



January, 2021

THE Oil Can



Volume XV Issue 1



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The Editors Corner:

Dave Puthoff

January Meeting

We will have a January Meeting on January 10 — but it will be a “**Virtual Meeting**” via *Zoom Meetings*.

Are you busy doing projects on your layout during our COVID19 staycation? Email your Photos and/or Descriptions to [**editor@cincy-div7.org**](mailto:editor@cincy-div7.org).

If you have a photo, or a useful tip, or maybe just a useful website that you would like to share, the Oilcan is an opportunity to share it with your fellow model railroaders. Email it to [**editor@cincy-div7.org**](mailto:editor@cincy-div7.org).

Dave

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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.

View of Layout from *Best Christmas* (see Page 11)



Our December virtual meeting featured a clinic by guest clinician and *Model Railroader* contributing editor Tony Koester, who talked about his current Nickel Plate model railway. Tony is justifiably famous for his modeling and for his writing about the hobby. It was a real treat to hear him describe his layout and the operations on it. But there was so much more throughout the talk. Tips on building multi-deck layouts, creating backdrops from photos, using interchange tracks to create lots of operating potential from a small space with almost no scenery/building construction, and on and on. I was especially struck by his scene of the high steel viaduct (and how he fit it into the multi-deck space). Many layouts have impressive bridges, and some really capture a real location; but Tony's scene also captures a moment in time from his family based on a family photo. Many of us probably are trying to capture the feel of a time we remember, often of trains seen around where we grew up, and this scene just takes that to the next level.

We have more great programs coming up. In both January and February we have guest clinicians from the St. Louis area. For January, Dave Ackmann will give a clinic entitled "3D Printing". Then in February, Gary Hoover will present a clinic entitled "1950's N&W HO Scale Layout with O. Winston Link Scenes." These are clinics that you would have had to go to the national convention in St Louis this summer to see. But of course, that fell victim to the pandemic. So we are taking advantage of what a relative few of us might have seen in St. Louis to bring these talks to everyone in Division 7. If you want a little preview, see Gary's article in the December *Model Railroader*.

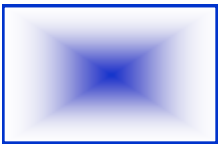
As I write this, it is still a few days before Christmas. I am looking forward to spending some time with my new immediate family (in our socially correct small bubble of five). But as you read this, I hope you have had a merry Christmas and New Year's Day (featuring a great win by my UC Bearcats over some over-rated SEC team) and, like me, are *really* looking forward to a better 2021.

Most of us will be able to get one of the Covid vaccines in the first quarter of 2021 and we therefore will be helping to stop the spread and eventually help to get things back to "normal."

That means there is hope for some of the model railroad events later in the year. At the December BOD meeting, we made the decision to not have the Division 7 Flea Market as planned in March. It was clear that restrictions would still be in place on that original timing. However, we did not "cancel" the event. We very intentionally said we are working on rescheduling the event. We are working with the Lakota Schools to find a date, hopefully in early June, to have this event. Wishful thinking? Maybe, but this is the time of year to make wishes, and sometimes they come true. (Bengals 27 – Steelers 17, for example!) You know we will continue to work to keep all of you safe, but also to give you hope of a better model railroading future.

In the meantime, we will continue to provide you with the content that we can provide. I'll once again say that I hope to "see" you on Zoom in January. Continue to hang in there and be safe.

John



At our December meeting, we were treated to a presentation by Tony Koester, describing his HO scale multi-deck Nickel Plate Ry. Along with a fantastic photo tour, Tony shared how to create custom backdrops using Photoshop Elements software, as well as several operational features. He's now writing a new book on multi-deck layouts that should be available in November of 2021.

We are often reminded why this is such a great hobby, as it is populated by many helpful and giving folks. The following is such an example. When ordering Grandt Line details, now owned by the San Juan Model Co., I discovered that you should place your order on the San Juan website rather than "grandtline.com". After waiting 3 weeks for my parts, I gave them a call. They were very courteous and spent many minutes searching for my order. When it was ascertained that I ordered incorrectly, they took my order and explained that the mail had left for the day (Friday) and it would be sent out on Monday. When I explained my urgent need for the parts to finish a Christmas gift, one of the owner's wives heard, and said she would make a special trip to the post office to help me out. Kudos and many thanks to Doug Junda, Bob Stears, and their dedicated staff to please a customer! The great thing is that there are many other suppliers of modeling merchandise who go out of their way to please, including our local Cincinnati area hobby shops.

Another example of outstanding people in our hobby is Mike Tylick, MMR. Mike has presented clinics for us both in person and most recently on Zoom. While ordering some custom decals from Mike, he wrote that he would add some "NER" decals to fill out the sheet. I didn't know what those were about and asked for further information. The following is paraphrased from his email:

"I guess I will give you the long version of the NERX reefer story, and maybe you can help pass it around. To no one's surprise, the in-person fall Northeast Region convention was cancelled. Instead, we did a four-evening virtual convention, NERx, using the same production crew that does NMRax. They were excellent in case you are thinking along those lines. The convention website is still up, at www.millcity2020.org URL. Among the items on it is a virtual convention car. The convention name, NERX, sounded like the reporting marks of a private owner reefer. So, I drew up a set of decals, all black. They were made for a specific car (see directions I sent) but were also made to allow many variations as to car and even scale. The artwork is such that people can use it in many different ways for many different cars, which is encouraged. Download the artwork .pdf and print on clear decal film, seal if necessary. One sheet can do as many as nine cars of different types. So far, it seems to be popular and I would enjoy passing it around everywhere. Needless to say, this was my idea to begin with so I like to see my baby grow.

I also did a short layout tour of my home layout on NERx. The whole convention was streamed on YouTube and Facebook. Here's a link: <https://youtu.be/PTLbXCa2JS8?t=127>. Keep safe, Mike T"
www.raildesignservices.com

I (Chuck) will have a limited number of those decals to share, so drop me an email or contact Mike directly for more copies.

LOOKING FORWARD INTO 2021:

January 10th, Virtual Zoom meeting, Dave Ackmann of the Gateway Division (St. Louis) will present a clinic on "3-D Printing". The contest for both model and prototype will feature "Caboose or Passenger Car". John Burchnall will be treating us to more of his layout photos.

February 14th, Virtual meeting featuring noted author, modeler and photographer Gary Hoover, also of the Gateway Division, presenting "1950's N&W HO Scale Layout with O. Winston Link Scenes." Gary has recently been published in December's *Model Railroader* magazine. The contest subject for both model and prototype will be "Hopper or Gondola Car". More fabulous photos follow by John Burchnall.

March Flea Market, Being RESCHEDULED to early June, 2021

March 14th, New virtual meeting (in place of the March Flea Market) with John Burchnall and his new clinic entitled "Modeler's Guide to Timelines in Selecting Eras." The contest subject is "Steam Locomotive" for both categories. A virtual layout tour will follow.



**CINCINNATI DIVISION 7, MCR, NMRA
DECEMBER 2020 VIRTUAL CONTEST RESULTS**



MODELS: Box or Refrigerator Car

Model Photos:

- 1st Place: Roy Allan: Kitbashed Fn3 D&RGW 30' Boxcar
- 2nd Place Tie: Paul Miklos: Sn2 SR&RL Boxcar (HO kitbash)
- 2nd Place Tie: David Wynne: David Powell's D&RGW Div. 7, 2016 bus tour

Junior Division Models: No entries this month

PHOTOGRAPHY: Box or Refrigerator Car

Prototype Photos:

- 1st Place: Roy Hord: Pacific Fruit Express Reefer (Joint UP & SP)
- 2nd Place: Roy Hord: Florence & Cripple Creek #588 wood boxcar
- 3rd Place Tie: Paul Miklos: Graffiti on Railbox boxcar #75220
- 3rd Place Tie: John Burchnall: East Broad Top all steel boxcar #179

Junior Division Photography: No entries this month

2020 FINAL STANDINGS – Through December

COMBINED POINTS OVERALL WINNER: Roy Hord

MODELS (Model Photos at Virtual Meetings)

1st Place, Roy Allan	13	Patrick Stanley	6	Gary Orcutt	3
2nd Place, Roy Hord	11	Mike Reynolds	4	David Wynne	2
3rd Place Tie, Bruce Knapp	8	Rick Stern	4	Tom Brueggeman, MMR®	1
3rd Place Tie, John Burchnall	8	Perry Simpson	4		
Paul Miklos	7	Georgia Dahlberg, MMR®	3		

PHOTOGRAPHY (Prototype Photos at Virtual Meetings)

1st Place, Roy Hord	24	David Wynne	4	John Shields	1
2nd Place, John Burchnall	14	John Listermann	3	Bob Shreve	1
3rd Place, Georgia Dahlberg, MMR®	11	Perry Simpson	1	Paul Miklos	1
Bob Adams	8	Dan Mack	1		

JUNIOR DIVISION MODELS

Caleb Sherwood 3

JUNIOR DIVISION PHOTOGRAPHY

No entries this year

JANUARY 2021 CATEGORIES:

MODELS (Model Photos if Virtual Contest): Caboose or passenger cars

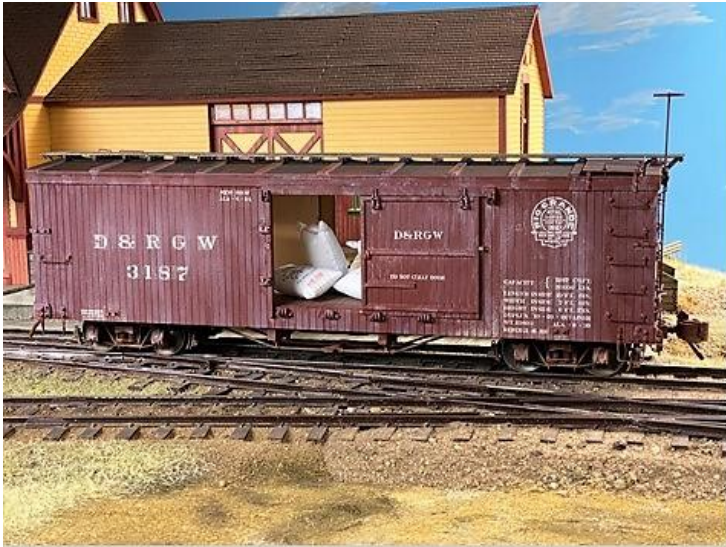
PHOTOGRAPHY (Prototype Photos if Virtual Contest): Caboose or passenger cars

Jim Rollwage

Contest Chair
Cincinnati Division 7, MCR, NMRA

DECEMBER 2020 DIVISION 7 VIRTUAL CONTEST RESULTS

Box or Refrigerator Car



Model

Roy Allan

1st

DECEMBER 2020 DIVISION 7 VIRTUAL CONTEST RESULTS

Box or Refrigerator Car



Model

2nd Tie

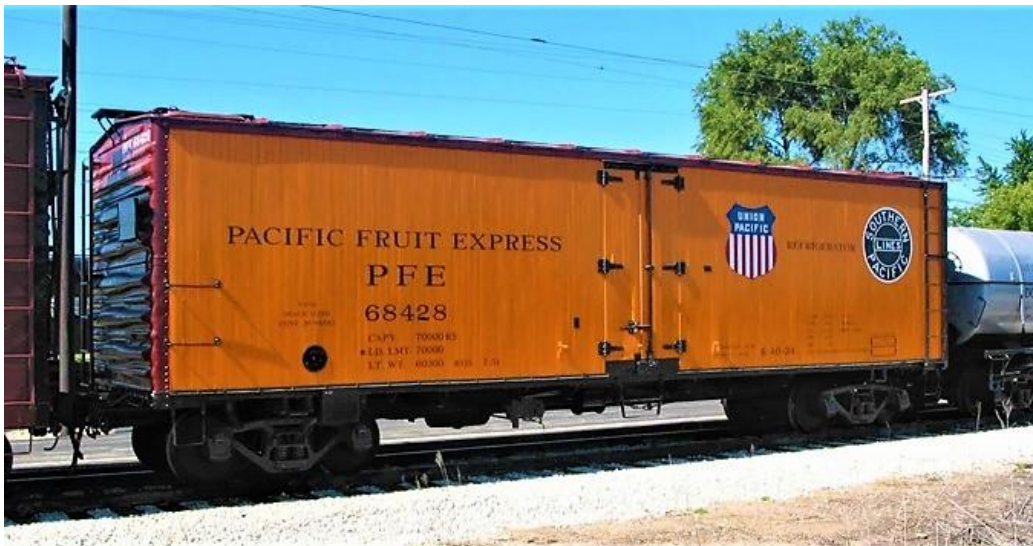
David Wynne

Paul Miklos
2nd Tie



DECEMBER 2020 DIVISION 7 VIRTUAL CONTEST RESULTS

Box or Refrigerator Car



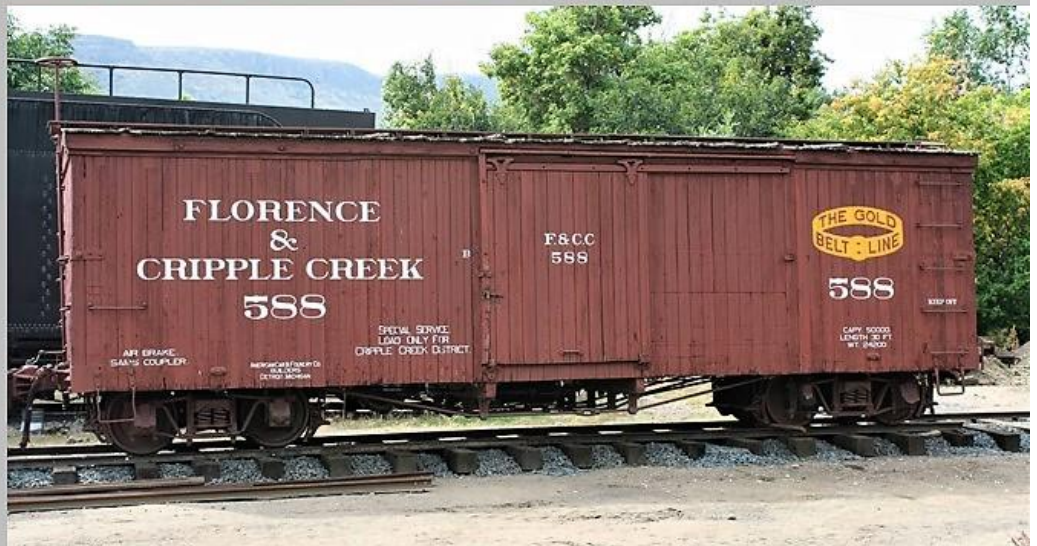
Prototype

1st

Roy Hord

Roy Hord

2nd



DECEMBER 2020 DIVISION 7 VIRTUAL CONTEST RESULTS

Box or Refrigerator Car



3rd Tie

Paul Miklos

Prototype

John Burchnall

3rd Tie





**CINCINNATI DIVISION 7
MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA
MODEL AND PHOTOGRAPHY
CONTEST THEMES FOR 2021**



MONTH	MODELS	PHOTOGRAPHY
January	Caboose or Passenger Car	Caboose or Passenger Car
February	Hopper or Gondola Car	Hopper or Gondola Car
March	Steam Locomotive	Steam Locomotive
April	Maintenance-of-Way (MOW) Equipment	Maintenance-of-Way (MOW) Equipment
May	Flat Car(s) with Load	Bridge or Trestle (with or without a train)
June	- No Contest (Flea Market) -	- No Contest (Flea Market) -
July	- No Contest (Picnic) -	- No Contest (Picnic) -
August	Tank Car	Tank Car
September	Non-Steam Locomotive - any type of non-steam motive power on rails (internal combustion, electric, turbine, horse-drawn, ...)	Non-Steam Locomotive - any type of non-steam motive power on rails (internal combustion, electric, turbine, horse-drawn, ...)
October	Non-Bridge Structure or Diorama	Non-Bridge Structure
November	Freight Car - any revenue producing cars not intended to carry passengers	Freight Car - any revenue producing cars not intended to carry passengers
December	Box or Refrigerator Car	Box or Refrigerator Car

Best Christmas ever had or will ever have

I was seven. Growing up in Cleveland, Ohio, we had Higbees, May Company and Halley's were the downtown department stores. After Thanksgiving, each store would have an entire floor full of toys. Of course, the best was the train area, where there were Lionel and American Flyer layouts set up. I would stay there for hours watching them run and, of course, there were free catalogs.

Mom asked me what I wanted for Christmas. I pointed to the Lionel SF diesel A-A and 4 beautiful aluminum passenger cars, and said 'that'. At 90 bucks, mom said "we can't afford that." Dad worked at Midland Ross Steel, and, if he made that in a week, he was lucky!

\$90 in 1953 is over \$866 in 2020. Imagine spending that much on a seven year old, today, for one present!

I remember getting up that Christmas morning, and seeing the large rectangular box all wrapped and I knew exactly what it was!

As in *Christmas Story* — that was the best Christmas I ever had, or ever will.

And it still runs great!

Sam Parfitt

DIVISION 7 - CLASSIFIED ADS

As a benefit to Division 7 members, the Oil Can will offer to list free Classified Ads to allow members to sell railroad-related items. A few other Divisions offer such a program. The Board will periodically re-evaluate the program. If you have items to sell, please review the Rules, and send an email to editor@cincy-div7.org

CLASSIFIED AD RULES:

Item(s) must be railroad related.

Seller must be a Member of Division 7 MCR NMRA.

Listing description shall be 30 words or less.

Item(s) can be displayed for a maximum of three (3) months. Oil Can Editor will assign a Listing Number that will include the last month of listing. (E.g., "xx-July 2015" would indicate Listing xx will be listed through the July 2015 Oil Can).

Seller must list name, and either Phone Number and/or Email, so the interested Buyer can contact Seller. It will not be listed without them. **(NOTE: Seller agrees to allow contact information to be published in the Oilcan, which is published on the Internet).**

A single photo may be submitted for each listing.

Limit of three (3) listings from same Seller at any one time.

Seller shall email Oil Can Editor if item is sold so it can be removed from page.

All transactions are between the Buyer and the Seller.

Oilcan Editor reserves the right to edit listing if needed, and will notify Seller of edit prior to publication.

DIVISION 7 - CLASSIFIED ADS

Picture	Description	Price	Name	Phone, or Email	Listing No.
	N scale Life Like, 50 foot B & O boxcar, Micro Trains trucks, low-profile plastic wheels	\$9.00	Martin Simon	mrsimonarchitect@gmail.com	156-Mar 21
	N scale Atlas, 50 foot B & O boxcar, Micro Trains trucks, low-profile plastic wheels	\$9.00	Martin Simon	mrsimonarchitect@gmail.com	157-Mar 21
	N scale Atlas, 50 foot Erie boxcar, Micro Trains trucks, low-profile plastic wheels	\$9.00	Martin Simon	mrsimonarchitect@gmail.com	158-Mar 21
	PRR Dressel railroad lantern, with 3-1/4" fluted red globe, fair condition.	\$70	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com	159-Mar 21
	PRR Handlan railroad lantern, with 3-1/4" red globe with etched PRR keystone, good condition.	\$120	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com	160-Mar 21
	Official Pullman-Standard Library (passenger cars), by David Randall and William Rose, Hardcover - Perfect Bound, mint condition, 12 of 16 volumes set (less 1, 3, 5 and 6) Retail: \$39.95 each.	\$25 each. Best offer for 12 volumes.	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com	161-Mar 21
	Proto 1000, B&O EMD Budd RDC-3 diesel, no. 1951, coach/baggage/RPO, silver New. Retail: \$60.00	\$25	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com	162-Mar 21
	Proto 1000, C&O EMD Budd RDC-1 diesel, no. 9061, coach, silver. New. Retail: \$70.00	\$30	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com	163-Mar 21
	Red Caboose, B&O 40' steel-sheathed boxcars (Class M-26), nos. 265294, 265320, 265831, 266445, 266484, 266993, built 1925, rebuilt 1946 Retail: \$14.95 each	6 kits for \$75	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com	164-Mar 21
	Blair Line, Company House kit no. 176, laser-cut basswood, (several kits available). Retail: \$26.95 each	\$18.95 each	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com	165-Mar 21
	Magnuson Models, Tickner's Watchworks, kit no. M524, polyester castings, wood, metal details Retail: \$34.00	\$17	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com	166-Mar 21
	Magnuson Models, Cyclops Railway Supply, kit no. 439-549, polyester castings, wood, metal details Retail: \$39.95	\$20	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com	167-Mar 21
	American Model Builders, Interlocking Tower kit no. 702, laser-cut basswood Retail: \$26.95	\$20	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com	168-Mar 21
	American Model Builders, Two Story Farm House kit no. 140, laser-cut basswood Retail: \$42.95	\$30	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com	169-Mar 21
	Atlas, Southern ALCo RS-1 diesel locomotive, non-dynamic, black/gold/white, no. 405. New. Retail: \$72.95	\$30	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com	170-Mar 21
	Atlas, PRR EMD FP-7 diesel locomotive, dynamic, Brunswick green, no. 9837. New. Retail: \$99.95	\$50	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com	171-Mar 21

DIVISION 7 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

Great Northern Railway Operating Session on January 16 at 7 PM (Saturday)

NOTE: Contact Sam Parfitt prior to attending, in order to confirm the Operating Session. --- Ed.

Well, another year has passed. Hopefully, this year, we're allowed more freedom to interface with our fellow modelers!

An NP A-3 4-8-4 with Gray boiler arrived from BLL. This is a hybrid with DCC and smoke. Nicely detailed. James Hill (GN president) owned stock in NP and tried to merge GN and NP along with SP&S and Burlington but the ICC nixed it. Amazing that Congress nixed the draconian ICC around 1980 as, once a government agency exist, it keeps growing and never dies!

Pizza at 6:30-7:00.

Please email if attending.

NEW POLICY:

Since there's not a lot to do outside our homes related to railroading, those who wish to have a 'one-on-one' or with own friends to operate the layout during the month, please email or call.

Being retired, I spend the bulk of my time in the basement so visitors are always welcomed. Thanks.

New arrivals and updates:

PRR K-4 streamlined, 4-6-2

C&O K-4 2-8-4 and H-6 2-6-6-2 painted, lighted, new motors and decoder installed.

The N&W Y-3 2-8-8-2 was painted with a new motor, decoder and lights installed.

Ditto for the Texas & Pacific 2-10-4.

A DM&IR S-7 0-10-2 arrived. One of the few engines that I've been looking to purchase.

C&O M-1 steam turbine: very unusual engine 2-D-2 + 2-D-2. I've installed a decoder in the engine so it has the turbine sound. Also, added extra weight and, so far, it easily pulled 30 cars.

UP M-10,000 4 car set. The first streamline diesel train set. Two decoders were installed in this engine. One front (sound) and one rear (no sound).

ACL 4-8-4: A two tone black and grey.

I've moved all my vintage metal Athearn/Varney and wood Silver *Streak*/Ambroid freight cars to Seattle, so freight drags will dominate, plus passenger trains of your choice.

NEW PROJECTS:

Installed decoders in several more engines. A selection of 45 engines can now be done. Began installing hardware needed to, remotely, control turnouts via the track schematic on the PC's monitor screen: Along with the signaling system, this is also LCC.

Most testing done with passenger trains seems to be ending, as the longer passenger cars are about twice the length of a regular freight car and pose different problems, but they seem to be finally resolved.

New vintage metal Athearn/Varney and wood Silver *Streak*/Ambroid freight cars have been tested, and are working well over the mainline.

Finished adding the last tunnel portals that I failed to do, 40 years ago.

Got to do some PM on 3-4 engines.

New passenger yard completed.

The signaling system using LCC is complete along with monitor showing train positions on the layout.

Mission Statement: Main theme of my railroad (besides modeling the Great Northern Railway): when building the railroad, I wanted to model mainline running with big time steam and 'scale like' trains of 25-45 cars on single track mainline with passing sidings.

The GNRW has been updated to handle DCC operations.

As I used to do in the 80's and 90's, should you have a DCC engine, you may bring it to operate on the GNRW.

Please email me which you would like to do.

Mainline operator(4)

Local mainline operator

Seattle freight yard: 14 tracks, 550 car capacity.

Seattle roundhouse: 24 stalls

St. Paul freight yard: 12 tracks, 420 car capacity

St. Paul roundhouse: 24 stalls

Cascade tunnel electrics: operator (2)

Ore dock: 120 car capacity.

Main panel dispatcher.

Swan river logging railroad: operator (2)

USUAL STATS:

Time: 1938. All steam and electrics. The GN railway is a point to point railroad, 400' mainline with two 400-500 car yards at Seattle, Wash and St Paul, Minn, each having 20+ track turntables and one staging yard holding 300 cars. Minimum radius, 48" with #10 turnouts; Track all hand laid on individual wooden ties. 100% scenery.

Four track 12' ore dock.

Interface railroads: NP, SP&S, Milwaukee, DM&IR, UP, SP, D&RGW, SF and CN.

Swan Lake logging railroad: Has interface with GNRW, yard, John Allen's 'time saver' and double switchback into the valley.

For pictures see:

<http://ogrforum.ogaugerr.com/topic/great-northern-railway?page=1>

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOb7SgZTLWA>

Junk food and beverage will be available.

Sam Parfitt

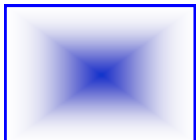
samparfitt@fuse.net

cell: 513-378-9133

Cincinnati Division 7 N.M.R.A. - 2021 Program Schedule

See website for most recent [printable landscape PDF](#). Dates, times and events can change. Most meetings begin at 2:00 PM

Month	Date	Location	Program / Speaker	Contests *	Layout Visits
Jan	Sun, Jan 10 Virtual	100% Virtual via Zoom – see Oil Can, website, postcard & email	Dave Ackmann, Gateway Division (St. Louis) – “3D Printing”	Virtual - Model & Proto Photos: Caboose or Passenger Car	Virtual
Feb	Sun, Feb 14 Virtual	100% Virtual via Zoom – see Oil Can, website, postcard & email	Gary Hoover – “1950’s N&W HO Scale Layout with O. Winston Link Scenes”	Virtual - Model & Photo: Hopper or Gondola Car	Virtual
Mar	Sun, Mar 14 Virtual (New)	100% Virtual via Zoom – see Oil Can, website, postcard & email	John Burchnall – “Modeler’s Guide to Timelines in Selecting Eras”	Move from June: Virtual - Model & Photo: Steam Locomotive	Virtual
Apr	Sun, Apr 11 Virtual	100% Virtual via Zoom – see Oil Can, website, postcard & email	Ed Swain – “Modeling the Louisville Lift Bridge”	Virtual - Model & Photo: Maintenance of Way Equipment	Virtual
May	Sun, May 16 (note date)	100% Virtual via Zoom – see Oil Can, website, postcard & email	John Shields – “Basic Railfanning of Greater Cincinnati”	Virtual - Model: Flat Car w/ Load Photo: Bridge or Trestle	Virtual
May	May 20 to 23 CANCELLED	Mid Central Region Convention “Northern Express” Erie, PA	ENTIRE EVENT CANCELLED Convention Clinics, Banquet, Tours	ENTIRE EVENT CANCELLED Convention Contests	Convention Tours and Layouts
Jun	Sat, tbd (June 5 or ?)	RESCHEDULED - Annual Flea Market - Lakota W. Freshman	RESCHEDULED - Dealer, Sales, Membership & Modeler Aid Booths	(Moved from March) No Contest	None
Jul	Sun, July 4 to Sun, July 11	NMRA National Convention Santa Clara, California	National Convention Clinics, Tours, Programs, Show and Banquets	Convention Contests	Convention Tours & Train Show Layouts
Jul	Sun, Jul 18 1-5 pm	Family Picnic/Social at Sharon Woods Park, Sharonville, OH	Catered Fellowship/Social Event (stay tuned for more info)	None	None
Aug	Sun, Aug 8	tbd	tbd	Model & Photo: Tank Car	tbd
Sep	Sun, Sep 12	tbd	tbd	Model & Photo: Non-Steam Locomotive	tbd
Oct	Sun, Oct 3 (note date)	tbd	tbd	Model & Photo: Non-Bridge Structure/Diorama	tbd
Oct	Sat 9 – Sun 10 11 am to 5 pm	53rd Annual Fall Train Show Lakota West High School	Cincinnati Model Train & Trade Show Booths, Layouts and Slide Show	None	Train Show Portable Layouts
Nov	Sun, Nov 14	tbd	tbd	Model & Photo: Freight Car	tbd
Dec	Sun, Dec 12	tbd	tbd	Model & Photo: Box or Refrigerator Car	tbd



Farewell 2020, and Don't Come Back!

My Holiday *Knapp's Notes* is always one of my favorites because it combines all the wonderful events of the past year and looks forward to exciting events, yet to come. Today is not quite as joyous for me, as I have just received the news that an old army buddy and model railroader has lost his battle with COVID-19. I have been friends with Jerry Gehl since our days together in the Western Hills High School Band. Jerry played clarinet and tenor sax.; we actually worked together in a Dixieland combo for our annual variety show. I also worked with Jerry in the 100th Division USAR Band. This getting old is not a lot of fun. I often advertise an opportunity to get old for me, but, alas, no takers.

Hey Santa! (Redux from 2020)

I am writing this on December 22nd, so I have not seen Santa yet. My thinking was the article being on time (for a change) will help on Santa's infamous list. I questioned Santa's nice and naughty list last year, and decided it was too late to worry about it. I felt that Russ and I set new standards for the monthly raffle (especially since we have not had one since last February). As far as Modeler's Aid goes, Pat and I were far more helpful this year, again, there was no show. In other words, I have been an exceptionally good boy (at least in comparison). If you are thinking of giving me a present, I could use one of BLI's Santa Fe 4000 class 2-8-2 (now that they are re-advertised, and I reserved two).

My Resolutions for 2021 (pretty much like 2020)

Today is December 22nd (the day before my column due date), so I pulled out my crystal ball to look ahead into 2021. This is the year there will be some real progress on the Raton Pass (ignore I said the same in previous columns). We are going to extend the main line to Raton, New Mexico, the yard at Trinidad will be totally wired, and we will start running trains. (Usually this story starts with, "Once upon a time"). I have the track work ready to go, the plans laid out, and I have plenty of free (?) time. I can see the first section of #17, The Super Chief, pulling into Trinidad depot now. I have finished the diesel house for Trinidad and am also upgrading several locomotives with Soundtraxx Economi decoders. Thanks to my crew of Chuck Endreola, Zach Riggins, Keith Corman, and Pat Homan, things are getting done. There are still openings in our crew, volunteer now and avoid a visit from WMPA's cousin Vinnie. (so how are your kneecaps?)

Some Ideas for the (Old) & New Year

As we look ahead to 2021, there are a few things to try. Attend our June Flea Market (plus bring plenty of money). Another wonderful idea, (I am full of it today, ideas, that is) — when we go back to live meetings, BUY PLENTY of raffle tickets; I do not want to question John Burchnell's veracity, but would my trusty cohort, Russ Poynter lie, (or cheat)? And lastly, have fun and enjoy the hobby!

May the joy of the Holiday Season be with each and every one of you and with your families also. See you in January!

Santa Fe, All the Way!

Bruce

Coming Down the Line

Cincinnati Division 7, MCR, NMRA
2020—2021 Schedule

NOTE: ALL REGULAR MEETINGS START AT 2 PM

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Program/Speaker</u>	<u>Layout Visits</u>	<u>Contest Topic</u>
1/10	Virtual Meeting	Dave Ackmann <i>3D Printing</i>	None	<u>Models:</u> Caboose or Passenger Cars <u>Photos:</u> Caboose or Passenger Cars
2/14	Virtual Meeting	Gary Hoover <i>1950s N&W HO Scale Layout with O. Winston Link Scenes</i>	None	<u>Models:</u> Hopper or Gondola Cars <u>Photos:</u> Hopper or Gondola Cars
3/14	Virtual Meeting	John Burchnall <i>Modeler's Guide to Timelines In Selecting Eras</i>	None	<u>Models:</u> Steam Locomotives <u>Photos:</u> Steam Locomotives

Around the Division
2021

1/21 Lebanon Modelers - Lebanon OH
(confirm date with Bob Chapman)

Region / National
2021

5/20-23 MCR Convention - Erie PA **CANCELLED**

Modeling Problems? - Ask the Member Aid Committee

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Bruce Knapp (513) 941-2713

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