

## Cincinnati Division 7's Model Railroading Roundtable Program

The goal of the Model Railroading Roundtable (MRR) program is to allow a small group of like-interested folks to gather in a local home or meeting place and learn a new skill related directly to the model railroading hobby. Those that have mastered the skill will host a small group (size of the host's choosing, typically between four and eight folks) and then in a one-to-two hour session to assist fellow Division 7 members to develop that skill.

Most get-togethers are anticipated to take place in the host's home workshop, operating crew lounge, or layout room. Content, timeframe, and participants are solely the host's preference. Hosts will advertise the MRR event in *The Oil Can*, stating the specifics of the program, and providing an email address for responses. Attendee reservations will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis. Hosts will confirm with attendees the day before the event and well before that a reminder as well as distributing any information that attendees should become familiar with (or gather, should attendees need to bring certain items or supplies). Costs of supplies, refreshments, and the like are the responsibility of the host or participants (meaning there is currently not an allocation requested for this activity within Division 7's annual budget).

Currently there are eight hosts that have expressed interest in participating in the MRR program in 2024, with the following subjects:

• Planning/Building Structures and Scenes	• Installing Decoders, Motors, and Gears
• Scratchbuilding Rolling Stock	• Building Structures from Photos
• Painting Backdrops	• Carving Rockwork from Foam Insulation
• Constructing Models in Styrene	• Painting Details and Figures (HO and O)

Depending upon host and participant interest, the following topics will be investigated and scheduled for subsequent months:

• Layout Planning for Operation	• 3D Printing
• Building Lightweight Benchwork	• Laser Cutting and Etching
• Painting Structures	• Handlaying Track and Turnouts
• Detailing Backdrops with Photos	• Installing Switch Machines
• Detailing Scenery (from ground cover to trees to modeling water)	• Weathering Rolling Stock and Locomotives (through airbrushing or powder application)

This list is not comprehensive and any topic germane to model railroading will be considered.

The program is slated to start in early 2024. Those interested in hosting an MRR session can contact **Sam Swanson** ([nwindes1980@gmail.com](mailto:nwindes1980@gmail.com)) to propose a topic and timeframe and once those aspects are defined, an announcement will be submitted to *The Oil Can*.