



January 2026

THE Oil Can



Volume XXV Issue 1



Division 7 Officers

Superintendent: 1506 Burney Lane 440 823-7374	Chuck Endreola Cincinnati, OH 45230 superintendent@cincy-div7.org
Asst. Super: 5720 Tonya Marie Ct. 513 375-6303	Tony Valerius Morrow, OH 45152 asstsuperintendent@cincy-div7.org
Secretary: 11825 Enyart Rd. 513 307-3761	Chris Shackleton Loveland, OH 45140 secretary@cincy-div7.org
Treasurer: 4769 Silverwood Dr. 513-324-3781	Frank Koch Batavia, Oh 45103 treasurer@cincy-div7.org

Trustees

Bob Adams	(South)	859 384-0369
Merlyn Jarman	(West)	812 539-3232
John Burchnall	(North)	513 205-6045
Rick Crumrine		513 231-5328
Roy Hord		513 777-5337
Sam Swanson, MMR®		nwindes1980@gmail.com
Randy Kerka		513 378-8108
John Shields	(East)	513 561-8691
Bob Shreve		513 473-4594
Pam Moleski		facebook@cincy-div7.org
Dave Puthoff		513 742-3227

Committee Chairs

Achieve. Prog.	Frank Koch	513-324-3781
Car Projects	Paul Maciulewicz	513 779-1686
Comm. Service	Larry Bonhaus	513 236-3447
Company Store	Paul Musselman	859 384-2472
Contests	Roy Allan	513-831-3943
Division 7 Booth	John Shields	513 561-8691
Excursions	John Burchnall	513 205-6045
	Merlyn Jarman	812 539-3232
Fall Show	Rick Crumrine	513 503-0528
Flea Market	Gary Ossenschmidt	513 682-6185
Layout Ops.	Rick Stern	513 729-1054
Membership	John Shields	513 561-8691
Modelers Aid	Bruce Knapp	513 941-2713
	Sam Parfitt	513 378-9133
Model Railroadng Roundtable	Sam Swanson	nwindes1980@gmail.com
Monthly Raffle	Russ Poynter	513 563-9370
Oil Can Editor	Dave Puthoff	513 742-3227
Publicity	Randy Kerka	513 378-8108
Social Media	Pam Moleski	facebook@cincy-div7.org
Video Library	David Wynne	513 708-4990
YouTube	David Lamb	513 709-3306
Web Master	John Burchnall	513 205-6045

Mid Central Region Officers

Pres.	Jerry Doyle president@midcentral-region-nmra.org
V.Pres.	Frank Troccia vp@midcentral-region-nmra.org
Secr.	Bruce DeMaeyer secretary@midcentral-region-nmra.org
Treas.	Barbara Soward treasurer@midcentral-region-nmra.org

The Editors Corner:

Dave Puthoff

As noted elsewhere, since weather conditions forced cancellation of our December Member's Meeting, we will have our annual Food Fest at our next Member's Meeting in January at Dunham Recreation Center!

In this issue, there's a topic in the Discussion Group/Forum that should be of interest to the safety of all Modelers! (Page 12).

Chris Shackleton's election as Assistant Superintendent resulted in a vacancy of the position of Division 7 Secretary. Consider volunteering for this important appointed position. Details are on Page 5.

Dave

Contents:

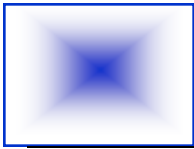
3 - Headlights	15 - Div. 7 November Contest Results
4 - 2nd Section	16 - Div. 7 Committee Reports
5 - Div. 7 2025 Officer Election Results	17 - Div. 7 Announcements
6 - Div. 7 B.O.D. Dec. Meeting Minutes	20 - Div. 7 Classified Ads
7 - Div. 7 Dec. 14 Member Meeting Minutes	21 - Div. 1 MCR Spring Railroad Modeler's Meet
8 - Div. 7 Continuity Plan	22 - Div. 7 Spring Flea Market & Trade Show
9 - NMRA Membership Renewal Service	23 - 2027 MCR Convention
10 - Div. 7 Video Library	25 - Div. 7 - Program Schedule
11 - Div. 7 Groups.io Discussion Group	26 - Down The Line
13 - Div. 7 Model Railroadng Roundtable	
14 - Div. 7 Contest Themes	

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 Railroadng and related topics. Deadline for submissions is generally the fifteenth of the month preceding the next meeting.

Cover: The "Duke Energy" O-Scale Layout at Holiday Junction, at the Cincinnati Museum Center

Photo by Dave Puthoff



As one ages, the years seem to slip by with greater and greater speed. In some ways it feels like I assumed the office of Superintendent just last week. When elected, I was apprehensive of the new role. Easing anxieties were several past Supers who were always there for me with information and sage advice. There were laborious times but rewards as well. Over the past four years, eight years including my time as Assistant Superintendent, I have been fortunate to experience the greatest benefit offered by an NMRA division, the comradery. I have found this organization is comprised of ladies and gentlemen who share not only a love of model railroading but regard for each other. While working in close association with so many of the members, friendships have deepened and new ones established. I've come to have deep respect for those who have served before me and continue in their commitment to our division.

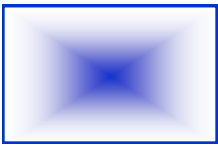
I would like to thank Superintendent Elect, Tony Valerius, for his unflagging support and commitment. Tony has been a credit to Division 7 and will continue as such. I am confident that he and our new Assistant Superintendent, Chris Shackleton, will lead Division 7 to new heights.

I encourage and urge all members to volunteer some time and their valuable talents to nurture the future of the NMRA and Division 7. In addition to our "everyday operation" we are presenting a full-featured Regional Convention to the model railroading world community in 2027. Every member is an integral part of this organization and your participation will be of benefit to the division and to yourself.

I will not, as MacArthur said, "...just fade away". I hope to stay active in Division 7 by aiding the new leadership with participation in the convention team and new member orientation.

It has been a fun and rewarding journey and an honor to serve and represent this brotherhood. Thank you for your support.

"Don't wait for people to be friendly, show them how" — Henry James



SECOND SECTION

Tony Valerius
Asst. Super

Our December meeting had to be changed to a Zoom only meeting due to the winter storm that dumped 4-6 inches of snow on everyone along with dangerous wind chills around zero degrees. Everyone should have received an email blast from Bob Shreve notifying them of this change. If you are ever unsure of the status of any meeting, please know that there are several ways that you can find out. First, the previously mentioned email should come to you as long as we have your correct email address. Second, we will always post those changes on our website and social media pages. Third, you can contact me or another officer by the phone number or email address listed in the Oil Can. We will always try to make those notifications with as much time and consideration of all the factors as possible.

Because of the cancellation of the in-person December meeting, we will have the Snackfest food at the January meeting. We will also have both the December and January contests at that meeting. Please be sure to join us there for all of our usual activities plus these added features. Unfortunately, our December layouts were missed and will have to be rescheduled for some other time in the future. Thanks to all who helped with the decision process and getting the word out to all of our members. Also a special "Thank You!" to John Burchnall for hosting the last minute Zoom only meeting.

Coming Up:

Sunday January 11th – Our meeting will be held at the Dunham Recreation Center where we will have a presentation on the "Cincinnati Southern Railroad" by Cincinnati Museum Center speaker, Dave Traut. Our catered Snackfest food will be there for all to enjoy. There will be two Model and Photo contests due to the cancellation of the in-person December meeting. The topics will be "Any Passenger Train Car" and "Box, Stock, or Refrigerator Car". The after-meeting layouts will be to the homes of Jerry Strangarity and Keith Corman.

Sunday February 1st - (Note a week earlier than normal due to the Super Bowl) Our meeting will be held at the Cincinnati North Holiday Inn (across from Ikea) where we will have a clinic by visiting guest Bob Frankrone on "Creating Operations on the Louisville Southern Lines". The Model and Photo contest will be "Caboose or any EOT device freight car." The after-meeting layouts will be to the homes of Patrick Stanley and Chris Shackleton (our first visit).

Saturday March 7th - We will have the Annual Spring Flea Market at the Lakota West Freshman School from 10 am to 3 pm. Setup, as usual, will be on Friday March 6th.

Mark your 2026 calendars – June 14th - Annual Division 7 Family Picnic/Social from 1-5 pm at Fernbank Park.

I hope that everyone has a very enjoyable and safe Holiday Season!

Happy Modeling!

Tony

Cincinnati Division 7, MCR, NMRA

2025 Officer Election Results

Per our regulations, elections for our Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent occur in the second half of each odd-numbered year, with terms of service starting with the January meeting of even-number years. Our Treasurer and Secretary are not similarly elected, as those positions are appointed by our Board of Directors (BOD).

Our election procedures require our BOD to determine the voting method. During the break at the October 5 membership meeting, the BOD met and decided, since the final slate was unopposed, we would conduct the election via show-of-hands at our November 9 membership meeting. About 65 members attending our November 9 meeting then overwhelmingly elected both candidates, with no objections. As required, those election results were also reviewed with the BOD on December 10.

Hence, in accordance with the Division 7 Regulations governing the conduct of elections, our duly elected officers in Division 7 for the 2026-2027 term are:

Superintendent: Tony Valerius

Assistant Superintendent: Chris Shackleton

These newly elected officers will assume initial 2-year terms for each of their respective offices at the end of our January 11, 2026 membership meeting.

This concludes the work of our 2025 elections,

Bob Shreve

2025 Division 7 Elections Teller

Div. 7 Secretary Position Is Open

With the elections now complete, Chris Shackleton will be vacating his spot as the Division 7 Secretary at the conclusion of the January meeting to become our new Assistant Superintendent. This means that the Board of Directors is seeking a replacement for this very important office. If you would like to lend your talents to fill that position in service to the Division, please contact Tony Valerius at tony.valerius@gmail.com by January 4, 2026.

B.O.D. Meeting
On-line Zoom Meeting
December 10th 2025, 7pm

Roll Call: BOD Members-Bob Adams, John Burchnall, Rick Crumrine, Chuck Endreola, Merlyn Jarman, Randy Kerka, Frank Koch, Pam Moleski, Dave Puthoff, Chris Shackleton, John Shields, Bob Shreve

Roll Call: Chairs & Guests- Roy Allan, Paul Maciulewicz, Paul Musselman, Gary Ossenschmidt, Sam Parfitt, Russ Poynter, David Wynne

Sick Call: None

Officer Reports:

Superintendent [Endreola]: MCR BOD Report, Discussion of new artwork and usage. Thank you to BOD.

Asst Superintendent [Shackleton for Valerius]: Cincinnati Public Library Opportunity, 2026 meeting schedule

Treasurer [Koch]: 2025 YTD report, great shape, surplus

Secretary [Shackleton]: check Oil Can for notes

Committee Reports:

Membership [Shields]: 224, up from 220 in 2024 and 213 in 2023

Fall Show [Crumrine, Jarman]: Show attendance trending upwards, looking into using more school space for more vendors and layouts. Great information on postcards and their huge impact on the show.

Teller [Shreve]

Model RR Roundtable [Endreola for Swanson]: Authored article on roundtables, working on scheduling

Car Project [Maciulewicz]: Canvassing ideas for next car

Convention [Burchnall]: Working on publicity and electronic registration in time for Dayton Convention

New Business:

NMRA-Div 7 Video [Endreola]: NMRA will film some members, likely in January

Secretary Vacancy [Endreola]: Will be decided next BOD meeting

2026 Budget [Koch]: Budget passed

Next BOD Meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 @ 7pm

Division 7 MCR, NMRA
Zoom Meeting
December 14th, 2025
Meeting Minutes:

Welcome: Start time 2:00PM.

Guest: Eric Zimmerman, Division 3 Superintendent

New Member: John Isch

Officer Reports:

Superintendent [Endreola]:

- Snackfest and contest will be at the January meeting
- From BOD meeting, under-budget for 2025, 2026 budget was approved. Fall show was successful.
- Look for article in NMRA magazine for an article about our Model railroad roundtable Program, led and written by Sam Swanson

Asst. Superintendent [Valerius]:

- Next meeting will be at the Dunham Recreation center. Clinic will be presented by Dave Traut on the Cincinnati Southern Railroad. 2 Contests will be Any Passenger Car and Box, Stock, or Refrigerator Car.
- 2026 event schedule is updated and is on the website

Secretary [Shackleton]:

- Check Oil Can for meeting notes.

Treasurer [Endreola for Koch]:

- We're in good shape.

Committee Reports:

Membership [Shields]:

- 224 members, up from 220 1 year ago and 213 2 years ago.

2027 Convention [Burchnall]:

- Convention from June 3rd-6th, 2027. Check the convention page on the website for more information.

New Business:

New Logo [Endreola]:

- Present new NMRA logo, new division logo in work.

Secretary Position [Valerius]:

- Secretary position will be open after January meeting, see Tony if interested.

Announcements:

Holiday Junction [Shields for Moleski]:

- Holiday Junction open at Union Terminal through Monday, January 5th.

2026 Regional Convention [Guest, Eric Zimmerman]:

- Presentation and information on 2026 Whistle Stop, Dayton Convention

Clinic: 2025 Electronic Slides Potluck

Respectfully compiled and submitted by **Chris Shackleton, Secretary Division 7, MCR, NMRA**

LEADERSHIP CONTINUITY PLAN STATUS

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>Present Holder</u>	<u>Back Up(s)</u>
Treasurer	Frank Koch	John Shields
Bank Access	Frank Koch	Roy Hord
Achievement Program	Frank Koch	Roy Allan
Secretary	Chris Shackleton	Tony Valerius
Membership	John Shields	Mike Tener
Oil Can Editor	Dave Puthoff	David Wynne
Webmaster	John Burchnall	David Lamb
Regulations Editor	Frank Koch	John Burchnall
Raffle	Russ Poynter	Chuck Endreola
Publicity	Merlyn Jarman	Randy Kerka
Email Notices	Bob Shreve	open
Social Media Chair	Pam Moleski	Nancy Windes
Registrar	Roy Hord	Steve Brown
Fall Show Chair	Rick Crumrine	Gary Ossenschmidt
Spring Flea Market	Gary Ossenschmidt	Rick Crumrine
Table Sales/Floor Plan	Roy Hord	Steve Brown
Street Signs Distributor	John Burchnall	open
Contest Chair	Roy Allan	John Listermann
Car Projects	Paul Maciulewicz	open
Community Service	Larry Bonhaus	open
Company Store	Paul Musselman	open
Video Library	David Wynne	open
Modelers Aid	Bruce Knapp/Sam Parfitt	open
A/V Meeting Operators	- several -	open

If you are interested in volunteering to back-up any of these open positions, please contact Chuck Endreola or the "Present Holder" for a description of duties.

Both New, and Veteran members are encouraged to become active in Division operations. Participation is rewarding!

NMRA Membership Renewal Service

Division 7 offers a convenient way to renew your NMRA membership. As your renewal time approaches, you will receive multiple reminders that the time is approaching. You will first receive an electronic notice about 60 days before your expiration date, then a paper mailed copy about 30 days before, another electronic notice when your expiration date comes, and then a mailed reminder about 30 days after your expiration date if you have not taken action by that date. Be sure to check your spam folder for notices from NMRA and/or check your membership card to know when your membership expires.

If you want Division 7 to submit your renewal, simply bring the renewal form and payment (cash, check, or credit card) to Frank Koch at any meeting. He will then submit it on the following day directly to HQ and renew your membership for you.

This also works if you have a Rail Pass membership that is about to expire and you want to renew. Just follow the same process as described above. The added bonus is that if you convert your Rail Pass to a full membership, Division 7 will rebate your Rail Pass fee directly to you.

Frank Koch

Division 7 - Announcements

Division 7 Video Library

For those of you interested in railroad history, I've just reviewed a set of videos that I found quite interesting. We have 3 copies of *The History of American Railroads*, a 2-volume set from Columbia River containing "The Years of Steam" and "The Era of Diesel." Both Videos have over 4 hours of footage, the former mostly in black & white and the later mostly in color.

For modeling, we have a series of individual "How-To" videos from Paul Scoles entitled *Advanced Techniques for Realistic Scenery*, *Realistic Scenery Vol 2* and *Running Trains: Anatomy of an Operating Session*.

These videos along with many others will be available for check out at upcoming meetings. Simply select a DVD from the racks located at the *Video Library* table, write down your name and the Inventory # from the DVD cover on the check-out sheet and enjoy a clinic, layout visit or a piece of history. When you're done, simply bring it back at a future meeting and drop it in the return basket.

Check out our entire inventory at our website under 'Modeler Tips & Service.' If you see something you want, email me at drwynne01@aol.com and I'll put a *Hold* on it and bring it to the next meeting.

David Wynne

Another good reason you should join Division 7's On-Line Discussion Group — Ed.

**What are you missing out on?
What are you waiting for?**

Join the Cincinnati Division 7 Groups.io discussion group/forum!

Here's some of the recent discussion topics that have been posted there:

- Public Safety Announcement: Fire Safety and our Layouts!
- Christmas Modular Train Display at Liberty Center (Mall)!
- Sanded Grout - has anyone used it?
- Layout benchwork (This one was an ad for FREE L-Girders)

For you to join, simply search on "groups io cincinnati nmra" and you will be taken to the front door. From there simply request membership and I will get notified. I will approve any Cincinnati Division 7 NMRA Member in good standing.

NOTE: All posts must be free of disrespectful, derogatory, and/or inflammatory language and/or false statements. Behavior here will be civil with constructive criticism being the standard.

Cincinnati Division 7 NMRA Groups.io Moderator
Paul Maciulewicz

Ed. Note: Bob Shreve forwarded the following item of interest (note the link at the bottom):

Paul Maciulewicz posted the following safety message, via groups.io

Subject: [cincinnati7-nmra-mcr] Public Safety Announcement: Fire Safety and our Layouts!

Came across an interesting post on the Model Railroad Hobbyist (MRH) website regarding a fire that Ken Patterson (of "What's Neat This Week" fame) recently experienced on his model RR. He uses foam insulation boards in his construction and apparently that caught on fire somehow and spread rather quickly.

Other people chimed in with their own personal experiences with fire on their layouts. One individual said he was using his static grass applicator immediately adjacent to a freshly ballasted area where he used Isopropyl alcohol as a wetting agent. Apparently it was pretty well soaked with IPA and the static grass applicator caused the IPA to ignite which rapidly spread to the foam.

Lots of good discussion there about having fire extinguishers immediately available in your train room as well as smoke detectors.

At any rate, I thought this was a good thing to share as a PSA within Division 7 so that each of us can re-assess and determine what we may need to prevent same from happening to any of us.

As was said on the old "Hill Street Blues" TV show, "Stay safe out there!"

Here's the link to the MRH discussion:

<https://forum.mrhmag.com/post/please-someone-check-on-ken-patterson-13761004?trail=25>

Paul Maciulewicz

Cincinnati Division 7's Model Railroading Roundtable for 2026



We've completed two full years of Division 7's Model Railroading Roundtable (MRR) program. Each of the 13 roundtables has allowed a small group of like-interested folks to gather in a local home or meeting place and learn a new skill related directly to our model railroading hobby.

Division folks have agreed to offer another slate of roundtables this year, mostly coupled to our monthly meeting clinic program. We'll offer roundtables roughly quarterly, with the following hosts and presenters scheduled.

2026 Timeframe	Host	Topic
First Quarter	Bob Lawson, Rick Kramer	Converting a Layout to Dead Rail (Power on Board)
April	Chris Shackleton	Painting Techniques
Third Quarter	Sam Swanson	Making Details from XPS Foam
Fourth Quarter	Ray Persing	Simple Kit Structure Construction and Finishing

Detailed descriptions for each of the MRRs will be published as their dates approach. And if you'd like to host a roundtable, please send me (nwindes1980@gmail.com) an email with your topic and preferred timeframe, and we'll schedule you accordingly.

Sam Swanson

Division 7 MRR Program Coordinator



**CINCINNATI DIVISION 7
MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA
2026 CONTEST THEMES**



MONTH	MODELS	PHOTOGRAPHY
January	Dec '25: Box, Refer, Stock Car Jan Contest: Pass. Train Car	Dec '25: Box, Refer, Stock Car Jan Contest: Pass. Train Car
February	Caboose (any EOT device freight train car)	Caboose (any EOT device freight train car)
March	- No contest (Flea Market) -	- No contest (Flea Market) -
April	Hopper or Gondola Car (open or closed)	Hopper or Gondola Car (open or closed)
May	Steam Locomotive	Steam Locomotive
June	- No contest (Picnic) -	- No contest (Picnic) -
July	Non-Steam Locomotive	Non-Steam Locomotive
August	Box, Refrigerator or Stock Car	Box, Refrigerator or Stock Car
September	Open Load Freight Car	Dirt or Road Motor Propelled Vehicle
October	Tank or Flat Car (with or without load)	Tank or Flat Car (with or without load)
November	Maintenance-of-Way (MOW) Equipment	Maintenance-of-Way (MOW) Equipment
December	Building, Bridge, Diorama or Scene	Building, Bridge, Scene, Diorama, or RR'ers at Work

Contest Sub-Classes

MODEL (up to 3 total entries permitted): Kit-Built, Kit-Bashed or Scratch-Built

PHOTO (up to 3 total entries permitted): Model or Prototype

December 13, 2025



CINCINNATI DIVISION 7, MCR, NMRA NOVEMBER 2025 CONTEST



MODEL: ANY BUILDING OR BRIDGE

Kit-Built:	1st Place:	Mike Strasinger	Engine Repair House
	2nd Place:	Ben Hallenbeck	Busy Bee Hardware
	3rd Place:	Ben Hallenbeck	Summer Stock Theater
Kit-Bashed:	1st Place:	Chuck Endreola	Lawsons Rat Hole
	2nd Place:	Rick Kramer	Victorian Home
	3rd Place:	Leo Honebrink	Floating Barge House
Scratch-Built:	1st Place:	Larry Goodridge	Camp Hill P&L Coal Plant
	2nd Place:	Georgia Dahlberg MMR®	Gettysburgh Station
	3rd Place:	Leo Honebrink	Elwell Bar
Junior Div:	No entries this month		

PHOTOGRAPHY: ANY BUILDING OR BRIDGE

Prototype:	1st Place Tie	Michael Strasinger	Lift Bridge
	1st Place Tie	Christopher Glynn	L&N South Fork Licking River Bridge
	3rd Place:	Ben Hallenbeck	B&O Museum Roundhouse
Models:	1st Place:	John Burchnall	Max Drygoods Store at EnterTrainment Junction
	2nd Place:	John Listermann	Rosby's Rock B&O Bridge
	3rd Place:	Roy Allan	Fensters Farm Store
Junior Div:	1st Place:	Ellington Jennings	Covington Ky Houses

2025 STANDINGS THROUGH NOVEMBER

MODELS

Ben Hallenbeck	28	Mike Strasinger	8	Leo Honebrink	2
Tom Brueggemann MMR®	20	Steve Montgomery	5	Rick Kramer	2
Roy Allan	11	Bob Frankrone (Div 8)	4	Justin Pedoto	2
Will Gregory	9	Lee Drake	3	Mike Reynolds	2
Chris Shackleton	8	Larry Goodridge	3	Jim Rollwage	2
Georgia Dahlberg MMR®	8	Chuck Endreola	3	Bob Rinker	1

PHOTOGRAPHY

John Burchnall	53	Bob Rinker	7	Patrick Stanley	3
Ben Hallenbeck	17	Michael Strasinger	7	David Wynne	3
Roy Allan	13	Christopher Glynn	5	John Listermann	2

JUNIOR DIVISION MODELS No entries yet this year

JUNIOR DIVISION PHOTOS Shane Stephens 5 Ellington Jennings 3

DECEMBER CONTEST TOPICS

MODELS: BOX, STOCK OR REFRIGERATOR CAR

PHOTOGRAPHY: BOX, STOCK OR REFRIGERATOR CAR

Roy Allan

Cincinnati Division 7 Contest Chair



DIVISION 7 - COMMITTEE REPORTS

December 2025



Superintendent (Chuck Endreola): As a member in good standing of Division 7, you have the opportunity to attend BOD (Board of Directors) meetings. You may voice your opinion and/or introduce new ideas and suggestions. At this time, the BOD meets via Zoom. The meetings are held each quarter, and each has a different Zoom link. Contact Tony Valerius, John Burchnall or me each time and we'll gladly email you the link. Hope to see you there.

Recruitment and Retention (John Shields): The "latest" information from National (as of December 2) shows our current count is 224.

We have one new member to welcome from November: Glenn Wegryn of Amberly Village

Thank you to the sixteen members who renewed in the last month.

For our membership committee, a look back over two years shows that we have grown the membership from 213 in December 2023, to 220 in December 2024, to the current 224. While certainly not huge growth (about 5%) it shows we have reversed the long term decline of the previous five years and importantly this bucks the national trends of not only the NMRA, but many social organizations. In fact, the Mid Central region is the only region of the NMRA that has grown in the last year.

I would like to thank the members of our committee for the time they have put in to our efforts at recruitment AND at retention (which our focus in 2025), and to the volunteers that have helped at the membership both at our events. But, I also want to challenge all of you to make a New Years' resolution to make a personal effort to bring people into our hobby. If you have kids, or grandkids, talk to them about this hobby. See if they might become more interested in trains if they got some help from you. Explain why you enjoy this hobby, and find a way to share it.

John Shields
Qcngineers@aol.com
513-561-8691

MCR Report (John Shields): No report this month

National Report (Frank Koch / Pam Moleski): No report this month

Achievement Program (Frank Koch): No report this month.

Car Projects (Paul Maciulewicz): See the Car Project Announcement elsewhere in this Oil Can

Oil Can (Dave Puthoff): Submissions for the February Oil Can are due by January 17.

Monthly Raffle (Russ Poynter): No report this month

Community Service (Larry Bonhaus): No report this month

Modelers Aid (Bruce Knapp / Sam Parfitt): No report this month

Fall Train Show (Rick Crumrine): No report this month.

Spring Flea Market (Gary Ossenschmidt / Roy Hord): No report this month

Operations Activities (Rick Stern): No report this month

Facebook Page (Pam Moleski): No report this month

Web Site (John Burchnall): Updated meetings & events pages, added November contest results, added Brad Jonas notice.

Video Library (David Wynne): See information on Page 10.

YouTube (David Lamb): No report this month

DIVISION 7 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Division 7 Car Project (Limited Availability!)

Virginian & Ohio 36' Wooden Boxcar

In 1923, the Miami Valley Railroad, a subsidiary of the Virginian & Ohio, ordered 50 boxcars from American Car and Foundry. These cars had an inside length of 36' 5", an inside height of 8' 4", an inside width of 8' 6", and a capacity of 2580 cubic feet. They featured Hutchinson steel roofs, 7/7 inverted rib steel ends, seven-foot wooden doors, Andrews trucks, and K-style air brakes. The cars were delivered with MVR reporting marks.

The V&O also ordered 34 of these cars, which were delivered in V&O livery and carried V&O reporting marks. Some of these cars were rebuilt at the West Carrollton shops in July 1940 in the buildup to World War II. The last of these cars continued in service until late 1952. V&O Tool Car No. 435 was rebuilt at West Carrollton in December 1946. It continued in service on the V&O into the late 1960s.

Manufactured in the USA by Accurail, these Limited-Edition HO Scale Car Kits were designed by W. Allen McClelland and produced with his permission by Cincinnati Division 7, Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc.

Of the four different cars and road numbers originally made - only 1 version is still available but in very limited quantity!

Gray V&O MOW #435



Pricing is \$21.00 per car. Shipping (USPS) & handling is \$10.40 for one car, and \$18.40 for two or more cars via USPS. **Ohio residents, please add 7.8% sales tax on the total price of the kits and the shipping/handling fee.**

Prior to ordering, please email our Car Projects Chairperson first to confirm availability and postage amount. Then, when ordering, please send your email and phone information along with a check or money order in US dollars, payable to Cincinnati Division 7, MCR, NMRA, to:

Cincinnati Division 7 Car Projects
c/o Paul Maciulewicz
9151 Congress Court
West Chester, Ohio 45069

DIVISION 7 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

Great Northern Railway Operating Session on January 17 at 7 PM (Saturday)

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

GNRW ops is on the 3rd W/E Saturday.

Pizza at 6:30-7:00.

Please email if attending.

NEW POLICY:

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

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

NEW PROJECTS:

Installed decoders in several more engines. A selection of 100 engines can now be done.

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

USUAL STATS:

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

Four track 12' ore dock.

For pictures see:

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

Video:

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

The Operating session is also listed in the NMRA MCR div 7 web site:

<https://cincy-div7.org/events.html>

Junk food and beverage will be available

Thanks

Sam Parfitt

samparfitt@fuse.net

8795 Goldcrest Dr

West Chester OH, 45069

cell: 513-378-9133

DIVISION 7 - ANNOUNCEMENTS



Brad Jonas

1944 – 2025

It is with great sadness we report prior Cincinnati Division 7 member Bradley (Brad) E. Jonas passed away on December 14, 2025 at the age of 81. He was born on January 21, 1944 and was a member of the Cincinnati Div 7 of the NMRA for 13 years from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2022. Brad is survived by his wife Sara (Sally) who was also a Div 7 member for 11 years. Brad served as the Monthly Contest Chair for Div 7, was twice a clinician, and he and Sally staffed the contest room at our 2018 Regional Convention. Brad was also an integral member of the Eastern Loggers modeling group. Our condolences go to all Brad's friends and family. Final arrangements were private at the convenience of the family. See the Memoriams page on our Div 7 website for more photos of Brad.

text and photos by John Burchnell

DIVISION 7 - CLASSIFIED ADS

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

CLASSIFIED AD RULES:

Item(s) must be railroad related.

Seller must be a Member of Division 7 MCR NMRA.

Listing description shall be 30 words or less.

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

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

A single photo may be submitted for each listing.

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

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

All transactions are between the Buyer and the Seller.

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

Picture	Description	Price	Name	Phone, or Email
	Walthers Ore Dock Kit, 933-3065ox.	\$75	Sam Parfitt	samparfitt@fuse.net
	Walthers 933-3070, Operating bascule bridge.	\$75	Sam Parfitt	samparfitt@fuse.net
	Walthers 933-3088/1050, Double track swing bridge with motor.	\$60	Sam Parfitt	samparfitt@fuse.net
	Atlas ALCo S-2 diesel, PRR, non-dynamic, Brunswick green, #5927. Retail: \$62.95	\$60	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com
	Atlas EMD S-4 diesel, PRR, non-dynamic, Brunswick green, #8434. Retail: \$98.95	\$60	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com
	Atlas EMD FP-7 diesel, PRR, dynamic, Brunswick green, #9837. Retail: \$99.95	\$60	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com
	Atlas ALCo RS-3 diesel, WM, dynamic, black w/fireball, no number. Retail: \$109.95	\$75	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com
	Branchline C&O 50' AAR steel boxcar, 15' dbl door riveted side, boxcar red, #28319. Retail: \$12.98	\$10	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com
	Proto 2000 EMD GP18 diesel, SBD, dynamic, olive drab/yellow, #400. Retail: \$70.00	\$50	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com
	Proto 2000 EMD SW9 diesel, C&O, non-dynamic, blue, #5093. Retail: \$75.00	\$50	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com
	Stewart Baldwin AS-16 diesel, PRSL(Seashore Lines), black, #6013. Retail: \$99.98	\$60	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com
	Stewart EMD F7A, phase I late diesel, WM speed lettering, black, no number. Retail: \$89.00	\$60	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com
	Walthers FM H10-44 diesel switcher, CNW green/yellow, #1054. Retail: \$67.50	\$50	Jim MacKnight	jimmack6@hotmail.com

2026 Spring Railroad Modelers Meet

Hosted by the Black Swamp Division (Div 1) of the North Central Region (NCR), NMRA

April 18, 2026 – Sylvania OH
with additional evening activities on Friday April 17th!

Doors Open 8:00AM with activities into the evening. See website for details!

Sylvania Senior Center, 7140 W Sylvania Ave, Sylvania, OH 43560

LUNCH AVAILABLE ON SITE!



Share Models, Techniques, and Ideas. Learn from Experts and Fellow Modelers
Attend Clinics and Layout Open Houses. Meet with Manufacturers and Historical Societies.

This event is open to ALL MODELERS - NMRA Membership is not required



SCHEDULED FEATURES AND ACTIVITIES

Model Showroom – Bring models (finished or in-progress) of locomotives, rolling stock, structures, dioramas, or scenery. All are Welcome!

The showroom is about sharing the hobby in all its many forms. Free lance or prototype are welcome.

Modeling Clinics – 6 clinics on 3 tracks to choose from on a mixture of subjects presented by modelers, historians, and industry experts.

Layouts and Displays - Small and modular displays will be available within the main venue.

Layout Tours - Tours of local layouts will be available during the afternoon and evening on Friday and Saturday.

Operating Sessions - Ops will be available on Friday or Saturday evening, advance registration is required!



All event activities (minus lunch) are included in one low price!
17 and under free, all individuals 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult

Visit our website for more information and event schedules
smm.ncrnmra.org





MODEL RAILROAD SPRING FLEA MARKET & TRADE SHOW

Sponsored by Cincinnati Division 7, NMRA, Inc.

www.cincy-div7.org/local-events

**Saturday, MARCH 7, 2026
10 AM to 3 PM**

LAKOTA WEST FRESHMAN CAMPUS

**5050 TYLERSVILLE ROAD
WEST CHESTER, OHIO 45069**

FEATURING LOCAL MODELERS & HOBBY DEALERS

\$7 Admission (Cash only, ATMs off-site) – Kids 12 and under and Scouts in uniform free with accompanying paying adult – No animals allowed, except service dogs

All SCALES of Model Railroad Items, Videos and more!

Tables \$25 (2.5 x 8 ft) – Reservations: rhord@fuse.net

***Don't miss this popular model train buy-sell event!
"A model railroad trade show"***

This event will be operated under all local, state and federal health guidelines in effect at that time. Masks are currently optional. If recommended, hand sanitizer will be available at multiple locations. Subject to cancellation due to events beyond our control. See <https://cincy-div7.org/local-events> for last-minute information or changes.



2027 Convention News

Convention Shirts



We're pleased to announce our convention shirts are now designed and ready for everyone to order, enjoy and wear to help promote our Convention. They are Royal Blue with our convention logo embroidered on the chest in stunning yellow lined graphics and silver text (see embroidery simulation below).

3 types of shirts are available – one long sleeve and two short sleeves. Within the types, there are variations for gender, pocket or not, and standard or tall lengths. The two short sleeve polos differ by fiber types and weight. The long sleeve is a nice button-down twill shirt, in a blended cotton/poly fabric, with a navy lining.

We've also worked with our shirt vendor to provide everyone with a user-friendly self-serve on-line ordering system. You simply go to the link provided, check the shirt types and variations you want, enter your size and quantities, and provide your name, address and credit card information. You also have your choice of 3 delivery options 1) UPS to your home (extra fare), 2) pickup at our Cincinnati Division 7 monthly meetings, or 3) pickup at the registration desk at our convention. See also the attached flyer providing photos, pricing and other info.

Here's the link. Its also on the flyer and our 2027 convention page on our website.

<https://cincinnati2027.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

John Burchnell
2027 Convention Chair
513-205-6045
johnburchnell@gmail.com



2027 MCR Convention Shirts

*Reg. sizes add

\$2 for 2XL
\$6 for 3XL
\$8 for 4XL
\$12 for 5XL
\$14 for 6XL



*Tall sizes add

\$2 for XLT
\$4 for 2XLT
\$6 for 3XLT
\$8 for 4XLT

All Shirts Royal Blue color. Pocketed shirts have pocket on left and embroidery on right. Otherwise, embroidery on left.

*add local & state tax + delivery cost if UPS selected

Delivery Options: 1) UPS shipping to you, 2) pickup at a Cinti Div 7 meeting, 3) pickup at Cincinnatian convention

Place your order(s) directly at:

<https://cincinnatian2027.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

Cornerstone Industrial Snag Proof Pique Polo (short sleeve)

6.5 oz, 100% Poly

Men's w/ Pocket
CS4020P \$37*

Men's w/o Pocket
CS4020 \$35*



Port Authority Long Sleeve Easy Care Shirt

4.5 oz, 45/55
cotton/poly
Navy Lining

Men's w/ Pocket
S608 \$42*

Women's w/o Pocket
L608 \$42*

Tall Men's w/ Pocket
TLS608 \$44*



Port Authority Silk Touch Polo (short sleeve)

5.0 oz, 35/65 cotton/poly

Men's w/ Pocket
K500P \$36*

Men's w/o Pocket
K500 \$33*

Women's w/o Pocket
L500 \$33*

Tall Men's w/ Pocket
TLK500P \$38*

Tall Men's w/o Pocket
TLK500 \$35*



Cincinnati Division 7 N.M.R.A. - 2026 Program Schedule

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

Month	Date	Location	Program / Speaker	Contests *	Layout Visits
Jan	Sun, Jan 11	West – Dunham Recreation Center (near Queen City Ave)	Annual Snackfest Celebration + Dave Traut Cin Mus Ctr “Cinti Southern RR”	Contest 1: Box, Stock, Refer Car Contest 2: Any Pass. Train Car	Jerry Strangarity + Keith Corman
Feb	Sun, Feb 1 (note date)	North – Cincinnati North Holiday Inn (West Chester)	Bob Frankrone “Creating Operations on the Louisville Southern Lines”	Model & Photo: Caboose or any EOT device freight car	Patrick Stanley + Chris Shackleton
Mar	Sat, Mar 7 10 am – 3 pm	Annual Spring Flea Market Lakota West Freshman School	Dealer, Sales, Membership and Modeler Aid Booths	None	None
Apr	Sun, Apr 12	East – Mt. Carmel American Legion Hall	Chris Shackleton “Tips & Techniques Across Several Painting Methods”	Model & Photo: Hopper or Gondola Car	Mike Strasinger + Chuck Behymer
May	Sun, May 3 (note date)	Northeast – American Legion Hall Post 194, Mason, Ohio	Lou and Cheryl Sassi “Using Scenic Features to Focus Viewpoints”	Model & Photo: Steam Locomotive	Bob Bartizek + Mike Rottenberger
Jun	Thu, June 4 to Sun, June 7	MCR Convention – “Whistle-Stop – Dayton” – Dayton, OH	Clinics, Banquet, Yard Sale, Tours	Convention Contests	Convention Tours and Layouts
Jun	Sun, Jun 14 1 – 5 pm	Family Picnic/Social at Fernbank Park in Cinti, Ohio	Catered Social Event (Food, Games, Door Prizes) - must register by June 1	Team Trivia & Door Prizes	None
Jul	Sun, Jul 12	? South – Erlanger, Kentucky Kenton County Library	Sam Swanson MMR® “Module and Layout Construction with Foam”	Model & Photo: Non-Steam Locomotive	tbd
Jul	Mon, Jul 27 to Sun, Aug 2	NMRA Natl Convention - Scenic City Express – Chattanooga, TN	Clinics, Tours, Programs, Layouts, Banquet, National Train Show	Convention Contests	Convention Tours & Train Show Layouts
Aug	Sun, Aug 9	Central – Norwood Community Center in Norwood, Ohio	Ray Persing MMR® “Modeling on a Budget: Turning Trash into Treasures”	Model & Photo: Box, Stock or Refrigerator Car	tbd
Sep	Sun, Sep 13	North – Cincinnati Marriott North Hotel (Union Ctr Blvd)	Mike Tylick MMR® “Scratch Building Scituate Marine Supply”	Model: Open Load Freight Car Photo: Self Propelled Vehicle	tbd
Oct	Sun, Oct 4 (note date)	North – Cincinnati North Holiday Inn (West Chester)	Rick Kramer “Animations with Arduinos”	Model & Photo: Tank or Flat Car	tbd
Oct	Sat 10 & Sun 11 10 am to 4 pm	57th Annual Fall Train Show Lakota West High School	Cincinnati Model Train & Trade Show Sales, Layouts, Booths and Displays	None	Train Show Portable Layouts
Nov	Sun, Nov 8	Northeast – American Legion Hall Post 194, Mason, Ohio	Chuck Endreola “Dioramas – Why and How”	Model & Photo: Maintenance-of-Way (MOW) Equipment	tbd
Dec	Sun, Dec 13	East – Mt. Carmel American Legion Hall	Potluck Electronic Slides and Annual Snackfest Celebration	Model: Structure or Diorama Photo: Structure or Men at Work	tbd

Super Bowl Feb 8 Easter Apr 5 Mothers Day May 10 Fathers Day Jun 21 N.N.Ga.Conv. Sept 1-5 *contest details on website Rev. Dec 13, 2025 JBB

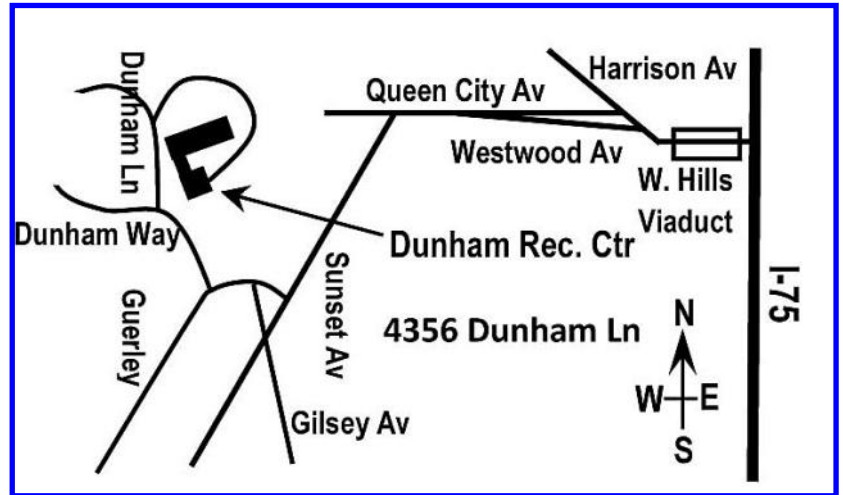
Next Meeting

2 PM Sunday January 11

Dunham Recreation Center
4356 Dunham Lane
Cincinnati OH 45238

Directions:

From I-75 Take Harrison Ave. exit
or
Spring Grove Ave. (Western Hills Viaduct)
or
Central Pkwy Left on Queen City Ave
 Left onto Sunset Ave.
 Right on Dunham Way
 Right on Dunham Lane
Take Driveway past building on your right
To Parking Lot



Coming Down the Line

Cincinnati Division 7, MCR, NMRA
2026 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>
1/11	Dunham Recreation Ctr Cincinnati OH	Cinti.Museum Center <i>Cincinnati Southern RR</i>	Jerry Strangarity Keith Corman	<u>Models:</u> (Jan.) Any Passenger Car <u>Photos:</u> (Jan.) Any Passenger Car <u>Models:</u> (Dec.) Box, Stock, Refrig. Car <u>Photos:</u> (Dec.) Box, Stock, Refrig. Car
2/1	Holiday Inn West Chester OH	Bob Frankrone <i>Creating Operations on the Louisville Southern Lines</i>	Patrick Stanley Chris Shackelton	<u>Models:</u> Caboose or EOT Device <u>Photos:</u> Caboose or EOT Device

3/7 NO Monthly Meeting! Annual Spring Flea Market at Lakota Freshman School

SATURDAY March 7, 10 AM to 3 PM

Around the Division 2026

1/15 7:15 pm Lebanon Modelers - Lebanon OH

Region / National 2026

**6/4-6/7, 2026, Mid-Central Region Convention,
*Whistle Stop Dayton - Dayton, OH***

**7/27-8/2, 2026, NMRA National Convention,
*Scenic City Express, - Chattanooga, TN***

Modeling Problems? - Ask the Modelers Aid Committee

Bruce Knapp (513) 941-2713
Sam Parfitt (513) 378-9133

Div. 7 Web Sitewww.cincy-div7.org
MCR Web Sitewww.midcentral-region-nmra.org
Mail Address Cincinnati Division 7, MCR
P.O. Box 62501
Cincinnati OH 45262-0501