



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

Volume 30 - Issue 5

February 2023

Superintendent's Bulletin



Spring is on the way! The equipment truck for the Cleveland Guardians baseball team has left for Arizona. The local weather service stated that between February 1st and February 20th we will gain 49 minutes of daylight. To me that's a good start to warmer weather and getting outside to do both rail and non-rail activities. Pay no mind to the furry Phil that is forced out of his burrow every February 2nd. It's Ohio and winter is what it is; Unpredictable!

In the meantime, sit back and enjoy the time to work on model railroad projects. Did you make any lists as I suggested in my last Superintendent's Bulletin? If you did, now's the time to dive into that list. If not, now might be a good time to make one. And speaking of getting involved in a model railroad project now would be a great time to come to a Division 1 meeting and see what's going on with the new T-TRAK modules in both "N" and "HO" scales. Remember, your first module is FREE, including track and wiring. All that Division 1 expects is that your module is included when the module group sets up. Modules are available in both MDF and Masonite. I took a free MDF HO scale single module and purchased a second one. I plan to coat both modules with Sanding Sealer to give extra protection from moisture and to also give my scenery something to grip to. I watched a video on Trains.com where a person was constructing a bridge from MDF board and needed to paint the MDF bridge components. They did test painting and the paint didn't take to the different sides very well and dried unevenly. After using the sanding sealer the paint dried evenly and looked great. I do plan to paint the sides of my module and using the sanding sealer will make the paint look uniform.



In the months to come we'll be doing something related to the modules at

our monthly meetings. If any current Division 1 member knows someone that might be interested in becoming a member of the NMRA and Division 1 please bring them to a meeting. Now is the time to recruit new members and bolster our membership. Division 1 and the hobby of Model Railroading is only as strong as we make it. See you soon.

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

Stacks of Tracks



The track and wiring joiners in both HO and N scale have arrived. We will be distributing them at the February 19 meeting. Make sure to bring your T-TRAK modules. There are still both N and HO modules available if you have not received yours. See you at the Ravenna Township Meeting Room.

2023 Division 1 Events

February 19 - Ravenna Township Meeting Hall
March 19 - TBA
April 16 - TBA
May 21 - TBA
June - Date and Location TBA

Division 1, MCR, NMRA
Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2023

1. Welcome:

- ~ Call to Order: 2:05 PM
- ~ By: Superintendent Jim DiPaola
- ~ Participants: 18
- ~ Location: Portland Locomotive Works
- ~ Guests: 0

2) Clerk

- ~ Previous meeting minutes published in the Peddler Freight.
- ~ Motion by John Spinks, second by Lloyd Horst to approve minutes. Motion passed.

3) Treasurers Report

- ~ Report provided by Treasurer Mike Bradley and presented to the members present by Superintendent Jim DiPaola.
- ~ Motion by Steve Zapytowski, second by Don Bonk to approve subject to audit. Motion passed.

4) Superintendent

- ~ Jim DiPaola thanked everyone for coming out to work on the module and those that signed up for modules. He also thanked members of the module committee for their hard work on getting the modules parts cut and materials obtained.
- ~ Reminder of MCR Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, May 4-7, 2023.

5) Peddler Freight

- ~ No report.

6) Membership

- ~ 79

7) Clinics

- ~The work on the modules will be the next several clinics. Track, wiring will be some.

8) Achievement

- ~ No Report

9) Modules

- ~ A smaller version of the modules was set up at the Age of Steam. 300 people were at Santa Day. There will not be a Spring show at Mt. Hope with the next show being in the Fall of 2023.

10) Facebook

- ~ No Report

11) Old Business

- ~ None

12) New Business

- ~ None

13) Bring and Brag

- ~ Patrick Wamsley, large scale steam locomotive; Bob Ashley Jr., 5-way scratch-built turnout from Chuck Boyer's layout; Steve Zapytowski, scratch built rope factory Pacific Cordage.

14) Good of the Order/Announcements

- ~ 50/50 Drawing was won by Don Bonk.

15) Adjournment

- ~ Motion by Steve Zapytowski, second by Jasmine Trocchia to adjourn. Motion passed.
- ~ Meeting Adjourned at 2:40 PM.

**Respectively submitted,
Jim DiPaola, Superintendent**

New Module Beginning

Division 1 and its Module Group have set out on a new adventure. With the retirement of our old modules and the construction of the new T-TRAK standard modules, there will be some challenges in the months ahead.

We are building an easier module to transport and set up. A new, more portable command station, that I call a Rolling Command Station (RCS) is being built, one each for HO and N scales.

Not all of the details have been decided on by the T-TRAK committee. There may be some details that the committee has not even thought of yet. So, we welcome your input and comments.

The Module Group has a commitment for the November 2023 train show at Mt. Hope. We normally have a 30 by 50 foot area in which to display. Will our new display modules be ready?

The T-TRAK Committee's goal is to set up and run trains at the September 2023 meeting, with the public rollout coming in November.

If you haven't taken advantage of the free module, I encourage you to do so. Also, if you would like additional modules, contact Bruce Hukill.

Lloyd Horst
Module Committee



(Clockwise from above) Bob Anelli, Lloyd Horst and Glenn Yoder are busy on two HO modules. Chuck Altwies (left) and Bob Ashley, Jr. assemble an HO single module; Division 1 Superintendent Jim DiPaola (left) and Asst. Supt. Sam Eisele use their executive skills; Don Bonk assembles an N scale double T-TRAK module.

Total modules distributed at January's meeting were ten HO singles with two taken to members who were not at the meeting. Four additional HO singles were purchased. Three N scale doubles were assembled and one N single. Five HO double orders were placed. These still need to be cut along with Division 1 owned N and HO corners. These should be ready for the February. Track and wires for all straight modules will be available February 19.

Common Scenery Mistakes - Part 2

By Matt Woods

Many modelers spend years getting to the point in their layouts when they are ready to tackle building scenery. Either due to the immensity of their benchwork, track, and wiring, or a basic fear of whether their scenery will live up to their vision and expectations, scenery seems to be a real stumbling block for many model railroaders. This article is intended to point out some common scenery mistakes and how to avoid them.

Ed. Note: The images in this article are from modules that were on display at the Amherst Railway Society Hobby Show held January 28-29 at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

(right) An N scale T-TRAK module by the late Bill Pontin. Note the seamless transition from model scenery to backdrop and the weathered bridges.



Over - or under - detailing scenes.

A model scene can have too much clutter and details or not enough. Detail castings and figures add realism and interest to a scene, but can be overdone. On the contrary,



(above) An N scale T-TRAK module. The bridges, track and rolling stock are all weathered. The tractors and figures are straight out of the box.

not having any details around buildings or industrial areas would not be realistic. There are an excellent array of white metal and resin castings that can be painted simply and positioned around building

foundations or on loading docks. Poorly painted or out of scale figures detract more from a scene than complement it. The new wave of 3-D printed figures will be a significant improvement in realism.

Failing to weather structures, rolling stock, and scenery into a cohesive scene.

The difference between a serious scale model railroader and a toy train collector is the willingness to weather your rolling stock, structures, and scenery. An assemblage of pristine out of the box models will not convey a very realistic impression. Learning to do basic weathering will immediately improve the realism of your layout. The hesitancy to weather a \$400 engine is understandable, but, with practice and predictable

techniques, weathering can be accomplished without ruining the model. Start with cheap flea market rolling stock or structures and practice until you feel confident to tackle more expensive and valued items. Some people prefer to keep their rolling stock pristine, but this is likely out of a fear of ruining it. Painting and weathering of structures should really be part of the building process and is much easier if approached while building the kit. There are many ways to approach weathering, but a light overspray of a matte sealant is a good way to tone things down.

Poor transitions between foreground and background scenery.

Too many layouts have an abrupt transition between the layout surface and the vertical backdrop. Either through a combination of vegetation or building flats, a more indiscernible transition can be achieved. You don't want the horizon to be too high or too low. Think of creative ways to disguise the transition. SuperTrees with mid-level foliage and low lying grass with a dark gray tree line painted on the backdrop and a simple pale blue sky can be fairly realistic. Photographic backdrops can also work well, but the foreground scenery should match the coloration of the photograph.

Not having enough variation in vertical height of scenery elements.

One level of ground cover, such as ground foam or even static grass, is not sufficient to replicate the variations in height that the natural vegetative world offers. I like to approach scenery as 3 distinct layers with dried grass as the 1st layer, low lying bushes or thickets as the 2nd, and small trees as the 3rd. The trees should always be a darker green than the grass and the low lying vegetation, particularly in fall, can move towards browns and reddish colors.



Having perfectly smooth, flat layout surfaces should be avoided.

There are very few places where the ground is perfectly smooth. Therefore, all groundwork should have some texture and height variation. Air dry clay and Sculptamold can help achieve this, along with carving foam. There should be ditches along the right-of-way and other drainage features. Even a shelf layout or 4'x8' piece of plywood can have vertical variation.

Poorly executed backdrops.

Keep your backdrops simple and muted. Do not attempt to paint a backdrop with any level of detail, unless you are a master artist. Keep the backdrop to a basic horizon line and tree line. A poorly executed backdrop will detract from well-executed foreground structures and scenery. Keep the background as a simple impression that the layout goes beyond the modeled 3-D elements. Photographs can work, but they shouldn't detract from the modeling.

An HO module (top left) featuring weathered concrete. An HO module (top right) featuring many structures, some weathered. An N scale T-TRAK module (middle right) featuring a dry dock. The backdrop (bottom right) on the editor's NTRAK module is from a photograph shot through the car window in western Montana.

LS&MJ Crew Call - January 17, 2023

By Jim Peters

The CEO on the LS&MJ RR needs to learn how to count. Eight guys answered the crew call when only seven were expected! With so many crew members, it was great when Division 4 spared the experienced yardmaster John Puch (rhymes with much) to handle a busy night at Little Scioto Yard (LSV). Quite impressive.

Fully calm under pressure, Bob Anelli earned the highest revenue for the night by taking control of the Peddler Freight (PF), a train that departs the western interchange DT&I and runs the entire layout dropping off and picking up cars in several cities. He dealt with the local agent in Portsmouth first, being located just south of LSV yard on the Ohio River.



(above) Division 4 member John Puch works Little Scioto Yard during an OPS session on Jim Peters' HO scale Little Scioto & Mingo Junction Railroad. Bob Ashley, Jr. (middle) works General Mills as another Div. 4 member, Ron Spiga (background) works Irontown. Bob Gurdak (below) moves empty coal hoppers and will soon contact Ironton to request a shipment of coal for MJ Power Plant.



Although it was Dennis Sautters' first time operating on the LS&MJ, he professionally handled his duties, nine different industries if I remember correctly, and the Portsmouth Express. Another great job!



The PF continued to Jackson, further east up the Ohio River and inland to meet the sophisticated Jackson agent, Bob Ashley Jr., who was working the General Mills. As usual, everything quietly and calmly taken care of!



Another Div. 4 auxiliary town agent was working a very busy Ironton. Ron Spiga, a long time friend, always has great input to help run the layout more smoothly. Thanks!

Bob Anelli (top) handles the Peddler Freight while Dennis Sautters (middle) switches one of the nine industries he handled along with the Portsmouth Express. John Spinks (bottom) running the gon train.

Still heading east we come to the last city on the LS&MJ Mingo Jct, the agent here is the famous

Bob Gurdak, handling much of the industrial traffic on the layout: coal, limestone, coils, scrap metal. The workload was tamed by Bob. Good job!

On a busy night, trains are running both east and west. John Spinks stepped up and ran the first westbound, all gons loaded with scrap metal for MJ and then coil cars to Ironton to service Taylor's Castings. Worthy of mentioning, even though it was John's

first time operating on the LS&MJ, he clearly was a terrific asset to the crew! Not pictured is Chris Kinsella who bravely shadowed on the Peddler Freight with Bob Anelli. Finally, it is rumored the crew was famished and had to take a break for some old-fashioned apple pie.

If you want to be part of the fun, let me know you want to be put on the list, even if you want to shadow as Chris did.



THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Sunday, February 19, 2023

Ravenna Township Meeting Room

6145 Spring Street

Ravenna, OH 44266

Bring your modules! We will be looking at planning, track, and wiring.

There will be extra HO and N scale modules available

if you missed the last meeting.

2 PM

11th Year

11th Year



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Northwestern Oregon Circa 1912 — HO and HO_n3



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DAVIES STEEL

LS & MJ Railroad

Little Scioto & Mingo Junction



Jim Peters

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Train Shows and Open Houses

Mansfield Train Show - February 12

Fairhaven Hall, Richland County Fairgrounds
750 N. Home Rd., Mansfield, Ohio 44906
Admission \$7.00 10 AM - 3 PM

Div. 5 Railfest - Model RR Show - March 18

Lakeland Community College
7700 Clocktower Dr., Kirtland, OH 44094
Admission \$8.00 10 AM - 4 PM

Canfield Train and Toy Show - Feb. 18

Canfield Fairgrounds, 7265 Columbiana, Canfield 44406
Being held in new Event Center
Admission \$7.00 10 AM - 3 PM

Div. 5 Railfest - Dinner - March 18

Painesville Railroad Museum
475 Railroad St., Painesville, OH 44077
Admission \$24.00 5:30 PM

Iron & Steel Train Show & Expo - Feb. 25

National McKinley Memorial Museum
40 North Main St., (Rt. 46) Niles, OH
Admission \$5.00 10 AM - 3 PM

TCA - Spring Train Show - March 25

UAW Hall, 5615 Chevrolet Blvd., Parma 44130
Admission \$6.00 10 AM - 3 PM

Independence Train Show - March 4

The Independence High School Fieldhouse
6001 Archwood Rd., Independence, OH 44131
Admission \$7.00 10 AM - 3 PM

Medina Train and Toy Show - April 2

Medina Fairgrounds, Medina, OH 44256
Admission \$6.00 9 AM - 3 PM

Akron Train & Toy Show - March 5

Emidio's & Sons Expo Center
48 East Bath Rd at State Rd., Cuyahoga Falls 44223
Admission \$4.00 9 AM - 4 PM

Youngstown Model Railroad Association Toy - Train Flea Market - April 2

Parish Center, 4490 Norquest Blvd., Austintown 44151
Admission \$7.00 10 AM - 3:30 PM

29th Annual Midwest Narrow Gauge Show - March 16 - 18

7600 W. South Range Rd., Salem, OH 44460
Admission \$20.00 - both days
Show opens Friday at 12 Noon, Saturday opens 9:30 AM

Cuyahoga Valley Terminal Model Railroad Club Open House - April 29

Northampton Road & W. Bath Rd., (behind Town Hall)
Admission \$5.00 10 AM - 4 PM

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.

SUBSCRIPTION COST: \$5.00 for the publishing year September, 2022 through June, 2023. Make checks payable to: Division 1 - MCR - NMRA

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Akron, OH 44307

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Treasurer	- Michael Bradley	330-325-7622

Division 1 Appointees

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PF Editor	- Bruce Hukill	330-571-4037

Division 1 Volunteer Positions

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Apparel	- OPEN	
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	- Lloyd Horst	330-465-7402
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NTRAK/T-TRAK	- Don Bonk	330-418-6860
Roster	- OPEN	
Webmaster	- Steve Zapytowski	330-715-3444

Who to contact in Division 1 and the NMRA

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President - Gordon Robinson
Email: president@nmra.org

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.

