

THE

# Oil Can

August, 2011



Volume V Issue 8



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## The Editor's Corner

**Don Phillips**

With the temperature in the 90's for weeks now, it's been a good time to spend a few extra hours in the air conditioning doing a little modeling. Surprisingly, we're half-way thru summer already. From the looks of things, we should be in for an interesting and active fall. With Summerrail just 2 weeks away, it's already starting. Bob Shreve has something different up his sleeve for our September meeting and the Lebanon Sub will be working feverishly to get their John Allen tribute layout up and running in time for the Cincinnati Train Show in October. Some of us will be taking off for North Carolina in early September for the National Narrow Gauge Convention. In late September the National O scale convention is coming up in Indianapolis. That's close enough to drive up for the day. The end of September will bring SWOOPS back to our area which will make for one heck of a busy weekend and the next thing you know it will be time to start getting ready for our Fall Show and the year will be almost over. Why is it each year seems to go by faster than the one before. Might have something to do with age but I wouldn't know anything about that.

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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.

**The Cover:** The crew waits impatiently as the last two hoppers are loaded. With any luck at all, they'll be able to deliver their train and still make it home in time for dinner. Meanwhile, down below, # 6 threads it's way carefully thru the creek on it's way to pick up a string of empty log cars.

The scene is from Frank Fieler's beautifully detailed layout

## **An article deadline and an empty head!**

Contrary to what I wish was true, there is NO “Superintendent’s Book of Headlights Article Topics”! Fact is that for the last week I have been trying to come up with another Pulitzer quality article and have come up with nuthin’! So please bear with me as I rack my brain and struggle to present an eclectic potpourri of thoughts and muses for your consideration.

## **Giving something back to the hobby:**

As an avid model railroader you have no doubt derived hours of enjoyment from this great hobby. For me, modeling is a 180 degree change from what I am required to do each day to support myself and my family. Sound familiar? If not model railroading... then what?

But more important than what each person takes from the hobby is this question. If the hobby does not get support from those of us who benefit from it, will it continue to thrive? Our Division requires a lot of support and volunteer hours. Fortunately, these volunteer hours are spread out over many dedicated folks devoted to seeing Division 7 remain tops in the country.

Who are these folks that give of their time and effort for nothing more than the knowledge of a job well done? Answer: You see them giving committee reports at Division meetings, collecting money at the Show gates, promoting Division trips and events, lugging company store merchandise, and countless other things. Would YOU like to start giving something back to the hobby? Let me know and we will “couple you up”! As I’ve said before... it’s your club.

## **National News Bytes:**

- At this year's Sacramento convention attendance topped the 2,000 mark while the folks at the NMRA Membership Booth at the National Train Show signed up 243 new members!
- Many of the clinicians at the Sacramento convention have uploaded their handouts or full presentations as PDF files to the x2011 website at [www.x2011west.org](http://www.x2011west.org). Anyone can download them. Just look for the Clinics tab, then Clinic Handouts.
- Based on proposals for the 2015 National NMRA Convention, the National BOD selected Portland, Ore. as the winner. Details and dates to be announced.
- The "Carpet Cutting" at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento marked the official start of fundraising for a scale model railroading exhibit in the museum's Gallery area. No NMRA dues or regular revenue streams will be used to fund this project, so its construction will rely entirely on donations.
- The Board continues to review the timing of future conventions. A mid-summer date has been the norm because of lower hotel & convention center rates over the July 4 weekend, but NMRA members have voiced concerns that it conflicts with family functions.

## **Thoughts on the last Division meeting**

Thanks again to the Cincinnati Railroad Club for hosting Division 7 at Cincinnati Union Terminal, Tower A on July 17<sup>th</sup>. The Gibson Yungblut video was “Top Shelf” making it easy to see why Gib was known affectionately as “Mr. Union Terminal”. Was I the only one standing there in Tower A looking out over the yard and seeing the Golden Age of Railroading in Cincinnati in my mind?

See you soon,

*Randy*



# SECOND SECTION

Bob Shreve  
Asst. Super

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## Second Section - August, 2011

I'll start off by expressing my thank you to our esteemed superintendent, Randy Kerka, for handling my duties at the July meeting. A big thank you goes to Tom Brueggeman for making the arrangements for us to meet in Tower A and organizing the presentation by the members of the Cincinnati Railroad Club. Thanks also to Frank Fieler for having his logging railroad layout open for visitors after the meeting. I was bummed when I realized I was going to miss the meeting there at Tower A, since I have always enjoyed my visits there in the past. My father was one of the early members of the CRRC and I have fond memories of riding on the excursion trips they ran during the 60s and 70s. I always thought it was cool that *my* dad was the car host.

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be in Kenwood at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. There is plenty of room there, so we should be back to our usual three ring circus of extra-curricular activities (company store, contest, video library). Ed Swain will present a clinic on Background Buildings. After the meeting, Jim Hodde and Kevin Barrett will open their layouts for visits.

September will find us in Northern Kentucky. In lieu of our usual business meeting / clinician format, we will be having a short business meeting followed by an expanded layout tour that day. We will be piggy-backing on the layout tour that Tim Cook organizes each fall. We will have more details at the August meeting.

The October meeting is going to be in the West Chester or Mason area. Hopefully, we will be able to get a room in the West Chester library by Lakota West High School. At the time I'm writing this, they are not yet scheduling meeting rooms in October.

I'm starting to work on the schedule for 2012. Several people have already approached me with clinic topics. Contact me if you would like to join the ranks of Division 7 Clinicians.

That's it for this month. See you on August 14<sup>th</sup> in Kenwood.

*Bob*

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### Chesapeake & Ohio Historical Society Convention

Will be held at the Marriott River Center in Covington, KY August 3-7. Includes C&O clinics and layout and proto-type tours. For information go to: [www.cohs.org](http://www.cohs.org).

### Nickel Plate Historical & Technical Society Convention

Will be held at the Cincinnati Marriott Northeast September 29 thru October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Includes clinics, train ride, visit to Tower A at CUT etc. For information go to [www.nkphts.org](http://www.nkphts.org)

## Lebanon Sub

**Bob Chapman**

At the Lebanon Sub meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup>, those present voted to go ahead with building a John Allen Gorre & Daphetid RR tribute for display at train shows. We will build it at Jim Rollwage's place in Wilmington on Tuesday evenings starting in mid-August. Scenery will be left to show progressive steps toward scenery completion as an educational opportunity for the public. Materials funding is being sought. Everyone is invited to participate in the build. Progress reports will be made at the next three Lebanon Sub meetings.

Just a reminder, the Lebanon Subdivision meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Lebanon starting at 7:30 pm. The program is still: "Sharing of models brought to the meeting". Bring a kid. We are usually done by 8:30 – 9 pm

## NMRA News

- This years Sacramento convention attendance topped the 2000 mark continuing the upward trend.
- The membership Booth signed up 243 new members in just three days.
- Many of the convention clinicians have uploaded their handouts or complete presentations to the x2011 website at [www.x2011west.org](http://www.x2011west.org). Look for the "Clinics" tab and click "Handouts".
- The 2015 convention will be held in Portland, Oregon. Date to be announced.
- Fundraising for the scale model railroading exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum has started. For details see the May issue of NMRA MAGAZINE.
- The Convention Committee is reviewing the timing of future conventions for other than the usual July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.

## 2011 Car Projects

Jim MacKnight reports that Accurail is manufacturing our V&O 50' box car. It will be V&O blue with the "Ridge Runner" slogan in white. There will be 4 numbers and the price is \$17 for one and \$64 for a four-car set. Our order is for 500 cars and we hope to have them available for sale by late August.

We sold eight Allegheny Midland hoppers since mid-June making a total of 509 sold. We still have 10 AM cars in stock plus 78 AM car bodies. (the kits were converted to V&O kits and sold)

## SWOOPS 2011

**Rick Stern**

Registration for the SWOOPS "op-til-you-drop" weekend will open **August 10**. More information can be found on our web site at <http://swoops2011.wordpress.com/>, but just to give you a flavor of what is in store:

- Operation will be from Friday evening, Sept.30, to Sunday morning Oct. 2
- 19 layouts will be available in the Cincinnati to Dayton area
- Layout scales include HO, O and N, with both standard and some narrow gauge
- There will be a range of operating styles
- The areas modeled range from East to the West coasts

Our website can be subscribed to with an RSS feed so you get notices of updates. We are looking forward to seeing you then.

July Meeting



The Group



The Host



The Show

From the Tower



**The Container Yard**



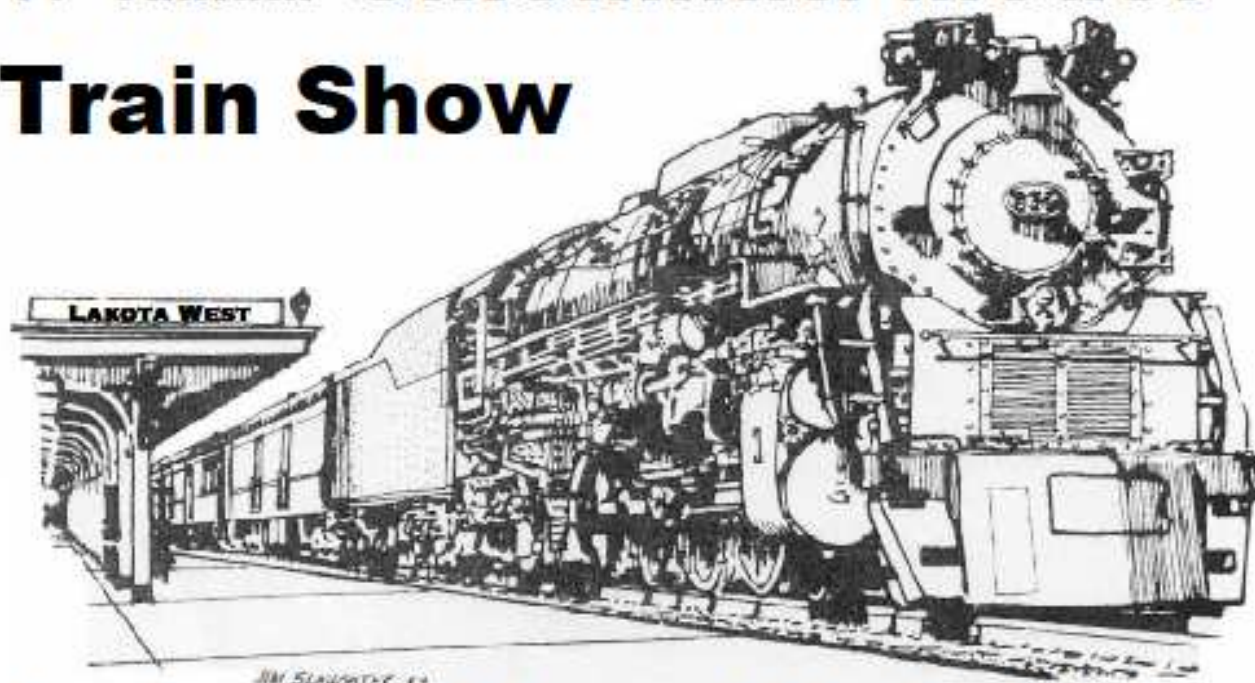
**Looking North**



**Something different**

SPONSORED BY CINCINNATI DIV. 7 OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASOC.

# 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Cincinnati Model Train Show



## Lakota West High School

**FREE  
PARKING!**

Saturday October 29, 2011 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Sunday October 30, 2011 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

8940 Union Centre Blvd. - West Chester, Ohio 45069

- Model Trains in All Scales
- Operating Layouts and Displays
- Retail Sales - Over 250 Dealer Tables
- Hourly Door Prizes!
- FREE Engine Check-Up & "How To" Classes

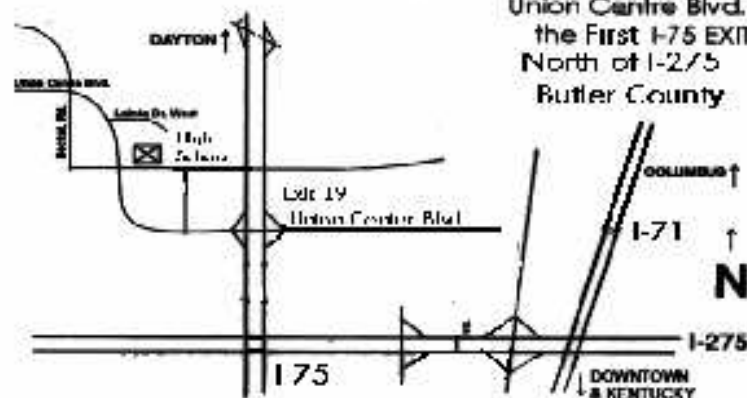
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Admission

Adults - \$ 7.00

Children under 12 FREE

Scouts in Uniform FREE



Union Centre Blvd. is  
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North of I-275  
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**Win a G Scale  
Train Set**



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Frank Fieler's Layout



**Details, Details, Details**



**The Company Store**



**Locomotive Tire Fire Bell**

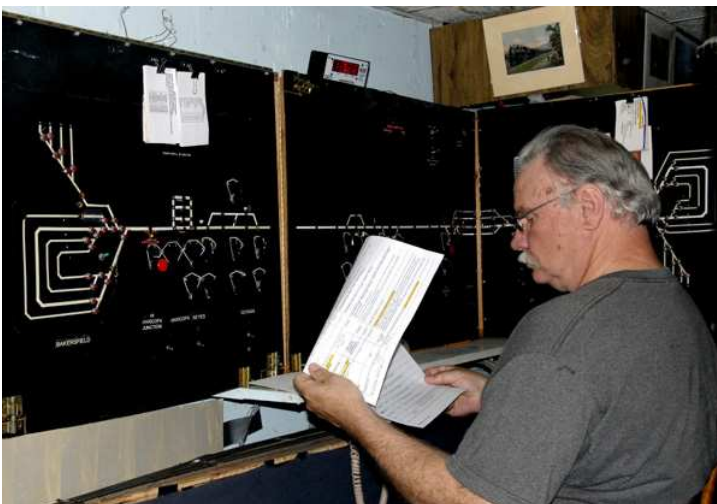
## I Op'ed But I Didn't Drop

On a recent evening a group of 10 or so model railroaders gathered at Rick Stern's for an operating session on his Santa Fe layout. The group ranged from veteran OP session attendees to rank neophytes. (meaning me) After everyone was assigned a position ranging from Dispatcher down to Road Engineer, we all got down to running a railroad. (Incidentally, Bruce hit another truck. Really. As usual, he tried to blame it on someone else.) I've been running trains on my own or other's layouts for more years than I'd care to admit but this was my first "OP" session where everyone has an assignment based on real life operations.

If you haven't seen Rick's railroad, it's DCC controlled and complete with a dispatcher's panel, operating automatic signals and just about everything else that's on a real railroad. My first assignment was road engineer on the work train, After driving thru a couple of red signals causing alarm bells to ring and throwing the entire railroad into chaos, I finally got the hang of it and managed to bring my train to it's destination with all the cars I started with still on the rails.

I think the highlight of the evening for me was when I got to run the local commuter train equipped with a camera in front. Sitting in front of a color TV set and watching the progress of a train your controlling that's completely out of sight on the other side of the basement is a totally new experience. I've seen and photographed this railroad several times in the past but the perspective from track level is awesome, especially going thru tunnels, over bridges and approaching the signals. At times you get so interested in the view, you forget you're in control of the train and suddenly realize at the last minute that red signal means you're supposed to stop. The hardest part of driving the commuter train was getting used to the fast clock. As the engineer/conductor I was given a timetable with arrival and departure times at each station along the way. However, unlike Amtrak, I usually arrived early and but always left on time.

The OP experience made for an interesting and fun filled evening. If you haven't tried it, you don't know what you've been missing. It's one more fascinating side to this great hobby of ours.



**Hmmm, I wonder where I sent that train.**



**Alright, who's the smart guy that parked the truck there?**

## Getting There was Half the Fun

I have just returned from the NMRA's National Convention in Sacramento and had a very exciting time. I renewed some old friendships, like Joel Lichtenstein and made some new friends, Dan and Nina Mulhearn from Pipestem, WV [MCR, Division 9]. I met the Mulhearns at breakfast on the Cardinal. In our conversation I found out that the westbound California Zephyr was cancelled that day [June 31<sup>st</sup>] and Amtrak hadn't notified me. Fortunately a very alert Amtrak agent and the lady at Union Station's Metropolitan Lounge was able to book me on The Southwest Chief [oh-no, not over the Raton Pass] and then the Coast Starlight from L.A. to Sacramento, the two ladies even found a bedroom on the Chief. The Mulhearns had rented a car from L.A. to Sacramento and invited me to join them but I declined and rode the Starlight. I am glad I did because the scenery, especially along the coast was fantastic. If I had ridden the Zephyr, I would have arrived in Sacramento, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, about 2:45 pm, as it was I arrived, as it was I arrived July 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 11:45 pm. This was not the first problem Amtrak encountered during the convention [more on that later]; I was impressed with the Amtrak staff to meet our needs. Getting back to the Mulhearns; who are a terrific couple and made the trip back to Cincinnati all the more enjoyable. Dan is a retired New York police officer and Nina was a 30+ year veteran teacher. [Yes we had quite a lot to share]. All in all, Amtrak to convention was a great ride, made even better by employees that understand what service really is. I will be posting more comments on convention over the next two issues. Let me add, if you weren't there, you really missed a super week.

## The Raton Pass

One of the high-points of the Southwest Chief is going through Raton Pass. Every time I travel through the pass I see something new. This time was just observing the many species of tree that grows in the pass. I used to have a chap in the 338<sup>th</sup> Army Band, who used to quip, "All you need to model the Santa Fe is a flat table and a large sand-pile. You surely can't prove that at Raton; there are a lot of trees of many types. I suspect I don't have nearly enough trees. I also noticed that the Santa Fe yard, in Trinidad, is just a shadow of what it was in the 1940's and 50's. Much of the trackwork has been removed as the BNSF is forwarding much of its freight traffic via the old southern route through Oklahoma and Texas. Currently the route will be used by New Mexico's Sun-setter commuter service. I realize that I will be recreating some railroad history with my new layout.

## July's Clinic

I found Sunday's clinic both very enjoyable and just a bit poignant listening to Gib's background information on the CUT. Gib was a super railfan, a great public speaker, and an all-round "GOOD GUY". It was fun hearing his presentation again as I learned some new facts. CUT is a treasure and needs to be maintained as an architectural jewel. Thanks Cincinnati Railway Club for sharing with us.

**Keep 'em rolling!**  
*Bruce A. Knapp*

Next Meeting

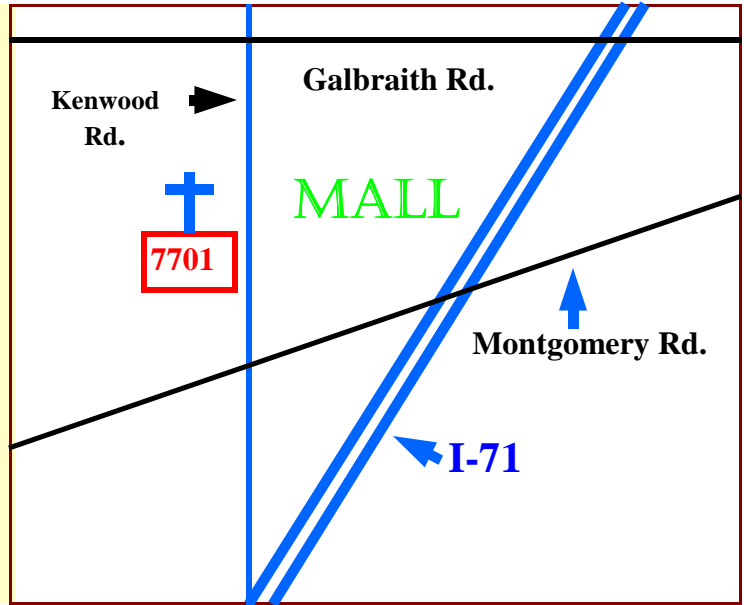
**2 PM Sunday  
August 14, 2011**

@

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

Directions

**Good Shepherd Church is on  
The west side of Kenwood Rd.  
Between Galbraith and Montgomery Rds.**



Coming Down the Line

Cincinnati Division 7, MCR, NMRA  
2011 Schedule

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Program/Speaker</u>	<u>Layout Visit</u>	<u>Contest Topic</u>
Aug 14	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Kenwood	Ed Swain Background buildings	Kevin Barrett Jim Hodde	<u>Models:</u> Thin line models <u>Photos:</u> RR Stations and/or Freight Houses
Aug 18	Resurrection Church Lebanon, OH	Div. 7 Lebanon Sub	None	Show and Tell
Sept 11	Kentucky Latonia, KY	None Details to be Announced	Several	None
Sept 15	Resurrection Church Lebanon, OH	Div. 7 Lebanon Sub	None	Show and Tell

Around the Region

National

8/13	Summer Rail CUT	Cincinnati, OH	9/7-10	National Narrow Gauge Conv.	Hickory, NC
9/18	All Trains Flea Market	Greenville, OH	9/21-24	National O Scale Convention	Indianapolis, IN
10/29-30	Cincinnati Train Show	Lakota High School	9/21-24	1st annual National On30 Conv.	Indianapolis, IN
			9/21-24	1st annual Nat. Proto 48 Conv	Indianapolis, IN

Modeling Programs ? Member Aid Committee

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Bruce Knapp (513) 941-2713

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