. I have watched Amanda grow up into a very bright and beautiful young lady. I understand Caleb, her soon-to-be husband, is an equally special young man. Needless to say, we are looking forward to the event.

The new S.O.B. Work Group

I must confess I am surprised by the interest generated by our group. We even have a new member from Division8. My friend, Dan Mulhearn is now a member of the brotherhood. Dan is an N & W modeler, so we now have a genuine Appalachian modeler in our group. Our next get-together will be Sunday, April 27, when we gather to do some wiring on the new portions of Keith's C. L. & StL. I think the rewiring will come before the sipping to guarantee all will operate as planned. Of course, Vinnie Garbanzo and his brother Alfonse will be attendance to keep an eye out for suspicious Eastern modelers.

My April Clinic

I appreciated everyone's feedback at our April meeting, as it was my first attempt at the computer generated clinic format. I also have to thank my friend, Mike Brestel for brining his computer, making the entire event possible. There were some very thought-provoking questions and comments, so again, thank you. One of the points I tried to stress is, railroads in the early '50's were a lot different in the way equipment was maintained For most of the "Class 1's" locomotives and rolling stock [especially passenger equipment were advertising, and were well-maintained].

The Monthly Raffle

My predecessor did an excellent job of stocking the prizes for the next few raffles, but contributions from the membership are always appreciated. Russ Poynter will be working with me at the meetings, along with Keith Corman. We are going to continue the practice of pulling the winning tickets at lunch, prior to the meeting. Still feel free to purchase all the tickets you wish, who know, you might still wind up with a winner. I did notice that John Burchnall is back to his old routine of kibitzing during the drawing; just remember it's "when Hell freezes over", John. I was sorry to see that Randy Kerka didn't win, probably an oversight.

Enjoy the trip and I'll see you in June.

Bruce

Next Meeting

2 PM Sunday June 8

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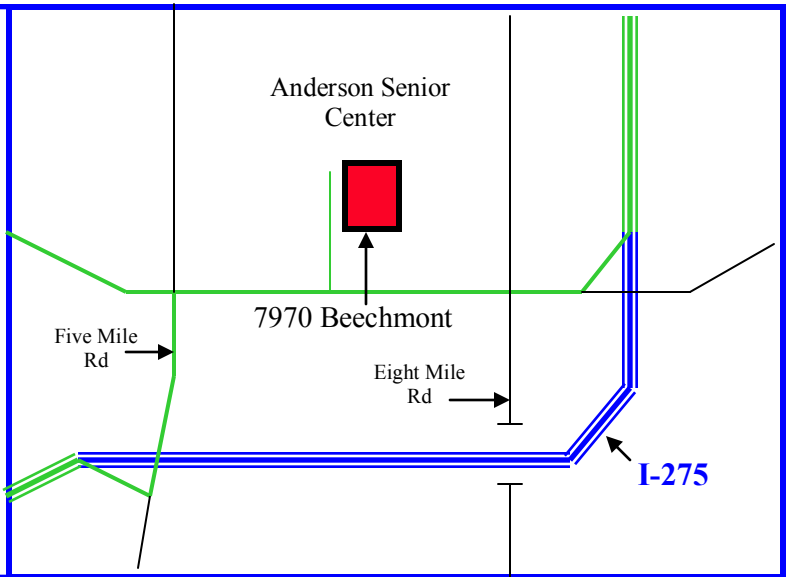
Anderson Senior Center
7970 Beechmont Ave

Directions:

From I-275 South, take exit #65 (Beechmont Ave) Go West to 7970 on your right?

From I-275 North, take exit #69 (Five Mile Rd) Go North to Beechmont Ave Turn right and go East to 7970 on your left.

From the West, Take Beechmont Ave East to 7970 on your 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>Layout Visits</u>	<u>Contest Topic</u>
No Division 7 meeting in May				
5/15	Resurrection Lutheran Church Lebanon, Ohio	Lebanon Sub Meeting	NA	Show & Tell
6/8	Anderson Senior Center 7970 Beechmont Ave	Ed Swain PRR RR in Dennison	John Listermann Bob Shaw	<u>Models:</u> On-Line Thin-Line Structures <u>Photos:</u> Switch Machine/s
6/19	Resurrection Lutheran Church Lebanon, OH	Lebanon Sub Meeting	NA	Show & Tell

Around the Region
2014

10/11-12 Div. 7 CMTS W. Chester, OH
11/1-2 Div. 3 MVD Train Show Dayton, OH

National
2014

6/25-29 National N Scale Conv.
7/13-19 NMRA National Convention Cleveland, OH
7/18-20 NMRA National Train Show Cleveland, OH
9/03-06 National Narrow Gauge Conv. Kansas City,

Modeling Problems? - Ask the Member Aid Committee

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

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