

THE

# Oil Can

May, 2011



Volume V Issue 5



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## The Editor's Corner

Don Phillips

This past April marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Civil War. This was truly the first war in which railroads took a strategic part. Although Lincoln was a staunch railroad advocate, the North was slow in taking advantage of their rail superiority. (The North had 22,000 miles of track compared to the South's 9000 miles) It wasn't until early 1862 that Secretary of War Edwin Stanton appointed Herman Haupt as the field commander of the newly formed U.S. Military Railroad. Haupt, who had graduated from West Point at 18, had become a civil engineer and was instrumental in surveying and building the railroad across Pennsylvania that included the famous Horse Shoe Curve. From this point on the railroads became more and more involved as a strategic part of the Union offensive and Haupt is the one credited for keeping them running. One Northern commander who realized the importance of railroads was Ohioan Wm. T. Sherman, who confined his march to Atlanta along a rail line as much as possible, thus assuring an uninterrupted supply of material for his troops.

Lee on the other hand didn't seem to put much stock in the importance of railroads, probably due to the unreliability of most of the southern railroads at that time. On the other hand, Jackson recognized their potential and when his troops captured 13 locomotives at Martinsburg, West Virginia early in the war, he had all thirteen dismantled and hauled overland by forty-horse teams the 38 miles to Strasburg, Virginia. There, they were re-assembled and continued their journey to Richmond by rail. Still considered one of the major engineering feats of the war.

From time to time, over the next several months as Civil War history unravels, we will attempt to come up with other interesting railroad facts from that era.

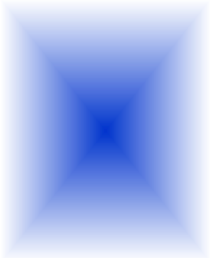
*The Oil Can* is a publication of Cincinnati Division 7, Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc. Opinions expressed herein are the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Division 7, the MCR, the NMRA, it's officers, or it's members.

*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.*

## The Cover:

Old #7 appears thru the trees with the daily local freight on it's way to the yard at Bigelow. It's a beautiful spring day and as he glides along the banks of the Sandy River, engineer Ray Herd is looking forward to a good lunch at Debbie's Side Track Café.

The scene is from Dave Keith's Sn2 Sandy River & Rangely Lakes modular layout.



# HEADLIGHTS

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Randy Kerka  
Superintendent

## Where was he?

I am sure that Bob Shreve did a great job running the April meeting. OK... maybe no one noticed... but yes, I played hooky from the meeting. I spent the weekend with 23 of my closest friends chasing a little white ball around the mountains of North Carolina. The historic Murphy Branch of the old Western North Carolina Railroad runs through Frog Level (lower Waynesville) and still supports two to four Norfolk Southern Railway freights as they wind their way through the Smokey Mountains. Standing on the tee box and simultaneously rail fanning is truly a wonderful thing!

## In the good ol' summertime...

As we head into the summer, backyard and outdoor time usually trumps modeling-in-the-basement time. But take heart fellow model railroad geeks. There is still a fair amount of train "stuff" on the docket this summer! The Rails of Ages Regional Convention up at Geneva-On-The-Lake starts it off at the end of April. A couple of weeks into May the Beech Grove Express Bus Odyssey will no doubt make those that signed up darned glad that they did. Division meetings start up again in June at the Hyde Park Community Methodist Church featuring Bob Bartizek. A National convention in July followed by a Division meeting at CUT in Tower A hosted by the Cincinnati Railroad Club. I will certainly be looking for ways to postpone that pesky "Honey-Do" list. Sorry Sweetheart!

## News from National...

Plans for The NMRA Gallery Exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum are running at stop eight. National organizing and fund raising actions have raised two pledges of matching funds from anonymous NMRA member donors. One donation is for \$50,000 and the other is for \$250,000. (Rumors that one of those donations is mine are, unfortunately, false.) Current plans call for the exhibit to be opened by the end of 2012. All the details of the exhibit are in the May issue of NMRA Magazine.

## Thoughts on the Flea Market...

Sometimes we simply lose sight of those things that have made us successful. That became painfully obvious when, despite excellent planning and execution, the gate numbers and as a result the revenues sagged for last year's (2010) Flea Market. So, we thought long and hard about how we were marketing the show to the public, flyer distribution to hobby shops being the bulk of our publicity/advertising effort. Flyers are and will always be a very low cost and effective tool in our arsenal. But flyers depend largely on a prospective attendee actually going to a hobby shop and seeing the flyer! In an impromptu discussion with the Division 3 Fall Show folks, it surfaced that we had, for some reason unknown to me, stopped sending post cards a few years back. Who knows exactly why and I suppose now it doesn't matter. We thought hard about it and determined that returning to direct marketing to our "target" audience was worth a try.

Anyhow, we took the entire Division 7 and Division 3 mailing list, the Division 7 "Inactive" mailing list and mailed a 28-cent post card to those folks (and anyone else we could think of) at a cost of about \$250.00. Well, I guess we got lucky because even with fewer vendor tables sold and a 50% increase in venue rent, not only did the gate increase over 50% but the "surplus" (what some call profit) increased 432% over 2010!!! Bet on it... postcards will be coming back for the fall, 2011 Cincinnati Model Railroad Show. I continue to be proud of the dedication and passion displayed by all the Division 7 members that volunteer to bring us our two major fund raising events year after year. The Division thanks you!

See you soon,

*Randy*



# SECOND SECTION

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**Bob Shreve**  
Asst. Super

Spring has arrived. At the time of this writing, April is shaping up to be one of the wettest months ever. For many people, the constant rain has extended the wintertime model-railroading season. For me, it points up the fact that another winter has passed and I STILL haven't cleaned the accumulated junk out of my basement to make space to build a layout. Fortunately, I have friends I have met through Division 7 who let me come over and work on their layouts. As Randy has noted, this is one of the biggest benefits of NMRA membership.

The April meeting was at the Anderson Township Senior Center. Dave Keith gave us a primer on Free-Mo Module railroading. After the meeting, Dave Keith and John Listermann opened their layouts for visitors. Thanks to John for having us over, and to Keith for doing double duty as clinician and "open houser".

By the time you read this, the Mid Central Region convention "Rails Of Ages" will be history. I'm sure there will be highlights presented in next month's issue of the Oil Can.

There will not be a monthly meeting in May. Our May activity will be the Beech Grove Express bus trip to Indiana.

As was noted at the April meeting, **the June meeting at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church has been moved up 1 week to June 5<sup>th</sup>**. This change is noted on all of the published schedules. Bob Bartizek will present a clinic entitled "Designing Interesting Layout Operations". Bob's presentation shows various layouts where he has operated and details some of the switching operations found. This clinic was presented at the 2009 National Convention in Pittsburgh. After the meeting, Pat Homan and Sam Swanson will have their layouts open for visitors.

In July, we will switch our attention to prototype railroads. The Cincinnati Railroad Club has offered us the opportunity to hold a meeting in Tower A in Cincinnati Union Terminal. More details on the clinic topic will be forthcoming. Please note that there is one stairway you will need to climb to reach Tower A. This stairway and limited space in Tower A will probably force a limited presence by the Division 7 company store at this meeting. Note the July meeting is 1 week later (July 17<sup>th</sup>) than our usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday schedule due to the National Convention from July 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>.

In August, Ed Swain will present a clinic on Background Buildings.

That's it for this month. See you in May on the bus trip or at the June meeting **on June 5<sup>th</sup>**.

*Bob*

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**Sorry, Results for the April Competition were not available at press time.**

April Meeting



**Tom Brueggeman “Only One to Go”**

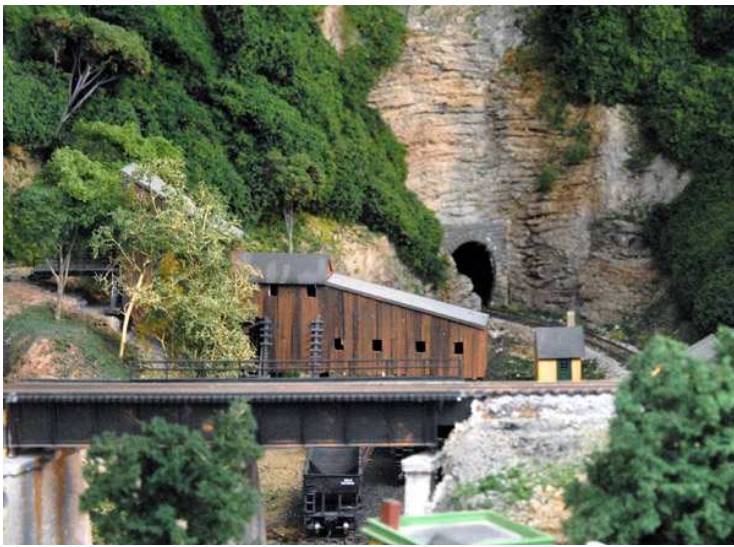
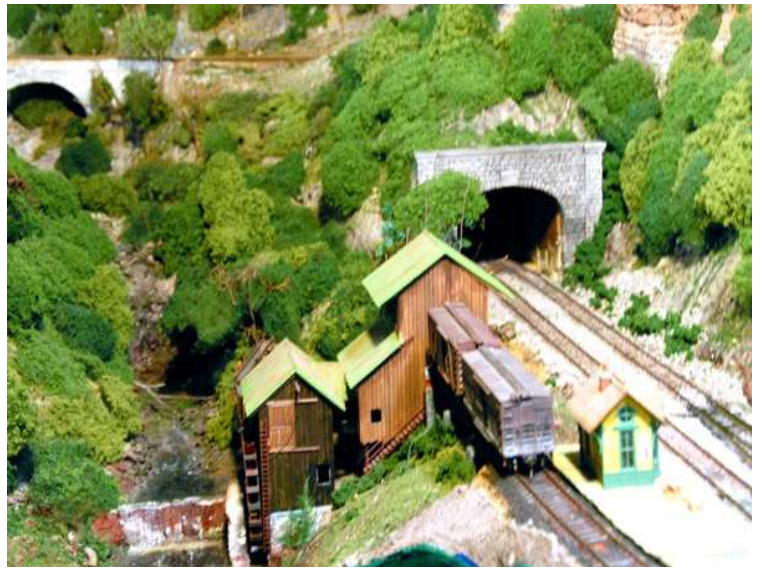


Winning Dioramas



**Dave Keith - April Clinician**

April Layouts



**John Listermann**



**Dave Keith**

## Big Four Depot at Sydney, Ohio

**Dale Brown**

The Sydney Big Four depot will be open to the public Sunday June 11 from 10 am to 12 pm. The purpose is to let the residents of Sydney know about the depot and its status. Also, the Miami Valley Rail Fans will be having their June meeting there.

The organization is still called a Model Railroad Club however; the model layout was dismantled last year. The group is struggling to keep the station open and need new members. If the organization does not get some new revenue from donations or members, the station lease will be returned to CSX. It is certain that CSX will work to quickly demolish the station. The West Central Club has tried to negotiate a possible option to buy the station however, CSX has asked the brick station be moved back 30 feet from the rail line.

Over the years, the Miami Valley Rail Fan Club has held an annual picnic at the station and after June the club may have to terminate the lease. Anyone who can help is encouraged to send in a simple membership for associate members. Also, donations at the open house will be accepted. This is one of the last Big Four depots still intact along the former mainline from Columbus to Indianapolis.

## Rail Conventions in Cincinnati

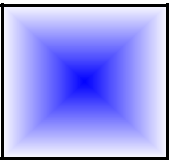
**Jim MacKnight**

The Nickel Plate Road Historical and Technical Society will hold their annual convention at the Cincinnati Marriott Northeast, 9664 Mason-Montgomery Road, Mason, Thursday September 29<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Hosted by the Cincinnati Railway Company. Information at [www.nkphts.org](http://www.nkphts.org)

The Chesapeake & Ohio Historical Society will hold their 42<sup>nd</sup> annual convention at the Marriott Cincinnati located at River Center in Covington, KY, from Wednesday August 3 through Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup>. Information at [www.cohs.org](http://www.cohs.org)

Both conventions will feature train excursions, visits to Cincinnati Union Terminal, clinics/slide shows on railroad history and model railroading (COHS) and a banquet on Saturday night. Self-guided tours of local layouts are being planned for Sunday for the COHS.

For additional information about membership on these two railroad societies, contact Jim MacKnight (513 733-1246)



# *Fiction & Fact from Don's Almanac*

Don Phillips

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## Dave Keith's April Clinic

Dave reports that the handout at the clinic he presented at the April meeting was posted on the wrong web site so the URL on the printed handout is wrong. Which is why, if you tried to access it, you could not connect.

Here is the proper handout link:

[Http://sn2modeler.wordpress.com/2011/04/11/free-mo-clinic-handout-%E2%80%93-presented-to-nmra-mcr-division-7-on-april-10-2011/](http://sn2modeler.wordpress.com/2011/04/11/free-mo-clinic-handout-%E2%80%93-presented-to-nmra-mcr-division-7-on-april-10-2011/)

For a direct URL to the open house photos, go to:

[Http://sn2modeler.wordpress.com/2011/04/12nmra-mcr-division-7-open-house-april-10th/](http://sn2modeler.wordpress.com/2011/04/12nmra-mcr-division-7-open-house-april-10th/)

*Editor's note: We tried the first one and found it opened up on a world of modular and free-mo modular information and links. If your interested in free-mo or modular railroading , their worth a look.*

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## MCR Convention

Jerry Michael reports on the following Division 7 winners>

**Jim Rollwage:** Took both 1st & 2nd Place for Color Photos of Models

**Jim MacKnight:** Took 2nd Place for Proto Slides

And last but not least, **Jane Hancock** won the Grand Door Prize:

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## R.J Corman Railroad Group

The March issue of Fortune Magazine has an interesting article on Richard Jay Corman, CEO and sole owner of the R. J. Corman Railroad Group in Lexington. Fortune estimates that the company, founded in 1973 by then 18-year-old Corman, does in excess of 300 million dollars a year generating over 50 million in profits. Makes for interesting reading.

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## Cincinnati Model Railway Club

### **Operating Session Open to NMRA Members:**

The Cincinnati Model Railway Club (Harmony Lodge in Spring Grove Village) will host the first of several periodic open operating sessions on Thursday, June 16 from 7-10 pm. This operating session is open to any NMRA member. We will have an orientation session from 6:30-7:00 pm and will start operating at 7 pm . We can handle 10-12 operators as yardmasters, engineers of freight and locals and passenger trains, and a dispatcher (if you want the challenge). Our members will be there to provide encouragement and assistance. We have a NCE system (radio and plug-in), so bring a throttle if you feel more comfortable with your own but it is not necessary. We also have FRS/GMRS radios for communication and bring your own if you wish. We would like to get an idea of how many operators will be present, so sign up with Frank Koch at [fjkoch@hotmail.com](mailto:fjkoch@hotmail.com) to indicate your intent to participate. This operating session is in addition to our regular first Thursday operating sessions that run 2-5 pm and are also open to visiting operators





# KNAPP'S NOTES

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Bruce Knapp

## Hobby Shop Memories

Saturday at the hobby shop brings back treasured memories of my early day in model railroading [plus airplanes and military vehicles]. When I was a student at western Hills High School I always looked forward to visiting Don's Hobby Shop on Glenway, Roger Weise's Cheviot Hobby Shop, or if I was really lucky, going downtown to visit Don's Service on Walnut Street or Brendamour's. These treasured visits gave me a chance to see [and dream] about all the latest hobby products, from Comet balsa wood airplane kits to the latest Athearn products. After I started driving, I was able to extend my visits to far-off locations, like Walt's Hobby Shop on Mount Lookout Square [drooling on his PFM & Akane/Gem brass], to Sattler's HO Depot on Colerain, or doing some rail fanning with my buddy Gordon Brady.

More recently several of us started to gather at Western Hills Photo & Hobby for lunch and a bit of "slinging the bull". The loss of the many neighborhood hobby emporiums makes me wonder where our young people go to learn about the hobby? Division 7 and Division 3 actively promote the hobby through sponsorship of the Boy Scout model railroading merit badge and both divisions do a lot for the hobby with our annual train shows. The problem is these don't always provide the weekly support the local hobby shops did. My interest and skills were developed and encouraged by the folks at the shops I mentioned.

## Tim's Trains and Hobbies

We do have a new shop in the area to help fill the void. Tim Cook has opened Tim's Trains and Hobbies in Latonia, Kentucky right next to the CSX [L&N] crossing. On a recent visit, I was not only treated to a lot of new products, but I also got a chance to rail fan a CSX freight heading for Queensgate with a long string of auto carriers. Tim has a full service shop complete with model railroad equipment in every scale, plus a super assortment of details and scratch building items. The shop also has a nice selection of plastic military, nautical, and automotive kits. Tim has everything from trains to planes and the supplies to assemble them. The Saturday I visited, there was a huge collection of hobbyists examining merchandise and sharing expertise on several topics. I was taken back for a short time to the many hobby shop visits of my youth. Tim has done a wonderful job filling the vacancy left by the closing of Johnny's Toys; if you haven't paid the store a visit, you really need to. Speaking of visits, we need to support all our local shops, as they are the real strength of this:

**"THE WORLD'S GREATEST HOBBY".**

## Our May Trip

I am excited about our upcoming bus tour to Indianapolis and Southern Indiana. I am really looking forward to visiting Amtrak's Beech Grove facility. Kudos to Merlyn and John for their efforts in coming up with another outstanding event for Division 7. I hope many of you are going and I hope Ruthanne keeps John away from the microphone.

**Keep 'em rolling!**

*Bruce A. Knapp*

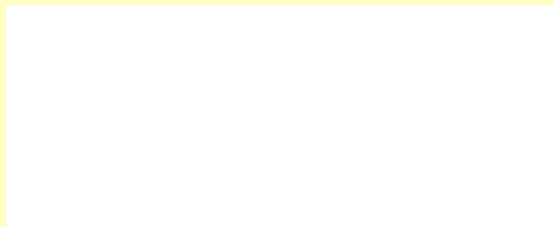
## Next Regular Meeting

**2 PM Sunday June 5**

@

**Hyde Park Community  
United Methodist Church**

### Directions



**NO REGULAR MEETING IN MAY**

## 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>
May 14	Indiana	Beech Grove Express	Three	None
May 19	Resurrection Church Lebanon, OH	Div. 7 Sub Meeting	None	Show & Tell
June 5	Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church	Bob Bartizek “Designing interesting Layout Operations”	TBA	<u>Models:</u> Off-Line Dioramas <u>Photos:</u> Rolling Stock w/graffiti
June 16	Resurrection Church Lebanon, OH	Div. 7 Sub Meeting	None	None

### Around the Region

### National

5/14	C&O Heritage Festival	Clifton Forge, VA		
6/18	Bradford Train Show	Bradford, OH		
6/25-26	Railfest	Dayton, OH		
8/13	Summerfest CUT	Cincinnati, OH		
9/18	All Trains Flea Mrkt.	Greenville, OH		
10/02	Model RR Show & Swap	Troy, OH		
11/5-6	Dayton Train Show	Dayton, OH		
11/13	Train & Toy Show	Dalton, OH		
6/21-25	National Garden RR Conv.	Overland Park, KS		
6/22-24	National N Gauge Conv.	Hershey, PA		
7/3-9	NMRA National Conv.	Sacramento, CA		
7/3-9	National S Gauge Conv.	Sacramento, CA		
9/7-10	National Narrow Gauge	Hickory, NC		
9/21-24	National O Scale Conv.	Indianapolis, IN		

### 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](http://www.cincy-div7.org)

**MCR Web Site** [www.midcentral-region-nmra.org](http://www.midcentral-region-nmra.org)