



NMRA 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 33 - Issue 9

June 2026

Superintendent's Bulletin



Summer is hopefully on the way by now and this June issue of the Peddler Freight is the last issue before our summer break, which is during the months of July and August. I hope you have some fun railroad related activities planned. One of the biggest railroad events that would be fun for the whole family is seeing Union Pacific Big Boy #4014 when it passes through Ohio. There are numerous social media sites with

schedules so you should be able to catch it somewhere. I have heard that the 4014 will stop overnight in Fostoria, Ohio around the Iron Triangle park, which is an outstanding place to visit, picnic and watch trains.

The elections for Division 1 have been held with the new officers to begin their two-year term on July 1, 2026. They are Sam Eisele, Superintendent; Jerry Kruse, Assistant Superintendent and Mike Bradley, Treasurer. There were 22 ballots cast by Division 1 members, which is a decent turnout for our Division with around 70 members. Jeff Stone, our current Clerk, has offered to Chair a small Bylaws Committee to take a look at our current Bylaws to review them and update them as necessary. Thank you Jeff for volunteering to take on this task.

I wish to thank all the Division 1 members for their support of our Officers and Division 1 activities and Events over the past two years. Our Division is financially solvent and in great shape. Please have a safe and fun summer.

See you at the June 14th meeting at Same Eisele's residence.

All Aboard!
Jim DiPaola, Superintendent

Jim DiPaola chairs the May Div. 1 meeting, his last as superintendent. Thank you Jim for all your service to Division 1.



Big Boy Coming to NE Ohio - Twice



Union Pacific's famed Big Boy No. 4014, the world's largest operating steam locomotive, will journey to the East Coast this summer for the first time as part of a historic coast-to-coast tour to celebrate America's 250th anniversary. The Big Boy will pass through Ohio as it heads east June 6 - 9. Westbound dates will be July 12 - 15.

See the schedule on the Union Pacific website:
<https://www.up.com/about-us/history/steam/schedule>.

2026 Division Picnic

Sam and Trish Eisele will again host the annual Div. 1 picnic on June 14. All Division 1 members and a guest are invited.

Sam and Trish provide a superb meal with grilled meats, sides and delicious desserts! The Div. 1 Picnic is a great way to kick off summer.

Please do not park on any grass as the ground has been exceptionally soft with all the rain this spring.

Division 1, MCR, NMRA

Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2026

1. Welcome:

- ~ Call to order: 2:07 PM.
- ~ By: Jim DiPaola, Superintendent.
- ~ Participants: 24.
- ~ Location: Yoder's Acres, Dalton, Ohio.

2. Clerk: Jeff Stone:

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

3. Treasurer: Mike Bradley:

- ~ Available on request.
- ~ Expense: None.
- ~ Income: \$300 Contribution, \$30 Contribution (Matt Albright).
- ~ Motion carried to approve treasurer report (Steve Zapytowski / Lloyd Horst).

4. Superintendent: Jim DiPaola:

- ~ June meeting will be hosted by Sam Eisele.
- ~ Thanks to Glenn Yoder for hosting today's meeting.
- ~ Jeff Stone volunteered to update and clean up the By Laws. Anyone interested in helping contact him.

4a. Assistant Superintendent: Sam Eisele:

- ~ Please respond to Sam if you are attending June meeting so he can manage food.

5. Peddler Freight Publisher: Bruce Hukill:

- ~ Requested current roster.
- ~ Deadline: May 23.

6. Membership Committee: Jim Peters:

- ~ Current membership 76.
- ~ Election results: Treasurer: Mike Bradley. Ass't Superintendent: Jerry Kruse.
Superintendent: Sam Eisele.
- ~ A grand total of 22 ballots.

7. Clinic Committee: Sam Eisele: No report.

8. Achievement Committee: Lloyd Horst: No report.

9. Module Committee N: Lloyd Horst.

- ~ Age of Steam will be 2 Days next December.
- ~ This fall we'll be doing "Route 30."

9a. Module Committee HO: Bob Gurdak.

- ~ Tentative work weekend at Over Easy in Kent.
- ~ Set up at Over Easy in Kent for Heritage Day, July 3.

10. Facebook Committee: Trev Smith:

- ~ Chip Syme layout posted, has been shared 11 times.
- ~ Trev is asking for a replacement as he now lives in the Division 4 footprint.
- ~ Anyone attending Regional or National conventions, please give Trev some things to post.

11. Website Committee: Steve Zapytowski: No report.

12. Old Business: None.

13. New Business:

- ~ Bob Ashley asked that with the new members, is it time to produce some Division 1 shirts, hats, etc.
Officers will go forward.

14. Bring and Brag:

- ~ Glenn Yoder brought a Rapido Greenbrier reefer.
- ~ Matt Woods brought the current issue of On3 Modeler which contains Matt's 10th article. Congrats, Matt!
- ~ Chad Zemba brought in N gauge vehicles for his module that he bought at the N-Scale show as well as a G-Scale diesel which will power the overhead train in the restaurant.
- ~ Jim DiPaola brought in ties made by Scale Signs. There are "new" and "used" ties. Used ties show where the ties plates were.

15. Good of the Order/Announcements:

- ~ Mike Bradley announced he has taken down his layout to prepare a move to a new house with a larger basement. New house, new layout!
- ~ Sam Eisele reported that Ronda Fulks of Leavin' A Mark Engraving has passed. Our condolences to David.
- ~ Bruce Hukill announced they are cutting material for module kits. Contact him if you are interested in a module.
- ~ Jim Peters announced that a former NMRA member friend of his donated *Model Railroader* magazines for the recruiting table. Jim will also be helping liquidate his equipment, with priority to folks that regularly operated the layout.
- ~ Jim DiPaola also announced he will be "thinning the herd" and plans to have a sale in July. Buildings, rolling stock, locomotives, etc.
- ~ 50/50 cash won by Chad Zemba, Calendar won by Steve Skodzinsky.

16. Adjournment: At 2:48 motion carried to adjourn meeting (Bob Anelli / Trev Smith).

Post Meeting: Open house at Glenn Yoder's layout as well as Larry Olson's layout nearby.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Stone, Clerk, Division 1.

May Meeting at Glenn Yoder's



(clockwise from top left) The May Division 1 meeting was held in the garage of Division 1 member Glenn Yoder; Glenn's HO layout was opened for tour after the business meeting; a junkyard scene on Glenn's layout; Chad Zemba holds a huge CSX locomotive he purchased to run on the overhead layout at *Over Easy at the Depot*.

The Adena Branch: Heart of the Wheeling & Lake Erie

Submitted by: Matt Woods

The original Wheeling & Lake Erie railroad was known as the "Iron Cross" running from Cleveland to Zanesville and from Toledo to Wheeling, crossing at roughly Navarre.

The railroad was built on the transport of coal from southeastern Ohio and iron ore from Huron on the shore of Lake Erie. Throughout its route were many interesting

localities and significant landmarks, all of which were modelgenic. But, as with almost any prototype railroad, it is impossible to model in its entirety and to do justice to every location.

As a longtime Wheeling & Lake Erie fan, I knew that I wanted to capture the essence and feel of some portion of this venerable road. Now, to be clear, this is not the current iteration of the railroad with its orange and black second generation diesels and Denver and Rio Grande inspired paint scheme. I am modeling the original W&LE that rose from narrow gauge origins and became part of the Nickel Plate Road in 1949. This is steam era modeling, with 55 ton hoppers, wooden boxcars, and passenger service.

All photos by the author



(above) Wheeling Mike 6003 feeds hoppers into the Black Diamond Mine and tipple on the Adena Branch.

(below) The town of Adena sits on a hillside above the yard. The abandoned truck dump siding is in the foreground.



As stated, there are many portions of the Wheeling & Lake Erie I could have replicated, but I was drawn to the coal country of southeastern Ohio, specifically the Adena branch which ran from Adena, Ohio to St. Clairsville. This is where the coal was mined and the hilly terrain had an Appalachian feel. Locations like Dillonvale, Cadiz, Pine Valley, along with all the various mines and tipples, became the inspiration for a proto-freelanced version of the 1920-1940 Wheeling & Lake Erie.

Although I am known as a narrow gauge modeler, I started in HO standard gauge. My Dad and I built a 16'x16' around the wall HO layout that has been in various stages of completion for over 45 years. My Dad built most of the benchwork, track work, and wiring, while I built the scenery and structures. The layout underwent many alterations and additions over the years, but lacked a clear theme and location. Around 15 years ago, I built generic XPS foam scenery that represented eastern Ohio. The scenery was very basic and specific features were left vague. Following my Dad's passing, I became determined to complete the



(above) The Black Diamond Mine has a few carloads waiting to be shipped out. (left) A hilltop barn overlooks the town of Adena on a fall day.

layout to a high standard and give it a clear theme.

My Dad was always a New York Central fan, but had gravitated to the modern era, with Norfolk Southern motive power and double track mains. Although I could have easily continued that theme, I wanted to be true to my steam era interest while honoring his lifelong devotion to the New York Central. The compromise was to model a freelanced version of the New York Central's Piney Fork branch with a sampling of the Wheeling & Lake Erie. Two of the few places that the W&LE and NYC interfaced were at Dillonvale, Ohio, along with Minerva. Fortunately, my Dad and I had built an addition to the main layout that consisted of a small town with switching opportunities that could represent Minerva and a New York Central focus. The combination of artistic or modeler's license and a lot of scenic and structure updates has yielded a plausible representation of the Wheeling's Adena branch in conjunction with the NYC's Piney Fork. Both railroads were in southern Ohio with the sole purpose of transporting coal to Lake Erie. Although the track work of the layout does not represent a specific location and the spatial arrangement is very condensed, the look of the prototype is achieved.

The layout is constructed on L girdle benchwork with plywood flat surfaces. The track is Code 83 on cork, with a double track main and one secondary track. There is a 4 track yard that is about 10 feet long and built on a curve. An L shaped addition comes off the main layout and includes multiple sidings. The layout is wired for DCC, but can be run as DC. In reality, there are many aspects of the layout that I would do differently if starting over, but I have been able to make improvements that reflect my current interests and standards. The primary goal was to finish what my Dad and I started and create something we could both be proud of.

A Wheeling double header on the Adena branch led by Berkshire 6409 carries coal train towards Pine Valley.



Over the last 3 years, I have scratchbuilt many structures for the layout and created distinct focal scenes and points of interest. The main signature scenes of the layout are a large coal tipple as you come into the layout room, the town of Minerva, the town of Adena, and a 6 foot by 34 inch mine and tipple module that is in the middle of the enclosed area that surrounds 3 walls.

One of the principal goals of the layout is to have highly detailed and realistic scenery and a unified color palette that represents late summer and fall. The layout is made for photography as much as operations.

In the future, I would like to make an addition that represents Huron, Ohio and the coal and ore docks. I have a strong interest in nautical themes and Huron was the only location that the W&LE came in contact with water. At one point, Huron was the fishing capital of the Great Lakes and there were many fish houses and commercial fishing boats there. This would make a very modelgenic location along with the distinct wooden retaining walls and coal bridges.

Follow along as I give a photographic tour of my Wheeling & Lake Erie Adena branch layout and a glimpse into 1930's Ohio coal country.

June Meeting/Annual Div. 1 Picnic

Sunday, June 14, 2026
Hosted by Sam and Trish Eisele
2799 Frost Road
Mantua, OH 44255

Please do not park in any grass. Parking is available immediately to the east of of the Eisele's house. Enter the gravel driveway at the orange cones.

Sam will have the basement open!

Meeting begins at 2 PM

13th Year



Sam Eisele
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NMRA Division 1

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Mantua, OH 44255



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Northwestern Oregon Circa 1912 — HO and HO_n3

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Little Scioto & Mingo Junction

Jim Peters
Interested in operation send email:
jpeters711@yahoo.com

Train Shows and Open Houses

Whistle-Stop Dayton

2026 Mid-Central Region Convention
Marriott at University of Dayton
www.modelraildayton.com

June 4 - 7

Hobo Day Model Train Flea Market

Painesville Railroad Museum
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, OH 44077
Admission: Free, Donations accepted 10 AM - 3 PM

July 25

History of Cleveland, Painesville and Eastern Interurban

Painesville Railroad Museum
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, OH 44077
Admission: Free, Donations accepted 2 PM

June 7

NMRA National Convention July 27 - Aug. 2 Scenic City Express Chattanooga

<https://www.nmra2026.org>

Big Boy Day - U.P. 4014

Lake County Historical Society
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, OH 44077
Admission: Free, Donations accepted 11 AM - 5:30 PM
<https://www.lakehistorycenter.org>

June 8

Everett's Train Show and Swap Meet

Marion Union Station
532 West Center Street, Marion, OH
Admission: Free, Donations accepted 10 AM - 4 PM

July 25

Paranormal Investigation of the Painesville RR Museum

Painesville Railroad Museum
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, OH 44077
Admission: \$30.00 9 PM - Midnight

June 12

Hobo Day Model Train Flea Market

Painesville Railroad Museum
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, OH 44077
Admission: Free, Donations accepted 10 AM - 3 PM

August 15

CVT Model RR Club

Construction Progress Open House
1703 Bailey Rd., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
Admission: Free, Donations accepted 10 AM - 4 PM

June 20

NE Ohio Historical Day

Painesville Railroad Museum
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, OH 44077
Admission: Free, Donations accepted 10 AM - 3 PM

August 22

Railfanning Day Open House - Model Train Flea Market

Painesville Railroad Museum
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, OH 44077
Admission: Free, Donations accepted 10 AM - 3 PM

June 27

Depot 150 (Olmsted Falls Depot) Sept. 12 -13

A celebration of the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Olmsted Falls Depot
Olmsted Falls Depot and Model Railroad Museum
25802 Garfield Ave., Olmsted Falls, OH 44138
Admission: Free 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, your support for Division 1 would be appreciated.

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901 Wicket Dr.
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Publication of Division 1 - MCR - NMRA
The Akron, Canton, Youngstown Division

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Social Media	- Trev Smith	
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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.

