

THE

Oil Can

September, 2011



Volume V Issue 9



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Committee Chairs

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Car Projects	Jim MacKnight	513 733-1246
Comm. Serv.	Jim MacKnight	513 733-1246
Co. Store	John Musselman	859 384-2472
Contests	Jack Laubisch	513 752-3988
Div. Booth	Brad Bove	513 227-7527
Fall Show	Rick Crumrine	513 385-4898
Flea Market	Dianne Rowland	513 755-7381
Layout Ops.	Rick Stern	513 729-1051
Lebanon Ops	Bob Chapman	513 228-0551
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Monthly Raffle	John Shields	513 561-8691
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The Editors Corner:

Don Phillips

2012 is an election year for division 7.

Superintendent Kerka has appointed the following three members to serve as a nominating committee for the coming election.:

Roy Hord, Don Rowland, Don Phillips

The following officers have only served one term in their present positions and therefore are eligible to serve a second term if they so chose.

Randy Kerka - Superintendent
Bob Shreve - Assistant Super
John Shields - Secretary

Jim Stewart has served two consecutive terms as treasure and as such is not eligible for re-election..

This marks the first year that the election will take place in December and the newly elected officers will take office after the January meeting instead of the March meeting.

Petitions for nominations in writing will be accepted at the October and November meetings or by mail if received by the nominating committee no later than November 20th 2011.. Each nomination requires a petition signed by two (2) current Division 7 members.

The names of the nominees will be published in the Oil Can and the official ballot and biographical sketches of the candidates will appear in the December issue.

The name and address of the teller will be indicated on the ballot. All votes must be returned to the teller either at the December meeting or by mail no later than December 31, 2011 to be counted. Only official ballots from current Division 7 members will be accepted and the members NMRA number must appear on the envelop in lieu of a return address. Ballots with out the member's NMRA number will not be counted.

The teller will tabulate the votes and report the results to the Superintendent. The Official result will appear in the next Oil Can and the officers will assume their duties at the end of the January regular meeting.

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:

A track crew stands clear and Cincinnati Central number 4279 waits its turn as two F7 units exit Allegheny Tunnel. Having crested the long grade up to the tunnel with their coal drag, the worst is over and it's down hill the rest of the way.

The scene is from Jim Hodde's recently rebuilt HO layout.



HEADLIGHTS

Randy Kirka
Superintendent

Why are we members of the NMRA?

- Kalmbach Memorial Library - perhaps one of the finest resources available to anyone interested in railroads or model railroads... members get special discounts and first crack at special releases.
- Fellowship of other modelers
- The Achievement Program - there's no better way to improve your modeling
- Regional and National conventions
- Access to Master Model Railroaders - they come from all over the world to the National convention. MMRs attend most Regional and Divisional functions, too!
- Monthly *NMRA Magazine*
- Insurance coverage for division layouts, meets and shows
- **NMRA** Standards & Recommended Practices
- Heritage & Living Legends Collector Cars
- Participation in photo, slide and model contests with fellow members
- Members' Aid Program Got a question? We've got the answers!
- Pike Registry -- Register your model railroad name
- Tape/Slide and Video Clinics - rent them by mail... perfect for home viewing or club presentations
- 100% NMRA Club - The extra benefits of having all of your rail club members also members in the NMRA are many. Not the least of which is \$1 million insurance coverage for your organization on all your club's activities and reduced rates on special insurance for your club layout or collection.

And, of course, when you're an **NMRA** member you are automatically a member of the Mid Central Region and Cincinnati Division 7 without paying additional dues! Special local activities at Division or Region meets include:

- Clinics given by modelers for modelers
- Region & Division Collector Cars
- Photo and slide contests
- Model contests and Popular Vote model contests
- Local Member's Aid services and modeling demos
- Dealers tables at shows
- Layout tours and open houses

So OK, for many this is not new information... but for many more, some of these benefits may not be that well known! So why do I keep bringing it up again and again? Because you folks, current members of Division 7, are our greatest "secret weapon" when it comes to recruiting new members.

I am hoping that this list will be helpful when you are "chatting up" our division with your non-member pals.

But as for me... there is one more (and probably the very biggest) reason that I love the NMRA. And that is YOU! As significant as the above benefits are, the friendships I have developed over the years mean more to me than ANY of the rest of it!

See you in September... friend!

Randy



SECOND SECTION

Bob Shreve
Asst. Super

August found us in Kenwood at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Thanks to Merlyn Jarman for arranging for the meeting room there. Ed Swain presented an informative clinic showing how he created numerous background buildings for his layout. After the meeting, Jim Hodde and Kevin Barrett opened their layouts for us. Thank you to Ed, Jim, and Kevin for their contributions to the meeting, and to Mike Brestel and Roy Hord for persuading my laptop computer to read the CD containing Ed's presentation.

In September, we will be exploring the hills of Northern Kentucky. In lieu of our usual business meeting / clinician format, there will be a short business meeting followed by an expanded layout tour. We will be piggybacking on the layout tour that Tim Cook organizes each fall. Our starting point will be the Legends Bar and Grill down the street from Tim Cook's hobby shop. They have a side room we will use for the meeting. We will have maps / directions for the layout tour at the meeting, however a GPS unit will be helpful. At press time, the tour will include the layouts of Ed Kuhr, Ray Schmidt, Tom Vogt, Tim Cook, Jim Gaines, and Perry Simpson. Note there will not be a monthly contest at the September meeting. September's contest topics will be carried over to October.

Speaking of the October meeting, it's going to be at the West Chester library across the street from Lakota West High School. We will have 2 mini-clinic presentations coupled with a bring-and-brag contest, plus the combination September and October monthly contests. Wow, Jack Laubisch is going to be pretty busy in October.

In November, we will return to the Hamilton senior center (Partners in Prime). The clinician will be Mike Mereness. His presentation is titled "Coal: A Source of Revenue For Your Railroad".

I'm working 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. I'm also looking for members willing to open layouts for visit after the meetings.

All for now. See you on the layout tour in September.

Bob

Nickel Plate Road Historical & Technical Society Convention, September 29 through October 2

Convention headquarters will be the Cincinnati Marriott Northeast, 9664 Mason-Montgomery Road. Convention activities include clinics on the Nickel Plate Road, an excursion on the Lebanon, Mason & Monroe Railroad, pulled by former NKP GP-30 no. 901, a visit to Cincinnati Union Terminal and Tower A, a tour of EnterTrainment Junction, a convention banquet with speaker, John Hauck, author of "Narrow Gauge in Ohio", and an extra-fare dinner on the Cincinnati Dinner Train will be among the activities.

Information at www.nkphts.org Convention fees and details have been posted.

Contact Jim MacKnight (513) 733-1246, or Jim Corbett (513) 729-1721, for additional information regarding this convention.



Gorre & Daphetid

Several Division 7 modelers have started on the John Allen tribute layout. A portable layout meant to be set up at train shows as both a tribute to John, create interest in model railroading and at the same time promote Division 7 and the NMRA.

Using the track plan, drawings and pictures from the book, **Model Railroading with John Allen** published in 1981 by Kalmbach Books, the plan is to recreate his first HO layout. The goal is to have it finished and up and running by the Division 7 Train Show at the end of October.

Construction sessions are taking place at Jim Rollwage's place in Wilmington on Tuesday evenings. If you'd like to join the fun, contact either Jim or Bob Chapman for directions.



White Elephants at the 2011 Fall Show (Frank Koch) – I’m back again for any individual Division 7 members with items they wish to sell, but not enough to justify the cost of a table. Prepare an inventory showing your name, address, and telephone number and listing each individual item with a description and code so I can match it back to you, and your **firm** asking price (I won’t negotiate to a lower price.). **Each individual item must be clearly marked and priced as shown below.** If there is more than one of an item, list them separately. Put all your items in a bag or box and bring them to the flea market before the show starts. I’ll log them in, sell them, calculate how much you get back (The Division will keep 10% of actual sales.), and you can, preferably, pick up your unsold material and money on Sunday right after the show closes or after the show at a later meeting. Use the inventory form below or send me an e-mail at fjkoch@hotmail.com with “elephant inventory” in the subject.

FJK – 12 \$10.00

Items are placed in the White Elephant Sale at your own risk. Neither Division 7 nor Frank Koch assumes any liability for any items damaged or stolen during the flea market, though we will provide due diligence for their safety. We will not accept items that are not prepared as indicated here. If you want to help out at some time during the flea market, let Frank know. We reserve the right to refuse any material that we deem unsuitable.

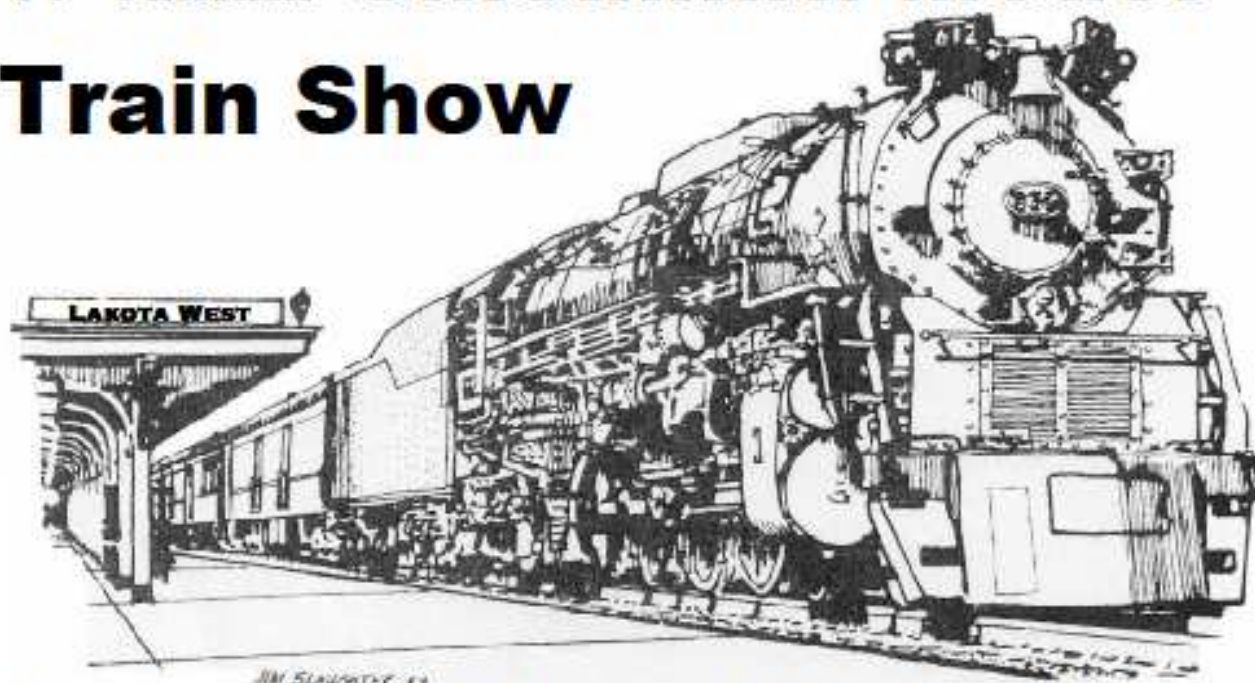
2009 Division 7 Spring Flea Market White Elephant Sale
(10% of actual Sales retained by Division 7)

Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Telephone #: _____

Initials	Last 4 digits of phone number	Item #	Description	Price \$
		1		
		2		
		3		
		4		
		5		
		6		
		7		
		8		
		9		
		10		

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

44th 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

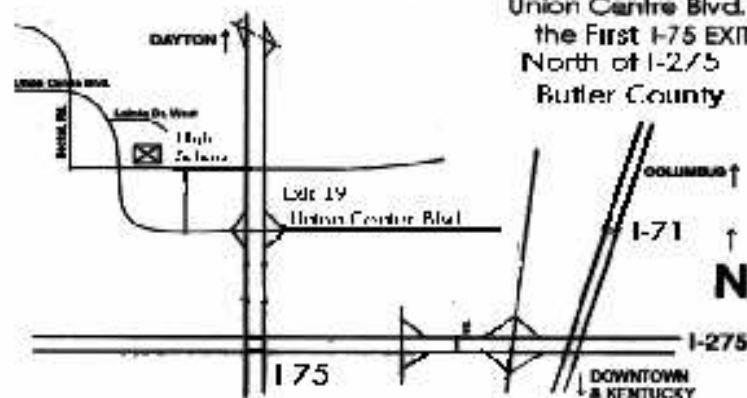
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Admission

Adults - \$ 7.00

Children under 12 FREE

Scouts in Uniform FREE



For more information, call **562-RAIL**, or visit us at: www.dincy-div7.org

**Win a G Scale
Train Set**

 **Peter Paul**
OFFICE EQUIPMENT
Serving the Tri-State Since 1924

Sponsored in part by:

kids R kids
QUALITY LEARNING CENTERS

John's Honest Raffle

John Shields

As announced at the August meeting, we will again have a themed raffle of non-HO, non-N, actually non-any scale items. Look for some tools and some memorabilia. And remember, you don't even have to keep track of what color ticket you have for this one! In October, we will return to the standard N scale (and HO) raffle.

Also, starting in October, we will begin our fall engine raffle. So, start saving up. A really good tip is to bring some return address labels to the Oct/Nov/Dec meetings to save yourself from having to write your name and phone number on the dozens and dozens of tickets that I know you will all be buying. We will have the drawing during the December meeting. You do not have to be present to win.

This year's HO engine is a Bachmann Spectrum 2-8-0 decorated for Southern. I want to acknowledge that this item was donated to us, so 100% of the proceeds go to the Division. There will be an N scale engine as well, but I'll save that identification for the next Oil Can.

CMRC Op Session

Frank Koch

The Cincinnati Model Railroad Club (Harmony Lodge in Spring Grove Village) will host the second of several periodic open operating sessions on Thursday, September 8 from 7:10 pm. We will have an orientation session from 6:30 – 7:00 and will start operating at 7 pm. We can handle 10 –12 operators as yardmasters, engineers of freight, 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, bring your own if you wish, but we have 16 club radios – bring your own earbuds if you have them. We would like to get an idea of how many operators will be present, so sign-up with Frank Koch at 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.

If you've not had the experience of operating with the heft of O scale, this is a good chance to start.

August Competition Jack Laubisch

<u>Models</u>	<u>Thin Line Models</u>	<u>Photos</u>	<u>RR Stations or Freight Houses</u>
<u>Kit Bashed</u>		<u>Proto Print</u>	
1 st - Frank Hermanek		1 st - Jerry Baston	
2 nd - Frank Hermanek		2 nd - Jerry Baston	
<u>Scratch Built</u>		<u>Model Print</u>	
1 st - Georgia Dahlberg		1 st - John Listermann	
2 nd - Georgia Dahlberg		2 nd - Bob Adams	
		3 rd - Jerry Baston	

Point Standings for the Year 2011

<u>Models</u>		<u>Photos</u>	
Georgia Dahlberg	12	Jerry Baston	14
Jim MacKnight	11	Georgia Dahlberg	10
Frank Hermanek	03	Bob Adams	07
Ron Gribler	03	John Listermann	06
John Miller	03	Jim MacKnight	05
Jim Ossman	02	John Miller	03
Randy Kerka	01	Jim Rollwage	03
		Bob Chapman	01

Hell of a Way to Run a Railroad

Late last may I decided to go out to Kansas City and spend a week with my daughter and her family. This time instead of flying or driving I opted to take the train. This meant taking the Cardinal to Chicago and the Southwest Chief from there to Kansas City. Had I read Bruce Knapp's or Dan Mulhearn's reports on their Amtrak experiences going to the national NMRA convention, I might have reconsidered. (*See Knapp's Notes on page 10*) Since the Cardinal leaves Cincinnati at 1:23 am, I definitely wanted a roomette for the Cardinal leg of the trip. A check online with Amtrak's web site revealed that the first available roomette westbound was not until August 6. (more than two full months). No roomette was available for my return trip on August the 13th but I went ahead and made reservations anyway.

The schedule calls for the Cardinal to arrive at CUT at 1:13 am so I arrived at the station around 12:30 only to learn (surprise) it was running late. It finally arrived and after a night spent in a roomette built for a very small midget and a breakfast of French Toast made of paper mache, we pulled into Union Station in Chicago just about 1 1/2-hours late. No problem since I had a 5-hour scheduled layover before the Chief left. Plenty of time to walk down to the loop, look around, have a leisurely lunch and even check out my old office from my Chicago days.

The scheduled departure time for the Chief is 3 pm so I walked into the waiting room at 2:30 to find (surprise) every departing train on the TV screen flashing DELAYED in big white letters. Hundreds of people whose trains should have left as long as two hours ago plus as many more whose trains weren't scheduled to leave yet were crammed into a room that would have been crowded with a fourth as many. It was far worse than anything I've encountered at an airport and that's saying a lot. It was after 5 before we were on board and rolling. Soon after departing Chicago, the dining car hostess announced she would be passing through the cars to take reservations for dinner. When she got to me, I asked for a reservation and was informed all reservations were full but she would put me on the waiting list (*There were still two more cars behind ours that she hadn't been to yet*) After the 7:30 dinner call and they still had not called one name for the waiting list, I decided to hit the snack car. I came down the steps just in time to hear the attendant apologize to another passenger because he was short of supplies. (*We're only 2 1/2 hours out of Chicago, this train is going all the way to Las Angeles and he's short of supplies already? Fantastic planning*)

When we had crossed the Mississippi and hadn't picked up any time, I called my daughter and told her not to expect me in at the scheduled 10:11 pm. As expected we arrived well after midnight. Portal to portal travel time, my house to her house, 25 hours. I've driven it in less than 12. The best part of the west bound trip was a very interesting seat-mate who just happened to be a Civil War buff and a rail fan also going to Kansas City.

Unfortunately, the return trip wasn't as much fun as the trip out. Arriving at the Kansas City station at 7 am to catch the 7:30 east bound Chief, I was informed it would be approximately 90 minutes late. (surprise) Actually that was the best news I received all day as it meant instead of eating paper mache French Toast on the train, I got to have a real breakfast at the Fred Harvey restaurant in the station. (*Excellent food and great service.*)

Evidently, when on time, Amtrak has a little window of opportunity allowing it to run on schedule. When they miss that window, it's follow the leader time. We were only 30 minutes out of Kansas City when we stopped for the first block signal and sat still for some 10 minutes. The conductor finally came on the PA and announced we were stuck behind a slow moving freight but would pass it at the first opportunity. After three more block signals and three more stops, the opportunity came and we passed a slow moving container train only to be stopped at the next block signal by another slow moving container train running in front of the one we had just passed. We crept most of the way across Missouri like this. At one time we were actually moving so slowly that out of sheer boredom I counted 472 rows of corn in one field as we passed.

Once into Illinois, we started picking up speed but by then it was evident that even though I had a 2 1/2 hour layover to catch the Cardinal, we weren't going to make it. About an hour out of Chicago the conductor announced since so many on board had connections to make in Chicago, he had contacted Amtrak and was advised: (*in his exact words*) **"they would either hold or not hold the connecting trains"** (*isn't this communication age terrific?*)

The Cardinal was scheduled to depart Chicago at 5:45. We arrived after 6 and found it was still in the station. On boarding, the car attendant let us know it was our fault the train would be late leaving and he was not happy about it. He didn't seem to notice that after we were on board it was more than a half an hour before we finally pulled out. After a couple of passengers let him know they weren't too happy either, he went away and we never saw him again. Unlike Bruce or Dan, I was fortunate in not having to get up out of my nice warm seat in the middle of the night and get on a bus for the last hundred miles of the trip. Portal to portal travel time on the return trip was 23 hours.

Know what? Flying really doesn't sound so bad after all.

KNAPP'S NOTES

Bruce Knapp

My Exciting Trip Home

I recommend reading Dan Mulhearn's report on the National Convention in his article in the Division 9 Newsletter. [You can access Division 9's web page from either the MCR or the Division 7 web page] I think Dan did a very good job of highlighting the Good, Bad, and Ugly of our week in Sacramento complete with our trip out and back. The convention was a wonderful week of clinics, prototype and model tours, and of course camaraderie with other modelers. On Monday, the Fourth of July, we took a trip to the Western Pacific Museum in Portola; a highlight of the trip for Dan was getting to run a WP GP-7 [no pick-up trucks were harmed]. Our trip back home ended up being almost as eventful as our rail trip out. The Sacramento to Chicago portion on the California Zephyr was delightful. We journeyed through famed rail spots like Donner Pass, the Feather River Gorge, Soldier Summit, and along the Colorado River. In many ways this was the highlight of the week for me. We arrived in Chicago and found out the Indianapolis to Cincinnati leg of the trip would be by bus. We boarded the Cardinal to find out that [1] we didn't have our sleeper accommodation, and [2] there was no diner or any food service, in fact. Just after we passed Monon, Indiana, we had a major power outage on the train. Thanks to a very alert, dedicated, crew, plus two hours of lost time, we got the problem solved. We boarded buses in Indianapolis and finally arrived in Cincinnati, where the Cardinal continued its run to Washington by train. Despite our adventures [or mis-adventures], The 2011 NMRA National Convention was a super week. More next month.

A Coming Event

Our fall train show is right around the corner and is one of the year's highlights for Division 7. Help us make this event the best yet; volunteer to work on the show and talk it up among your friends. This is a wonderful way to promote this great hobby.

Keep 'em rolling!

Bruce A. Knapp

Greensburg Fall Color Train Trip

The Cincinnati Chapter of National Railway Historical Society along with the Cincinnati Railway Co. are sponsoring a train trip to Greensburg, IN. The train will depart Longworth Hall at 9 am Sunday November 6 and return at 7 pm that evening. For more info contact Frank Kammer at 513 729-1919 or fpk3rd@fuse.com

Latest Car Project

Jim MacKnight reports that Accurail is shipping our new V&O plug-door boxcar kits. Check the division web site to see what they look like. Jim expects to have them for sale at the September meeting. The price is \$17.00 for one and \$64.00 for a sequence numbered set of four.

Swoops 2011

Rick Stern

There's still time to sign up for the "op-til-you-drop" weekend starting Friday Sept. 30 to Sunday Oct. 2. For info go to <http://swoops2011.wordpress.com> or contact Rick at rstern1@cinci.rr.com

Next Meeting

**2 PM Sunday
September 11, 2011**

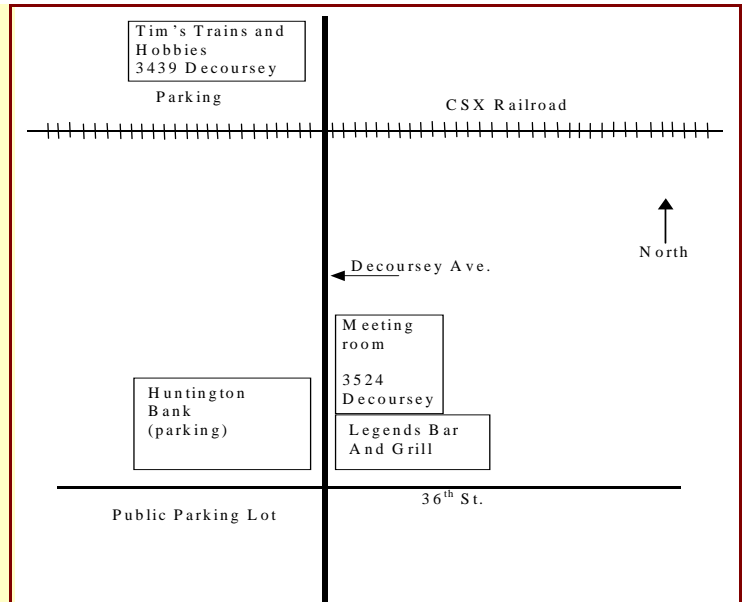
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**Legends Bar & Grill
3524 Decoursey
Latonia, KY**

Directions

From I-275: Take exit 74 (KY 16) Go north to 3524 Decoursey (before crossing tracks)

From Covington: Take Madison Ave. south. After 26th St. keep left and take KY 16 south to 3524 Decoursey (after crossing tracks)



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>
Sept 11	Kentucky Latonia, KY	None (Short Bus. Meeting)	Tour of Six Northern KY Layouts	None
Sept 15	Lebanon Resurrection Church 1270 N. Broadway	Div. 7 Lebanon Sub	None	Show and Tell
Oct 9	North West Chester Library	2 Mini-Clinics & Bring-n-Brag	TBA	Models: Sept: Vehicles Oct: Bring-n-brag Freight Cars Photos: Sept: B&W Locos Oct: Trains on Trestles
Oct 20	Lebanon Resurrection Church 1270 N. Broadway	Div. 7 Lebanon Sub	None	Show and Tell

<u>Around the Region</u>			<u>National</u>	
9/18	All Trains Flea Market	Greenville, OH	9/7-10	National Narrow Gauge Conv. Hickory, NC
10/29-30	Cincinnati Train Show	Lakota High School	9/21-24	National O Scale Convention Indianapolis, IN
11/5-6	Dayton Train Show	Hara Arena	9/21	1st annual Nat On30 Conv. Indianapolis, IN
11/19	Div 8 Train Show	Louisville, KY	9/21	1st annual Nat. Proto 48 Conv Indianapolis, IN

Modeling Programs ? 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
MCR Web Site www.midcentral-region-nmra.org