

Departure Notices for Local Modelers since March 2020

Michael C. Brestel

1951 – 2024

It is with great sadness we report long-time Cincinnati Division 7 leader, and former National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) President, Michael C. Brestel passed away on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at the age of 73. Mike was born May 14, 1951 and was a legend in the local, regional and national model railroad communities, beginning his many contributions when he was 15 years of age. He served in numerous leadership capacities and was a Fellow and Honorary Life Member of the NMRA. Mike loved photography and was the long-time owner of Western Hills Photo & Hobby. He was also active in the Cincinnati Railroad Club, the Cincinnati Model Railway Club and the Chesapeake & Ohio Historical Society. See attached for Mike's obituary (including visitation and service information), plus photos and other tributes.

Raymond Leonard Schmidt

1933 – 2024

It is with great sadness we report former long-time Division 7 member Raymond Leonard Schmidt passed away on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at the age of 90. Ray was born April 18, 1933, in Dayton, KY. He was a retired lab technician from Wiedeman Brewery and a member of Saint Thomas Church in Fort Thomas, KY. Ray was a skilled model railroader and long-time member of the Cincinnati Chapter of the National Model Railroad Association. Ray's former model railroad was a popular attraction during local conventions and gatherings over the years. Visitation, Mass of Christian Burial and Internment occurred on in Fort Thomas, KY on Saturday, January 20, 2024. See attached for Ray's obituary and photo.

John W. Wissinger

1941 – 2024

It is with great sadness we report former Division 7 Superintendent John W. Wissinger passed away on Thursday, February 29, 2024 at the age of 82 in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Cincinnati, and worked at several companies as an Industrial Designer before retiring in 2007. John was Master Model Railroader #99. He was Superintendent of the Cincinnati Division 7 during 1976 to 1978. He enjoyed traveling with his beloved wife, Kathy, to every model railroad convention and conference they could attend. A Memorial and Celebration of Life Service was livestreamed on April 11, 2024 at 11:00 am. Afterwards, it may also be posted on YouTube. See attached for John's obituary and photo.

Gary Orcutt

1935 – 2023

It is with great sadness we report former long-time Division 7 member Gary Orcutt passed away on Friday, August 18, 2023 at the age of 88. Gary once served as Division 7's Treasurer and also processed many registrations for our 2005 National NMRA Convention. Our condolences go to Gary's son Kevin, and all his friends and family. Visitation was on Saturday, August 26 from 10:30-12:30, with a short service at 12:30 officiated by Division 7 member Doug Campbell, both at Stine Funeral Home of Lebanon, 801 Monroe Rd, Lebanon, OH 45036. Interment followed at Lebanon Cemetery. See attached for Gary's obituary.

Peter Weiglin

1938 – 2023

It is with great sadness we report long-time Division 7 member Peter C. Weiglin passed away on Friday, March 31, 2023 at the age of 84. Peter was an accomplished author, teacher, broadcaster, producer, narrator, historian, speaker and railroad modeler. Peter was a life member of the NMRA, an active trustee of Cincinnati Division 7 and Chair of our annual Spring Flea Market. Our condolences go to Peter's wife Jeanne, and all his friends and family. A memorial service and reception celebrating Peter's life was held on Saturday, April 29 at Faith United Methodist Church in Batavia, Ohio. See attached for additional notices, obituary and perspectives on Peter's life.

Ron Gribler, MMR®

1938 – 2023

It is with great sadness we report the loss of long-time Division 7 member Ron Gribler, MMR®. Ron passed away early March 1, 2023. Our condolences go to Ron's family and friends, including Ron's grandson and Division 7 member Chris Shackleton. Services were held on March 4, 2023. Ron was a lifelong O Scale model railroader with many awards and numerous publications and achieved the distinction of being Master Model Railroader #494. See attached obituary for more details, plus Chris's touching life story about him and Ron.

Bill Horstmann

1928 – 2023

It is with great sadness we report the passing of long-time Division 7 member Bill Horstmann. Bill passed away February 24, 2023. He was a Life member of the NMRA, having joined 50 years ago. Our condolences go to Bill's family and friends. Services were held on March 7. See attached expanded obituary for more details.

W. Allen McClelland, HLM, MMR®

1934 – 2022

It is with great sadness we report long-time neighboring Div. 3 member and renowned modeler, photographer, innovator, author and speaker W. Allen McClelland, HLM, MMR passed away on Friday, October 28, 2022. This is a great loss for the entire hobby and his friends in Division 7. Tony Koester just finished a new book on Allen and his V&O layout that was published by Kalmbach in January 2023. See attached for a photo by John Burchnall of Allen in May 2012. See also the remembrances of Allen in the NMRA, Model Railroader and Railroad Model Craftsman magazines as well as the News section of Kalmbach Media's Trains.com website. Memorial gathering arrangements are currently unknown.

Perry Simpson

1942 – 2022

It is with great sadness we report long-time Div. 7 member and L&N modeler Perry Simpson passed away on Monday, September 26, 2022. He was also a member of the Cincinnati RR Club and the L&N Historical Society. Perry's large HO scale layout was featured in the 2013 issue of Great Model RRs magazine. Our condolences to Pam and Rick Moleski, Perry's daughter and son-in-law, both also longtime Div. 7 members. See attached local obituary for more details. See also attached photo of Perry and grandson Shane at Perry's layout.

Dianne Rowland

1954 – 2022

It is with great sadness we report long-time Division 7 member and leader Dianne Rowland passed away on Wednesday, June 22, 2022. Dianne and her late husband Don chaired our Spring Flea Market a number of years ago. During recent years Dianne had once again stepped in as Co-Chair of that annual event. A celebration of Dianne's life was held on Saturday, July 9, at the Sharonville United Methodist Church, in Ohio. See attached for more details, including a photo.

Ron Sturgis

1946 – 2022

It is with great sadness we report the death of NMRA member Ronald Terry Sturgis, on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at age 75. Ron was an avid model railroader, joining the NMRA in 2010. He was a member of both Miami Valley Div. 3 and Cincinnati Div. 7. He volunteered for Christmas on Campus at the University of Dayton, the Annual Dayton Train Show, the Annual Carillon Park Rail Fest and the Annual Model Railroad Training Day Sessions. He helped many local model railroaders with wiring and electronics on their layouts. Final arrangements were private at the convenience of the family. See attached for more details, including a photo.

Frank Hermanek, MMR®

1933 – 2021

It is with great sadness that we report the death of long-time NMRA member and Master Model Railroader #360 on Thursday, December 23, 2021. Frank joined Cincinnati Division 7 and the Mid-Central Region when he moved from Indianapolis to Lawrenceburg, Indiana. He was a talented craftsman and built many contest winning freight cars recognized at the divisional, regional and national levels. He worked for GE Aircraft Engine Group and also at Praxair. A memorial service and reception to honor his life was celebrated on Monday, Jan. 17th. See attached for details, plus more about Frank, including a photo.

Robert "Bob" Fink, MMR®

1935 – 2021

It is with great sadness that we report long time Division 3 member and leader, Bob Fink, passed away on May 29, 2021. Bob joined the NMRA in 1959, and was one of the original members of Division 3 when it was established by then Mid Central Region President Lone Eagle Payne in the summer of 1959. Bob served stints as Superintendent and Newsletter Editor, as well as other positions. After one of his house moves, Bob discovered he had also become a member of Division 7. Bob was a great friend and avid modeler, having attained the level of Master Model Railroader.

William Lee "Bill" Edwards

1946 – 2021

It is with great sadness that we report the death of former member and friend Bill Edwards on March 29, 2021. Bill was an outstanding modeler and clinician, who was well known for his entertaining clinics on scenery, weathering, scratch-building and other topics. Bill helped found the Black Diamond Lines model railroad club, and is credited with developing the "puff ball" model tree making method. See attached for more about Bill.

Richard "Dick" White

1936 – 2020

It is with great sadness that we report the death of long-time member and friend Richard "Dick" White on Monday, June 1, 2020. Dick was a key leader of Division 7 over many decades including serving as an officer and helping run the 1966 and 2005 National Conventions. He was also a prominent member of at least 3 local model railroad clubs - the Western Hills Model RR Club, the Cincinnati & Great Western RR Club, and the Cincinnati Model Railway Club. See attached for a copy of Dick's obituary.

Charlie Atkinson, MMR®

1934 – 2020

It is with great sadness that we report the death of long-time member and friend Charlie Atkinson on Sunday March 29, 2020. Charlie was a key leader of Division 7 over the years including a tour of duty as Division Superintendent and the head of our extremely successful 2005 National NMRA Convention. See attached for more about Charlie, including pictures.