



# PEDDLER FREIGHT

## Division 1 - MCR - NMRA

### Akron - Canton - Youngstown Division

Serving Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Mahoning, Portage, Stark,  
Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas and Wayne Counties

[www.div1-mcr-nmra.org](http://www.div1-mcr-nmra.org)

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## Superintendent's Bulletin



Our hobby of model railroading has been around for a long time. And it that time, the model railroading hobby has gone through changes. Scenery products have improved to give us realistic scenery. The quality of locomotives and cars has improved with the attention paid to detail to create a model of a specific prototype locomotive and car. And, in my opinion, one of the biggest changes in the hobby is electronics. We now

have DCC which allows us to program our locomotives to a specific make of diesel or steam locomotive and throw switches while running several locomotives at the same time. Pretty neat stuff! I never would have thought we'd have these great improvements when I was running my Lionel train at age 5. But here we are.

A new aspect of our hobby has emerged called Prototype Freelancing or simply named Proto-Freelance. This is where a fictional model railroad is created with a story line that tells the history of that model railroad. The model railroad will have a paint scheme, reporting marks and follow prototype operating practices with switch lists and timetables. The model railroad may be set in a fictional location and have a map showing the route the railroad takes. It takes some work on the model railroad owners part to "paint" a picture of this proto-freelance model railroad. But the finished model railroad will create the feeling of being in an actual real railroad. Examples of this are [Allen McClelland's V&O](#), Eric Brooman's Utah Belt and [Jim Hediger's Ohio Southern](#).

Recently, the first Freelance Forum was held in Greeley, Colorado which included freelance clinics, model displays and layout visits. Division 1 member Trev Smith attended, and we look forward to hearing more about this Freelance Forum. For more information on this aspect of our hobby go to the Home Shops website, <https://homeshops.net>, and go to the Freelance Hub.

All Aboard!!!  
Jim DiPaola, Superintendent  
NMRA, MCR, Division 1

*Editors note: [Jim DiPaola's Davies Steel](#) is on the Home Shops website.*

## T-TRAK Module Event News

**November 22** - Both the HO and N scale T-TRAK modules will be displayed at the Wayne County Public Library Main Location, 220 W. Liberty St. Wooster 44691.

**December 13** - The HO T-TRAK modules will be displayed at the Age of Steam Roundhouse, 213 Smokey Lane Rd. SW, Sugarcreek.

## Membership Report

Here is what is rolling out of the membership committee. Currently, we have 75 members.

For those who may wonder, I had a bad enough bout of vertigo to feel uncomfortable driving to Ravenna for our first meeting. Fortunately it was just that one day and I am happy to say I have been working on the LS&MJ in Belpre. I have added several buildings, including three that will need to be serviced by railroad. Contact me if interested in operating on the LS&MJ, next op session Tuesday, Oct. 14. Two of my regular operators will not be there.

I had a "bring and brag" item to share in September. C'mon out to the October meeting to see what it is.

Membership chair  
Jim Peters

## 2025 Division 1 Events

October 19 - Ravenna Township Meeting Hall.

# Division 1, MCR, NMRA

## Meeting Minutes

### September 21, 2025

#### 1. Welcome:

- ~ Call to order: 2:00 PM.
- ~ By: Jim DiPaola, Superintendent.
- ~ Participants: 18.
- ~ Location: Ravenna Township Building.

#### 2. Clerk: Jeff Stone:

- ~ Previous meeting minutes published in Peddler freight.
- ~ Motion carried to approve minutes (Bob Anelli / Steve Zapytowski).

#### 3. Treasurer: Mike Bradley:

- ~ Report presented by treasurer. Available on request.
- ~ Expense: WIX fee \$538.02 (3 Years).
- ~ Motion carried to approve treasurer report (Lloyd Horst / Steve Zapytowski).

#### 4. Superintendent: Jim DiPaola:

- ~ National Convention in Novi, MI in July was excellent. They had to turn away walk up participants.
- ~ For the steel mill crowd, Faller will release a steel mill kit in 2026, will be large and although Euro prototype, which can also be found in Ohio.
- ~ Convention used TV's for presentations. Worked great (Food for thought next time we host).
- ~ Looking for meeting places, which became a discussion. Suggestions: Iron Skillet meeting room (Pufferbelly in Kent), Marvin Kent car in Kent, Youngstown Steel Heritage Museum, Sebring Club, E. Canton Club, Akron RR Club.

#### 4a. Assistant Superintendent: Sam Eisele:

- ~ The Late Bob Ashley requested folks donate to Division 1 in lieu of flowers. Let Sam know if you want to donate on behalf of Bob.
- ~ Jerry Kruse was given a lot of HO gear to give to members in return for donations to the module fund.
- ~ Will be setting up a committee for nominating Hazlett award winner.
- ~ Officers rotating this year, will need to set up an officer nominating committee.
- ~ Hazlett Award winner will get a check for \$68 NMRA standard membership, that way winner can add on what ever he/she wants.

#### 5. Peddler Freight Committee: Bruce Hukill:

- ~ Still at six mailed copies.
- ~ With the Zapytowski article, PF would be difficult to mail.

#### 6. Membership Committee: Jim Peters: Excused due to illness. Current membership is 75.

#### 7. Clinic Committee: Jim DiPaola: Please see Jim if you are considering or willing to present a clinic.

#### 8. Achievement Committee: Lloyd Horst: Presented Steve Zapytowski with an NMRA Superior Achievement Model Structure Award. The model also won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in its category at the national convention!.

#### 9. Module Committee N: Lloyd Horst:

- ~ Wooster, November 22, room for both groups.
- ~ Age of Steam, December 13, HO group.
- ~ Seeing less interest from train shows, they want the room for dealer tables.

#### 9. Module Committee HO: Bob Gurdak HO Modules:

- ~ HO module corners problematic. The KATO track is fitting correctly, lots of set up issues at Salem. We may eventually need to rethink the corners.
- ~ Modules bow up or down making connecting difficult. Gary Kohler volunteered to make supports for the modules.
- ~ Comment from Bruce Hukill, we should do plywood going forward. (Agreed)

#### 10. Facebook Committee: Trev Smith:

- ~ Layout features welcome for Facebook.

#### 11. Website Committee: Steve Zapytowski:

- ~ Website (WIX) is paid three years at a time, domain is billed annually.

#### 12. Old Business: None.

#### 13. New Business: None.

#### 14. Bring and Brag:

- ~ Jim DiPaola brought a newly released Coke Express car. Produced my State Tool and Die, painted by Accurail. \$45.
- ~ Mike Bradley brought some of his fantastic MoW vehicles and an Atlas RS3 kitbashed to TP&W or GB&W specs.

#### 15. Good of the Order/Announcements:

- ~ Jeff Stone, there are an old wood reefer and tank car behind the Warther Museum.
- ~ Jeff Stone, the 250-ton Chessie steam crane is out of the storage building in Kent, and for sale.
- ~ Dennis Sautters talked about the upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> USA Birthday and activities at the Denison Museum. They will include live steam and trips from Columbus to Denison, and Newark to Denison. Stay tuned!

#### 16. Adjournment: At 3:15 motion carried to adjourn meeting (Gary Kohler / Lloyd Horst).

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Stone, Clerk, Division 1



# Hoarders, Collectors?

by Sam Eisele

Welcome fellow hoarders, I mean, “collectors.” What’s the difference? I guess one is a “prettier” name for the other.

We spend a lot of time, effort and money on collecting/hoarding “stuff.” Sometimes we’re not quite sure when or how we’ll use “it,” or at times what “it” even is, but we have drawers full of “it.”

On a personal note it seems I have hundreds of bin drawers full of this “stuff.” I keep it in bin drawers in an attempt to get organized – nice try. Now I spend half of my time looking through drawers trying to find a part. Your mind tells you, “I can see it in, fill in the blank, drawer.” Frustration grows. All I’ve really accomplished is the “well stocked” hardware store/hobby store look without the fuss of real organization. Where is the “fun” (frustration) in that? “F” words – pick one –

Before you know it you have accumulated a bunch of stuff, remember the tub of a million Legos no lid? Countless drawers equate into a mass of parts piled on your already too small workspace. More times than not when I go to use “it,” “it” is lost somewhere in the pile right in front of me. After I’ve spent valuable modeling time looking for “it” the frustration starts to build. I have to go back and get another drawer. Which drawer was that in again? The vicious cycle continues...

It has caused me to ask myself if maybe there is something to the RTR – take it out of the box, put it on the layout mentality... Naw!

Maybe I have created a new genre in the hobby! I’ll call it parts storage innovations, or as some might say, “another way to drive yourself crazy and raise your frustration level.” At least I can share it with my “friends.”

Until next time - hit those flea markets, train shows and wherever you find your “stuff” and keep those drawers full!



Pictured are just some of Sam Eisele's drawers full of “collections,” or is it “stuff?”



# September Meeting



(above left) Michael Bradley describes how he modified an Atlas HO RS-3 by lowering the short hood to represent locomotives on both Toledo Peoria & Western and Green Bay and Western. Mike also (lower left) displayed more of his growing fleet of HO work trucks. Jim DiPaola (top right) talks about a CSX "Coke Express" hopper car available in 12 road numbers from [State Tool & Die](#). Achievement Chair Lloyd Horst (left) presents Steve Zapytowski, MMR with a Merit Award - Structures. Steve earned multiple awards for his scratch built Pacific Cordage rope factory at the NMRA Nation Convention held in Novi, Michigan. See images of Steve's work on page 5.



# Steve Zapytowski, MMR Wins at National Convention

Pacific Cordage brings home multiple awards



(top) The scratchbuilt HO scale Pacific Cordage rope factory built by Steve Zapytowski, MMR.  
(right) The Pacific Cordage rope factory with roof panels removed so the interior detail can be observed.  
(above) This detailed scene from the Pacific Cordage rope factory might be better described by Steve.

Steve Zapytowski, MMR again brought home multiple awards for his Pacific Cordage rope factory. The scratchbuilt HO structure earned Steve the following at the National NMRA Convention held this past July in Novi, MI.

**-First Place - Scratchbuilt Structures**

**-The Dean Freytag Industrial Structures Award**

**-The Mt. Albert Scale Lumber Award**

**- Merit Award - Structures - NMRA Achievement Program**

Congratulations Steve!

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING**  
**Sunday, October 19, 2025**  
**Ravenna Township Meeting Hall**  
**6145 Spring Street**  
**Ravenna, OH 44266**

**Bring your T-TRAK module if you want to check it to the standards, share your craft or tips, or just have questions.**

**Bring a snack to share and a drink of your own.**

**Sale table will be available.**

**Please bring your Bring-N-Brag items to share.**

**2 PM**

**13<sup>th</sup> Year**



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Little Scioto & Mingo Junction



**Jim Peters**  
Interested in operation send email:  
[jpeters711@yahoo.com](mailto:jpeters711@yahoo.com)



# Train Shows and Open Houses

## Great Berea Train Show - Oct. 4 & 5

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds  
19201 Bagley Rd. Middleburg Heights  
Admission: \$10.00, 10 AM - 4 PM

## Railroad History of Kent - Oct. 7

Lecture by Bruce Dzeda, author of *Steel Rails, Small Town: The Railroad History of Kent, Ohio*.  
Kent Stage, 175 E. Main St. Kent, OH 44240  
Admission: Free 7 PM

## Canfield Train and Toy Show - Oct. 12

Canfield Fairgrounds, new Event Center  
7265 Columbiana, Canfield 44406  
Admission: \$8.00, 10 AM - 3 PM

## Medina Train and Toy Show - October 26

Medina Fairgrounds  
Medina, OH 44256  
Admission: \$8.00, 9 AM - 3 PM

## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Div. 6 Train Show - October 26

Pritchard Laughlin Center, 7033 Glenn Highway  
Cambridge, OH 43725  
Admission: \$5.00, 10 AM - 3 PM

## 2 Rail O-Scale Train Meet - Nov. 1 & 2

UAW Hall, 5615 Chevrolet Blvd., Parma 44130  
Saturday 11 AM - 4 PM, Sunday 9 AM - 5 PM  
Admission: \$5.00

## Erie Model Train Show - November 2

Rainbow Gardens - Waldameer Park, PA  
Admission: \$5.00 9 AM - 4 PM

## Iron and Steel Autumn Railfest - November 8

St. Mary's Assumption Social Center  
356 S. Belle Vista Ave., Youngstown 44509  
Admission: \$7.00, 10 AM - 3 PM

## TCA Thanksgiving Train Show - Nov. 22

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds  
164 Eastland Rd., Middleburg Heights 44017  
Admission: \$6.00, 10 AM - 3 PM

## Medina Train and Toy Show - December 7

Medina Fairgrounds  
Medina, OH 44256  
Admission: \$8.00, 9 AM - 3 PM

## Massillon Train & Toy show - December 14

K of C Hall  
988 Cherry Rd. NW, Massillon, OH 44647  
Admission: \$5.00 10 AM - 3 PM

## Snow Dog Train Show - January 3, 2026

Emidio & Sons Expo Center  
48 E. Bath Rd. Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223  
Admission: \$6.00, 9 AM - 3 PM

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## PEDDLER FREIGHT SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Division 1 has moved to email publishing of the Peddler Freight. There is no cost for the email Peddler Freight. However, if you want to receive the Peddler Freight by regular mail, Division 1 requests that you subscribe in order to support the cost of printing and mailing. Under current rules, you will NOT be denied a copy of the Peddler Freight if you do not subscribe, but your support for Division 1 would be appreciated.

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**PEDDLER FREIGHT**

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Publication of Division 1 - MCR - NMRA  
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Social Media	- Trev Smith	
Christmas Dinner	- Jim DiPaola	330-297-5571
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Exhibitions	- Matt Woods	330-465-8724
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The **Peddler Freight** is published each month September through November and January through June. Opinions expressed in this issue may not represent the opinions of the Peddler Freight Editor, Division 1, MCR or the NMRA.

