

**NMRA Mid Central Region
Annual Convention
May 17 – 20, 2018
West Chester, Ohio**

Cincinnati Division 7 welcomes you to the *Cincinnati Express* 2018 MCR Convention. This is our first NMRA convention since the 2005 NMRA National and we're very excited to welcome you back. The beautiful Cincinnati Marriott North is all set for us, having completed extensive interior renovations. Parking is free and all our hotel events are conveniently located on the first floor.

Our committee has planned numerous activities to ensure you have a rewarding and enjoyable experience. Key events begin at noon on Thursday. Yes, that's right, this is nearly four full days of fun!

We're blessed to have an abundance of quality layouts in our area with 67 of the best available for your enjoyment at this convention. Nearly all are new or improved since our 2003 MCR and 2005 NMRA conventions.

Two wonderful layouts are open Thursday afternoon. 12 premier layouts are featured on 4 different mini-bus tours on Friday and Saturday. Open houses and Guest operating sessions run each of the 4 days. You can visit several scenicked layouts at the hotel and at nearby EnterTRAINment Junction, where we'll have a private "behind-the-scenes" pizza dinner on Thursday.

Four clinic rooms await you packed full of expert speakers. Train Control Systems (TCS) has a special room conducting mini-clinics, including demonstrating Layout Command Control (LCC) on the NMRA's traveling LCC layout, plus they'll be installing your pre-purchased sound decoders.

We have 4 fantastic rail industry bus tours, including the Steel Tour, 2 incredible general interest bus tours, fun non-rail clinics and ladies luncheon, plus the company store, contest, raffle, large white elephant sale, a Meet & Greet with Wine Tasting and a delicious banquet with entertaining guest speaker Gerry Leone, MMR, HLM.

Take a look at the following pages to see what we've prepared for you at *Cincinnati Express*. We're sure you'll find this to be an enjoyable and rewarding event filled with rare and educational offerings for everyone. Now is the perfect time to renew old friendships and make new ones. We know you'll love this fun and inspiring four day event!

Rick Crumrine
Convention Chair

John Burchnall
Convention Vice-Chair

Convention Committee

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chair | Rick Crumrine |
| Vice Chair | John Burchnall |
| Non-Rail Chair | Linda Kerka |
| Treasurer | Frank Koch |
| Registrar | Roy Hord |
| Scheduling | John Burchnall |
| Volunteers | Randy Kerka |
| Legal Advisor | Larry Bonhaus |
| Rail Clinics | Mike Brestel |
| Non-Rail Clinics | Linda Kerka |
| Ladies Luncheon | Linda Kerka |
| Banquet | Rick Crumrine |
| Audio / Visual | Randy Kerka |
| Company Store | Paul Musselman |
| White Elephant Sales | Frank Koch |
| Raffle | Russ Poynter Bruce Knapp |
| Contest | Brad Jonas |
| Hospitality | Linda Crumrine |
| Editor | Bob Shreve |
| Website | John Burchnall |
| Social Media | Pam Moleski |
| Event Photographer | Don Phillips |
| Logo Design | John Listermann |
| Layouts & Tours | John Burchnall |
| Op Sessions | Rick Stern |
| Rail Tours Coordinator | Merlyn Jarman |
| Rail Tours | Keith Corman Jim MacKnight |
| Bus Dispatcher | Merlyn Jarman |
| General Tours | Jane Hancock Ruth Anne Burchnall |

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-------|
| Welcome..... | 3 |
| Convention Committee | 4 |
| Registration & Tour Desk..... | 6 |
| Event & Merchandise Tickets | 6 |
| Bus Tour Reporting..... | 6 |
| Hospitality Room..... | 7 |
| Banquet | 7 |
| White Elephants / Company Store | 8 |
| Contest | 9 |
| Daily Schedules | 10-16 |
| Raffle | 17 |
| TCS / LCC Display..... | 17 |
| Marriott Hotel Floorplan | 18-19 |
| Prototype & Industrial Tours | 20 |
| Layout Tours..... | 21 |
| Operating Sessions..... | 21 |
| General Interest Tours | 23 |
| Non-Rail Activities..... | 24 |
| Rail Clinic Descriptions (alphabetical by clinician name)..... | 25-31 |
| Hobby Shop List | 32 |
| Refund Policy..... | 33 |

General Info

Registration & Tour Desk

The registration and tour desks are located in the main entrance lobby across from the front desk of the hotel. This is the place to go for any convention need or question, as well as to pick up your registration materials and purchase/obtain any remaining event tickets.

The status of all bus tours, extra-fare and ticketed events will be displayed on a large flat screen TV behind the tour desk. This will show the day and times for each event as well as the number of tickets remaining and the purchase cost. Several events should have openings at the start of the convention.

Convention Name Badge

We provide everyone with custom printed neck wallets to hold both your name badge and event tickets. Please wear this at all times. ***You must show your convention name badge to participate in any convention event or to go into any convention room.*** Further, please store all your tickets in the pocket of your holder so they are readily available when you need them.

Event & Merchandise Tickets

A number of extra-fare and other items require a ticket. These include –

- All 10 Bus Tours (Rail, General, GMR Layouts)
- All Food Events (Meet/Greet, Ladies Lunch, Banquet)
- Thursday EnterTrainment Junction Pizza Dinner/Tour
- Thursday Afternoon Layout Open Houses
- All 19 Outside Hotel Guest Operating Sessions
- 2 Other Activities (Water Aerobics, Greeting Cards)
- Merchandise (Shirts & Car Kits)

If you signed up for any of these you will receive those tickets in a small envelope when you check-in at the registration desk. Merchandise tickets should be redeemed at the company store - a bag is waiting for you there with your name on it. **Please have your own tickets with you at all times.** You must have your ticket to be admitted to these events.

Bus Tour Reporting

All 10 bus tours depart from the north side door of the hotel. Everyone must first report to the hotel central atrium and wait for your tour guide to check you off and lead you as a group to your bus. You need to report to the atrium **15 minutes before** your scheduled departure time. Both times are printed on your ticket. Please have your ticket with you at all times!

Cincinnati Express Changes

Cincinnati Division 7, MCR, NMRA, Inc. and its officers, leaders and members strive to accurately and faithfully represent the activities of the Cincinnati Express 2018 MCR Convention, and also reserve the right to modify or cancel events as may become necessary. The most up-to-date information on changes to the convention can be found at the convention registration desk, including the associated convention bulletin board.

Refund Policy

Please see the back of this book for the Cincinnati Express official refund policy, covering registration fees, extra-fare events (bus tours, meals, clinics) and merchandise (company store, white elephant, and pre-purchased).

Hospitality Room

The hospitality room is in the Madison room on the main hallway down a couple doors from the front desk of the hotel. There you will usually find complementary coffee, tea and light treats, as well as fellowship and perhaps some games/puzzles.

Banquet

The convention banquet will be held on Saturday evening. The reception and cash bars open at 6:00 pm in the Atrium, where we'll enjoy live string music by Larry and Hildy Bonhaus. Seating in the ballrooms for the plated dinner is at 7:00 pm. A seating chart will be posted about 24 hours in advance so you and your friends can write-in your seat selections. When you are seated, please place your ticket on the table in front of you. This tells the staff which pre-selected entrée to serve you –

- Chicken Marsala
- Seared Salmon with Pineapple Mango Relish
- Braised Boneless Short Ribs
- Vegetarian (Parmesan & Portabella Ravioli)

Each meal will be served with delicious salad, roll, Borsini Whipped Potatoes and Roasted Seasonal Vegetables (Carrots, Green Beans and Cauliflower). Dessert settings alternate between Caramel Fudge Cake and New York Cheesecake with Raspberries – you can trade your neighbors for the selection you desire the most – both are delicious! Drinks include water, iced tea, Starbucks coffee and tazo teas, plus the cash bar offerings.

Gerry Leone, MMR, HLM brings his humorous stories and anecdotes to the Mid-Central Region as our banquet speaker. Included are tales of college Calculus, the foibles of being an advertising writer, and dealing with clueless hardware store customers. He'll even play a few funny radio commercials! Gerry is the NMRA Vice President-Special Projects and host of *Model Railroader* magazine's monthly "Off the Rails" video show.

Immediately following the banquet we invite everyone to visit the adjacent Contest and White Elephant Rooms to view and pick-up contest entries and your last chance to settle your White Elephant sales and/or pick-up your remaining non-sold items.

Hotel Food Services

You may purchase a wide variety of drinks, snacks and food at the hotel concessions behind the front desk, the Starbucks booth in the near corner of the Atrium and the Butler's Bar & Kitchen (Restaurant) at the opposite side of the Atrium. Marriott Club Platinum members may also dine in the adjacent private "M Club".

Since time is often precious at these conventions, the Butler's Bar & Kitchen has agreed to offer both a buffet breakfast and a buffet light lunch (soup and sandwiches). In addition, they will provide takeout containers for those in a hurry to catch a bus, clinic or other activity.

White Elephants / Company Store

The company store and white elephant sales are located in Ballrooms I & II. Come look over the items your fellow conventioners have decided to part with. You might find that one thing you've been yearning for.

Hours: Thursday Noon - 4 pm, 7:00 - 9:30 pm

Friday 8 am - 5 pm, 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Saturday 8 am - 1 pm

Settlement and pickup is Saturday from 3 - 5 pm and following the banquet.

The company store has convention merchandise (shirts and car kits) available for purchase. Our convention car is a 36' wooden boxcar kit from Accurail. These limited edition HO scale car kits were designed by W. Allen McClelland, MMR and produced with his permission by Division 7. The cars are available in four versions. Two are lettered for Virginian & Ohio revenue service, one for Virginian & Ohio MOW service, and one for the Miami Valley Railroad, a V & O predecessor railroad.

Divisions or Regions wishing to place their merchandise for sale during the convention need to place them in the Company Store.

Individuals selling items should enter them in the White Elephant Sale. Division 7 will keep a 10% commission on sales from either store.

Individuals wishing to place items in the White Elephants sale should follow these steps:

- Prepare an inventory (showing your name, address, and telephone number. Please see <http://www.cincy-div7.org/convention.html> for a printable electronic inventory entry form).
- List **each individual** item with a brief description and code so we can match it back to you and your **firm** asking price in **whole dollar amounts only with a \$5.00 minimum price**. We will only sell at the marked price and will not negotiate pricing.
- **Each individual item must be clearly marked and priced as shown below**. The price on the item's sticker and the inventory must match. If there is more than one of an item, list them **separately**. If you have more than 25 items, just extend the sheet or add another sheet and continue the numbers.

| |
|---------------------|
| FJK - 12 \$10.00 |
|---------------------|

- Put all your items in a bag or box and bring them to the White Elephant room any time it is open. A copy of the inventory sheet must accompany your items.
- We will log your items in, sell them, reconcile sales with left-over material, and calculate how much you earned. The Division will keep 10% of actual sales (whole dollar fee) and we will pay either with cash or by check depending on the amount since we will be accepting credit cards for sales (\$25 minimum sale).
- You must pick up your unsold material and money on Saturday afternoon or following the banquet before we shut down for the night. If you do not claim your unsold material, it will be considered a donation to Cincinnati Division 7.

Items are placed in the White Elephant Sale entirely at your own risk. Division 7 assumes no liability for any items damaged or stolen during the Convention, though we will provide due diligence for their safety. We will not accept items that are not prepared as indicated here. We cannot accept magazines. We reserve the right to refuse any material we deem unsuitable.

Contest

Contests will be conducted for Models, Photography and Arts and Crafts. Entries may be submitted in the following categories -

MODELS – Steam Loco, Diesel or Other Loco, Traction, Passenger Car, Freight Car, Caboose, Non-Revenue Car, Structure, Display

PRINT PHOTOS – Black & White Model, Color Model, Black & White Prototype, Color Prototype

ARTS & CRAFTS – General, Needlepoint, Railroadiana

Three awards will be given for Best of Show based on judging points (1 each for Models, Photos and Art & Crafts), sixteen 1st Place Awards will be given (1 per category) based on judging points, and 7 People's Choice Awards will be given based on attendee popular voting. Ribbons and certificates will be given for 2nd Place, 3rd Place and Honorable Mentions.

All entrants must use the MCR Entry Form. Any entrant presenting a National Entry Form will be required to fill out the MCR form before the entry will be accepted. Entries will be accepted during the times the Contest Room is open on both Thursday and Friday (see the convention master schedule). No entries will be accepted on Saturday.

Contest judging begins on Saturday between 8:00 and 9:00 AM. Convention attendees are allowed in the room during judging but silence must be observed at all times and there is to be no interaction with the judges. Once the judging has been completed the room will be closed while results are tabulated and winning entries photographed. Once that is done the room will be reopened until 5:00 PM for viewing and to give those contestants who are departing the opportunity to retrieve their entries. After the banquet the room will be opened from about 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM for viewing and removal of entries. Please make every effort to leave your models for viewing until after the banquet.

Friday Activities

| | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| Madison | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lobby | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ballrooms I&II | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ballroom V | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hamilton | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Glendale/Liberty | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fairfield | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tri-County (Clinic Rm 4) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Outside Events | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Friday Rail Clinics

| | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| Clinic Rm 1 Ballroom III | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clinic Rm 2 Ballroom IV | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clinic Rm 3 Ballroom VI | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Sunday Activities



Raffle

Stop by the Hamilton room and check out the items available in the raffle. Buy as many tickets as you like, then stuff them into the bins for the prizes you desire to win. Hours are the same as the Company Store and White Elephant Sale, with winner pickups from 3 pm to 5 pm on Saturday, plus after the banquet.

We thank the following companies and individuals for their generous donations:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Accurail | Rix |
| Micro-Scale | Bowser |
| Woodland Scenics | Zuron |
| Chooch | Micro-Engineering |
| Soundtraxx | Kadee |
| Bruce Knapp | Bob Shreve |
| Cincinnati Marriott North Hotel | |

TCS / LCC Display

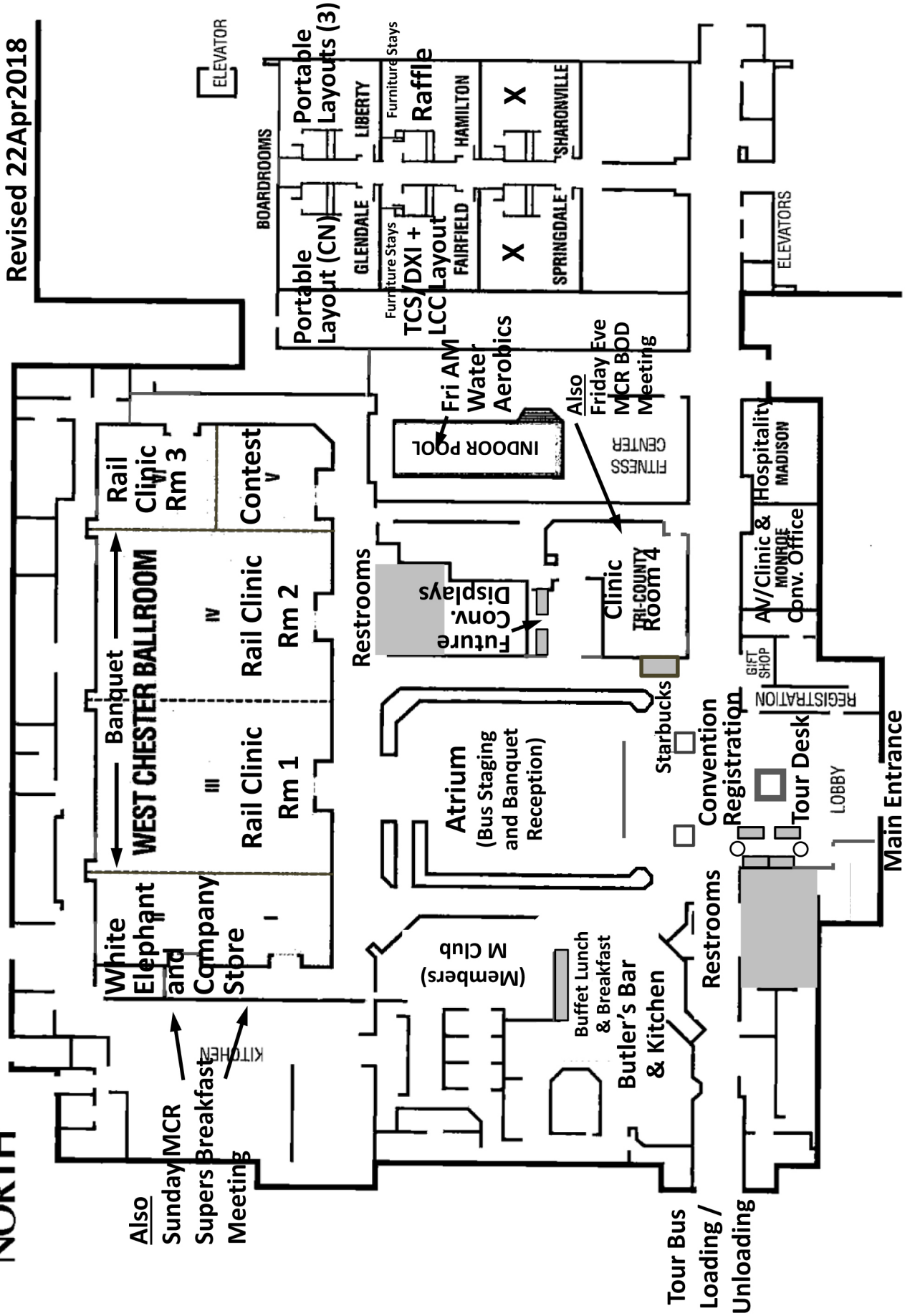
Train Control Systems (TCS) representatives will be in the Fairfield room Friday and Saturday presenting brief clinics on Layout Command Control (LCC) and DCC. If you used their website to pre-purchase a decoder and schedule an installation time, this is where that installation takes place. The NMRA's portable LCC layout is also on display in this room so you can see this latest development in action.

Hobby Sales Activities

In addition to the Company Store and White Elephant Sales in Ballrooms I & II, and the TCS booth in the Fairfield Room, we've included a list of known area hobby shops towards the back of this book. Further, there may also be a few dealers or manufacturers working out of their hotel lodging rooms. An 8.5 in x 11 in flyer for each of those dealers may be posted on our convention bulletin board near our Registration Desk. Per MCR rules, none of those dealers may call themselves a Company Store. Cincinnati Express officials reserve the right to remove or edit such content if it is deemed offensive or inaccurate.

CINCINNATI Marriott Cincinnati Express Hotel Space Plan

NORTH



Prototype & Industrial Tours

We've arranged a great mix of prototype rail-related industry tours. Everyone must wear **long pants and closed-toe, hard-soled shoes** on all these tours. Please be prepared so everyone can enjoy the venues and be safe.

The Steel Tour: Matandy Steel & Precision Strip (Fri AM) – Rare access inside 2 different steel coil and sheet toll processing companies, plus a picturesque photo stop at a modern coke oven operation. Matandy Steel receives steel coils and sheets, then slits them into various widths on an automated slitting machine, with inside outbound shipping by truck or rail (CSX). Precision Strip features incredible coiled steel operations, including 3 custom slitting lines, 4 giant bays of roll storage with “lights out” placing and picking cranes, inside rail access using a vintage GE diesel switcher, and service by both NS and CSX. We'll also make a brief photo stop at an incredible modern coke operation. These “loads-in / loads-out” industries are sure to inspire your modeling and operations..

Tropicana + Brighton Tru-Edge (Fri AM) – This tour visits 2 fascinating industries. At Excel Logistics/Tropicana you'll see “loads-in” of Tropicana orange juice coming from Florida via solid blocks of Tropicana reefers, then transloaded to trucks for regional destinations. This is one of only 2 locations in America this is done! At Brighton Tru-Edge you'll see some truly special “loads out” at this heavy manufacturing industry using trucks and rail to ship huge curved metal heads/lids that it makes for pressure vessels. Both these industries will provide many modeling possibilities for loads and load manufacturers on your model railroad. **At Brighton Tru-Edge you will need to wear hard hats, side shield safety glasses, safety vests, and ear protection.** We will provide these on the bus. The cost is included in the tour ticket price.

Cincinnati Barge & Rail Terminal (Fri AFT) - “Transloading” is the latest thing in railroad freight handling. Typically this is rail-to-truck, but in this tour, you'll see river-to-rail and river-to-truck transfer, plus the tallest crane on the Ohio River. Incoming barge loads of pig iron, packaged materials, steel coils, and many other commodities are all handled in this operation. The siding is incorporated as the “Fulton Railroad” and interchanges with the Indiana & Ohio RR (Div. of Genesee & Wyoming). The land west of the crane was once the home of the Fulton Steam Boat Co. which claimed to have built 80% of all steamboats ever built in the USA. Truly a unique industrial tour, with tons of modeling ideas.

Cincinnati Railfanning (Sat AFT) - Once home to 7 major railroads, Cincinnati continues to host tons of local railfan action, including Norfolk Southern, CSX and Indiana & Ohio. We'll take you to local railroad hotspots and historic industrial structures so you can get a taste of Cincinnati railfanning, all narrated by an expert NS intermodal agent. Destinations include, but are not limited to, historic Baltimore and Ohio structures, special police escort access

overlooking CSX Queensgate yard, former Chesapeake and Ohio trestles and bridges, and a spectacular overlook of downtown Cincinnati and its many bridges. This tour is not to be missed by railfans and historians alike.

Layout Tours & Operating Sessions

The Greater Cincinnati area is blessed with an abundance of quality model railroads. We're pleased to share a diverse selection of 67 layouts, including 13 club layouts, 6 museum and 4 hotel pikes, with 21 layouts open for guest operations. Virtually all 67 of the layouts are new or improved since our 2003 regional and 2005 national conventions. Most of these layouts have stunning scenery, equipment, design or operations, with 35 having been featured in model railroad magazines, including 10 in Model Railroader's annual **Great Model Railroads** magazine! **You must show your convention name badge to participate in any of these layout events.**

In order to help you enjoy as many layouts as possible, we've spread the opportunities over all 4 days of the convention. Most layouts have a general open house, 8 are only accessible via mini-bus tours and 21 have guest operating sessions (ops). The **Layouts Matrix** shows when each of the 67 layouts is open, which events they are on and which other layouts are open at the same time. The Layouts Matrix, descriptions and maps are in your registration desk check-in packet.

Four layouts are located in the hotel – 3 scenicked and 2 with informal guest operations. These include the **Cincinnati Northern Club's** award winning HO portable layout, **Mark Albert's** HO historic Cincinnati Trolley pike, **Greg Albert's** clever N scale steel mill layout and **Steve Montgomery's** fun switching pike. Steve's pike and the Cincinnati Northern layout will host short duration informal guest ops during the convention. These layouts are in the Liberty and Glendale rooms.

Thursday Afternoon Premier Layouts – Exclusive early-bird open house visits to the stunning and large transition era layouts of **Bob Lawson** and **Larry Bonhaus**. This is an included cost event, requiring advance registration and a specific ticket. You must first check in to the registration desk at the hotel and get your convention name badge and ticket in order to be admitted. Bob's HO scale Southern Ry layout features hundreds of expertly crafted scenes and structures, including a new Cincinnati waterfront scene. Larry's scenic N scale PRR pike is expanded and re-located into a nearby historic home. The only other time you can see these incredible layouts during the convention is via a GMR bus tour.

Thursday Pizza Dinner at EnterTrainment Junction (EJ) – Private bargain-priced full access to EJ, including pizza dinner (with salad, chips, pop, cookie), roaming their huge G scale *Train Journey* layout, special at-your-pace behind-the-scenes tour, Neil Young’s famous traveling O scale layout, and 2 large N & HO gauge Modular Layouts in the Expo Center. All other convention activities are closed during this extended dinner event featuring 5 layouts.

If you visit EnterTRAINment Junction at other times during the convention, you have discounted admissions for the Train Journey/Expo Layouts (\$10) and scheduled behind-the-scenes tours (\$4) – just show your badge and pay at EJ.

Great Model Railroads Mini Bus Tours - Special guided bus or mini-bus tours of 12 premier scenicked layouts, most featured in *Great Model Railroads* magazine. This will be the only showing of 8 of these 12 premier layouts during the Convention. There are 4 tours, each covering 3 layouts, and you can book all 4 tours. There are only 20 to 30 lucky attendees per tour. This is an excellent way to experience these premier layouts, while still enabling you to enjoy the many other layouts you'll want to see throughout the 4 days. You won't want to miss these very special GMR tours.

GMR1 NORTH (Fri AM) – featuring **Bob Lawson’s** incredible late 40’s era HO scale Southern Ry, **Bob Bartizek’s** amazing transition era O scale Pennsylvania & Western (PRR) and **Dave Davenport’s** fantastic mid 80’s era HO scale Tennessee Midland

GMR2 NEAR (Fri AFT) – featuring 3 superb HO scale layouts - the **Eastern Loggers’** HO/HOn3 1920’s era PA Logging pike, with new locos and cars, and the transition era PRR layouts of **Curt LaRue** and **Ed Swain**, both including new additions

GMR3 EAST (Sat AM) – featuring 3 wonderful HO scale layouts – **Matt Snell’s** modern era Conrail pike, **Rick Crumrine’s** 1956 era Waynesburg and Washington RR (PRR), including new additions, and **John Listermann’s** mid-50’s era B&O Ry.

GMR4 CENTRAL (Sat AFT) – featuring **Gerry Albers’** fantastic 1959 era HO scale Virginian Ry, **Jerry Strangarity’s** incredible recently expanded 1940’s era HO Reading RR and **Larry Bonhaus’** large N scale transition era PRR complete with 4 track Horseshoe Curve

General Layout Open Houses – Besides the 4 hotel layouts, and the 6 layouts in museums having fees, 47 other layouts will be open for your self-guided viewing pleasure. These 47 pikes are open during one of five 3 to 4 hour time slots during the 4 days of the convention (see **Layouts Matrix**). Transportation is up to you on these openings. The packet you pick up at check-in contains all the details, descriptions and maps. Many of these inspirational layouts are of publication quality, including **Perry Simpson’s** HO L&N pike featured in *Great Model Railroads* magazine.

Guest Operating Sessions – We have 21 layouts open for guest operations, with sessions during each of the 4 days of the convention. There is no extra charge, you are on your own for transportation and only one layout requires operating experience. **These require advance registrations and specific entry tickets**. Please make every effort to attend the session you are assigned to as the quality of each operating session depends on each operator attending. There are still some openings available. Please see the Registration/Tour Desk.

General Interest Tours

We’ve arranged 2 fabulous half-day general interest tours, each featuring 2 fun venues apiece. All events are “rain or shine”. **Everyone must wear comfortable closed-toe walking shoes.**

Findley Market + Krohn Conservatory Tour (Fri AFT) – A short bus ride takes us to the “Over the Rhine District” for our guided tour of Findley Market. Our tour includes food tastings from several specialty merchants while learning the history of Ohio’s oldest public market. From there we head over to Eden Park to visit the Krohn Conservatory. We will enjoy a tropical rainforest and an arid desert re-creation. The popular seasonal Butterfly Show and 3,500 plant species from around the world bring visitors in from far and wide. Both venues are largely under cover, but be sure to bring rain gear for the parts where we walk outside.

American Sign Museum + Spring Grove Arboretum/Cemetery (Sat AM) – We begin this adventure at the incredible American Sign Museum for a special guided walking tour. You will see a half century of sign history from the gold-leaf glass signs of the early 1900’s, through the pre-neon era of lightbulb signs to neon’s heyday in the 30’s and 40’s, and on into the plastic era of the funky ‘50s. This is a fascinating place, and has been described as “Route 66 on steroids, except for no cars”. Next we travel nearby to the world famous Spring Grove Cemetery for a guided bus tour. We’ll see giant Champion Trees, beautiful blossoms, lush foliage, art, architecture and wildlife. Spring Grove is the second largest cemetery in the United States and was designated a National Historic Landmark on March 29, 2007. Come enjoy the fun!

Non-Rail Activities

We have an exciting slate of non-rail activities for your enjoyment. All activities except one occur in the Tri-County Room. None of these events overlap with each other or the General Interest Tours. **Several require a ticket.**

Meet & Greet with Wine Tasting (Thu EVE) – After the EnterTRAINment Junction Thursday dinner event, come join us for a fun “Meet and Greet” including a Wine and Cheese Tasting. Fine wine purveyor Mary Beth Meyers will teach us the finer points of wines. *Pre-registration and a small fee are required.*

Genealogy Clinic (Thu EVE) – After the Meet & Greet, neighboring NMRA division member Judy Gliebe will teach us about genealogy. Ever wonder about those blank spaces in your family’s history? Judy can help you fill in those blanks and more.

Water Fitness (Fri AM) – Looking for a chance to get wet? Please join us for this water fitness class at the hotel indoor pool. It includes an inspiring discussion on exercise and diet, both led by noted Cincinnati fitness instructor Karoll Castillo. This is a nice way to relax and have fun at the same time, so bring your bathing suit! If you’d rather not get in the water, please come anyway and participate in the discussion. *No charge and pre-registration required*

Greeting Card Making (Fri EVE) – While the others are talking trains, you can learn from expert Paula Matri how to make your own greeting cards. The recipients of your home-made cards may think they came from Hallmark! *Pre-registration and a small fee are required.*

Ladies Luncheon with Cookie Decorating (Sat AFT) – We’ll conduct our Ladies Luncheon in the Tri-County Room starting at 1:30 pm. We’ll enjoy a Fresh Deli Buffet featuring fresh fruit salads, green salads, meat and cheese sandwiches on bread or rolls, potato chips, dessert, water and ice tea. You can purchase other drinks at the Starbucks kiosk near the room (or bring your own). We’ll enjoy live string music by Larry and Hildy Bonhaus, then afterwards we’ll learn how to decorate cookies as we crank up our fabulous “Delicious Design Cookie Workshop”. Our hostess will be legendary cookie design maven Arin Bonk. Once you have finished decorating your cookies they are ready to be eaten, taken home or maybe shared with a hungry model railroader! And YES!!!... there will be door prizes. *Pre-registration and a fee are required.*

Rail Clinic Descriptions

Listed alphabetically by clinician’s last name. Use numbers to look up clinic days and times in the schedule pages. The numbers are sequential by time.

20. Albers, Dr. Gerry: Building the Virginian Deepwater District

Gerry shares what it has taken to design, construct, and operate a world-class model railroad. Gerry’s HO scale Deepwater District of the New River Division of the Virginian Railway has a 1600 square-foot footprint, and features 11 hidden staging yards, 41 staging tracks, and five railroads, including the current version of the Virginian & Ohio RR. For a preview, check the 2014 *Great Model Railroads* and the 2005 *Model Railroad Planning*. (Fri 12:30 pm)

26. Albers, Dr. Gerry: Things I Wish I’d Known about DCC

Learning from experience is no fun. First you get a bad experience, then you learn the lesson. Over many years of “experiences,” I have developed a guide of DCC “best practices,” which includes wire and component selection, documentation methods, a collection of appropriate tools, and more. In this clinic I briefly present DC and AC power, then discuss DCC and how it transmits both power and information. Come learn from my experience and save yourself the trouble! (Fri 3:30 pm)

5, 52. Albert, Greg: Steel Mill Modeling with a Twist

Using recycled materials and odds and ends from craft, auto supply, and hardware stores, along with some ingenious kit bashing and more than a little inspiration from famous architecture, Greg has created a unique interpretation of a mid-century open hearth steel mill. He’ll show how you can apply his approach and techniques to create your own one-of-kind industrial scenes. (Thurs 7 pm, Sat 2 pm)

28, 49. Albert, Mark: Modeling the Historic Crosley Building

A combination of resourceful kitbashing and accurate scratchbuilding produced this striking model of a noted Cincinnati landmark, the iconic Crosley Radio factory in Camp Washington. The model also enhanced the transition between two modules of a portable layout. The presenter will discuss the techniques and the philosophy behind this project. (Fri 3:30 pm, Sat 12:30 pm)

22, 46. Amato, Jim: Young People and Model Railroading

First Tee is a successful twenty-year-old national program designed to help kids develop life skills through golf. Jim, a First Tee Level II Coach and the program’s Volunteer of the Year in 2015, has identified much in their program that is useful for introducing kids to model railroading, and is eager to share what he’s learned with us. (Fri 12:30 pm, Sat 11 am)

31. Dahlberg MMR, Georgia: From Photo to Model

For many years I have been modeling using not only traditional HO scale plans, but also from my own photos, pictures out of books, articles, and drawings that I've been able to find, and then scaling them to HO. Please rest assured that this is not an algebra lesson, and we will talk only about scale modeling and what it really means. Although this talk is geared to HO scale, it works for S, O, Large Scale, N, Z, or any other scale you might favor. (Fri 6:30 pm)

55. Dahlberg MMR, Georgia: Modeling Structures Accurately

If you are going to model a structure, whether it's a high-rise building or a small water tank, it helps to understand how buildings are designed and built. Engineers follow load path design, which deals with how a structure's weight and stresses work their way down to the ground. If you understand how to transmit the model loads down to the ground, your structures will look more realistic and your model citizens will live happily ever after. (Sat 3:30 pm)

33. DeVault, Keith: The West End of the B&O RR

This clinic will showcase the B&O's important and historic route west of Cumberland, Maryland and through West Virginia during the B&O and Chessie System eras. The West End Division was home to some of the most serious mountain railroading in the United States. Come see what made this route famous. (Fri 8 pm)

8, 37. Endreola, Chuck: Creating Rock Faces from Foamboard

Learn how to turn extruded foam insulation board (the pink kind) into several types of rock faces, colored and ready to install. It's easy, it's quick, it's lightweight, and it's perfect for lift-out hatches, modules, dioramas, or the entire layout. (Thur 8:30 pm, Fri 9:30 pm)

19, 42. Forsythe, John, Train Control Systems: Introduction to Layout Command Control

A non-technical introduction to LCC, the NMRA standard for layout control. Learn about this emerging standard, the technology that comes with it, and what products are now available. Clinic presented by John Forsythe, owner of Train Control Systems (TCS). We will also review the Train Control Systems DCC command system under development. (Fri 11 am, Sat 9:30 am)

50. Getz HLM, Charlie: Great Products from Strange Places

In an era of closing hobby shops, it is helpful to think outside the box and find places you may not associate with model railroad supplies. In this clinic, we will discuss some of those options and perhaps some products of which you were not aware, usable for any scale of model railroading. Examples will be shown and local places discussed. In truth, there are a number of "train

shops" that don't know they're train shops, even in this area. In this clinic, you will discover some of those options. (Sat 2 pm)

9. Klein, Chuck: B&O Steam Finale

May 17, 1958 was the day that the Cleveland Railroad Club sponsored a B&O Steam Finale. Along with his brother and his father, Chuck was on this trip. Now, on the 60th Anniversary (to the day!) of this event, Chuck invites you to join him in a digital remembrance of this unique and unforgettable experience. (Thurs 8:30 pm)

34, 43. Knapp, Bruce: New Life for Old Brass – Repowering Locomotives

There are many very nice DCC/sound locomotives available today, but many, many more locos were built in the old days that just need a little work to run with the new stuff. This clinic will focus on the United/PFM 2-8-0 and an LMB Burlington 4-6-2, both excellent models that can be brought up to current standards and expectations. We'll look at how to disassemble them, examine and adjust the frame and running gear, replace the motor, add a decoder and speaker, then reassemble and test. We'll also talk about can motors, replacement gearboxes, and other items that will help bring older models into the digital age. (Fri 8 pm, Sat 9:30 am)

29, 44. Leone MMR, HLM Gerry: Easy, Realistic Model Railroad Photography

Modelers are often intimidated by model photographs they see in magazines or the NMRA Calendar. The truth is, it's not hard to take photos like that when you understand some of the basics of photography. From inexpensive lights to focus stacking, we'll cover everything you need to know to be a prize-winning model photographer. (Fri 6:30 pm, Sat 11 am)

53. Magoun MMR, Pete: Modeling the Prototype – North Whitefield, Maine

Modeling prototypical scenery is not hard to do. Pete will walk through the processes involved in creating a prototypical scene, with an unexpected benefit. This is *NOT* a scenery demo, it's a voyage through the planning and execution process. (Sat 3:30 pm)

51. Mahaney, Rick: Selecting Industries for your Model Railroad (Industries, Part One)

This clinic is designed to help model railroaders select industries and community businesses for their model railroad through a systematic approach. We'll look at how railroads service their customers and how to increase traffic by considering car types that are used to service various industries. Both prototype and model examples will be considered. (Sat 2 pm)

54. Mahaney, Rick: Quick Industries for your Model Railroad (Industries, Part Two)

This presentation is designed give industry ideas for model railroads that can quickly increase railroad traffic and new customers and can be assembled in several evenings or days of work. Examples of real facilities and model railroad examples are given. We will look at other details such as trackwork, loading docks, industry placement, and industry building concepts. This is Part Two of *Selecting Industries for Your Model Railroad*. (Sat 3:30 pm)

39. Mahaney, Rick: Crude Oil and Ethanol Operations

This clinic looks at crude oil and ethanol products, hazardous materials, placards, loading and unloading facilities, specific tank cars for transporting these products, unit trains, high-hazard flammable trains, and other related information. It is designed to help model railroaders who want to add these increasingly common unit trains and their operations to their modern era layouts. (Sat 8 am)

30. Mahaney, Rick: Perishables Operations in the 1950s

A look at refrigerator cars for produce, fruit, meat, and other ladings; the supporting operations (icing, cleanout, repair, storage buildings and warehouses, brokers and customers); the paperwork involved; how to apply all this to realistic model railroad operations; and examples of current best practice in these areas. (Fri 6:30 pm)

6. Mayhew, Chris: The Cincinnati Southern Railway

Ludlow, Kentucky native Chris Mayhew takes you on a photographic journey along the Cincinnati Southern Railway/Cincinnati, New Orleans & Texas Pacific from past to present. The Queen & Crescent Route era of the early 1900s will be emphasized. You'll see plenty of images of the Ludlow Shops, as well as motive power, stations, towers, and bridges along the line. (Thurs 7 pm)

23. McClelland MMR, HLM, W. Allen, with Gerry Albers: The V&O Today

An update on current operations on the Virginian & Ohio RR, in conjunction with Gerry Albers' Virginian Railway Deepwater District. The New York Central (Kanawha & Michigan) and the V&O share trackage rights along the north side of the Kanawha River from Gauley, WV to the Ohio River. This is the V&O's K&M Subdivision. At the small town of Alloy, WV, the V&O has a coal mine and a coal dock for barge loading, several industries to be switched, and an interchange with the VGN and the C&O. (Fri 2 pm)

35, 47. Miller, Hal: A Brief Look at Some Model Railroader Project Railroads

A look back at the construction and lives of some *Model Railroader* project layouts of the past several decades, their concepts, and methods of construction. Includes some "Where are they now?" stories. (Fri 9:30 pm, Sat 12:30 pm)

14. Miller, Hal: Modeling the Muskogee (OK) Roads in O Scale

The Midland Valley RR; Kansas, Oklahoma & Gulf Ry; and Oklahoma City-Ada-Atoka Ry. comprised the Muskogee Co., a small regional system that served as a bridge line for Missouri Pacific through Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas. Its facilities and rolling stock make it ideal for O scale modeling. (Fri 9:30 am)

25. Puthoff, Dave: Layout Lighting with LED Strips

This clinic will show how to retrofit an existing layout with 12-volt DC Light Emitting Diode (LED) Strip Lights, without valances, cut to length and mounted on molding strips. Ways of mounting the strips to both flat and open-joint ceilings are shown. Optional circuits using commercial components to allow dimming/brightening of room lighting in both manual and automated (timed) modes are also presented. (Fri 2 pm)

41. Sassi, Lou and Cheryl: Scenery Along the Right-of-Way

Lou explains the materials and techniques he utilizes to replicate various kinds and colors of rocks, specific tree types, woods, grass, and right-of-way fencing representative of that found on the prototype of his model railroad. Included will be a step-by-step video explaining the mixing of "Ground Goop." (Sat 9:30 am)

32. Sassi, Lou: Improving Your Trucks and Trains

Lou discusses the materials and techniques he employs to convert and detail vehicles intended for the children's toy market into realistic representations of their prototype counterparts. He also explains the techniques he uses to improve not only the looks but also the performance of various types of freight equipment on his SR&RL Railroad. (Fri 8 pm)

21. Stern, Rick: Some Exotic Trains – Trains of India

Steam in three gauges, diesel, electric, Galloping Geese, the world's oldest operating steam locomotive, and a unique national railway that is part of the fabric of daily life: all of this could be seen on the *Trains Magazine* 2017 "Heritage Trains of India" trip, a two-week adventure exploring the trains and the flavors of this unique and challenging country. (Fri 12:30 pm)

16, 38. Swain, Ed: Scratchbuilding a Rolling Lift Bridge

Ed will describe how he scratchbuilt a 160-scale-foot-long Scherzer Rolling Lift Bridge from styrene. Then, using through plate girder bridge kits, he will show how he installed the bridges on his layout to represent those seen on the New York & Long Branch RR in New Jersey. He will also show the surrounding scenery that completes the scene. (Fri 9:30 am, Sat 8 am)

15, 45. Swanson MMR, Sam: Finishing Materials and Techniques for Models

Adopting a finishing system for your structure and rolling stock models will yield layout scenes that are consistently painted and weathered. This clinic presents examples of brush-painting with acrylics, along with weathering using diluted acrylics to indicate age, shadows, and highlights. Specialty finishing, such as highlighting and weathering black surfaces and creating various types of corrosion, will also be covered. (Fri 9:30 am, Sat 11 am)

18, 36. Tipton, Rick: The Pennsylvania Railroad in Cincinnati

The obvious image of the Pennsy in Cincinnati is of Tuscan passenger trains at art-deco Cincinnati Union Terminal, alongside the trains of L&N, N&W, and others. However, The Standard Railroad of the World often exiled any less-than-standard motive power to this corner of its far-flung empire. Thus, Cincinnati was home to fleets of USRA steam power, Fairbanks-Morse hood units, and dual-service FP-7's. Mix in Cincinnati's challenging geography, and we'll be looking at an interesting "railfan stew." (Fri 11 am, 9:30 pm)

24. Weiglin, Peter: Railway Post Offices (RPOs)

For many years, the Railway Mail Service carried America's mail by contract with the railroads. Routes and schedules were determined by the Post Office. The railroads provided the equipment and followed the Post Office's strict standards and expectations. This clinic describes the RPO service, and helps the modeler follow prototype designs and practices. (Fri 2 pm)

11. Weinheimer MMR, Bob: Evolution of an Operating Scheme

This clinic looks at how the Pennsylvania Southern and its operating scheme have evolved over the past 35 years, through two moves, industrial growth, more and different staging methods for more cars and trains, improved crew operating skills, and changing dispatching technology and methods. (Fri 8 am)

17. Weinheimer, Getz, Leone, Koch, Brestel, Magoun, et al: Meet the NMRA Leaders

Meet the NMRA Presidents (past, present, and future), as well as the MCR president, the NMRA VP for Special Projects, the NMRA CFO/Treasurer, and maybe more. Bring your own questions and ideas, and supply your own hip boots — it may get deep! (Fri 11 am)

40. Zapytowski, Steve: Judging the MCR Model Contest

This clinic explores the process and philosophy behind the judging of models for the MCR Model Contest, and examines each of the five areas of evaluation: Construction, Detail, Conformity, Finish and Lettering, and Scratch Building. The judging matrix and the manner of awarding points are discussed, as is a strategy for efficient judging. This clinic is different from the one offered in previous years and is strongly recommended for all judges, veterans and first-timers alike. (Sat 8 am)

1. Zapytowski, Steve: MCR Model Contest Committee Meeting

This clinic is a training session for the members of the MCR Contest Committee. The management of the contest and its administration and the software used will be covered. Attendance is required for all members of the MCR contest committee. (Thurs 1 pm)

12. Zapytowski, Steve: Scratchbuilding in the Digital Age

As a long time CAD user for my former day job, it was not surprising to find myself using computers for my model railroading efforts. The term CAM has meant Computer Aided Manufacturing. With this clinic I'd like provide a second meaning for that acronym - Computer Aided Modeling. In the past several years I've worked with both laser cutting and etching in addition to 3D printing for my scratch building efforts. I will talk about the software and hardware I use in making my models as well as the limitations of the technologies used. There will be examples of my work shown in the presentation. (Fri 8 am)

27. Zapytowski, Steve and Hukill, Bruce: Taking the Perfect Photo...That Failed

Bruce, as the photographer, and I, as the modeler, describe our quest to take a photo for the 2018 NMRA Calendar. There were many trials and errors we experienced in the process of just taking a "simple" photograph. Once the shoot was over Bruce worked in Photoshop with all the photos. After two four-hour photo sessions and hours of work in Photoshop, we ended up with a result that failed to get into the calendar, but is still a wonderful photograph. (Fri 3:30 pm)

Area Hobby Dealers Supporting Model Railroading

Hours may vary, best to call ahead

DCC TRAIN

8595 Beechmont Ave., Suite #LL1
Cincinnati, OH 45255
513-388-9000
Mon and Wed: 12-8 pm ET
Fri 12-6 pm ET, Sat 10 am -6 pm ET
www.dcctrain.com/shop

Dixie Union Station

110 W. Main St.
Mason, OH 45040
513-459-0460
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 1 pm to 9 pm
Sat 10 am -7 pm

Don's Hobby & Bike Shop

4915 Glenway Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45238
513-921-5366
Mon - Fri 9 am - 6 pm; Sat 9 am - 4 pm

EnterTRAINment Junction (Junction Hobbies)

7379 Squire Ct.
West Chester, Ohio 45069
513-898-8001
www.entertrainmentjunction.com

Hamilton Hobbies

Twinbrook Plaza
Millville Ave.
Hamilton, OH 45013
513-892-1456
Mon-Fri 10 am -7 pm
Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 11 am -4 pm
www.hamiltonhobbies.com

Hobbytown USA

9120 Union Cemetery Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45249
513-697-8224
Mon-Fri 10 am - 9 pm; Sat-Sun 11 am - 5 pm
www.hobbytownusa.com

iSAC Prototypical Reproductions

30 N. Broadway
Lebanon, OH 45036
513-836-3557
Mon-Fri 11 am - 6 pm; Sat 10 am - 5 pm
www.isacstore.com

Tim's Trains and Hobbies

3439 Decoursey Ave.
Covington, KY 41015
859-261-4920
Tues-Thurs 10 am - 6 pm
Fri 10 am - 8 pm; Sat 10 am - 6 pm
www.timstrainsandhobbies.com

Western Hills Photo & Hobby

6719 Glenway Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45211
513-661-2141
Mon-Fri 9 am - 6 pm
Sat 9 am - 5 pm

Cincinnati Express Refund Policy

Upon cancellation by an attendee, the appropriate refund will be issued in like payment. Please see specific refund criteria below. Allow up to 6 weeks processing time. Refunds applied for after May 1, 2018 will not be processed until 6 weeks after the end of the convention. Please note that payment made by credit card will be refunded to your credit card.

All refunds will be approved by the Convention Committee and made ONLY by the Treasurer. No refunds will be made at the convention.

Separate policies have been established for tours, events, merchandise, etc. Please read each section carefully for cancellation/refund criteria.

Cancellation of Extra Fare Event, Store Merchandise, Extra Fare Clinic or Tour by the Convention

In the case of a cancellation by the convention, if an extra fare event, store merchandise, extra fare clinic or tour is canceled prior to the start of the convention; a notice will be sent to the attendee informing them of the cancellation. A full refund, in kind, will be processed after 30 days of the notice if no other selection is made by the attendee.

Last minute cancellations by the convention may be exchanged for other available events, tours, etc. If no alternatives are available or identified, full refunds will be processed after the convention. Please allow up to 6 weeks processing time.

Tour and Non-Food Event Refunds for Cancellations by Registrant

After May 15, 2018 - all tickets eligible for resale must be presented to the Tour Desk (at the convention) on a consignment basis only. The Convention does not guarantee consigned tickets will be resold. If the tickets are resold, the refund will be processed within six weeks of the end of the convention. If the tickets are not resold, there will be no refund.

Extra Fare Food Events Refunds for Cancellations by Registrant

After the start of the convention, food event tickets may be presented to the Registration Desk for reselling on a consignment basis only. The Convention does not guarantee consigned tickets will be resold. If the tickets are resold, the refund will be processed within six weeks of the end of the convention. If the tickets are not resold, there will be no refund.

White Elephant Event and Company Store Refunds

The convention offers no guarantee on the condition of the merchandise offered at the White Elephant Event and the buyer is purchasing the merchandise "as is" and at their own risk. No refunds are provided under any circumstance for the White Elephant Event or the Company Store.

Other Refunds and Exceptions

All other requests for refunds will be made in writing and then be considered by the Convention General Chairman

Notes