

THE

# Oil Can

April 2012



Volume VI Issue 4



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## The Editor's Corner

Don Phillips

May 5th is the date for the 2011 annual Division 7 bus trip. If you haven't been on one of these trips you've missed one of the major fun events of the division year. John and Merlyn have nailed it every year and from all indications, this will be another winner. Past trips managed to provide something of interest for everyone by combining Modeling with Prototype and even some non-railroading attractions to boot.

This years trip includes a visit to restored Marion Union Station in Marion, Ohio. Built in the early 1900's at the urging of the local paper's editor, Warren G. Harding, it saw a lot of use during the hey days of railroads.

Today, not only is it considered one of the best rail-fanning sites in Ohio but also one of the top spots in the U.S. for rail photography. Hemmed in by main line tracks on three sides, they claim an average of over 100 trains a day pass. If your into photographing trains, this is the place to do it.

Also included in the trip is a visit to five model railroads in the Columbus area. Having been on all the previous tours, I feel confident in predicting all five will be worth visiting. We've all seen a lot of pictures in modeling magazines of famous or well known layouts by some of the top modelers in the country. But looking at the pictures of layouts and then seeing it in person is completely different. Being able to study a scene and figuring out how it was done is what makes the difference. So sign up and join us for a day of railroading with your fellow Division 7 members.

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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.*

## Cover:

**A Pennsy Articulated brings the morning coal drag through town on Ed Swains beautifully detailed layout.**

Photo by Bob Shreve

## The NMRA Achievement Program (AP)...

MMR is a benefit of NMRA membership that provides members a “path” to climb to the very top of our hobby. To date, The Master Model Railroader “MMR” designation has been awarded to just 472 of the thousands upon thousands of NMRA members over the past 75 years! Division 7 is justifiably proud of our four MMRs. They are Frank Hermanek, MMR #360; Charlie Atkinson, MMR #404; Tom Brueggeman, MMR #460; and the newest NMRA MMR, Georgia Dahlberg, MMR #472.

Last month I wrote about our modelers that have been nationally published and also the huge number of top quality member layouts within the geographic area of Division 7. (It is spring so a baseball metaphor is in order here.) If those folks are the “All Stars” of our division... our four MMRs are our “Hall of Famers”! The real benefit to each of us is that all of our MMRs are active in Division 7 activities and extremely approachable. If you are new to our division and have not yet met these folks, do yourself a favor and introduce yourself.

There is one thing you can always count on from an MMR; all are anxious to help the rest of us accomplish the same level of recognition! Many of us already have one or more AP Certificates but have de-railed in our quest for the “magic seven” required for Master Model Railroader. Frank Koch, Mid-Central Region AP Manager will do back flips to assist division members in their quest. (Yes Frank, I promise to get busy!) Who will our next MMR be?

## Another successful Flea Market...

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Division 7 held its annual Spring Flea Market and Swap Meet. Even with yard work beckoning on a beautiful early spring day and the added specter of March Madness, plenty of folks still turned out to make this year’s event another success. A big “congratulations” is due Dianne and Don Rowland, Roy Hord and every one that volunteered to make this event successful.

## There’s a whole bunch of new faces...

Now this is exciting! Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, the membership in Division 7 has swelled by 29 members. I can’t remember the last time we have generated this kind of interest in our club! This has come about due to a large mailing effort following the Cincinnati Model Train Show, a Herculean effort at the World’s Greatest Hobby Tour event and a similar effort at the Spring Flea Market. Kudos to Bob Adams and to all booth volunteers.

Now... it is incumbent upon each of us to make certain these new folks find value in their decision to join us. Please join me in welcoming our new members at each and every regular Division 7 meeting. Find someone you do not recognize and introduce yourself. Please recall that first meeting YOU attended when you knew no one.

And you new folks, don’t be shy about chatting it up with those characters you will find surrounding you! Please let our Assistant Superintendent/Program Chairman Bob Shreve know what kind of clinics you would find helpful. If it is your “style” to just come to meetings and soak up the model railroad ambiance, that is just fine. But if you would like to become more involved with the workings of your new club... don’t hesitate to let me know. We are an organization of volunteers. The pay is terrible... but the rewards are fabulous!

## National Stuff...

The "Cruise Convention" idea was officially declared "not popular enough to pursue." Accounting dictated that the idea get 800 firm commitments from NMRA members. Only about 300 commitments were received via the survey..

The *Celebration of Models* at the Grand Rapids National Convention will introduce a new contest award in memory of Dean Freytag, the "Dean of Styrene" and former national Contest Chair. The award is funded by a donation given to the NMRA in memory of Freytag and is named “The Dean Freytag Industrial Structure Award.” The Contest Chairman will select the winning structure.

## Don’t miss the bus...

The “Buckeye Express” bus trip still has about a dozen open seats! On May 5th, we will head towards Columbus and visit the unique Marion Tower and Station plus visits to five premier model railroad layouts. I’ll continue to say it... this is the Division 7 “Event of the Year”. Don’t miss it. Find more information in this issue of the *Oil Can* and the Division 7 Web Site.

See you at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on April 15th,

*Randy*

# SECOND SECTION

**Bob Shreve**  
Asst. Super

Well, we're a third of the way through the "busy" season here at Division 7. March saw the "Worlds Greatest Hobby Tour" train show at the convention center. The Division 7 swap meet was the following weekend at the Lakota West Freshman School. I'll have to admit, I bought more than I sold at the swap meet, but I think I got some good bargains. Of course, there's still no track in the basement to run trains on. What's worse than watching trains run in circles? Watching a locomotive go back and forth on a 3' piece of flex track. I understand the membership booth was very successful at both shows.

The April meeting will be at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Kenwood on April 15th. Allen McClelland will bring us up to date on how the V & O railroad lives on in new venues. Allen provided this description of his presentation: "The Virginian & Ohio Railroad is currently operating in conjunction with Gerry Albers' Virginian Railway Deepwater District. The NYC and V&O share trackage rights along the north side of the Kanawha River between Gauley and Dickinson WV which is now the V&O's K&M Subdivision. At the small town of Alloy, the V&O has its Coal Dock No. 2, a barge loading facility for coal, a mine that supplies coal to the loading dock, several industries to be switched, and an interchange yard with the VGN and C&O."

Following the meeting, Gerry's layout will be open along with Jim Stewart's layout.

April 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> are the dates for the MCR Regional Convention in Pittsburgh. I'm sure many Division 7 members will be making the trip to the realm of the Steelers.

The weekend following the Regional Convention (May 5<sup>th</sup>) will be the annual Division 7 bus trip. This year John and Merlyn have put together a trip to Marion, Ohio and several layouts along the way. Look for information elsewhere in the Oil Can or on the web site. The bus trip will be the only Division 7 activity in May.

In June, we will be in the eastern suburbs of Cincinnati at the Anderson Township Senior Center. Dave Keith will give a clinic on Time Table / Train Order Operations.

I'm working on a meeting location in the Fairfield area for July, but we might need to move the meeting date back one week. Stay tuned.

See you at the April meeting.

*Bob*

## Division 7 Library

**Jerry Michaels**

The following new DVD's have been added to the Division's Library and are available to Division 7 members at the monthly meetings.

Advanced Techniques for Realistic Scenery  
Building an O Gauge Layout  
Building Waterways on your model RR  
DPB Layouts, Tips, Prototypes copy 2  
Easy Casting Techniques  
Easy Scenery from Start to Finish  
Easy Weathering Techniques  
Great American Layouts  
Great Layout Adventures Vol. 2

Great Layout Adventures Vol. 6  
Great Model Railroads Vol. 49  
Masonry Wall Tech. for structures & Dioramas  
Painting Model Structures  
Realistic Scenery Vol. 2  
Roads & Highways for Model Railroads  
Running Trains with Paul Scoles  
Scenery and Airbrushing Made Easy  
Virginian & Ohio

## There was No Competition in March

### John's Honest Raffle

**John Shields**

The Raffle is back after taking a month off for the Flea Market. At the April meeting, we will be doing another non-scale raffle where we feature things like tools and books, and scenery supplies, and probably a couple of other left over items or escapees from the Company Store. (No Fooling!)

Since there is no Division 7 meeting in May either, but the budget shows raffle revenue is expected every month (How did I let Jim slip that in? Maybe Laddie will grant me a waiver? Nah!); I have an alternate plan. We do our engine raffle over the last couple of meetings each year. So why not do something like that in the first half as well?

We have a very special non-scale item in our "cupboard" of raffle prizes – a copy of the Linn Wescott book: "Model Railroading with John Allen". It's a large format hardcover book with lots of color pictures of the famous Gorre & Daphetid Railroad. Whether you grew up reading about this model railroad like I did, or first encountered it through the demonstration layout the Lebanon Sub folks built for the Fall Show; this is a great book to have.

Starting at the April meeting, and carrying over through the July meeting, I will do a special raffle of this book, based on the engine raffle format. Tickets will be \$1.00 each or 5 for \$4.00. Like the engine raffle you will not need to be present to win in July – but that means you have to put your name on the tickets (so use the return address label tip again).

*John*

### Lebanon Sub Meeting

**Bob Chapman**

The March Lebanon Sub Meeting featured a good group of models for show and tell. Also, a new drill and fixture for drilling a screw hole in the Athern plastic coupler pin for attaching the metal cover with a small screw. Cool! Matt and Debbie Snell came and showed how they organize their layout work a year in advance. Each project is listed along with items needed for completion. Sometimes these items are backordered and when they do arrive, they know just what they are for. Also, Matt carries the project notebook with him to train shows to guide his shopping. Anyone who has seen their layout or read Matt's many feature articles in the hobby press knows how effective this has been.

The April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting (always the third Thursday of the month) will feature more model work that attendees bring in and a special demonstration of making roadbed using extruded foam by Ron Gribler. Ron, a retired engineer, always comes up with new ways to make things that really save time, money and work. Why buy it if you can make it? No business. No raffle. No contest ribbons. Just fun! Coffee and cold drinks with a snack will be ready for you to enjoy when you arrive. Meetings start at 7:30 pm to last about an hour. Many of us head over to Frische's for pie following the meeting. Join us.

Meetings are waaaay up north in Lebanon, about three miles north of downtown on Broadway at Resurrection Lutheran Church. Easy to find. Fun to attend. Mark you calendar and come.

*Bob*

# "The Buckeye Express"

**Saturday, May 5, 2012**

## **Deluxe Motor Coach Tour of Historic Station and Tower in Marion, Ohio plus Five Premier Model Railroads in and around Columbus, Ohio**

*Departing 7:00 AM and Returning by 7:00 PM, from and to Mason, Ohio*

*Venue Restrictions Limit this Trip to the First 47 Registrants that Sign Up*

*Registration Deadline Sunday, April 22, 2012 – No Refunds after this Deadline*

### **Exclusive and Rare Tour Package**

#### **Exclusive Tours of Marion Tower and Station!**

Guided tour of restored tower, station and HO layout  
See heavy prototype action on 6 mainline tracks!

#### **Single Departing Location: Mason, Ohio**

Exact location disclosed later only to registrants  
Park at own risk - Provide car and license info below

#### **View Five Premier Model Railroad Layouts!**

Four nicely scenicked HO layouts and a huge O scale layout  
within the Buckeye Division 6, Mid-Central Region, NMRA

#### **Fantastic Inspirational Day for a Great Price!**

Deluxe motor coach transport, scenic roads, bottled waters  
Experienced guides, Panera Bread deluxe box lunch

**Dick Wagner** – huge recently enlarged 2 rail O-scale empire set in the steam-diesel transition era, featuring many New York Central trains and locomotives across lots of track, scenicked in old basement, incredible new mileage in new basement

**Gerri Doebelin** – rare visit to exquisite HO layout inspired by Colorado narrow gauge prototypes, featuring large number of beautiful wood craftsman structures (almost every Campbell Scale Models kit) with geared, rod and articulated steam locos

**Howard Smith, MMR** – very nice, nearly completely scenicked, HO representation of the 1953 Sandpatch Division of the Baltimore and Ohio, featuring meticulous construction, realistic operations, signals, dispatch console, helpers and staging

**Dick Briggs, MMR** – huge mostly scenicked HO version of PRR's Pittsburgh, Youngstown & Ashtabula Branch, set in the 1950's, featuring many scratch or kit-bashed structures including Ashtabula coal and ore docks, large steel mill, 6 ft lake boat

### **Fares and Registration**

#### **Basic Fare of \$65 per person includes:**

- **Deluxe Motor Coach** round trip transportation from Mason, Ohio to all included Columbus, Ohio area attractions
- **Transport and admission to Marion Tower and Station, 5 premier model railroads, deluxe box lunch, waters**
- **Rare guided tour up inside fully restored historic Marion Tower**, with cameras and photography permitted
- **Visits to 4 other premier model railroads in the Columbus area** - all never seen before on Division 7 bus tours

#### **Other Terms and Conditions:**

- Long pants and fully closed shoes required - umbrellas not permitted (bring caps, hooded jackets or ponchos instead)
- Registration exclusively limited to Cincinnati Division 7 members, spouses and children (at least 12 years of age)
- Do not delay in registering - due to venue restrictions this trip is limited to the first 47 registrants that sign up!
- Cincinnati Division 7 reserves the right to modify or cancel this event due to matters beyond our control

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parked Car Make & Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Lic. Plate: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ x \$65 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Pay by check or money order to: Cincinnati Division 7, NMRA**

**Mail to:**

Buckeye Express Registrar

17765 Horizon Way Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

**Further info:** Jean Jarman [jjarman1@comcast.net](mailto:jjarman1@comcast.net)

Tel: (812) 539-3232

Just a few of the things to see on the Buckeye Express Tour

Photos by John Burchnell



Scenes from the 2012 Spring Flea Market & Swap Meet



Only five and a half hours to go.



Are you sure the door's open?



Isn't there anything you can do to help us?



And you get the Oil Can too!



Yep, were the official greeters!



What, we sold out already?



## More from the Flea Market



If you come around with that camera one more time.....



We should have these shows more often.

## More of Ed Swain's layout



Photos by Bob Shreve



Last month we reported on Northwest Short Line's Radio Cab DCC system. Another radio system for controlling Model Railroads that has hit the market is Ring Engineering's Rail Pro. This one consists of a hand held touch screen controller containing the radio transmitter and is activated by touching the appropriate color icon thereby sending a radio signal to the locomotive. All the usual controls such as direction, speed, and sound are available and since all programming is done by radio, no programming track is required. In addition, by having everything controlled by radio it eliminates having to deal with CV's. For instance, changing the sound volume can be done from the hand held controller even while the locomotive is in motion.

Track power is DC and since command signals are sent by radio and not thru the track, all the functions including sound are not subject to interruptions caused by dirty track or intermittent wheel contact. Another advantage of the Rail Pro system is when consisting, two or more locomotives can be set up to communicate with the others by radio automatically adjusting the speed of the trailing locomotive(s) to that of the lead locomotive.

The Loco Module contains a radio receiver and plugs into the standard DCC plug in DCC ready locomotives but there appears to be no provision for hard wiring a non-DCC ready locomotive. Also, the only icons or sounds they show so far are for diesels and no mention is made of steam locos.

The DC Power Supply has 75 watts of out-put power which should be enough for up to 20 HO locomotives. The Power Supply can be controlled and monitored by the hand held transmitter and when properly programmed can even be set up to automatically reverse polarity if you have a track loop on your layout.

An accessory module is available that can control up to 4 turnouts with the hand held radio transmitter but no mention as to the maximum numbers of modules that can be hooked up.

With all the new wireless control systems coming out, how long will it be until we can run our trains with our Smart Phones? Or maybe we already can.

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**Stephan Mazza (1946-2012)**

We regret to report:

Steve Mazza, former Oil Can Editor and owner of Walt's Hobby Shop from 1972 until 1985, died Saturday March 24. He was 66.

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**Did you know?**

Division 7 membership stands at **322** as of April 1

## Odds and Ends...

I have attended three train shows over the past three weekends. The first show was the March 3<sup>rd</sup> swap meet at the Ross Board of Education offices, sponsored by the choral department. I am a huge supporter of school music and arts programs, so attendance was almost mandatory. It's been fun to watch this show grow over the past three years, several great dealers, club open houses, and choral performances. I made a point to visit the clubs housed on the third floor and was very impressed. I spent time with the Cincinnati-Northern Club, especially my old friend, George Roos. George is now the club's new president, so congratulations were in order [plus sympathy for the club]. George reminded me that we first met at U.C. Band Camp in 1962; oh my God, we have been friends for 50 years. Choral performances included the school's show choir doing one of the greatest tunes ever written, "On the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe. [Eat your heart out Appalachian modelers] Our next show was the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour at the convention center. Again, this was a great venue to promote the hobby. Division 7 had our booth fully manned both days, busy recruiting for the NMRA. [I even recruited one of my New Horizon Band buddies].

I felt the show was an excellent mix of layouts, manufacturers, and dealers. Division 3 was there promoting their 2013 regional convention. Horizon Hobbies, Walthers, and Bachmann were among the suppliers represented. I have used the term "Awe and Wonder" several times to describe great train displays and the WGH Show certainly fits that description. Last, but certainly not least came the world famous Division 7 Spring Swap meet at Lakota West freshman school. Diane and Don Rowland, along with Roy Hord, need to be congratulated for a super event. Friday night's set-up went very quickly and smoothly, thanks to several hard-working volunteers. We had hoped for less-than ideal weather for Saturday, but the weather could not have been nicer. Despite the beautiful day, we still had a large and enthusiastic crowd. The dealers, I talked to, said they had very successful shows. I know that Pat Homan and I were very busy with the test track. We got several very positive comments about the test track, and the two very charming gentlemen in charge of testing. As an aside, we noticed that the quality of locomotives tested were uniformly excellent, of course, a majority of the dealers were Division 7 modelers. I was especially impressed with the B&O models from Bob Bales. The added bonus for our swap meet was the chance to see many old [I mean experienced] friends. Bob Bales, Don Meyers, Ray Linesch, John Altshool, Keith Corman, Merlyn Jarman, and a host of others made the day go all-too-quickly. The high-point of the day was a large dose of the "Wit and Wisdom" of William Edwards, Esq.

## Raton Pass Update...

There was none this month.

## Next topic...

Remember the great clinics at Tim's Trains and Hobbies. I hope to see everyone at our April meeting and the MCR Convention in Pittsburgh.

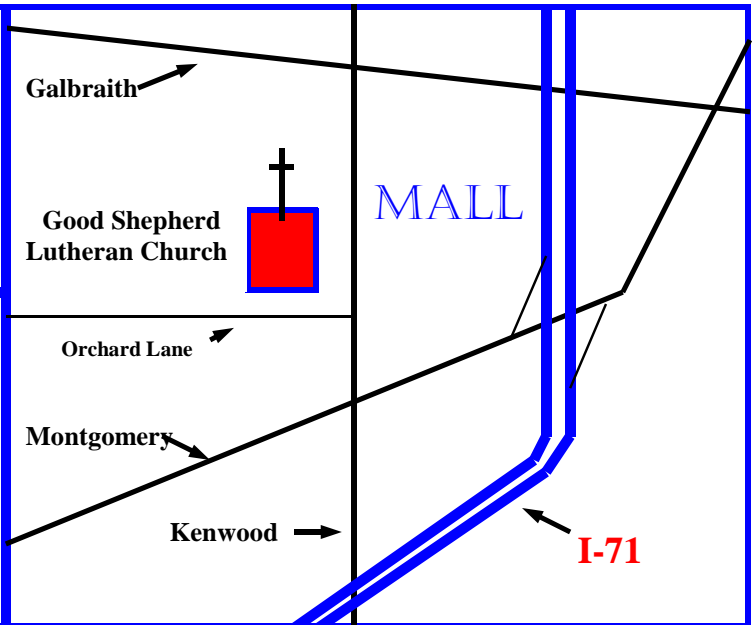
**Keep 'em rolling,**

*Bruce*

**Next Meeting**

**2 PM Sunday April 15**  
@

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



**Directions:** From I-71 North, take the Kenwood exit, turn left on Kenwood Rd. to **7701** on your left. (2 blocks north of Montgomery Rd.) From I-71 South, take the Montgomery exit, turn right on Montgomery Rd. At Kenwood Rd, turn right to **7701** on your left. From Galbraith Rd. turn south on Kenwood Rd. to **7701** on your right.

**Coming Down the Line**

Cincinnati Division 7, MCR, NMRA  
2012 Schedule

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Program/Speaker</u>	<u>Layout Visits</u>	<u>Contest Topic</u>
Apr 15	Kenwood Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Allen McClelland "The V&O Today"	Gerry Albers Jim Stewart	<u>Models:</u> On-line Dioramas <u>Photos:</u> Shots of Div. 7 Members Layouts
Apr 19	Lebanon Resurrection Lutheran Church	Lebanon Sub Meeting	None	Show and Tell
May 5	The Buckeye Express	None	5 Great	None
May 18	Lebanon Resurrection Lutheran Church	Lebanon Sub Meeting	None	Show and Tell

**Around the Region**

4/14/29	Bucyrus Model Train Show	Bucyrus, OH
4/26-29	MCR Regional Conv.	Pittsburgh, PA
4/28/12	Hoosier On30 Meet	Edinburgh, IN
5/5/12	Buckeye Express	Cincinnati, OH

**National**

5/4-5	National Z Ga. Conv	Denver, CO
6/27-7/1	National N Ga. Conv.	Medford, OR
7/18-21	National O Ga. Conv.	Parsippany, NY
7/29-8/4	National NMRA Conv.	Grand Rapids, MI
8/7-11	National S Ga. Conv.	Chattanooga, TN
9/12-14	National NG Conv.	Bellevue, WA

**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)