



NMRA

PEDDLER FREIGHT

Division 1 - MCR - NMRA

Akron - Canton - Youngstown Division

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www.div1-mcr-nmra.org

Volume 33 - Issue 7

April 2026

Superintendent's Bulletin



Spring is here. Well, maybe. We can only hope for the best in the land of four seasons in a few months.

But this time of the year does signal the start of model railroad conventions which are an important part of our hobby. The NMRA and Special Interest Groups put on some great conventions. There is a multitude of clinics geared towards every aspect of our great hobby. And with most clinics there is a question-

and-answer session where you can delve deeper into a particular topic.

Clinics are also a great opportunity to meet other modelers with similar interests and even get more information on a particular subject in an informal discussion after the clinics. It's important to attend these conventions and meets and support the organizations that host them. The people on the committees that host these events are volunteers (meaning not paid) who give their time and energy for the love of the hobby and getting us model railroaders together. And who knows, you could make a new friend and even have some FUN! Life doesn't get any better than that.

The April Division 1 meeting will be held at the Kent Free Library, 312 West Main Street, Kent, Ohio 44240.

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



As Superintendent Jim DiPaola states in this month's Bulletin, conventions are great places to learn modeling techniques. Sam Swanson, MMR (right) explains to Chuck Altwies how he carved the rocky shoreline from foam insulation on his "Windes Inlet" module. Chuck was attending the 32nd Annual Narrow Gauge Show held in Salem, OH sponsored by Div. 1 member Gary Kohler. (above) The sea wall and the rocky shore are hand-carved from foam insulation board on Sam Swanson's HO_n30 module.

Tag Sale

Bob Ashley, Jr. reports that trains and tools of his late father, Bob Ashley, Sr., will be sold at a tag sale. Details are:

April 9 - 12, 9 AM - 4 PM
 3365 Waterside
 Akron, OH 44319

2026 Division 1 Events

April 19 - Kent Free Library
 May 17 - Glenn Yoder, Dalton, OH
 June - Date and location TBA

Division 1, MCR, NMRA

Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2026

1. Welcome:

- ~ Call to order: 3:28 PM.
- ~ By: Jim DiPaola, Superintendent.
- ~ Participants: 23.
- ~ Location: Over Easy at the Kent Erie Depot. Thank you very much Chad and Shannon Zemba for your hospitality.

2. Clerk: Jeff Stone:

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

3. Treasurer: Mike Bradley:

- ~ Report presented by treasurer. Available on request.
- ~ Expense: \$406 Insurance.
- ~ Income: \$30 50/50, \$26 Contribution (Jerry Kruse), \$40 Contribution (Bob Gurdak), \$250 Contribution (anonymous).
- ~ Motion carried to approve treasurer report (Steve Zapytowski / Bob Anelli).

4. Superintendent: Jim DiPaola:

- ~ Age of Steam dates to remember:
 - April 9-11: Christening of No. 19 in Sugarcreek.
 - June 19-20: Steam to Victory.
 - September 26-27: Fall Steam Festival.
 - December 11-12: Santa Comes to the Roundhouse.
- ~ Elections: Steve Zapytowski:
 - Superintendent nominees: Sam Eisele, Gary Kohler.
 - Assistant Superintendent: Jim DiPaola, Jerry Kruse.
 - Treasurer: Mike Bradley.
 - No additional candidates nominated at meeting.
 - Candidate bios will be published in Peddler Freight.
- ~ Kent Heritage Fest, July 3, possibility of module set up in Over Easy.

4a. Assistant Superintendent: Sam Eisele:

- ~ Reported on his triumphant return from Florida and train show.

5. Peddler Freight Publisher: Bruce Hukill:

- ~ Winner of the photo contest: Chad Zemba, Deep Lock Quarry MetroPark in Peninsula.

6. Membership Committee: Jim Peters:

- ~ Current membership 79.
- ~ Welcome new member Mike Fiala.

7. Clinic Committee: Jim DiPaola: No report.

8. Achievement Committee: Lloyd Horst: Absent.

9. Module Committee N/HO:

- ~ Please let Bob, Lloyd, or Bruce know if you're planning on participating at the Narrow Gauge show. Set up Thursday 5:30-9:00, Saturday from 9:00. Salem Friends Church, 1028 Jennings Ave, Salem OH 44460.

10. Facebook Committee: Trev Smith (Jim DiPaola):

- ~ First layout feature posted!

11. Website Committee: Steve Zapytowski:

- ~ 30 Day Report: 82 Sessions, 69 Unique Visitors.

12. Old Business: None.

13. New Business: Please submit nominees for the Hazlett Award.

14. Bring and Brag:

- ~ Bob Gurdak brought a flat car loaded with tractors which led to discussion on where to find AAR rules for tying down cargo. For your reading pleasure, the rules can be found at: <https://my.aar.org/OTLR>.
- ~ Jim Peters brought a novel scenery sample.
- ~ Sam Eisele brought his reluctant module.

15. Good of the Order/Announcements:

- ~ Gary Kohler: The Division 2 Jamboree is April 18. Clinics, contests, white elephant, and a banquet. Information at: https://www.keystonedivision.org/jamboree_2026/index.html.
- ~ Bob Ashley: Tag Sale April 9-12 at Bob Sr.'s house
- ~ 50/50 winners: John Spinks the cash, Jeff Stone the coffee mug, Sam Eisele the Book AND a belt buckle, and Mike Fiala the other buckle.
- ~ Notes taken courtesy of a "Friends of the Ohio River and Western Railway" pen.

16. Adjournment: At 4:11 motion carried to adjourn meeting (Steve Zapytowski / Bob Gurdak).

Post Meeting: Open house "upstairs in the depot". Thanks to the Zembas.
Respectfully submitted, Jeff Stone, Clerk, Division 1.

T-TRAK News

Both the N and HO T-TRAK layouts were well received at the **32nd Annual Narrow Gauge Show** held in Salem March 27 - 28. See Robert Gurdak's report on page 5.

Chad Zemba has offered space in the "Over Easy at the Depot" restaurant during the Kent Heritage Festival on July 3. There will be room for both HO and N scale layouts. Details would have to be worked out with Chad and the module group members.

Congratulations to Bob Ashley, Jr. (below) as his HO T-TRAK module won "Best of Show" at the Narrow Gauge Show.



MMR Humor

With Steve Zapytowski, Master Model Railroader #612



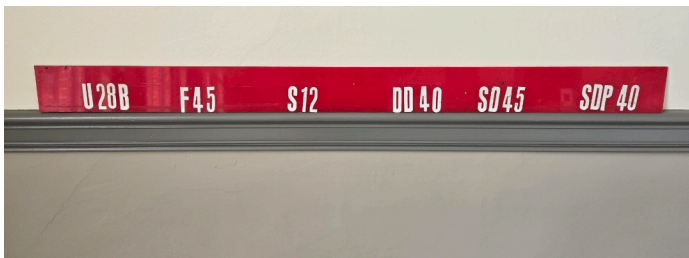
The model railroader's breakfast: Biscuits with lumpy Sculptamold.

Division 1 Awards



Steve Zapytowski holds his first place certificate for his "Work in Progress" structure at the 32nd Annual Narrow Gauge Show.

Railroad Archeology



Can you identify the significance of this slice of *Railroad Archeology*? The above was submitted by Chad Zemba, who won last month's contest. Bring your answers to the Div. 1 meeting on April 19 at the Kent Free Library.

March Meeting at Over “Easy at the Depot”

Hosted by New Division 1 Member Chad Zemba and Wife Shannon



New Div. 1 member Chad Zemba and his wife Shannon hosted the March meeting after their [Over Easy at the Depot](#) restaurant closed for day. Many members enjoyed a great meal before the meeting began at 3:30. After the meeting Chad opened the historic Kent depot for a tour.



(clockwise from top left) Sam Eisele explains his progress on his HO T-TRAK module and detailing 55 gallon drums; Bob Ashley, Sam Eisele and Matthew Albright look at an HO scale layout in an upper room of the Kent Depot; Bob Gurdak shows a flatcar with tractors load in the “Over Easy at the Depot” restaurant during the March meeting; the view from the an upper room of the historic Kent Depot.

T-TRAK Modules at Narrow Gauge Show

HO and N Scale Well Received

On Friday March 27 and Saturday March 28, members of MCR Division 1 exhibited the N Scale and HO Scale T-TRAK modular layouts at the **32nd Annual Narrow Gauge Show** held at the First Friends Church in Salem, OH.

In addition to a good selection of model railroad vendors, two other groups exhibited narrow gauge layouts so there was something for everyone. Counting the layout operators, vendors and show attendees, it was estimated that well more than 100 people had the opportunity to see the work and progress that Division 1 has made on both layouts.

Most of the set-up occurred Thursday evening in just under three hours time. We had to quickly troubleshoot the N scale Rolling Command Station (RCS) on Friday morning, but overall, both layouts including the control systems functioned well showing that our gradual improvements are paying off. Several of our members fielded questions about the overall construction of our modules, reflecting the interest of the show attendees.

Module judging occurred on Saturday and we are happy to report the Bob Ashley, Jr's HO module took home the People's Choice Award. "Tear-down" took just over an hour on Saturday afternoon. Thanks to all who helped make this a successful event for the module group!

Robert Gurdak
East Division Module Chair



(Clockwise from top right) Jenna Rupert runs trains on the N scale T-TRAK layout at the **32nd Annual Narrow Gauge Show**; Jenna's just completed N scale double T-TRAK module next to her previous completed single; Robert Gurdak captures a video of the HO T-TRAK modules; Div. 1 members Bob Ashley, Robert Gurdak and Chad Zemba with the HO modules.

Division 1 Elections Coming in May

Superintendent, Asst. Superintendent and Treasurer up for vote

The Nominating Committee has respectfully submitted the following candidates to fill the offices of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Treasurer. Following are their submitted biographies.

For Office of Superintendent Sam Eisele

I feel that we have a very strong vision with many talented members. I was drawn to this hobby because of the wide diversity of components that are model



railroading. Whether it is operations, modules or modeling, there is something for everyone. It is a group where literally everyone has something to contribute.

I have not been shy about giving opinions that I think would benefit the group as a whole. Having been Assistant Superintendent and Acting Superintendent I would be very interested in continuing to helping run the show and keep us moving full steam ahead. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Eisele

For Office of Superintendent Gary Kohler

Model railroading has been a lifelong passion. My father, a model railroader and custom builder, introduced me to the hobby at an early age. I still remember visiting New Castle, PA, with him to see steam locomotives awaiting scrapping.



Later, I became a full-time publisher in the model railroad industry. For over 20 years, I published three magazines and more than 20 books on model railroading and railroad history.

As print magazines declined, I transitioned to full-time work in model railroad manufacturing. Over more than thirty years, I have seen the hobby evolve, grow, and,

unfortunately, contract.

My goal is to foster enthusiasm and leverage our members' skills across our division and neighboring divisions. We can achieve this by offering clinics tailored to members' interests, and several skilled modelers have already agreed to participate.

Business meetings are often unengaging. Other divisions are making their meetings brief and more focused. I propose we overhaul our meetings to allow more time for model railroading and planned activities.

Several members have raised concerns about the day and time of our meeting. Since Sunday afternoons are not convenient for everyone, we will discuss and consider alternative options. Also, by changing location, we can make attending convenient for all members.

Model railroading is a rewarding hobby, offering the joy of watching your favorite train run and the satisfaction of building your own layout. We should share this vision within our organization and promote it to others. As the hobby ages, we should also focus on reaching younger individuals who have an interest in model trains or developing one.

In closing, I believe the NMRA's primary goal is to share and expand interest in model railroading. Our members' efforts are essential to achieving this, and with your support, we can succeed together.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Kohler

For Office of Treasurer Michael Bradley

I have been the treasurer since 2014 for Division 1, MCR. I have been a model railroader since age 12 and have built four layouts in HO scale.



I own Bradley Insurance Agency in Ravenna, OH and have been in the insurance and financial business since 1977, 49 years as an Independent insurance agent representing 30 plus companies. I hold two degrees in Insurance, LUTCF and CISR.

I married Kim 38 years ago and have three sons Alex, Dan and James (deceased). I do a lot of kit-bashing on MofW trucks and am always working on my layout.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Bradley

For Office of Asst. Superintendent Jim DiPaola

Like a lot of other model railroaders, I had an interest in trains at a young age. When I was 4 years old, I received two O scale train sets: one from each grandfather. A little



used ping pong table was converted into a train table, and the Lionel and Marx trains had a home. My one grandfather took me train watching at the Pennsylvania Railroad Depot in Ravenna on Friday evenings weather permitting. At age 14 my first HO scale layout was built using Tyco and Athearn locomotives and cars purchased from the local hobby store. In 1986 my wife Doris and I built our dream home with a 26' x 32' basement just perfect for a train layout with a heavy industry

flavor. In 1990 I had the privilege of meeting Dean Freytag and deep friendship was developed. When Dean passed away, I was one of four people that inherited his South Ridge Lines and Davies Steel empire. Dean's structures and rolling stock are a part of my Pittsburgh, Youngstown and Ashtabula Railroad which serves two Davies Steel mills. I regularly make my layout available for an annual layout open house and enjoy visiting with those who stop by. I also enjoy giving clinics and presentations on steel mill modeling.

I have been married to my wife Doris for 45 years and we have two daughters, Rachel and Sarah. I retired in 2004 after a 26-year career with the Ravenna City Fire Department. In 2007 I started working for Ravenna Township part-time in administration and I just retired in December 2025.

I've previously served several times as Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Division 1. I was co-chair of the committee to host the MCR Regional Convention in 2019. I would welcome the opportunity to be elected as your Assistant Superintendent of Division 1.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim DiPaola

For Office of Asst. Superintendent Jerry Kruse

Sure, my first train set was the Lionel train I found under the tree one Christmas morning. But by my teens I had graduated to 1:1 scale. (My father had the local Mobilgas bulk plant and I would play on the tank cars that brought him gasoline and heating oil.) These days I model a freelance switching layout set around Denver, CO.



I am one of the newer members of the club but am active in the Modular Group and a regular participant in Jim Peter's operating sessions. I joined the NMRA because I want to be a part of a family of RR enthusiasts where we can learn from each other. I joined the Modular Group because I think

it's important to keep this exciting avocation (it's too expensive to be a mere "hobby") in front of the public... especially the youngsters.

As Assistant Superintendent, my first task would be to support the work of the Superintendent and work to keep the organization structure healthy. But being relatively new to the NMRA, I don't feel welded to the past. (The seven last words of a dying organization always are, "We've Never Done It That Way Before.")

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Kruse

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Kent Free Library, Bumphrey Room (1st floor)
312 West Main Street
Kent, OH 44240

Bring a snack to share and a drink of your own.
Please bring your Bring-N-Brag items to share.
Meeting begins at 2 PM

13th Year



Sam Eisele
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Northwestern Oregon Circa 1912 — HO and HO_n3



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Little Scioto & Mingo Junction

Jim Peters
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jpeters711@yahoo.com

Train Shows and Open Houses

Youngstown Model RR Assoc. April 12
Toy and Train Flea Market
Parish Center, 4490 Norquest, Austintown 44515
Admission: \$7.00 10 AM - 3:30 PM

Whistle-Stop Dayton June 4 - 7
2026 Mid-Central Region Convention
Marriott at University of Dayton
www.modelraildayton.com

Medina Toy and Train Show April 12
Medina County Fairgrounds, Medina 44256
Admission: \$8.00 9 AM - 3 PM

History of Cleveland, Painesville and Eastern Interurban June 7
Painesville Railroad Museum
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, OH 44077
Admission: Free, Donations accepted 2 PM

Springfield Train Show April 12
Clark County Fairgrounds, 4401 S. Charleston Pike
Springfield, OH 45505
Admission: \$5.00 10 AM - 3 PM

Railfanning Day June 27
Open House - Model Train Flea Market
Painesville Railroad Museum
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, OH 44077
Admission: Free, Donations accepted 10 AM - 3 PM

Pittsburgh Model Railroad April 18
Jamboree present by Div. 2 MCR
Community College of Allegheny County, Boyce Campus
595 Beatty Road, Monroeville, PA 15146
Keystonedivision.org

Hobo Day Model Train Flea Market July 25
Painesville Railroad Museum
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, OH 44077
Admission: Free, Donations accepted 10 AM - 3 PM

Paranormal Investigation of the April 28
Painesville Railroad Museum
President Lincoln Ghost Train, Painesville Depot
475 Railroad Street, Painesville 44077
Admission: \$30.00 9 PM - Midnight

NMRA National Convention July 27 - Aug. 2
Scenic City Express Chattanooga
<https://www.nmra2026.org>

Cuyahoga Valley Model Train Show May 9
Emidio's & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Rd.
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223
Admission: \$6.00 10 AM - 3 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, your support for Division 1 would be appreciated.
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Publication of Division 1 - MCR - NMRA
The Akron, Canton, Youngstown Division

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Social Media	- Trev Smith	
Christmas Dinner	- Jim DiPaola	330-297-5571
Clinics	- Jim DiPaola	330-297-5571
Exhibitions	- Lloyd Horst	330-465-7402
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East Div. Chair	- Bob Gurdak	330-506-8550

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President - Gordon Robinson
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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.

