

# PEDDLER FREIGHT

Division 1 - MCR - NMRA  
Akron - Canton - Youngstown Division

Serving Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Mahoning, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas and Wayne (Except Wooster) Counties

Volume 17 - Issue 8

May 2010

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Since this is my last editorial, I want to thank all of those members who have helped me in my attempts to improve the Division. I thank all of you who came up with new ideas for the Division. Working together we have improved Division 1.

I am presenting my 10<sup>th</sup> and final "REPORT TO THE REGIONAL BOD" at the Convention. I thought you might like to read it because I believe it states the improvements in this Division over the past five years.

Thank you again for helping make Division 1 a better division.

DIVISION 1, MCR, NMRA  
REPORT TO THE REGIONAL BOD  
May 14, 2010

Division 1 elections are slated for May 23, 2010. I have reached the Division's term limits and Division 1 will have a new Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent starting in June of 2010.

Five years ago Division 1 was considered the worst Division in the Region. I contend that this opinion is no longer valid.

During the last five years, the attendance at Division meetings has increased from 6 to more than 20; we now have clinics and presentations; we have a modeling contest (popular vote, not AP) which allows members to display their work; we have a Division 1 railroad flea market; we have a fledgling module group; we have a newsletter that is sent to all members, not just subscribers; we have had an increase in the number of members hosting; we now have clothing and patches identifying Division 1; we have additional members writing articles for the Peddler Freight; we have a functional website; we are growing even though we are not increasing in membership; since June 2009 we are demonstrably 100% NMRA.

Division 1 has been rebuilding and will continue to advance the hobby of model railroading and the NMRA.

Respectfully Submitted,

*David H. Hazlett*

David H. Hazlett, Superintendent  
Division 1, MCR, NMRA

## Division I Final Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee accepted nominations at the March and April meeting and has certified that on that date all candidates are members of the NMRA and in good standing. The following members have indicated their willingness to serve the Division if elected.

**For Treasurer -**  
Robert Ashley, Jr.  
Chuck Boyer

**For Assistant Superintendent -**  
Randy Dettmer  
Larry Olsen  
Joe Urbanski

**For Superintendent -**  
Ron Wigal  
Jim Williams

Respectfully,  
Rich Ramskugler, Chairman  
Karen Sanders, Kurt Sanders,  
Jim Williams  
Nominating Committee

### For Treasurer - (2)

I'm **Bob Ashley Jr**; I've been in the NMRA for three years and completing my first term as treasurer. I've been modeling and collecting trains for the last forty-two years. As I'm writing this, I'm also preparing my layout for our first op session.

I've been married to my wife Twyla for almost twenty-seven years. We have two children. Heather is a schoolteacher in Hampton, VA, and Rob is a student at Stark State and a member of the NMRA.

I'm a fabrication supervisor for Western Reserve Water Systems. I'm also a member of the Akron Yacht Club where I have held several offices including Commodore, Fleet Captain and Chairman of the Board over the past 23 years that I've been a member.

I'm looking forward to two more years as Treasurer. Thank you for your continuing support.

I'm **Chuck Boyer**, owner/operator of Boyer Mountains and Pacific Railroad in HO scale using DCC from NCE.

From June 1, 1996 to May 31, 2000 I served as Division 1 Treasurer. From June 1, 2000 to May 31 2004 I was your Superintendent.

Until I became Treasurer the Division had not invested in CD's. Now a common practice.

I have the following Achievement Program certificates -

Association Volunteer	Jan. 2002
Master Builder-Structures	June 2002
Model RR Engineer-Elec.	June 2002
Association Official	May 2004

Currently I am working on the AP Certificate for Master Builder - Scenery and Model RR Engineer-Civil which will then leave only one more required for MMR.

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### For Assistant Superintendent - (3)

I'm **Randy Dettmer**, I have been interested in trains all of my life. I still have some of my toy trains when I was three. I have been a subscriber of Trains off an on since I was six and have been a subscriber to Model Railroader since 1976.

I have been a member of the Erie Lackawanna Historical Society since 1992 and membership chairman since 2007.

I am currently working on an operating layout depicting the Erie Lackawanna in the late 1960's between Meadville, PA and Jamestown, NY.

During the day, I manage a fleet of 130 railcars for my employer.

I'm **Larry Olsen**, I served one (1) term as Assistant Superintendent, two (2) terms as Superintendent and Chairman of the first Division Convention in Canton.

The Division is where the member gets the most contact with the NMRA.

The Division continues to grow and needs to continue to meet the needs of the Division members.

I'm **Joe Urbanski**, got my first train in 1949 or 1950, an American Flyer. Had a small layout in the 1970's. Next layout was in the late 1980's or early 1990's.

Got in to the NMRA in 2005, I think. Went to 2006 Convention in Philadelphia, PA.

If elected Assistant Superintendent, I would like to get more people involved by having a Chairman for various projects, such as Apparel, Modules and other things as they come up.

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### For Superintendent - (2)

I'm **Ron Wigal**. It was an honor to be nominated at last months meeting by our Superintendent David Hazlett.

Our Division has seen great growth in recent years due in no small part to the efforts of many who have contributed

If I am elected the next Superintendent of Division #1 you will see me work to foster more growth by:-

- \* Making our meetings more interesting by reaching out to others to participate as our guest speaker.
- \* Appoint a Chair of AP for Division #1 and secure NMRA training to aide in his/her qualifications to judge and certify applicants.
- \* Expand our model contests.
- \* Grow our NMRA Membership.
- \* Continue to build our roster.
- \* Secure new meeting locations.
- \* Develop the TMRR within Division #1.

As I have said on numerous occasions, "This is not about Planes, Trains and Automobiles!" It **IS** about people and working with them. Synergism....It's a great thing.

I look forward to your vote.

I'm **Jim Williams**. I have the traditional history with model railroading. I had a Lionel train when I was a kid and still have it packed away. I started an HO layout when I was in my early teens but that went by the wayside when I became interested in girls. It wasn't until our youngest daughter was 10 or so that I got interested in the hobby again. She and I built a small N-scale layout and took it to a train show. I then started to build the layout that I currently am trying to finish and will, hopefully, enlarge in the near future. It has been about 26 years since Emily and I built that first layout so you can see that I have not been very consistent in my endeavor. However, since I retired last year, I have made quite a bit of progress.

I have been in the NMRA since 2006. I have served as clerk for the last two years. I believe that if you are interested in an organization, you should try to contribute to it in some way. That being said, I am not really pursuing the job as superintendent but agreed to run to provide the division a choice for the position. I think that Ron Wigal will make a fine super. From what I have learned, David Hazlett has brought the division along quite a ways during his tenure as superintendent – we now have an annual flea market, clinics at each meeting, and enough members attending to make meetings crowded. Since my name is on the ballot and in the case I might be elected, I would look to our members to continue the division's growth through volunteering to not only do what is being done now - hosting meetings, putting on clinics, participating in modeling but also to become more active in some other ventures such as organizing field trips, working with other divisions, and pursuing Master Model Railroader status



Division 1 Meeting Minutes  
April 18, 2010  
Host: Don Bonk, Louisville, Ohio

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Superintendent David Hazlett. Twenty-seven people were in attendance.

Initial Business:

A motion was made by Frank Williamson to accept the minutes of the March meeting as published in the Peddler Freight. The motion was seconded by Ron Wigal.

The treasurer's report was given by Bob Ashley, Jr. A motion was made by Larry Brown to accept the report pending audit. The motion was seconded by Ron Wigal and passed.

The Peddler Freight: the May issue will be mailed to all members and will contain the election ballots. The ballots need to be brought to the May meeting for the election. The reverse side of the ballot should have the member's mailing label on it for verification.

The Meeting Schedule and Membership Report were given by Ron Wigal:

The National NMRA convention has been opened to the public. You need to get your reservations in as soon as possible if you are going to attend.

The May meeting is at Jim DiPaola's home on 04/18.

Clinics – all of the meetings for next year are open, please sign-up.

The Assistant Superintendent's report was given by Bob Ashley, Sr.:

Clothing: patches, 2 vented hats, and one XL polo shirt are left in stock

Modules – still working on the wiring and will work with the module owners over the next two weeks

The Superintendent's report was presented by David Hazlett:

The meetings for September, March, April, and May still need hosts.

In discussions about divisions 1, 4, and 5 hosting a national convention in 2015 it was decided that the three divisions could not supply the approximately 150 volunteers that would be needed and national would be made aware that we would not be hosting the convention that year.

The regional convention is May 13-16 in Charleston, West Virginia. The convention hotel is sold out and it is hard to find rooms in the area at a reasonable price. David has 3 convention pins for sale for \$4.50 each.

North Central also has a convention in Livonia, Michigan on October 21-24, 2010.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual flea market: 11 of the 30 tables have been sold. Fliers have been put out and there still are some left for the Berea show in the fall.

Business:

Election Discussion led by Rich Ramskugler:

Bob Ashley, Sr. has withdrawn as a candidate for the Superintendent's position. Jim Williams was asked

if he would fill this candidate slot and he agreed only in order to have a true election.

The following are candidates for the different positions

Treasurer – Bob Ashley Jr., Bill Hewitt, and Chuck Boyer

Assistant Superintendent – Randy Dettmer, Joe Urbanski, and Larry Olsen

Superintendent – Ron Wigal, and Jim Williams

The ballots will be in the May Peddler Freight and members can vote by mail or by bring the ballot with them to the May meeting.

Voting rights for Rail-Pass members:

This is a 6 month introductory membership costing \$9.95.

We have 5 rail-pass members in our division.

A motion was made by Bob Ashley Sr. to follow the national and regional lead and not allow these members to vote in the election. The motion was seconded by Bill Hewitt and passed.

A motion was made by Ron Wigal to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Frank Williamson and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully,  
Jim Williams, Clerk

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## THE 2009-2010 CONTEST

### CONTEST WINNERS FOR APRIL 2010:

**Scratch-Built**

NONE

**Kit-Built**

Bob Ashley, Sr - 2 pts Chuck Boyer - 3 pts

Don Deakins - 1 pt

**Kit-Bashed**

Don Deakins - 2 pts

Jim DiPaola - 1 pt

### CURRENT STANDINGS:

**Scratch-Built**

Larry Brown - 1pt

**Kit-Built**

Bob Ashley, Sr - 2 pts Chuck Boyer - 12 pts

Larry Brown - 2 pts

Don Deakins - 7 pts

Don Deakins - 2 pts

Bill Bigler - 3 pts

Bob Ashley, Jr. - 1 pt Jeffrey Jansen - 3 pts

Bob Ashley, Jr. - 2 pts

Larry Brown - 2 pts

Jim Dipaola - 1 pt

### CONTEST MODELS FOR FEBRUARY - MAY 2010

May - Caboose

June - Awards given out

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## 2010-2011 MEETING DATES

September 19 -

**OPEN**

October 17 -

Don Bonk - Louisville

November 7 -

FLEA MARKET

November 21 -

The Whistle Stop, Cuyahoga Falls

December 18 -

Holiday Dinner at Erie Station, Tallmadge

January 16 -

Sebring Model Railroad Club, Sebring

February 20 -

**OPEN**

March 20 -

(Pending Kirtland Show.) - **OPEN**

April 17 -

(Palm Sunday) - **OPEN**

May 15 -

(Pending Regional Convention.) - **OPEN**

June 12 -

Randy Dettmer, Hudson

To sign up to host, contact Ron Wigal at [Rwigal@neo.rr.com](mailto:Rwigal@neo.rr.com) or David Hazlett at [dhazlett1@neo.rr.com](mailto:dhazlett1@neo.rr.com)

PEDDLER FREIGHT  
May 2010

Many people are running for office this month. It would seem that we have an election at virtually every position within our Division. That is a good thing in that to me it shows that for the first time in a long time we truly do have people interested in contributing where they can to make our Division a more cohesive and synergetic group.

Years of being in various volunteer groups have shown that in general 3-5% of the total membership do 99% of all the work. Be that as it may, our Division has a working core group of close to 10% which is approximately double the norm. Being an eternal optimist leads me to believe that more people doing more for Division 1 is at hand. Get ready.

If elected as our next Superintendent you will find me willing to do whatever time will allow me to continue to build this Division 1 into something we can all be proud to be associated with. If not elected you can expect me to do the same as time will allow.

Know that whomever is elected, we all win. .

Ron Wigal  
Meeting Chair/Membership Chair

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**EARLY NOTICE**

*Division 4 is arranging a trip to the Oil Creek & Titusville RR in Saturday, September 25 and Division 1 is invited to participate. All the details have not yet been worked out, but a bus will leave from Richfield and travel to Oil Creek.*

*The cost includes the bus trip, the train ride and lunch. The cost is expected to be about \$51. Plans are to stop for dinner on the trip back. Dinner is **not** included in the price. Reservations will probably be required by late June. We will try to have more information in the June Peddler Freight. Until then, check Division 4's website at [www.div4.org](http://www.div4.org) or from the link on our website.*

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**Train Shows and Open Houses – May 2010 thru June 2010**

**By Randy Dettmer**

**Mid Central Region Convention “Coalfield Express” – May 13-16, 2010**

Embassy Suites, 300 Court St, Charleston, WV

See web site for more details: [http://www.coaldivision.org/coalfield\\_express.html](http://www.coaldivision.org/coalfield_express.html)

**B&O Railroad Historical Society 2010 Ohio Mini Convention – May 15, 2010 – 8AM-5PM**

Lafayette United Methodist Church, 6201 Lafayette Rd, Medina, OH

\$15 pre registration price, \$18 at door

See web site for registration form and more details:

<http://www.borhs.org/Events/2010westminiconmedinaohfinal.pdf>

**Day out with Thomas: The Celebration Tour 2010 – May 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, 2010**

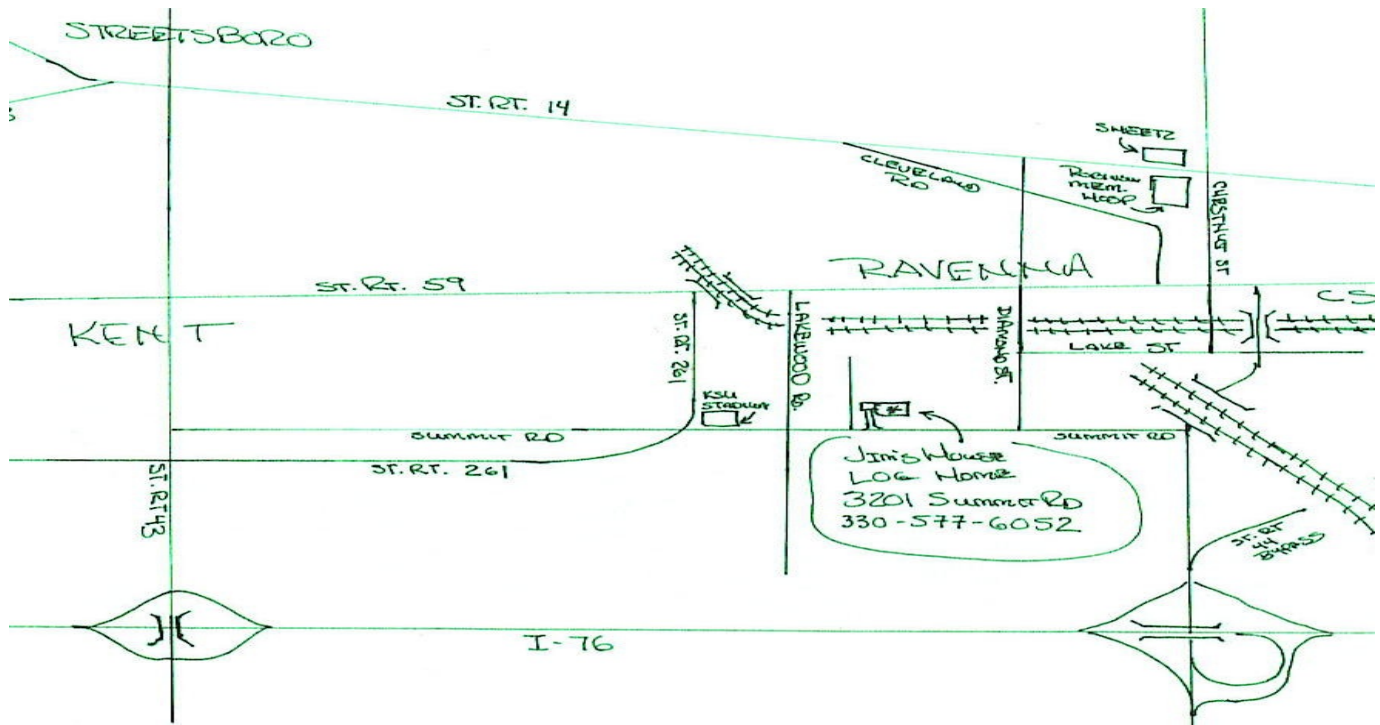
Cuyahoga Valley Scenic – Boston Mill Station, Riverview Road, Boston Twp, OH

Tickets \$14-\$18 each, see web site to order tickets: <http://www.ticketweb.com/promo/dowt/index.html>

**Northeast Ohio Live Steamers: Public Run – June 26, 2010 – 12:30PM-4:30PM**

3654 Lester Rd, Median, OH

Rides are free, donations appreciated.



Next to Last Stop on the 2009-2010 Tour  
 Sunday May 23, 2010 - 2 PM - Ravenna, OH.

Jim DiPaola will host our meeting at 3201 Summit Road Ravens OH. You can reach Jim at 330-577-6052.

Jim said he would furnish snacks and beverages. So all you have to do is show up and ENJOY! Glen Yoder will have a clinic on modern lumber loads and assembly of Gaeger Kits. See ya' there!

June's meeting will be at Chuck Boyer's home on June 13 in Clinton.

Division 1 Officers

Super. - David Hazlett 330-434-4565  
 Asst. Super - Bob Ashely Sr. 330-644-4778  
 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

Comm. Chest - Jack Miller 330-882-4872  
 Web Page - Alex Fleet & Ivan Baugh  
 Meetings - Ron Wigal 330-592-1800  
 Membership - Ron Wigal 330-592-1800  
 Apparel - Bob Ashley Sr. 330-644-4778  
 Achievement Program - David Hazlett  
 Modules - Bob Ashley Sr. 330-644-4778

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 - Allen Pollock  
 email VP@HQ.NMRA.ORG

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## KADEE COUPLERS AND THE MAGNET

by David H. Hazlett

A couple of weeks ago I was looking through the Model Railroader web page and came upon a discussion of Kadee uncoupling - magnets or other things. I do not consider myself an expert on ANY topic, but I have had forty years of experience with Kadee couplers and thought I'd share my experiences with you. Of course, all of my comments are based on HO experience.

I have spent considerable time, effort and expense to place uncoupling magnets on my layout. I want operators to use them - WHY? With the quality of detail on cars and locomotives, I really don't want probes or pencils used to uncouple my equipment. I find all kinds of tiny parts on my layout after op sessions. Many of these parts knocked off by probes and pencils! I also find broken handrails on the locos.

I hear comments that magnets always work when you don't want them to. Gee, isn't that terrible? The big guys (the real railroads) have problems with trains parting, why shouldn't we? I also hear comments that the magnets don't work. The magnets work ALL of the time - the couplers don't!

Do you remember the old horn-hook couplers? Talk about problems! They were why I changed to Kadee's. About 75-80% of my couplers work every time. They even work to delay uncouple. The other 20-25% of my couplers need adjusted. That is the big problem with Kadee uncouplers

Now about those adjustments . . .

- 1 - Kadee #5's are the most useful. I like the larger size head as compared to the scale couplers. However, I have given up on the #5's. Instead, I am now using the #148 coupler. This is the "whisker" coupler with the #5 head. (The #158 has the scale head.) I find the #148 moves more easily in the pocket than the #5. I have yet to have weakened springs on the #148, but I have had poorly operating and bent springs on the #5.
- 2 - **STAY WITH ONE BRAND OF COUPLER AND ONE HEAD SIZE!** I find that if you mix coupler brands you get poor operation. If you like the #5 head, stay with it. Do not mix in the scale head couplers. If you like scale heads, stay with scale heads. Mixing different brands or head sizes makes uncoupling worse. When I buy a new car, I don't change the coupler, UNTIL it starts giving me problems. Then I change it. Now since I am not perfect, I do have two exceptions to different brands. First, I like to use McHenry's for my yard switchers. The coupler moves very easily from side to side, making it more useful in delayed moves. Second, I immediately remove Accurail couplers. That is, the two part couplers, in whatever brand they are found. I totally dislike them and replace them ON SIGHT! (If you like those, I have a bunch of them for you - CHEAP!)
- 3 - When you installed the coupler, did you use a gauge to adjust the height of the coupler head? Did you also adjust the coupler pin? Did you use the Kadee adjusting pliers or just a plain pair of pliers? I have found that the Kadee pliers work the best. I use the O-scale part of the plier to only slightly adjust the pin before installation. Usually, this works the best.
- 4 - Did you lubricate the coupler pocket? Buy and use Kadee's Greas-em or a similar product.

Now that you have the adjustments to the couplers accomplished, you need only to "adjust" your operators. Operators must run slowly enough that they can stop near the middle of the magnet. By the way, GOOD LUCK on this part. After 15 years of operating sessions, I am not having much luck.