

# PEDDLER FREIGHT

Division 1 - MCR - NMRA

Akron - Canton - Youngstown Division

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Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas and Wayne (Except  
Wooster) Counties

**WWW.DIV1-MCR-NMRA.ORG**

Volume 18 - Issue 8

May 2011

## Superintendents Message

Another NMRA Mid-Central Region convention has come and gone. This year Division 5 held the convention at The Lodge & Conference Center at Geneva-on-the Lake, Ohio. Thursday evening offered the usual operating secessions. I had the pleasure of attending Harley Smiths' session along with some other Division 1 members including Bob Ashley, Sr. David Hazlett and Kurt Sanders. (Harley Smith is the owner of Smith's & Sons Ballast.) I have been participating in operating secessions for over nine years but this was the first time that I operated using an analog system. To my surprise, the layout ran very well under analog.

After a late night, I had an early morning on Friday. At 8 AM the van left the hotel for the Ashland, Carson and Jefferson. Nine of us got the special opportunity to ride in the caboose while the crew did switching. In addition, we had the opportunity to ride in the locomotive cab for brief periods. Upon return, the balance of the day I attended various clinics ranging from signals to making RTV molds.

Saturday morning, I was among the several that volunteered to help judge the contest models. Just a quick look at the models in the contest I can claim that we have several great modelers in our region. In the afternoon, I took in a few short line clinics that ranged from making trees to making clouds. Saturday evening the contest winners were awarded. **Two members of our division were among the winners, Don Bonk and Kurt Sanders.**

Next year, the regional convention will be held in Pittsburgh. Will you be there?

Randy Dettmer  
Superintendent  
NMRA MCR Div 1

## Who to contact

### Division 1 Officers

Super. - Randy Dettmer. . . . . 330-653-3537  
Asst. Super - Jim Peters . . . . . 216-402-8507  
Treasurer - Bob Ashley Jr. . . . . 330-645-6175

### Division 1 Appointees

Clerk - Jim Williams. . . . . 330-996-5477  
Editor - Bill Smith. . . . . 330-644-1434

### Division 1 Volunteer Positions

Web Page. . . . . Ivan Baugh  
Meetings - Larry Brown. . . . . 330-221-6067  
Membership - Larry Brown. . . . . 330-221-6067  
Apparel - Jim Williams. . . . . 330-996-5477

### AP & Model Contest

Chuck Boyer. . . . . 330-882-3709  
Don Deakins. . . . . 330-494-9688  
David Hazlett. . . . . 330-434-4565

Modules -Bob Ashley Sr. . . . . 330-644-4778

TAMR - Larry Brown. . . . . 330-221-6067

Clinics - Jim Peters. . . . . 216-402-8507

N Gauge- Jim Williams. . . . . 330-996-3477

Z Gauge - Don Avila. . . . . 330-645-4223

Roster - Randy Dettmer. . . . . 330-653-3537

### 2014 Convention Reps.

Don Deakins. . . . . 330-494-9688  
David Hazlett. . . . . 330-494-4565

### Christmas Dinner

Randy Dettmer. . . . . 330-653-3537

### Mid-Central Region

President - Dick Briggs

e-mail MCRPREZ@HQ.NMRA.ORG

### National Model Railroad Association

President - Michael Brestel

email PRES@HQ.NMRA.ORG

Vice President -Dave Thornton

email VP@HQ.NMRA.ORG

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## 2011 Meeting Dates

**May 17 - Bill Hewitt - Copley**

**June 12 - Randy Dettmer - Hudson**

## MODULE REPORT

### “Day Out with Thomas”

We are working with Division Four to combine our modules with theirs and display them at the CVSR “Day Out with Thomas” event on May 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. **Please call or e-mail me if you are going to be able to help setup and operate the layout.** CVSR is giving us a 30’ x 100’ tent for our modules. We had a combined meeting, last Wednesday, to discuss what needs to be done. Several of our members attended.

Also, there will be a booth setup to promote the NMRA. Divisions 1, 4 and 5 are going to man the booth and we will need help. **If you can spare a few hours during the event, please call or e-mail me so I can put you on the list.**

We met with the CVSR representative and to go over our involvement with the event and to reassure ourselves about the security. We will probably need shorter legs and cut them to suit the ground contour.

Bob and I will be working on the modules on random evenings and weekends as our schedules permit. I will be notifying the membership when we can work. If you can help, let us know when you can be available. We will be looking for people to help apply scenery to the division modules and build kits for buildings. I have had several requests for kits or finished standard modules. Those who are waiting for module kits, please be patient. I have enough material to start four modules and will need some 3/4” plywood to finish them. I have received the electrical supplies. You must pay for your module prior to taking it with you. The price is \$67.00 each for the materials and \$33.00 each for the wiring kit. This is subject to change based on current cost. Also, it does not include the mandatory NCE UTP Fascia Panel Socket for plugging in your throttle which is available for \$17.00 from me or at The Whistle Stop. This works with Digitrax or NCE. A module can be built without a UTP.

We are going to reverse the installed UTP’s that are upside down and make all UTP’s require that the tab is up on the plugs. I will be trying to make the socket foolproof like other sockets in the industry by adding a strip to the face of the socket.

We had an operating session the day after the March meeting and it became obvious that we need more crossovers between the mains. I’m requesting all module people to add crossovers wherever possible. This will improve the traffic flow. Some of the yard track is not laid due to lack of turnouts, which are on order, but late in arriving. We received donations to help cover the cost.

After I finish a design consulting job, anyone who wants to pay in advance and are willing to come to my house to construct the their module, please call me. I will be willing to help build their module(s). We are also looking for new module members. It will also provide a way for each member to earn the AP awards.

**For those who help at the “Day Out with Thomas” event, there will be time for your family and children to visit the other activities and eat at the concession.** This is a free event, except for the train ride and the cost of the food. Please call or e-mail me for information.

Bob Ashley, Sr., Module Chairman  
330-644-4778 or [rashleysr@msn.com](mailto:rashleysr@msn.com)

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**DHRail**

David H. Hazlett, President  
247 Calicoe Drive  
Akron, Ohio 44307-2216  
(330) 434-4665      [dhazlett1@neo.rr.com](mailto:dhazlett1@neo.rr.com)

## APRIL 2011 CONTEST

The April Contest was  
pulpwood & wood chip cars.

### CONTEST WINNERS APRIL:

**Kit-Built** : Bob Ashley, Sr. - 1<sup>st</sup> place - 3 pts  
Bill Hewitt - 2<sup>nd</sup> place - 2 pts  
Bob Ashley, Sr. - 3<sup>rd</sup> place 1 pt

**Kit-Bashed** : Chuck Boyer - 1<sup>st</sup> place - 3 pts  
Don Deakins - 2<sup>nd</sup> place - 2 pts  
Bill Hewitt - 3<sup>rd</sup> place - 1 pt

### CURRENT STANDINGS:

**Scratch-Built**: Larry Brown - 2 pts

**Kit-Bashed**: Chuck Boyer - 16.5 pts  
Don Deakins - 11.5 pts  
Bill Hewitt - 3 pts.  
Bob Ashley, Jr. - 2 pts  
Don Bonk - 2 pts  
Glenn Yoder - 2pts  
Larry Brown - 1 pt  
Bob Ashley, Sr. -1 pt

**Kit-Built**: Don Deakins - 8 pts  
Bill Hewitt - 6 pts  
Bob Ashley, Sr. - 4 pts  
Larry Brown - 3 pts  
Jim Williams - 2 pts  
Bill Bigler - 1pt  
Jim DiPaola -1 pt

**MAY CONTEST = CABOOSE**

## WHY DECODERS RUN AWAY or RESET

*The comments in this article are excerpts from an article by Jim Betz as printed on the website for Tony's Train Exchange.*

**Why do locos run away?** Basically all decoders check to see if DC (CV29) is allowed by the decoder. If you have the DC allowed on your decoder, a check the decoder does at startup may mis-read the power available. Thus the loco takes off like the proverbial Bat!

Another reason for the run away loco is an intermittent short in the layout. This short could cause the decoder to mis-read CV29.

**What to do?** Set the decoder to NOT allow DC (analog) operation. Correct shorts in the layout. Use circuit breakers on the layout.

**Why do decoders reset?** About the same reason; mis-reading the settings at start up, probably due to a short. Only the QSI Revolution decoders provide a way to set the values in the "factory reset information" to your own programmed values. All you have to do is update the reset info using the QSI Programmer. Then the decoder cannot reset to factory settings. Personally, I keep a file of all the CV's that I have changed on a decoder. That makes it is easy enough to reset them all on the main or program track.

Both run away and reset problems are mostly caused by shorts. How to get rid of shorts? Good track and switch standards.

Also, the most common source of a short is someone running a turnout/switch. The next most common is a derailment (probably caused by running a switch).

So, train your operators sufficiently so that they will not run a switch . . . as often. Operators, take a little more care. For the summer try working on the shorts on your layout.

David Hazlett



# ROB'S TRAINS

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May 17 - Meeting in Copley, OH

Bill Hewitt will host the meeting at 4020 Stone Bridge Blvd, Copley OH 44321 at 2 PM. Bill advises us to **bring folding chairs and snacks**. Beverages will be provided..

(See map on last page.)

**MODULE GROUP**  
**DIVISION 1 – MCR – NMRA**  
**BOB ASHLEY, SR. MODULE CHAIRMAN**  
330-644-4778  
rashleysr@msn.com



### Division 1 Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2011

Host: Jim DiPaola, Ravenna, Ohio

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm by Superintendent Randy Dettmer. Twenty-three people were in attendance. Randy thanked Jim for hosting the meeting.

1. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the March meeting as published in the Peddler Freight. The motion was seconded and passed.
2. The Treasurer's report was given by Bob Ashley, Jr. A motion was made to accept the report pending audit. The motion was seconded and passed.
3. The membership report was made by Larry Brown. The division's membership stands at 102 with one new member, Norman Robinson from Barberton. A new member pack will be sent out.
4. Committee reports:
  - a. Clinics – Jim Peters said that he had a short, sample clinic that he would put on after the meeting and that Chuck Boyer would put on a signaling clinic at the May meeting.
  - b. N Scale – Bob Ashley, Sr. said that he and Kurt Sanders each have an N-scale module. Don Bonk reported that he now has a new Bachman GP-9 and it runs well and looks good. He still needs to put sound in it.
  - c. HO Scale – David Hazlett reported that the new “Titan” QSI sound decoder was 64 bits and that the programming needed to be purchased from QSI to really tweak it; for about \$120 you get pre-recorded sounds, a speaker, and documentation. Chuck Boyer reported that to get all the sounds offered in MTH engines you needed to purchase their sound system. Bob Ashley, Sr. stated that MRC now claims that their sound decoders are “bullet proof and their past problems have been fixed.
  - d. Z Scale – Don Avila nothing to report.
  - e. Modules – Bob Ashley, Sr.
    - i. Kurt Sanders has CD's of pictures and videos of the modules' construction and operation available. Any donations to the module effort would be appreciated.
    - ii. Bob Ashley, Jr brought the model building kits to the meeting for anyone who wanted to take and construct one for the modules. Randy Dettmer has already built one and Bill Bigler, Jim DiPaola, and Jim Williams have each taken one.
    - iii. The modules will be setup for the CVSR “Day Out With Thomas”, the Dalton show next November 13<sup>th</sup>, and for the 2014 National Convention. The “Day Out With Thomas” will be 8:30 am to 6:30 pm May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 27<sup>th</sup>, May 28<sup>th</sup>, and May 29<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed.

- iv. 3 UTP's (plug-in's) failed but Bob has repaired them. The UTP's allow for the connectors to be put in upside down which flattens the connecting wires. The installed UTP's have been modified to prevent this in the future.
- f. Achievement Program – David Hazlett
  - i. Glen Yoder is scheduled to be reviewed for the Golden Spike Award. There will be changes to the next year's contest to better fit into the achievement program.
- 5. Old Business
  - a. Membership roster
    - i. The existing roster was passed around for update and a sign-up sheet accompanied it for those who wanted it sent to them.
- 6. New Business
  - a. Jim DiPaola reported on the disposition of Dean Freytag's railroad and railroadania
    - i. In 2007 Dean had Jim, Garry Lance, Roger Camplin and Jim Cuccarese to his house and had them each pay \$10 for a bill of sale for all of his railroad, drawings, slides, and other railroad items. The bill of sale was to be activated at the time of his passing. These four people were to divide the items up between themselves and others that had expressed an interest in certain objects. Dean even setup funds for the expenses of these four people to do this. The center island of Dean's layout which contained Davies Steel and the South Ridge Lines was given to a group in Wisconsin and will be turned into modules. Dean's basement has been completely emptied. The group purchased a high-end scanner and is going to digitize Dean's photos and slides for sale in the future.
    - ii. Next year's meeting sites: October – Don Bonk, November – Whistle Stop.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

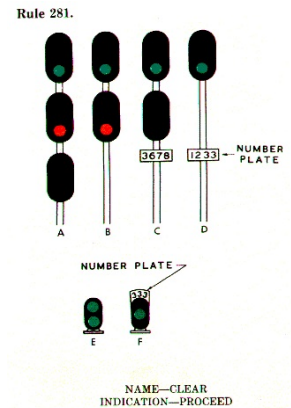
Respectfully Submitted,  
Jim Williams, Clerk

### Clinic Report

By the time you read this, Division 5's Rail of Ages Convention will be history. Let me say that I am really enjoying the convention and especially enjoyed the clinics! It is clear as a group we are extremely talented. I'm also glad to announce that we have two volunteers for the last two months before summer.

May	Chuck Boyer	Signals
June	Randy Dettmer	Covered Hopper Cars

Jim Peters, Clinic Chair  
216-402-8507



## Convention 2014 Layout Report

This is just a reminder to contact me if you have a layout. Convention 2014 will need 70 or more layouts, so we can use all the help we can get. Remember, this is a combined effort of three divisions. We are of course looking for first class operating layouts as well as modest layouts. If your layout is totally un-scenicked, that is ok. Members also enjoy seeing layouts under construction. Also, reach out to members that have a layout but don't come to meetings. Encourage them to contact me. I hope to hear from you soon!



Jim Peters, 2014 Layout Chair  
216.402.8507

## **Train Shows and Open Houses –May 2011 thru June 2011**

By Randy Dettmer

### **Ohio N-Scale Weekend – May 13, 14 & 15 (Central Ohio N-Trak)**

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Hilliard, OH

For details see web site at [www.centralohiontrak.org](http://www.centralohiontrak.org)

### **B&O RR Historical Society Ohio Area Spring Mini Convention – May 14**

Italian-American Society, 644 S Chestnut St, Ravenna, OH

\$18 registration at the door

### **Day Out With Thomas – May 21, 22, 27, 28, 29**

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

For details and tickets see web site at [www.cvsr.com](http://www.cvsr.com)

### **NMRA Division 6 MCR -All Day Train Fest – June 11 – 8AM – ?**

Marion Union Station, 532 W Center St, Marion, OH

An all day event with clinics, flea market and train watching!

### **Annual Dennison Railroad Festival – June 15-19**

Dennison Railroad Museum, 400 Center St, Dennison, OH

For details see web site at [www.dennisondepot.org](http://www.dennisondepot.org)

## Membership Report

No Membership Data has been received from the Regional Membership Chairman to date. Hopefully data will be received by the May meeting.

Larry Brown



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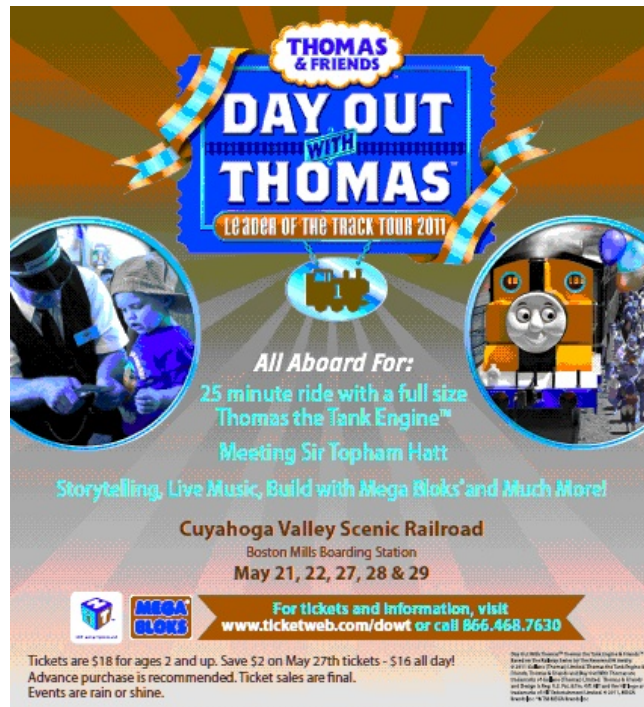
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# DAY OUT WITH THOMAS

Volunteers needed to man the Membership table



Division 1 and Division 4 members will be jointly displaying their Modular layout at the forthcoming “Day Out with Thomas” event. Divisions 1, 4 and 5 will also be simultaneously hosting a membership recruiting table.

Division 4 membership Co-Chairmen, Denny Whitaker and Joe Mehalic will be coordinating the Membership Recruiting table efforts, while Scott Benson is organizing the module members. Bob Ashley, Sr. is the primary organizer for Division 1.

**We will need helpers for this 5-day JOINT-DIVISION 1-4-5 EVENT . . .  
Please think about helping out either at the modules or the membership table.**

The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad Manager in charge of the event told us they had over 30,000 attendees last year and expect even a greater crowd this year. This is a great member recruiting opportunity for us!

The Division 1 and 4 Module Groups and our NMRA Member Recruiting Table will be at all 5 days of the Cuyahoga Valley Railroad’s “Day Out with Thomas event on:

May 21	Saturday	9:00 – 5:00
May 22	Sunday	10:00 – 5:00
May 27	Friday	9:00 – 5:00
May 28	Saturday	9:00 – 5:00
May 29	Sunday	9:00 – 5:00

We would like to split “shifts” into morning and afternoon for simplicity. At this time we are not going to set up specific times to volunteer.



