



PEDDLER FREIGHT

Divison 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 28 - Issue 8

April 2021

Asst. Superintendent's Bulletin



As I sit at my bench listening to "Stairway to Heaven" on my CD, because my cassette tape finally wore out, I find myself getting philosophical - had to look that one up in the old dictionary and I probably still spelled it wrong!

With all of the negativity around us I decided to list how really lucky I am.

*So far we've dodged the Covid mess.

My wife and I just returned from a 16 day vacation. That was really special because our last vacation was 20 years ago. It was probably the best vacation I've ever been on. While on vacation along with a lot of great activities I was able to squeeze in a bunch of railroad related stuff. My wife was a real trooper. Never complained once and even suggested "Train Things" to do and really encouraged me to have a good time.

*Sat in the truck for over an hour while I visited a train club layout in Bradenton, and another hour while I visited a hobby shop in Ft. Meyers. Hanging out the window taking pictures of the Tropicana Plant as I'm driving by, good pictures too!

*Encouraged me to take my time and enjoy the Georgia State Railroad Museum. Got up early so I could catch the Tropicana Juice Train crossing the Intercostal Waterway on the Bradenton Riverwalk... Got there at 8:45 AM to catch the 9:00 crossing... left at 9:40 - NO TRAIN - "On time" my !""**@?:*!!! We found it on a siding at the Tropicana Plant "waiting" to leave. The good thing was I found \$10.00 on the ground when I went over to take some pictures! It couldn't have gotten any better than that!

*The hits keep on coming. We spent two nights in Nashville on the way home. What do you think was next to our hotel? A railyard. SCORE! The street in front

of the hotel ran right over the yard. Guess who spent a good while standing on that bridge watching trains and taking pictures. Lucky me again.

Mother's Day isn't until May but I count myself as very lucky to have such a great wife who supports me and my hobby.

Sam Eisele, Asst. Superintendent
NMRA, MCR, Division 1
(330) 322-3487

Zoom Invite

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86899968456?pwd=WUJ-SaThoYzFVUUtucmdvbWtmbnFOUT09>

A Zoom invite will be emailed to all Division 1 members before the April meeting.

Membership Report

Membership at this time stands at 81.

Kurt Sanders
Membership Chair

2020 - 2021 Division 1 Events

April 18 - Zoom meeting online
All remaining Events to be determined.

Interested in hosting a meeting?
Contact any Division 1 officer.

Division 1, MCR, NMRA
Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2021

1. Welcome:

- ~ Call to order: 2:06 PM
- ~ By: Superintendent Bob Ashley, Jr.
- ~ Participants: 11
- ~ Location: Zoom

2. Clerk: Jeff Stone

- ~ Previous meeting minutes published in Peddler freight.
- ~ Motion to approve submitted by Jim Peters, seconded by the body.

3. Treasurer: Mike Bradley

- ~ Checking account balance \$7,056.55.
- ~ Module Fund balance \$1,913.37.
- ~ CD balance \$3,165.82.
- ~ Money Market balance \$10,014.48.
- ~ Total assets \$20,236.85.
- ~ Reimbursements: none.
- ~ Expenses: None.
- ~ One more AC&Y HO gondola sold.
- ~ Motion to approve submitted by Steve Zapytowski, seconded by the body.

4. Superintendent: Bob Ashley, Jr.: no report

5. Peddler Freight: Bruce Hukill:

- ~ 11 mailed copies sent each month.
- ~ Will start classified ads.
- ~ Requesting more tips and hacks, please!!
- ~ Deadline for articles, ads, etc. - March 26.

6. Membership Committee: Kurt Sanders

- ~ Division 1 membership at 81

7. Clinic Committee: Jim Dipaola: No report.

8. Achievement Committee: Lloyd Horst: No report.

9. Module Committee: Bob Ashley, Jr:

- ~ Next module set up My Hope show November 6.

10. Old Business:

- ~ Outdoor pavilion cost, no report.
- ~ Tyco train donation: Investigated by Bob Ashley and Sam Eisele. Mostly Tyco items, some would be good for handouts at shows. Valued at \$536. Receipt given to Mrs Toth.

11. New Business: None.

12. Bring and Brag:

- ~ Steve Zapytowski progress report on the Rope Factory project.
- ~ Bob Ashley, Jr. showed 3d print of swamp coolers and windmill blades.
- ~ Rich Ramskugler led a video tour of his layout which included steel mill and airport.
- ~ Sam Eisele gave a vacation report of circus museum, Georgia State Rail Museum, and other points of interest.
- ~ Steve Zapytowski presented audio card which he is using for factory noise for the rope factory. Steve used a recording Sam Eisele made at a museum on his vacation.

13. Good of the Order/Announcements: None.

14. Adjournment:

- ~ Hoping for weather and vaccines to allow for an in person meeting.
- ~ Motion to adjourn submitted and seconded by the body
- ~ Time: 3:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Stone,
Clerk, Division 1

Achievement Program

Do you know the requirements for the different Certificates? The Golden Spike? If you have been in the hobby for a while you may already have some of the items needed for a certificate: Cars? Structures? Scenery? If you were on the committee planning the Regional Convention, you may have enough points for Association Volunteer.

The NMRA website has all the information you need to help you earn a Certificate. Check it out. If you have any questions contact me and we will figure it out.

Lloyd Horst
AP Chair
(330) 465-7402

The Peddler Freight will be highlighting the requirements for the AP awards needed to obtain Master Model Railroader status. This month we will look at Master Builder - Scenery. Jim Peters has written a short article about his experience working toward the AP for Master Builder - Scenery. Following Jim's article are the requirements from the NMRA website.

The Achievement Program: Master Builder - Scenery

by Jim Peters

If you have been awarded the Golden Spike, you may want to consider the Scenery AP. Most of us have some scenery, one of my favorite aspects in the hobby, so I went to the NMRA website and downloaded the four-page document that explains everything you need to know. One page is basically a detailed description of what is needed, the next two are duplicate check off sheets (why two no one seems to know), and the final one is for someone to come out and judge. The most important requirement I suppose is having 32 sq. feet of your layout with finished scenery (HO); it does not have to be continuous: multiple areas that add up to the required amount including a separate module are acceptable.

Next, I started by asking several MMRs for input on

preparing on my op nights and also simply went through the checklist. I added ground cover where I had bare terrain and ballast, noted my structures and made repairs or spruced them up, finished painting backdrops, made sure



lighting worked, all of that added to acceptable (not perfect) realism. I am no artist. I used photos I collected over the years for colors and simply redid areas if I was not happy. Along the way, I brought home techniques from scenery clinics at regional and national conventions. I uploaded six photos highlighting the various settings, many half a page, to aid in the writing of a 7-page document. The final page was a list of

materials I used. Finally, I contacted Lloyd Horst, our AP chair, who brought along Steve Zapytowski. I enjoyed the journey!

Master Builder - Scenery

To qualify for the Master Builder - Scenery certificate:

1. Construct a completed section of a model railroad of at least sixty square feet in O scale, or forty-five square feet in S scale, or thirty-two square feet in HO scale, or eighteen square feet in N scale or other scales in proportional relationship to HO scale. This completed section must contain the necessary scenic elements of Terrain, Structures, Background, Lighting, and Realism/Conformity as combined to achieve a realistic effect using applicable NMRA standards. In that particular model railroad scene. The intent of this category is the prototypical rendering of the scenic elements from the ground up.

It is not necessary to qualify for this certificate by constructing a single section of layout. You can construct several different scenes (such as modules), each of which must be at least eight square feet and of Merit Award quality. They must earn 87 ½ points using the AP Scenery judging sheet.

Outdoor (garden) railways may qualify for the Master Builder - Scenery certificate. However, the modeler must show that they have worked to create a miniature railroad, not just run some track through the flower beds. For example, bridges should be modeled after prototype bridges (just as they are in other scales), not just track running across a plank.

**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
MASTER BUILDER SCENERY
STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FORM
FEBRUARY 2019** page 1 of 2

Member's Name: _____ NMRA #: _____ Exp: _____
State/Prov: _____
City: _____ Division: _____
Country: _____ NMRA Region: _____
Phone: _____
Date Submitted: _____ E-Mail: _____

To qualify for this certificate, you must:

1. Construct a completed section of a model railroad of at least sixty square feet in O scale, or forty-five square feet in S scale, or thirty-two square feet in HO scale, or eighteen square feet in N scale or other scales in proportional relationship to HO scale. This completed section must contain the necessary scenic elements of terrain, structures, background, lighting, and realism/conformity as combined to achieve a realistic effect using applicable NMRA standards in that particular model railroad scene. The intent of this category is the prototypical rendering of the scenic elements from the ground up. The definitions of the various elements (which may be combined to comprise the setting for the model railroad) shall be:
TERRAIN - The ground and all natural features such as rocks, water, trees, hills and depressions, as well as man-made features such as the railroad roadbed, cuts, fills, drainage ditches, embankments, streets and roads.
STRUCTURES - Structures are considered from the standpoint of prototypical suitability, placement and appearance as scenic elements. (The quality of construction is covered under the Master Builder - Structures category). Structures include bridges, trestles, culverts, buildings and all other types of structures (towers, power lines, signs, fences, etc.), track and right-of-way appearances (such as turnout controls, signaling structures, crossing gates and shanties etc.), turntables and other service structures. The items described above are a few examples and additional features are encouraged.
BACKGROUND - Treatment of wall, backdrop or ceiling to realistically depict depth and distance, horizon and sky.
LIGHTING - Illumination effects from street lamps, railroad cars and signals, etc. buildings, street and road, etc. overall lighting effects - day and/or night. An overall lighting scene is acceptable. This lighting information must be included in the material prepared for Section 4 below.
REALISM/CONFORMITY - General overall impression that the scene is a believable, miniature representation of prototype railroad.
2. Prepare a set of photographs or a video and a written description clearly describing the intended setting of the model railroad and the scenic details including train or other in the area being judged.
3. Prepare a description of the materials and methods of construction used in creating the scene, background, and lighting.
4. Attach one copy of materials displayed by the member requesting certification.
5. Earn a Merit Award of at least 87.5 points on the section of layout being evaluated.

The definitions of the various elements (which may be combined to comprise the setting for the model railroad) shall be:

Terrain (35 pts)

The ground and all natural features such as rocks, water, trees, hills and depressions, as well as man made features such as railroad roadbed, cuts, fills, drainage ditches, embankments, streets and roads, etc.

Also remember different types of vegetation and the effects of weather and of animals. Remember the detail on streets and roads, whether in urban or rural areas: sewers / storm drains, man-hole covers, shoulders, drainage ditches, cracks, patches, road wear marks, oil stains, and tire ruts in dirt roads.

Make the transitions between different types of terrain as smooth as possible. Avoid glaring inconsistencies, such as a New England Farm house surrounded by palm trees. If you are going to have different scenes on your layout, use backdrop dividers or other vision blockers to separate them.

Structures (20 pts)

Structures are considered from the standpoint of prototypical suitability, placement, and appearance as scenic effects - NOT as to construction (which is covered under Master Builder - Structures). This includes bridges, trestles, and culverts, buildings and all other types of structures (towers, power lines, signs, retaining walls, etc.), track and right-of-way features such as turnout controls, signaling structures, crossing gates and shanties, turntables and other service structures, etc.

These are but a few examples - additional features are encouraged. Also remember that structures should be in the ground, not sitting on top of it. Make sure that the appearance of your structures is consistent with your scenery. At the very least, weather it enough to take the "out of the box plastic shine" off of it. Switch machines, if not under the table, should be well disguised (this is one detail that will cause your application to be returned if it is not done). Remember details such as lights over the doors of commercial buildings.

Background (25 pts)

Treatment of the wall, backdrop, and/or ceiling to realistically depict depth, distance, horizon, and sky. This doesn't mean that you have to have a photographic or landscape artist quality background. Your background should continue the 'illusion of reality' that you are trying to create with your scenery. The background should match the scenery, and the transition where the two of them meet is smooth and/or hidden. One good question to ask yourself is: Is there enough good background to allow a photo to be taken without showing other parts of the room? If a wall is the backdrop, make sure that the texture is appropriate, as well as the color (a concrete block wall painted sky-blue, still looks like a concrete block wall!)

Lighting (20 pts)

Illumination effects from three aspects:

An entirely daylight scene is acceptable. This lighting information must be included in the material prepared for Section 4 below. Note that a fully day lit scene is perfectly acceptable (although you may get more points for a scene that allows you to show off more lighting elements). However, even in a day lit scene, there may be evidence of lighting - even if it is not operational (non-illuminated street lights, for example.) Also note that not every scene will contain all of these elements. If the scene you are modeling is in the middle of the desert, there may not be any buildings or streets there to light!

1. railroad cars, signals, etc.
2. buildings, streets, and roads, etc.
3. overall lighting effects - day and/or night.

Realism/Conformity (25 pts)

In the other four judging areas, the judges evaluate what you were trying to do - what you remembered to include in your scene. In this one, they evaluate how well you did what you were trying to do. Your entire layout does not have to be completed to be judged - just enough to meet the minimum space requirements given above. However, the areas which are not to be judged should be blocked off (visually) from those that are.

2. Prepare a set of photographs (video tape presentation is acceptable) and a written description clearly describing the intended setting of the model railroad and the scenic details including towns or cities in the area being judged. These photos don't have to be professional quality - that isn't what is being judged. However, there should be at least one over-all picture of the layout, and pictures of all the parts which are being judged. Each picture should have an accompanying description.

3. Prepare a description of the materials and methods of construction used in creating various features of Terrain, Background, and Lighting. These can be simple statements - nothing elaborate is required.

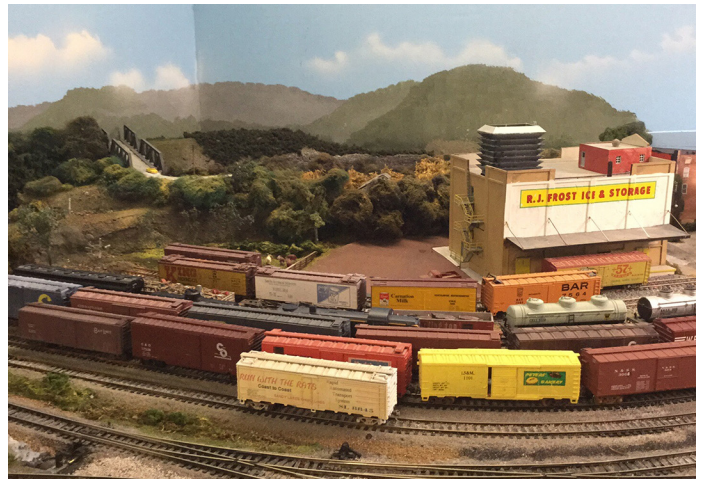
4. Attach one copy of materials in Sections 2 & 3 to the Statement of Qualification (SOQ, see below) for use by the judges in determining the effectiveness of the craftsmanship displayed by the member requesting certification.

5. Earn a Merit Award of at least 87 ½ points on the section of layout being judged.

6. Submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) including the attachments for Sections 2 & 3 and the signed evaluation forms (see links below) and/or copies of the Merit Award certificates from Section 5.

Further Information

Contact National Achievement Program General Manager, Frank Koch achiev@nmra.org, or your Region or Division Achievement Program Manager for more information.



N-Scale Report

In case you missed the announcement on January 1, 2021 NTRAK, T-TRAK and all the other N Scale Module railroad systems are formally being brought together as part of NRail. In the future standards for the various module formats will be found at one location, NRail.org. One of the first items undertaken was to survey the various module groups. Responses to survey were limited, but still informative. NTRAK and T-TRAK represented largest and also equal number responses. Free-moN, oNeTRAK, BendTrack, Modutrak, and home layout responses were also recorded. About half the responses indicated working in more than one module format. Since January Zoom clinics have been available through NRail.

Wingfoot Lake area is suggested as a good location to use as a backdrop or sky board. The Wheeling & Lake Erie RR runs just across the lake from the active Good-year airdock. The airdock would be a striking image for your railroad.

Bachmann 4-6-4 Hudsons were announced in February with DCC and Sound and look great, but MSRP of \$439.00 will mean I would need skip steak for peanut butter.

Hopefully life will return to some semblance of 2019.

Don Bonk
NRail Chair

Tips and Hacks

At the suggestion of Assistant Superintendant Sam Eisele, the Peddler Freight has a new feature, "Tips and Hacks." Have you stumbled on something that saves time, makes a monotonous job easier or saves money? The list can be endless, so why not share it with your fellow modelers? Following is a tip from Michael Bradley and a wheel cleaning article from Kurt Sanders.

1. We all use Scalecoat or Floquil paint and after awhile the lids get very hard to open. I always have a jar of lacquer thinner on my bench to clean brushes and my fingers. So rather than fight the lids on jars I just turn them upside down, closed of course, and run a bead of laquer thinner around the groove with a brush. This loosens the lid to ensure an easy twist off, as opposed to straining and swearing at the paint jar - which just mocked me when I did that - LOL.

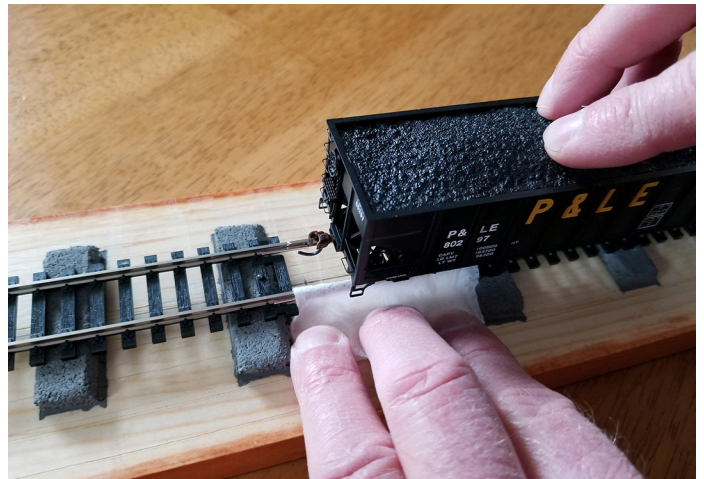
Michael Bradley

If you have any hacks or tips to share, email to the Peddler Freight editor at hukillbruce@gmail.com.

Wheel Cleaning Tips

As model railroaders we run our trains, and from time to time, we have to do some maintenance on our equipment, engines, rolling stock and track. This article will give some tips on cleaning the wheels on rolling stock. You can clean your track and make it super clean with a brightboy or many of the liquid track cleaners on the market today. But what about the wheels on the rolling stock? If you don't clean the wheels on your rolling stock after you clean the track, cleaning the track may have been a waste of time. The wheels on the rolling stock are still dirty and the track is clean, they will put dirt right back on your nice clean track. The track will stay cleaner longer if you clean the rolling stock wheels too.

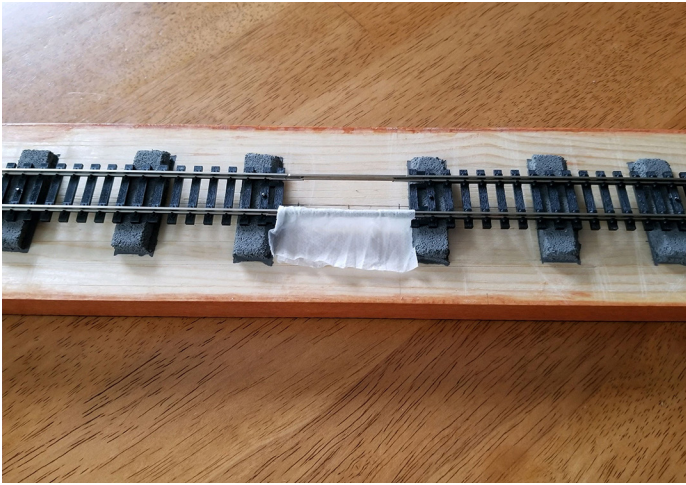
The way that I clean the wheels on my rolling stock seems to work really well and also will work with engine wheels. I perform this wheel cleaning maintenance as follows. I made a wheel cleaning jig. To make the jig, I first took two 9" sections of HO straight track and two pieces of straight rail 2" long. Next, I mounted the track to a 1" X 4" X 23" long board. I raised the track about 1/4 inch above the board with some roadbed. I didn't have any HO roadbed on hand, so



I used two N scale pieces to raise the track. Then I connected the track. First I put one 9" piece of straight, next I put the 2 rails, and the last 9" piece of straight track. Now the track is ready to be mounted. Make sure that there is no roadbed under the two 2" sections, which must remain open under the rails. After you fasten the track down, you are ready to go. You can paint the roadbed if you like, but it's not necessary.

To clean the wheels, you will need some hand cleaning wipes with alcohol. Take one of the wipes and cut it into 2" wide strips. Put that wipe over the open rail with no ties or roadbed under it. Slide one end of the wipe under and through so it comes out about an inch or so. Now take the other end of the wipe over the top of the rail and hold it over the other part of the wipe. Please see the picture the left. Now you are ready to clean some wheels. As you are holding the wipe down with one hand, use the other hand to roll your rolling stock in both directions over the wipe. When the wheels are clean, you can move the wipe to the other side and repeat the process. You may put some power to the rails and clean engine wheels too. I have tried putting a wipe across both rails and sometimes the wipe would catch on the trip pin or something else under the engine, which is why I came up with this wheel cleaning jig. This jig works with 33" and 36" wheels. Also, you could use the jig to check your rolling stock couplers for proper fit and height.

Kurt Sanders



Model Railroading Friend



Division 1 member Jim DiPaola sends pictures of his railroading buddy Tobbie. Jim said, "Tobbie seems to have an interest in trains." Tobbie (left) sits under the benchwork as Jim works on the layout. (above) Tobbie lays on Jim's desk and watches the track-side camera of action in Berea. What a great model railroading buddy - nonjudgemental and doesn't ask a bunch of questions.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING
Sunday, April 18, 2021
Online via the Zoom App
2 PM

Feel free to snack during the meeting.

9th Year

9th Year



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LUTCF, CISR

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Northwestern Oregon Circa 1912 — HO and HOOn3

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Mail to: Bruce Hukill, editor
901 Wicket Dr.
Akron, OH 44307

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Train Shows and Open Houses

2 Rail O-Scale Train Meet - April 10

UAW Hall, 5615 Chevrolet Blvd., Parma, OH 44130
Admission - \$6.00 9 AM - 2 PM

Bucyrus Model Railroad Association - April 10

Train Show & Swap Meet
Cawford County Fairgrounds, 610 Whetstone St., Bucyrus
Admission - \$5.00 10 AM - 4 PM

Medina Train and Toy Show - April 11

Medina County Community Center
Medina Fairgrounds, Medina, OH 44256
Admission - \$6.00, Under 12 - Free 9 AM - 3 PM

Model Train Flea Market - May 8

Painesville RR Museum (aka NYC Painesville Depot)
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077
Admission - Free (Donations Accepted) 10 AM - 3 PM

NYCSHS Train Show - May 16

Holiday Inn Cleveland South
6001 Rockside Rd. Independence, OH 44131
Admission - **FREE** 10 AM - 3 PM

Model Train Flea Market - June 5

Painesville RR Museum (aka NYC Painesville Depot)
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077
Admission - **FREE** 10 AM - 3 PM
Donations Accepted and Appreciated

Model Train Flea Market - July 11

Painesville RR Museum (aka NYC Painesville Depot)
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077
Admission - **FREE** 10 AM - 3 PM
Donations Accepted and Appreciated

***Editor note:** As of April 1, 2021, per cleveshows.com, the above events are scheduled to be open unless noted.*

PEDDLER FREIGHT

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Akron, OH 44307

Publication of Division 1 - MCR - NMRA
The Akron, Canton, Youngstown Division

First Class

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Treasurer - Mike Bradley 330-325-7622

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PF Editor - Bruce Hukill 330-571-4037

Division 1 Volunteer Positions

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Apparel - OPEN
Christmas Dinner - Randy Dettmer 330-653-3537
Clinics - OPEN
Exhibitions - Matt Woods 330-465-8724
 - Lloyd Horst 330-465-7402
Membership - Kurt Sanders 330-518-4245

Modules:
HO/Chair - Bob Ashley Jr. 216-905-8860
NTRAK/T-TRAK - Don Bonk 330-418-6860

Roster - Joe Urbanski 330-283-0516
Webmaster - Steve Zapytowski 330-715-3444

**WHO TO CONTACT IN
DIVISION 1
AND THE NMRA**

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email: mcrprez@nmra.org

National Model Railroad Association
President - Pete Magoun
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 Editor, Division 1, MCR or NMRA.

