

THE

# Oil Can

October. 2012



Volume VI Issue 10





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## The Editor's Corner

Don Phillips

The 20th of this month marks the start of our 45th annual fall model train show. While it's almost impossible to prove, we should certainly qualify as one of the longest running model railroad shows in the US. While many of the current train shows around the country are larger, we are told by many vendors, we are one of the best. The reason for this is simple, it's the people who consistently step forward and volunteer that makes for great shows. In taking pictures on Friday set-up night one of the things I've noticed is most of those volunteers are getting grayer (and/or balder). The other thing is that it's mostly the same faces that show up year after year in the pictures. What we need is for some of you newer or younger members to join in and help out. First of all it's fun, secondly, There's no better way to get know your fellow members and even more importantly, they'll get to know you. There's really no hard work involved and it's a great way to develop some long lasting friendships with people who have the same interests as you.

At the October meeting there will be sign up sheets to volunteer for just about every position it takes to make it all work. The set up and take down sheets are for as long as you can stay. The various jobs during the show are for an hour or two and you can try several different things and still leave plenty of time to see the show and spend all the money you want.

Try it, you'll like it!

**Hoc modo ferrovia operare inferno est**

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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:

**Weyerhaeuser's #5 climbs the long grade to Summit while the afternoon ore train exits the canyon below headed for the smelter. The scene is from Georgia Dahlberg's scenic layout.**

The buzz all over the Internet is about a decision made at the NMRA National level. Effective immediately, all U.S. Region boundaries are now defined by state and/or county boundaries, rather than by zip codes. The thinking is that this will help keep boundaries stable as the U.S. Post Office continues to redefine its zip code areas. There is no need to be concerned, as our division boundaries remain unchanged. MCR Regional boundaries are likewise unaffected. Other regions are indeed affected as, believe it or not, some boundaries were defined by highways and rivers! Oh, well.

President Charlie Getz appointed outgoing president and Division 7 Life Member Mike Brestel to replace Larry DeYoung, who retired as publisher of NMRA Magazine. Charlie also announced that Mike has agreed to serve as “assistant to the president” for an undetermined time to ensure a smooth transition between administrations. Mike was also recognized with a plaque and with “Honorary Life Membership” at the convention banquet honoring his service to the NMRA. Way to go, Mike. Well deserved!

NMRA Chief Financial Officer Frank Koch reported that the attendance of the National Train Show in Grand Rapids was the fourth best ever, and that Saturday’s attendance exceeded Sacramento’s of the same day. In addition, there were three more booths sold at Grand Rapids than at Sacramento last year.

Looking ahead to next year’s convention in Atlanta (2013), the “Peachtree Express” team reports that it’s putting the finishing touches on a series of short videos featuring selected layouts that will be on tour during the convention. The videos will be posted to YouTube and will be able to be accessed from links on <http://www.nmra2013.org/> The Peachtree team is also proud to announce that there will be a number of Civil War-related tours – both rail-related and general interest – as well as a “Civil War track.”

And it’s not too soon to be thinking about the 2014 convention! The Cleveland Convention’s website is now up and running and taking registrations at [www.2014cleveland.org](http://www.2014cleveland.org). This convention is a joint effort by MCR Divisions 1, 4 and 5. All three divisions are in and around Cleveland. Being from Cleveland myself, I can tell you that there are very few more “railroad” towns in the USA. It’s not too soon to start saving your pennies to make the trip to the “Forest City”. OK... so maybe there’s not as much “forest” as in days gone by, BUT there is certainly no shortage of railroad track! One more plug for them... Art Bumpas, Division 4 Super asked me to mention that they are already lining up volunteers to help at their National. (I’d try to work Art for a spiffy T-shirt if I were you!)

Coming down the line... Dayton, Division 3 will be hosting the 2013 MCR Regional Convention. There is no 2014 Regional Convention with the National in Cleveland. Lexington, Division 10 will be hosting the MCR Regional in 2015. Be ready since we will likely get the nod in 2016!

Locally, the big event on the immediate horizon is the Cincinnati Model Train Show, October 20 & 21 at Lakota West. Show Chairman Rick Crumrine has assured me that all is ready and this year’s production will be another big winner! The spirit of “Volunteerism” has always been amazing among Division 7 members. But, there are still volunteer slots to fill for the show and YOU will have an opportunity to do just that at the October 14th meeting. Please don’t be shy... step right up and help us guarantee another great show.

Hopefully the last three months with yours truly winning exactly nothing, nada, nein, nichts, niente in the Honest Raffle has begun to dispel the rumors and disparaging comments that the raffle is anything but “honest”. I know that this fact is very hard for some (Bruce Knapp comes to mind) to swallow. Now I realize that some folks just naturally thrive on corruption and controversy, but one can take only so much besmirchment of one’s reputation. I am kidding, of course (except for the Bruce Knapp part.) ☺ Now, now... Bruce and I are great friends... but it’s time I got my shots in. After three years I am finally realizing that writing this column each month can actually be fun!

SO when I sat down this evening to write my column I could think of absolutely nothing to say. I still can’t! Seriously folks, if there is a topic you would like me to cover in future columns please let me know. I promise to always give it to you straight... kind of.

See you on October 14th at West Chester Library. And then again on October 20 & 21 at Lakota West!

*Randy*

October, 2012

# SECOND SECTION

Bob Shreve  
Asst. Super

Well, we're entering the home stretch for the 2012 meeting schedule. Where has the year gone?

In September we made our initial foray to the library in Erlanger, Kentucky. The room was nice, although there were some issues with the setting (or lack thereof) of the air conditioning. We'll fix that next time. This is the furthest south I can remember ever going for a meeting location. Of course, the size of Division 7 pales in comparison to Division 9 where our clinician, Bob Weinheimer hails from. Bob had spent the previous afternoon at a Division 9 meeting in Portsmouth, OH. Several other members had driven 4 hours from Bluefield WV for the meeting. Following the exciting business meeting, Bob Weinheimer gave a presentation on getting started in operations on your model railroad. After the meeting, Bob Adams and MMR Georgia Dahlberg had their layouts open for visits. Thanks to all involved in the afternoon's activities.

In October we will go to another library. The meeting will be at the West Chester library next to Lakota West High School. We'll have a Bring-n-Brag contest and a couple of mini-clinics by John Altshool and Ron Gribler. Following the meeting, we'll get to visit the layouts of Curt LaRue and Sam Parfitt.

The weekend after the meeting (Oct 20, 21) will be the Fall Show at Lakota West. Be sure to sign up for one of the many opportunities to help out at the show. Also, Frank Koch would like everyone to bring lots of money and clean out his inventory of White Elephant items. He needs to reclaim the bench workspace in his basement so he can continue building his layout.

The November meeting will be at Partners in Prime (formerly known as the Hamilton Senior Center) on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is one week earlier than the normal second Sunday meeting date to coordinate with the schedule of our guest clinician, Lou Sassi. Lou's photographic and modeling work has been featured many times in the pages of Model Railroader magazine. Lou will explain how he researched and constructed a module featuring a tannery located near the town where he grew up.

The last meeting of the year will be on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Westwood United Methodist Church. Randy and I will bring the food. You folks bring the pictures.

In 2013, I am looking to get back to more basic modeling clinics. I'm looking for people to give presentations on backdrops, scenery, rolling stock, weathering, etc. I would also like to add some more layouts to our post-meeting visitation list. Contact me if you have an idea for a clinic, or if you would be willing to have some visitors over to see your handiwork.

See you at the meeting.

*Bob*

## **Estate Sale of HO Trains & Accessories**

Some months ago we reported on an estate sale of Model Railroad equipment which was subsequently cancelled. We have now received another email advising the sale has been rescheduled for November 1-3 to coordinate with the Dayton train show at Hara arena. The sale is being held at 3148 Ridgeway Rd in Kettering, OH. It will be open from 9:30 to 4:00 on Thursday and Friday and 9:30 to 2:00 Saturday. The email mentions over a hundred Engines an 1000+ pieces of Rolling Stock in addition to scenery, structures, accessories and railroad books. All items will be tagged with the price.

For more information go to [www.worthwholesale.com](http://www.worthwholesale.com) and click on Nov. Train/Layout Sale.

# COMPETITION PAGE

## August Competition

(Held at September Meeting)

### Models

#### Thin Line Models

**Box Stock:** 1st Pl. Frank Hermanek—Centennial Mill  
**Kitbashed:** 1st Pl. Frank Hermanek—Godfrey Lighting.  
**Scratch Blt:** 1st Pl. Frank Hermanek—Valley Produce  
2nd Pl Rick Stern—Lemon Factory  
3rd Pl Ron Gribler—Fram Factory

### Photos

#### RR Stations and/or Freight Houses

**Model** 1st Pl. Jerry Baston Station on Jerry's Layout  
2nd Pl Randy Seiler Station on Gerry Alber's RR  
3rd Pl Randy Seiler Station on " " "  
**Proto:** 1st Pl Jerry Baston St. Bernard Freight Station  
2nd Pl Jerry Baston CUT  
3rd Pl Georgia Dahlberg Death Valley Freight

## September Competition

### Models

#### Non-rail Vehicles

**Box Stock:** 1st Pl. Perry

### Junior Division

**Box Stock:** 1st Pl. Anthony Zillich—NS Tractor Cab

### Photos

#### B&W Locomotives

**Model** 1st Pl Randy Seiler - Virginian Diesel  
2nd Pl (tie) Randy Seiler - NS Diesel #3203  
3rd Pl (tie) Randy Seiler - Virginian Steam

### Junior Division

**Print** 1st Pl Anthony Zillich - C&O #2744  
2nd Pl Anthony Zillich - B&O #6573

## 2012 Standings thru September

### Editors Note:

The Competition Chairman has re-totaled the point standings and advises  
That the following are the corrected point standings thru September.

### Models

F. Hermanek - - 09  
J. Bonnett - - - 08  
R. Gribler - - - 08  
P. Simpson - - - 08  
G. Dahlberg - - 07  
S. Parfitt - - - 07  
R. Stern - - - 07  
J. Corbett - - - 03  
R. Kerka - - - 03  
J. MacKnight - 03  
J. Ossman - - - 03  
J. Rollwage - - 03  
J. Listermann - 02  
T. Brueggemann 01  
R. Chapman - - 01  
R. Taylor - - - 01

### Photos

J. Baston - - - 31  
R. Seiler - - - 10  
R. Adams - - - 09  
J. Listermann - 07  
G. Dahlberg - 05  
R. Hord - - - 05  
J. MacKnight - 04  
J. Corbett - - 03  
P. Simpson - - 01

### Junior Division

#### Models

A. Zillich - 08

#### Photos

A. Zillich - 05

### October Categories

#### Models: Bring-n-Brag Structures

(The Competition Chairman advises that any "campaigning" the voting will result in disqualification.)

#### Photos: Trains on Trestles or Bridges

(Must show power unit and at least three cars)

*Jack Laubisch* Competition Chairman

# Forced Perspective

By Georgia W. Dahlberg, P.E., MMR 472

After a recent open house at my layout I was asked to write an article on forced perspective. That title sounds somewhat harsh so perhaps it should be Gently Modified Perspective. My general method is to start at the painted or glued backdrop and work forward. I put the smallest things close or next to the backdrop working forward with larger and larger items to stretch the apparent backdrop away from the viewer. It really doesn't matter what scale you're working in. If you're an O gauge, you can use HO and N gauge items for your forced perspective. With the larger gauges you have far more choice and hopefully distance to achieve this modified perspective. I use ½ to ¾ inch foam applied vertically, carved, sanded, and colored to look like distant hills or even mountains. Small clumps of greenery can be glued at the bench, small wire stemmed trees glued perpendicularly on the bench and bent vertical when dry. I also use round toothpicks for tree trunks, glued flat against the shallow hills, topped with lichen or puffballs.

Let's talk about trees for a moment. I use several brands of the smaller N gauge wire foliage branches from Bachman, MRC or JTT scenery products. I use trees of either medium green or fall foliage colors and separate them to sort out the smallest of the trees to use at the rear against my backdrop. Another kind of tree I use for a representation of pine trees is bumpy chenille, which can be bought at Michael's or other general hobby shops. Sold cheaply in packages of 1-foot strips, I try to get muted green or brown colors. They are prepared by snipping the bumps in two and trimming them so that about an eighth of an inch of wire is available at the bottom and trimmed to give a more realistic shape to the tree. I also spray them with diluted white Elmer's brand glue and put them in a bag with loose grass and shake the heck out of it and dump them onto a newspaper to dry. They can easily be sprayed to vary the color and inserted along with the wire foliage trees into most scenery materials once properly prepared. The puffball trees we sometimes make can also be used if they are made very small.

I have a lot of desert scenery on my layout and this requires small vegetation small bushes to look realistic. I found that sprinkling a light coating of fine grass high on the hills and a little courser grass and even small balls of lichen or grass clumps as you approach the layout front works well. I still haven't found a way to glue the fines down so I leave it as is. By the same token, I do the same with ground cover. Fine ground material away from the viewer and coarser material and larger rocks towards the front. Being desert, I am very sparing with vehicles, animals and people.

Now let's talk about vehicles and people. I use a lot of 1/285 or 1/300 armored accessory vehicles and people, which can still be found on eBay. There are older World War trucks, jeeps and construction equipment and even houses and structures that are adequate for our model railroad purposes. One can also use houses from old Monopoly games, paint and detail the hotels to represent nearer houses. I also use N gauge and even 1/144 imported cars, trucks, people, animals, equipment and houses if they are closer to my modeling period. I try to keep HO scale near the tracks and foreground but I have been known to use OO gauge (about 7% larger and much more detailed faces and clothing) period people, animals and equipment at the layout front. This actually improves the look of the layout. It's hard enough to paint moustaches and suspenders on HO scale people but much easier in OO gauge. At my open house, no one commented on the differing scaled people on my layout so it must be working. Some ask if there is a mathematical way to do all this. I have to say if it looks right. leave it be. If not. experiment 'till it does look right.

*Georgia*

*Editor's note: See picture #6 on page 10*



## White Elephants at the 2012 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, telephone and/or e-mail address. List 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 with your ID code 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 show before it starts. I'll log them in, sell them, and 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 Sunday night right after the show closes or at a later division meeting. You will find the inventory form on the following page of this Oil Can. For the code on each item use your initials as shown and the price.

**Example: FJK-12  
\$10.00**

Items 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 show, 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 show, let frank know. We reserve the right to refuse any material that we deem unsuitable.

If you have any questions or need an additional form, send me an e-mail at [fjkoch@hotmail.com](mailto:fjkoch@hotmail.com) with "white elephant" as the subject.

*Frank*

## October Car Projects Report

Jim MacKnight

Our 2012 Division 7 Car Project, Allegheny Midland 41'6" steel gondolas, by Accurail, are offered in three numbers, priced at \$18 for singles, and \$51 for a three-car set, plus Ohio state sales tax. We have sold 91 cars during the first 3 1/2 months. An announcement for this car was in the October issue of Model Railroader. We have 301 car kits available, and will have a table at our Fall Train show on the 21st.

Our 2012 car project, Virginian & Ohio 50' plug door boxcars, in V&O blue, with "The Ridge Runner" slogan in white lettering, are offered in four numbers, priced at \$17 for singles and \$64 for a four-car set, plus Ohio sales tax. We have sold 386 V&O boxcars during the first 13 months, mostly through mail order sales. We are in the black for this car project and have 94 cars available.

We have sold 580 Allegheny Midland 70 ton hopper car kits, and are including an advertisement with each AM gondola mail order sale. We sold 7 car kits in September, and only have 7 kits remaining. This was our 2008 car project.

*Jim*

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

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

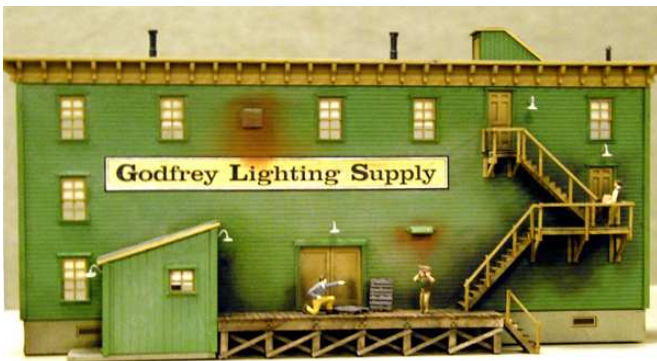
Initials	Last 4 digits of phone number	Item #	Description	Price \$
		<b>1</b>		
		<b>2</b>		
		<b>3</b>		
		<b>4</b>		
		<b>5</b>		
		<b>6</b>		
		<b>7</b>		
		<b>8</b>		
		<b>9</b>		
		<b>10</b>		
		<b>11</b>		
		<b>12</b>		



September Meeting



**Ron Gribler**  
**Our newest MMR**



**1st Pl. Kitbashed - Frank Hermanek (August)**



**1st Pl. Scratch Built - Frank Hermanek (August)**



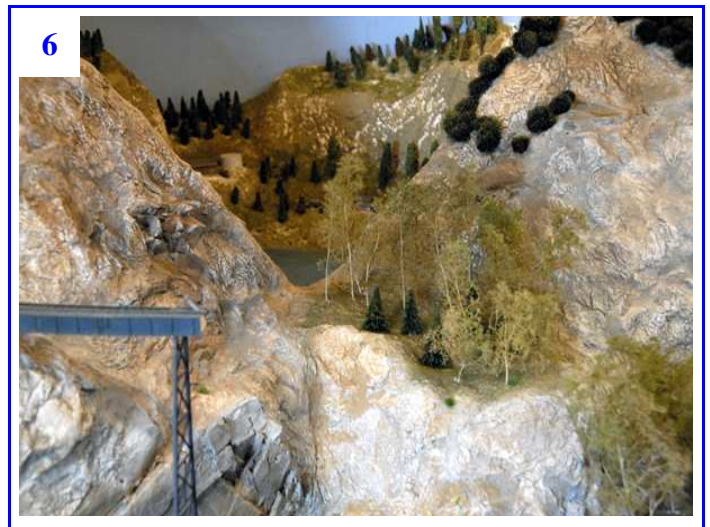
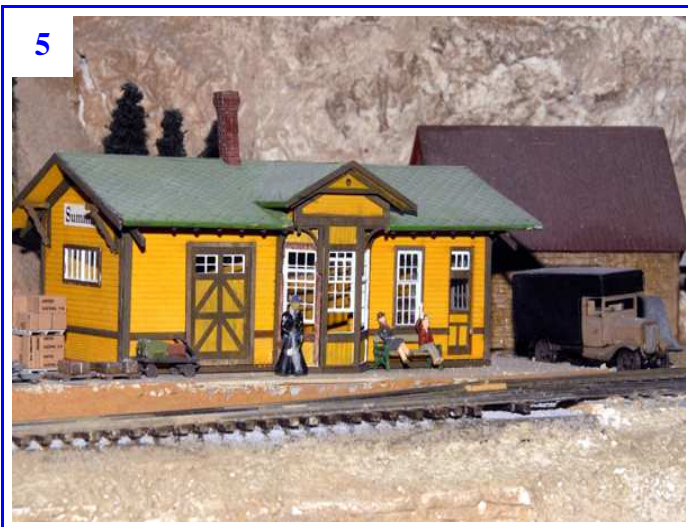
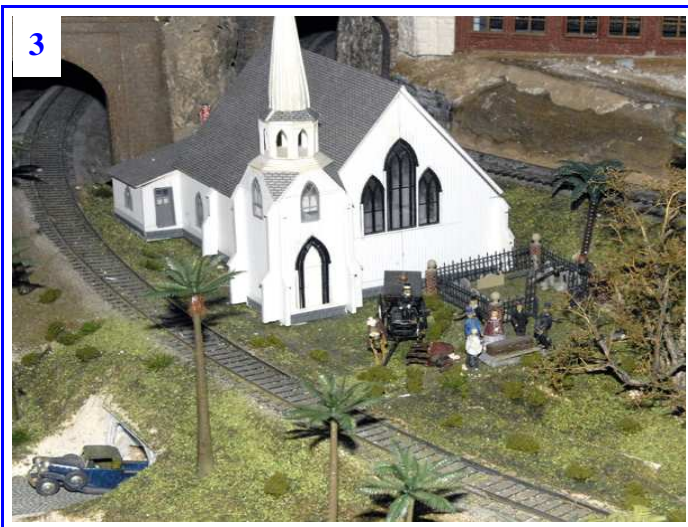
**1st Pl. Box Stock - Perry Simpson (September)**



**1st Pl. Box Stock (Junior Div) Anthony Zillich (September)**



## Georgia Dahlberg's Layout



## What to write about?

Well it has happened again, the curse of writer's block. With all the great things happening in the hobby and in our division, I am sitting here looking at a blank screen. My always faithful creative "celestial vibrations" from my college days have deserted me. I feel some pressure as several division members say that my column is one of the first things they read. In fact my friend Bill Whittle and his lovely wife Linda always comment on my column. I suspect that this will not be my Pulitzer Prize month.

There is very little progress to report on the Raton Pass and I haven't completed any major re-power projects. Part of the reason is the beginning of our New Horizon Band for this season, plus I have added marching band contest judging [timing and penalty] to my list of activities. I missed last month's meeting as our New Horizon Dixieland Band played at Lunken Airport for their annual show and this month the New Horizon Concert band is playing at Cedar Village. That did remind me of something I have mentioned before, the amount of musicians who are also model railroaders. We have several Division 7 members who are serious instrumental and vocal performers. Instrumentalists include Paul Gahn, and the vocal department is represented by Bill Whittle and John Altshool. These gentlemen are very serious about both their music and the hobby. Such musical giants like Frank Sinatra, and orchestra leader David Rose, are among the most famous model railroaders, while musicians like Disney artist Ward Kimble [trombonist and leader of the Firehouse Five] and David Holsinger, the band director at Lee University are part of this list. Which also reminds me of the many famous composers that loved trains and wrote music about the lore of the railway. The list includes Antonin Dvorak and many others. I wonder how many famous people from the arts, politics, business, and medicine have found escape from their frustrations and the pressures of their vocations in the wonderful world of model railroads [or as our English cousins say, "Railways"]

We can thank children's renewed interest in trains to an Anglican Priest, Rev Awdrey, who wrote the Thomas, the Tank Engine series. I am like a lot of folks, I love my chosen career, but I find a delightful escape to the southwest and the Santa Fe in my basement.

## Bill Whittle

I have known Bill and Linda since I returned to St James Episcopal Church in 1992. Bill is a member of our Division and founded a social group for model railroaders at our church, the St James Belles and Whistles. One of our activities is to set up a Holiday Train Display in the parish hall. Over the past three years we have been ably assisted by Bill's grandson, Dylan. For several years, Bill was the coordinator for Division 7's Trains of Cincinnati display, plus his layout was open for our NMRA National convention in 2005. I hope to see Bill at some of our meetings. I hope to see everyone at the show.

Keep 'Em Rolling,

*Bruce A. Knapp*

*Did you know? Division 7 Membership stands at 319*

**Next Meeting**

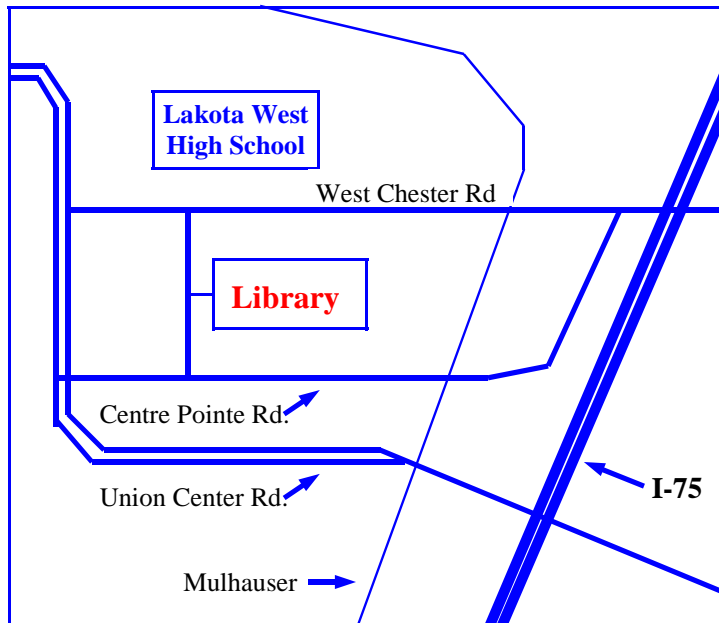
**2 PM Sunday**

**West Chester Library  
9363 Centre Pointe Drive**

(across from Lakota West High School)

Directions:

From I-75, take the Union Center Exit and go west to Mulhauser. Turn Right (north) on Mulhauser to either Center Point Rd. or West Chester Rd. Turn left (west) to the library which is across from Lebanon West High School. (where we hold the fall train show.)



**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>
Oct 14	North West Chester Library	Bring & Brag	Curt LaRue Sam Parfitt	<u>Models:</u> Bring & Brag Structures <u>Photos:</u> Trains on Trestles or Bridges
Oct 18	Resurrection Lutheran Church	Lebanon Sub Meeting	None	Show & Tell
Oct 20/21	Lakota West High School	Cincinnati Model Train Show	None	None
Nov. 4	Partners in Prime Hamilton Senior Center	Lou Sassi	TBA	<u>Models:</u> Tank Cars <u>Photos:</u> Cabooses of any kind

**Around the Region**

**2012**

10/20-21 Cincinnati Model Train Show W. Chester, OH  
11/3-4 Dayton Train Show Hara Arena Dayton, OH

**2013**

5/15-18 Mid-Central Region Conv. Miamisburg, OH

**National**

**2012**

10/11-13 Fine Scale Model RR Expo Lancaster, PA

**2013**

7/14-20 NMRA National Conv. Atlanta, GA

**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  
MCR Web Site www.midcentral-region-nmra.org