Cincinnati Division 7, Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association

Departure Notices for Local Modelers since March 2020

Georgia Dahlberg, MMR®
1941 – 2026

It is with great sadness we report longtime Cincinnati Division 7 member Georgia Dahlberg of Williamstown, KY passed away on September 28, 2026 at the age of 85. Georgia was born on September 19, 1941. Georgia served in the U.S. Army from 1964 – 1966 plus 12 years in the Army Reserves. Georgia joined the National Model Railroad Assoc. in 2005. She was active in model and photo contests and achieved the distinction of being Master Model Railroader #472. Our condolences go to all Georgia's friends and family. Memorial arrangements are pending. Burial will be with military honors at the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North in Williamstown, KY. See the Memoriams page on our website for photo collage, expanded info and arrangements when available.

Martin "Bo" Sis
1942 – 2026

It is with great sadness we report Cincinnati Div. 7 member Martin William (Bo) Sis of Hebron, KY passed away on September 23, 2026 at the age of 84. Bo formerly lived in Pennsylvania and South Carolina, and had a 34-year career with Piedmont and USAir, and 28 years as a painter. He was an avid model railroader and an active member of Cincinnati Div. 7 of the NMRA. Bo's large HO scale model railroad was featured in the October 2026 issue of Model Railroader magazine. Bo is survived by Sandra, his wife of 63 years, two adult sons, and several other close relatives. Our condolences go to all Bo's friends and family. Visitation and Service are on October 8, 2026 in Florence, KY. See the Memoriams page on our website for expanded information, photo, service details and official obituary.

Gary Held
1948 - 2026

It is with great sadness we report Cincinnati Div. 7 member Gary Edward Held of Florence, KY passed away on June 11, 2026 at the age of 78. Gary formerly lived in Jacksonville, FL, and had a 40-year career with CSX Railroad. He was a member of Cincinnati Div. 7 of the NMRA since October of 2023. Gary is survived by his wife, Roxie and several other close relatives. Our condolences go to all Gary's friends and family. Visitation was held on June 18, in Fort Thomas, KY, with burial in Alexandria Cemetery on June 19. See the Memoriams page on our website for Gary's official obituary including photo, service details and expanded information.

Don Leedy
1942 - 2026

It is with great sadness we report long time Cincinnati Division 7 member and former officer Donald Wayne Leedy passed away on May 21, 2026 at the age of 83. He was born on November 17, 1942. Don was a retired chemist following a long career in Research & Development at Procter & Gamble. His hobby passions were model railroading, aviation and Jaguar cars. Don was the Superintendent of Cincinnati Division 7 of the National Model Railroad Assoc. in 1978 and 1979, and the Assistant Superintendent in 1980 and 1981. Our condolences go to all Don's friends and family. A private memorial gathering was held on Saturday, June 6, 2026. See the Memoriams page on our Division 7 website for photos and expanded information.

Walt Wyatt
1940 - 2026

It is with great sadness we report former Div. 7 member Walter Wendell Wyatt passed away on May 11, 2026 at the age of 86. Walt was born on April 11, 1940, and is survived by his wife Carolyn. Walt was a member of Div. 7 for many years until he and Carolyn moved to MI in 2017 to be close to their grandkids. Walt had several layouts while in Cincinnati, including his Sweetwater Valley featured in RMC magazine and his Mt. Healthy Traction Co. He also teamed up with Mark Albert to form the Trolley Modelers group. Walt and Carolyn both helped build the Cinti in Motion exhibit at Cinti Mus. Ctr in CUT, where Walt was also a docent. Condolences go to all Walt's friends and family. Visitation, service and burial will be held on May 23, 2026 in MI. See the Memoriams page on our Division 7 website for service details, official obituary and expanded information.

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 5 years 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. See the Memoriams page on our Division 7 website for photos and other information.

John "Jor" Luecke
1956 - 2025

It is with great sadness we report prior Cincinnati Division 7 member John "Jor" Luecke passed away on November 6, 2025 at the age of 69. He was born on April 27, 1956 and was a member of the Cincinnati Division 7 of the National Model Railroad Association for 6.5 years from October 1, 2015 through March 31, 2022. Jor's son Mike shared the NMRA was like a second family to Jor. Our condolences go to all Jor's friends and family. See the Memoriams page on our Division 7 website for photos and wake gathering information.

Jim Keith
1933 - 2025

It is with great sadness we report former Division 7 member James (Jim) Keith passed away on August 4, 2025 at the age of 92. He was born on July 26, 1933 and was a member of the Eastern Loggers modeling group and the Cinder Sniffers live steam model railroad club. Jim was a career mechanical engineer designing jet engines at General Electric. He attended many Division 7 fall train shows over the years. Our condolences go to Jim's wife Dorothy, their 3 sons, including Division 7 member David Keith, and to all of Jim's friends and family. See the Memoriams page on our Division 7 website for a photo collection, plus obituary with service information.

Jack Laubisch
1942 - 2025

It is with great sadness we report former Division 7 member John (Jack) Laubisch passed away on April 30, 2025 at the age of 83. He was born on March 21, 1942. Jack was an NMRA member from June 1995 through December 2014. He was a past Contest Chair of Division 7, and was a fixture at area train shows for many

years selling his original photography. Our condolences go to all of Jack's friends and family. See the Memoriams page on our Division 7 website for his obituary including photo and service information.

Greg Klinker
1943 - 2025

It is with great sadness we report long time Division 7 member Greg Klinker passed away on March 4, 2025 at the age of 81. He was born on November 30, 1943 and joined the NMRA in November of 1996. Greg was a Vietnam Veteran, having served 20 years in the USAF as an aircraft mechanic. He was a prominent member of the Cincinnati Northern Model Railroad Club. Our condolences go to all of Greg's friends and family. See the Memoriams page on our Division 7 website for his obituary including photo and other information.

Kevin Orcutt
1966 - 2025

It is with great sadness we report long-time Division 7 member Kevin Neal Orcutt passed away on January 20, 2025 at the age of 58. He was born on March 26, 1966 and joined the NMRA in March of 1997. Kevin coordinated the video lending library of our Cincinnati Division 7, and was our past webmaster. He was also active in the group of local modelers called the Lebanon Subdivision. Kevin and his late father Gary were fixtures at train shows for many years. Our condolences go to all of Kevin's friends and family. See the Memoriams page on our Division 7 website for his obituary including service information.

Jack Johnson
1942 - 2025

It is with great sadness we report long-time Division 7 member John "Jack" F. Johnson passed away on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at the age of 82. He was born on August 4, 1942. Jack worked at the Andrew Jergens Company (KAO Brands) for 37 years. He was a life member of the National Model Railroad Association, having joined in 1972. Jack served in several leadership roles in the Cincinnati Chapter of the NMRA, including as Secretary and Registrar. He modeled the B&O Railroad in HO scale. Our condolences go to all of Jack's friends and family. See the Memoriams page on our Cincinnati Division 7 website for photo, obituary and other information.

William Michael Mereness
1939 – 2024

It is with great sadness we report long-time Division 7 member Mike Mereness passed away on December 21, 2024 at the age of 85. He was born on July 19, 1939 and was recovering from shingles at his home in Loveland, Ohio. Mike was a long-time member of the Eastern Loggers modeling group, being one of the 4 primary owners of the layout when it was donated to the PA Lumber Museum. He was also the long-time Program Chair of the Miami Valley Division 3, and a member of the southwest Ohio Wednesday round-robin operating group. Mike also enjoyed antique cars. He is survived by his wife Kathryn, son John, daughter Ann, and two grand kids. Our condolences go to all of Mike's friends and family. See the Memoriams page on our Division 7 website for photos and more information as it becomes available.

Robert "Bob" Shaw
1945 – 2024

It is with great sadness we report long-time Division 7 member Robert G. Shaw passed away on November 15, 2024 at the age of 79. He was born in October of 1945 and joined the NMRA in April of 1999. Bob modeled the Little Miami Division of the C&O Railway in HO scale. He generously volunteered his services at our shows and conventions and regularly opened his layout for conventions and monthly meetings. Our condolences go to all of Bob's friends and family. See the Memoriams page on our Division 7 website for a photo and more information as it becomes available.

Dr. Gerry Albers
1944 – 2024

It is with great sadness we report long-time Cincinnati Division 7 member and well-known model railroader, Gerry Albers passed away on Sunday, October 13, 2024 at the age of 80. He was born in Cincinnati on July 19, 1944. Gerry and his incredible Virginian Railway were renowned in the local, regional and national model railroad communities. Gerry was a life member of the National Model Railroad Association, a past Treasurer and Trustee of Cincinnati Div 7 and past Chair of the annual Cincinnati Model Train Show. Our condolences go to Gerry's wife Jenny, and all of their friends and family. A Celebration of Life Service was held on Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 10:30 am at Crossroads Church in Oakley at 3500 Madison Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45209. See the Memoriams page on our website for obituary, photo tribute, and synopsis of Gerry's modeling journey.

Brady John McGuire
1945 - 2024

It is with great sadness we report long-time past Division 7 member Brady McGuire passed away on September 12, 2024 in Denison, TX at the age of 79. He was born on May 29, 1945, in Sankertown, PA, and was preceded in death by his wife, Beverly Jane (Tucker) McGuire. Brady was an avid rail fan and model railroader, with primary interest in the PRR. He worked as a Process Engineer at Procter & Gamble for 27 years, helping develop the novel production process for Pringles potato chips. Later, Brady transferred from Cincinnati, OH to Sherman, TX to work at the Folgers coffee plant. He and Jane became fixtures at many model train meets and conventions. Our condolences go to all of Brady's friends and family. See the Memoriams page on our website for obituary, photos, testimonies, and more information.

Edward Charles Wagner Sr
1947 - 2024

It is with great sadness we report long-time Cincinnati Division 7 NMRA member Ed Wagner passed away on Sunday, July 28, 2024 at the age of 76. He was born December 2, 1947 and was a member of the National Model Railroad Association since June of 1998. Ed was a past Treasurer of our Cincinnati Division 7. Our condolences go to his wife Ruth Ann, and to all of Ed's friends and family. See the Memoriams page on our website for more information, including arrangement details.

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 the Memoriams page on our website 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 the Memoriams page on our website for Ray's obituary and photo.

John W. Wissinger, MMR®
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 Cincinnati Division 7 Superintendent during 1976 to 1978. He enjoyed traveling with his beloved wife, Kathy, to every model railroading convention and conference they could attend. A Memorial and Celebration of Life Service was livestreamed on April 11, 2024. It might be posted on YouTube. See the Memoriams page on our website for 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 our Treasurer and also processed many registrations for our 2005 National NMRA Convention. Our condolences go to Gary's son Kevin, and all of 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 the Memoriams page on our website 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 of 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 the Memoriams page on our website 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 the Memoriams page on our website for obituary, photo and 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 an NMRA Life member, having joined 50 years ago. Notably, Bill graciously opened his garage level layout for the NMRA's first Accessible Layouts bus tour during Division 7's 2005 NMRA National Convention. Our condolences go to Bill's family and friends. Services were held on March 7. See the Memoriams page on our website for full obituary.

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 the Memoriams page on our website for more info, a photo of Allen and other links. 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 the Memoriams page on our website for obituary and more details, including a photo collage of Perry's modeling life, and a 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 the Memoriams page on our website for more information.

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. Ron helped many local modelers with wiring and electronics on their layouts. Final arrangements were private at the convenience of the family. See the Memoriams page on our website for more info.

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 the Memoriams page on our website 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. See the Memoriams page on our website for more about Bob.

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 the Memoriams page on our website 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 the Memoriams page on our website for 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 the Memoriams page on our website for more about Charlie, including pictures.