

Lou Sassi Cincinnati Area Layout Shoots

by John Burchnall – revised December 19, 2025

Division 7 enjoys a productive relationship with model railroad photographer, author and modeler Lou Sassi. So far Lou has shot or booked 49 Cincinnati area layouts for articles in Kalmbach and Firecrown magazines. He's also scheduled or shot 33 other layouts in neighboring cities. 18 Cincinnati area layouts have been published in the annual Great Model Railroads magazine (GMR) plus 24 more in Model Railroader (MR) or Model Railroad Planning (MRP), with 7 other Cincinnati layouts pending. Further, 6 of the 33 neighboring city layouts have also been published in GMR, with 19 featured in MR, and 8 others pending.

GREATER CINCINNATI	scale	publish	mag	comments
Eastern Loggers 1	HO/HOn3	1998	GMR	+ RMC, NMRA articles by owners
Tony Michel	O	1999	GMR	
Bob Bales	HO	2000	GMR	gone, dismantled
Larry Kraft	G	Aug 2001	MR	gone, moved away
Dan Morgan	N	2002	GMR	deceased - layout gone?
Neal Horning	HO	2003	GMR	deceased - layout intact
Rick Crumrine 1	HO	2003	GMR	layout phase 1
Ray Faragher	G	2003	GMR	relocated into museum
Jerry Strangarity 1	HO	2003	GMR	layout phase 1 (city)
Jerry Strangarity 2	HO	Nov 2010	MR	layout phase 2 (rural), w/ cover too
On3 Eastern Loggers	On3	2004	GMR	
John Fultz	HO	2004	GMR	gone, moved away
Matt Snell / Debbie Baker	HO	2006	GMR	
Curt LaRue	HO	2011	GMR	+ RMJ article
Greg Simpson 1	OO	Apr 2005	MR	gone, replaced by #2
Greg Simpson 2	OO	2012	GMR	gone, moved, replaced by #3
Cincinnati Northern	HO	2012	MRP	portable layout
Perry Simpson	HO	2013	GMR	
Bill Doll	HO	Apr 2013	MR	with cover, too + Oct 2020 RMC article
Jim Bonnett	HO	Aug 2013	MR	dismantled late 2014
Gerry Albers	HO	2014	GMR	+ MRP article by owner – dismantled 2024
Allen McClelland, MMR (Cincinnati)	HO	2014	GMR	part of Albers' layout – dismantled 2024
Frank Fieler	HO	Jul 2014	MR	
Bob Lawson (Monroe 1)	HO	Aug 2014	MR	+ MR & NMRA calendars – moved locally
Ron Pearson	HOn3	Oct 2014	MR	+ other published articles by owner
Dave Davenport	HO	Oct 2014	MR	
Ed Swain 1	HO	Apr 2015	MR	with cover, too
Steve Montgomery	HO	Jul 2015	MR	with cover, too
Dave Nenna	N	Aug 2015	MR	dismantled, moved to CA in 2019
Rick Stern	HO	Dec 2015	MR	
Rick Crumrine 2	HO	Aug 2016	MR	layout phase 2 (steel mills)
John Listermann	HO	Feb 2018	MR	
Todd Smalley	HO	Apr 2022	MR	May 2018 shoot
Roy Allan	Fn3	Nov 2019	MR	including 2-page photo spread
Eastern Loggers 2	HO/HOn3	Dec 2022	MR	Nov. 2021 moved to Pa. Lumber Museum
David Wendt	HO	July 2023	MR	shot Oct 2021
Jerry Strangarity 3	HO	Jan 2024	MR	layout phase 3 – shot Oct 2021
Greg Albert	N	Nov 2023	MR	shot Oct 2022
Rick Crumrine 3	HO	2025	GMR	layout phase 3 – shot Apr 2023
Mark Albert	HO	Oct 2025	MR	shot Apr 2022
Curt LaRue 2	HO	Oct 2025	MR	approved Feb 2022 – shot Oct 2023
Ed Swain 2	HO	tbd	tbd	layout phase 2 – shot Apr 2024
Bo Sis	HO	tbd	tbd	approved Aug 2021 – shot Oct 2023
Dennis Malloy	HO	tbd	tbd	approved Dec 2021 – shot Apr 2024
Bob Bartizek	O	2026	GMR	approved May 2023 – shot Apr 2025
Bob Lawson (West Chester 1)	HO	Apr 2026 shoot	tbd	approved Jan 2018 and May 2023
Tom Patterson	HO	shoot tbd	tbd	approved Nov 2023
Jim Rollwage	HO	shoot tbd	tbd	approved Apr 2024
Dan Hadley	HO	shoot tbd	tbd	approved May 2024

KENTUCKY	scale	publish	mag	comments
Bob Lawson (Danville)	HO	2008	GMR	gone, dismantled
John Bowling 1	HO	Aug 2007	MR	gone, replaced by #2
Ray / Renee Grosser 1	HO	2008	GMR	gone, replaced by #2
Ray / Renee Grosser 2	O	2012	GMR	gone, Ray deceased 2023
Pete Birdsong	On30	Jan 2015	MR	moved to California in 2014
Pat Gerstle	Sn3	Mar 2016	MR	with cover, too
Chris Broughton, MMR	N	2018	GMR	
John Ottman	HO	Jun 2018	MR	
Bob Ferguson	N	Jan 2020	MR	including full page photo spread
George Campbell	HO	Sep 2021	MR	with cover, too – now deceased
John Bowling 2	HO	2024	GMR	new layout - shot Apr 2022
Louisville Free-Mo N Group	N	shoot tbd	tbd	approved Nov 2023
Louisville Layout TBD	N?	shoot tbd	tbd	which layout tbd

INDIANA

Matt Hewitt	HO	Oct 2010	MR	with cover, too
Jim Munns	HO	Apr 2010	MR	
Ron Lane	HO/HOn3	Oct 2015	MR	with cover, too
Jack Simpson	HO	Jul 2016	MR	
Mike Havens	HO	Oct 2016	MR	with cover, too
Vern Sargent	N	Nov 2017	MR	

OHIO (outside Greater Cincinnati)

Dave Holl 2 (Dayton)	HO	Oct 2008	MR	gone + prior layout in '99 GMR by owner
Howard Clark (Lima)	HO	May 2019	MR	with cover, too
David Powell, MD (Lima)	HO	2020	GMR	including 2-page photo spread
Coshocton Club	HO	July 2020	MR	with cover - article in 2019 MRP
David Arrell (Columbus)	HO	March 2022	MR	shot May 2021
Youngstown Model Railroad Club	HO (O)	January 2025	MR	shot Oct 2022
Mike Farrow (Cleveland)	N	Apr 2024	MR	shot Apr 2023
Dave Holl 3 (Dayton)	HO	tbd	tbd	new layout – appr'd Mar'21 – shot Jul'23
Dave Lawler (Cleveland)	HO	shoot tbd	tbd	approved Jun 2024
Joe Kurilic, MMR (Cleveland)	HO	shoot tbd	tbd	approved Jun 2024

OTHER STATES

Art Kear (PA)	HO	Aug 2025	MR	approved Nov 2021 – shot Sep 2024
4 County Society of Model Engrs (MD)	HO	Nov/Dec shoot tbd	tbd	approved April 2019 - c/o Rick Shulby
Central New York Modelers (NY)	HO	shoot tbd	tbd	new sections scouted January 2024
Todd Treaster (PA)	N	shoot tbd	tbd	email scouted/approved February 2024