



# 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](http://www.div1-mcr-nmra.org)

Volume 31 - Issue 4

January 2024

## Superintendent's Bulletin



Hello Division 1 members and Happy New Year. The year 2024 is upon us and hopefully everyone had an enjoyable year. Do you have any plans and expectations for your model railroading in the upcoming year? Maybe you're looking to make an addition to your layout or even starting a layout if you don't have one. Improving your current modeling skills or trying new ones may be on your bucket list. What about attending

an NMRA National or Regional Convention. The 2024 NMRA MCR Regional Convention, hosted by Division 4, is in Cleveland and would make a great one tank trip. This is relatively the same Committee that brought the 2014 NMRA National Convention to Cleveland and is shaping up to be an excellent time. May 16-19, 2024 are the dates so please mark your calendars.

This is leading up to my asking you, what are you doing to support this great hobby of Model Railroading. An organization does not survive and thrive without some type of nurturing, meaning support.

Attending a convention is good but doing something to help with the convention is very satisfying and also fun. Give a clinic! We all know something about something and sharing that knowledge with a room full of like-minded people is fun and will spark some great conversations. It will also give you points if you're working on your Achievement Program Certificates. Bring a guest who might be interested in Model Railroading. We need to increase our numbers if the hobby is going to thrive. And the best of all support is to attend your Division's monthly meetings.

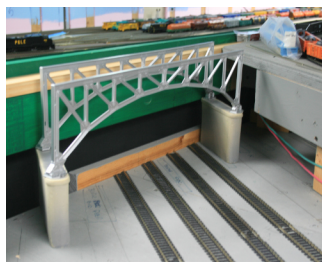
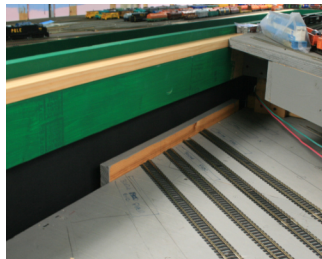
A heads up to everyone. The February 18, 2024

Division 1 meeting will be at the Youngstown Model Railroad Club, 751 N. Four Mile Run Rd., Austintown, OH 44515. Their beautiful layouts, HO and O gauges, will be open at 1 PM and the meeting starts promptly at 2 PM. Hope to see you there.

The January 21, 2024 Division 1 meeting will be at the Ravenna Township Meeting Room, 6145 Spring Street, Ravenna, OH 44266. Please bring your own beverage and snack to share.

All Aboard!!

Jim DiPaola, Superintendent  
NMRA, MCR, Division 1



## T-TRAK News



A young visitor to the Age of Steam checks out the inaugural setup of Division 1's HO T-TRAK modules. Glenn Yoder and Bob Gurdak are operating the trains while John Spinks takes the photo.

## 2023 - 24 Division 1 Events

- January 21 - Ravenna Township Meeting Hall
- February 18 - Youngstown Model RR Club
- March 17 - TBD
- April 21 - TBD
- May 19 - TBD
- June - Date and location TBD

**Division 1, MCR, NMRA**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 19, 2023**

**1. Welcome:**

- ~ Call to order: 2:05 PM.
- ~ By: Jim DiPaola, Superintendent
- ~ Participants: 15 members.
- ~ Location: Ravenna Township Offices.

**2. Clerk:** Jeff Stone:

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

**3. Treasurer:** Mike Bradley:

- ~ Report presented by treasurer. Available on request.
- ~ Income: \$26 50/50.
- ~ Expenses: \$52.29 Peddler Freight (Bruce Hukill)
- ~ Motion to roll over CDs carried (Bob Anelli/Steve Zapytowski).
- ~ Motion to approve treasurer report, (Bob Anelli/Steve Zapytowski) carried.

**4. Superintendent:** Jim DiPaola:

- ~ Christmas Luncheon December 2<sup>nd</sup>, noon, Hartville Kitchen.
- ~ Train show November 12<sup>th</sup>, Emidio's in Cuyahoga Falls, several members had tables.

**5. Peddler Freight Committee:** Bruce Hukill: Received two \$5 subscriptions.

**6. Membership Committee:** Jim Peters: 74 members.

**7. Clinic Committee:** Jim DiPaola: No clinic today.

**8. Achievement Committee:** Lloyd Horst: Presented Frank Trocchia with MMR Program Electrical Engineer Certificate.

**9. Module Committee:** Lloyd Horst:

- ~ Wooster Model RR Club would like a display of modules in various stages of completion for Route 30 open house weekend next year.
- ~ Rolling command station almost complete.
- ~ Discussed modules at Age of Steam, signed up volunteers to work the various days.

**10. Facebook Committee:** Jim DiPaola: No report.

**11. Website Committee:** Steve Zapytowski:

- ~ Site Sessions: 84
- ~ 82% New Visitors, 18% Returning Visitors.
- ~ 50 Visitors direct, 14 from the MCR website, 14 from Google, 3 from div8-mcr-nmra.org.

**12. Old Business:** Jim DiPaola: None.

**13. New Business:** Jim DiPaola: None.

**14. Bring and Brag:**

- ~ Steve Zapytowski displayed 3D printed structures for his Boring Iron & Timber project.

**15. Good of the Order/Announcements:**

- ~ Jim DiPaola presented a MCR Appreciation Plaque to former Superintendent Bob Ashley Jr.
- ~ Bruce Hukill brought scenery material free to a good home.
- ~ Bob Anelli won 50/50.

**16. Adjournment:**

- ~ Motion to adjourn carried (Steve Zapytowski/Bob Anelli).
- ~ Meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.
- ~ Work on modules followed meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Stone, Clerk, Division 1

# Module Report

With the Mt Hope show being canceled, I focused late summer and fall on getting a commitment from Age of Steam to have us come back. I am glad to report that we did go back on December 8, 9, 15, and 16. On the 9<sup>th</sup> with Santa coming they expected to have 500 - 600 people.

Your esteemed Module Chair miscalculated on whether the required modules needed for a show would be



Lloyd Horst and John Spinks signal success as trains successfully run. Bob Ashley's two module lake scene and Jerry Kruse's bike path themed module are in the foreground.

completed. He also goofed in figuring how many modules were needed. He had the number of modules per table correct, but forgot to multiply that times the number of tables he requested.

Some of the modules with track laid did not meet the

specification of 60 mm center to center track spacing. Some adjustment had to be made. Not all of the track was laid on a couple of the corner modules. Jerry Kruse laid some temporary track so that we could run trains. This created some problems as it seemed that on the yellow line when the locomotive got to a turnout, it would short and trip the breaker. The trains would pause till the circuit breaker reset, then would start up again. It was not till the last day that John Spinks traced it to two joints on some of the temporary track that needed tweaking. For the rest of the day we had no shorts. For a couple of hours, Bruce ran the train, at a slow speed, on the red line in reverse trying to match the speed of the train on the yellow line.

I would like to thank all of those who helped. We had enough operators for each day and enough help to set up and tear down.

## WHAT WE LEARNED

I am glad that we set up at the Age of Steam. It was a learning experience as to what one needs to set up. Another mistake I made was in not taking more tools along. One thing that needs to be in both RCS (Rolling Command Station) boxes is some wood shims from 1/8 inch to 1/2 inch. The reason, at least for HO, is that some leveling legs were on the space between the 2 tables, and needed something to bridge the gap. On one of them I had a small level that laid flat was a perfect fit.

As to the RCS, it worked well. On the inside of the lid of the box housing the command station are two papers. The left one is titled: "DIGITRAX LAYOUT STARTUP." It is a step-by-step LIST of instructions on how to power up the RCS.

The second sheet on the lid: "SELECTING AND RUNNING LOCOMOTIVES," is instructions on use of the throttles. How to turn on TRACK PWR and how to acquire a locomotive. I would like to make it a rule that when done operating a locomotive to press the DISP button to clear the command station memory.

I discovered a couple of anomalies that needed to be examined. Were they a result of a wiring mistake or just the way all the components work together?

For the modules, I found one with a wiring short and others with the Power Pole( PP) connectors placed in the wrong order. The Power Pole mistake is on me for not



Jerry Kruse and John Spinks work out a bug between two HO T-TRAK modules at the Age of Steam setup. The first display of the modules was a learning experience.

clearly stating how they were to be arranged. I did not consider the PP order or arrangement till I was making cables and had to figure out how to make them so they would connect.

The WIFI network worked well. I will add the network name to the instruction sheet in the RCS.

Each of the RCS's will have a notebook entitled "RCS MANUAL." Inside are several tabs with

information on each major component of the RCS. The most important Tab is the one labeled "Troubleshooting." I am working on a step-by-step check list of troubleshooting procedures for each major component of the RCS.

## WHAT IS NEXT?

All modules will need to pass a T-TRAK MODULE CERTIFICATION FORM to be able to enter an event. This could be done during set up at an event. The Show Coordinator or his team will have the forms available and perform the inspection.

One corner on both the N Scale and HO modules will have one track added for the yellow line and one for the red line. The purpose is to allow a place to make up a train while the layout is in operation. It will also enable one operator to park their train to take a break while someone else operates a different train.

I am hoping that we will be ready for one of the 2024 Spring shows, but not sure that is going to happen. However, we will be ready for shows in the fall of 2024. In December the N Scale layout is committed to Jon Ulbright's Massillon show. The HO layout is tentatively scheduled for the Age of Steam event in December.

Lloyd Horst  
Module Chair

## Division 1 Awards



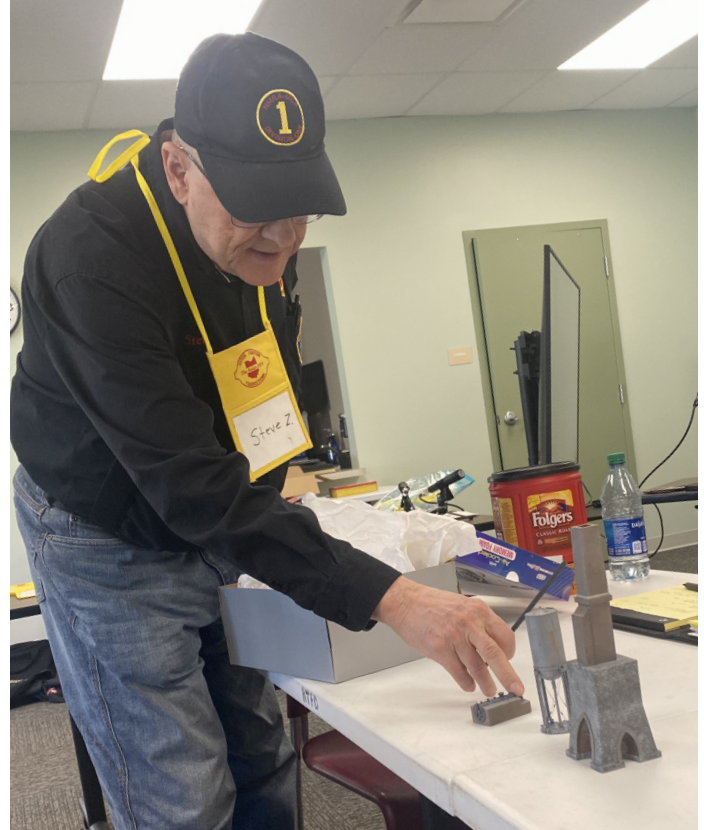
Two Div. 1 members received plaques for their accomplishments at the November meeting.

Frank Trocchia (top on left) receives his plaque from Achievement Chair Lloyd Horst for earning his Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical. This is another step toward earning the NMRA Master Model Railroader award.

Bob Ashley, Jr. (above on right) receives a plaque from present superintendent Jim DiPaola in recognition for his tenure as Division 1 Superintendent from 2020-2022.

Congratulations to Frank and Bob.

## November Bring-N-Brag



Steve Zapytowski, MMR displays 3D printed components for his Boring Iron & Timber project.

## Membership Report

As of the end of November, membership stands at 74. I am awaiting more recent reports. It appears the report for December is quite behind schedule.

In the meantime, the membership chair is being asked to report any errors in zip codes. So, if you notice an error in the zip code, please let me know and I will pass it on.

Finally, (I saved the most thrilling membership news for last), I have been told membership chairs will be receiving new databases, expected start in February.

In the meantime, I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. I was quite engaged but managed to help staff the T-TRAK module layout at the Age of Steam with Jerry Kruse and Bob Gurdak. We enjoyed running the trains and the hospitality of the staff. Turn-out was light but folks were clearly content with our display and conversations.

Happy New Year,  
Jim Peters  
Membership Chair

The Mid-Central  
Regional Convention  
May 16-19 2024  
Cleveland, Ohio



Early Registration is \$90.00  
through 12/31/2023



[www.northcoastlimited2024.org](http://www.northcoastlimited2024.org)

### Convention Merchandise

The North Coast Limited 2024 Convention offers two  
Convention Cars and a Large selection of Men & Women's  
apparel

### SCHEDULE of EVENTS

Layout Tours, Operating Sessions, 4 Clinic Rooms  
(including make & take clinics for a small fee)  
Celebration of Modeling, Yard Sale, Prototype Tours, General interest Tours,  
Non-Rail Tours

More events are being added as the NCL moves closer to the convention date.  
Look for updates on the NCL site!

Many Restaurants  
are located  
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Register or print out  
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online!

[www.northcoastlimited2024.org](http://www.northcoastlimited2024.org)



# THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Sunday, January 21, 2024

Ravenna Township Meeting Room

6145 Spring Street

Ravenna, OH 44266

Bring your T-TRAK module if you want to check it to the standards,  
share your craft or tips, or just have questions.

Bring a snack to share and a drink of your own.

Lloyd Horst will present a clinic on metal benchwork.

2 PM

12<sup>th</sup> Year



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Northwestern Oregon Circa 1912 — HO and HO<sub>n</sub>3



**PYA**

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Chief1RTRFD@aol.com



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**Jim Peters**

Interested in operation send email:  
jpeters711@yahoo.com

216.402.8507

# Train Shows and Open Houses

## Youngstown Model RR Assn. - Jan. 7, 2024 Toy - Train Flea Market

Parish Center  
4490 Norquest Blvd., Austintown, Ohio 44515  
Admission \$7.00 10 AM - 3:30 PM

## Akron Train & Toy Show - March 3

Emidio's & Sons Expo Center  
48 East Bath Road at State Road  
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223  
Admission \$5.00 9 AM - 3 PM

## Train Collectors Association - Jan. 27, 2024 Winter Train Meet

UAW Hall 5615 Chevrolet Blvd., Parma, Ohio 44130  
Admission \$6.00 10 AM - 3 PM

## Div. 5 Railfest - Model RR Show - March 16 - 17

Lakeland Community College  
7700 Clocktower Dr., Kirtland, Ohio 44094  
Admission \$9.00 10 AM - 4 PM

## Medina Train and Toy Show - February 4

Medina Fairgrounds, Medina, Ohio 44256  
Admission \$6.00 9 AM - 3 PM

## Wooster Train and Toy Show - March 16

Wayne County Fairgrounds, Wooster, Ohio  
Admission \$7.00 10 AM - 3 PM

## Mansfield Train Show - February 11

Fairhaven Hall, Richland County Fairgrounds  
750 N. Home Rd., Mansfield, Ohio 44906  
Admission \$7.00 10 AM - 3 PM

## Div. 5 Railfest Dinner - March 16

Painesville Railroad Museum  
(aka NYC Painesville Depot)  
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077  
Admission \$24.00 5:30 PM

## Canfield Train and Toy Show - February 17

Canfield Fairgrounds, 7265 Columbiana, Canfield, Ohio  
44406. Being held in new Event Center.  
Admission \$7.00 10 AM - 3 PM

## Train Collectors Association - March 23 Spring Train Meet

UAW Hall 5615 Chevrolet Blvd., Parma, Ohio 44130  
Admission \$6.00 10 AM - 3 PM

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## 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, if you want to receive the Peddler Freight by regular mail, Division 1 requests that you subscribe in order to support the cost of printing and mailing. Under current rules, you will NOT be denied a copy of the Peddler Freight if you do not subscribe, but your support for Division 1 would be appreciated.

SUBSCRIPTION COST: \$5.00 for the publishing year September, 2023 through June, 2024. Make checks payable to: Division 1 - MCR - NMRA

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**PEDDLER FREIGHT**901 Wicket Drive  
Akron, OH 44307Publication of Division 1 - MCR - NMRA  
The Akron, Canton, Youngstown Division

First Class

**Division 1 Officers**

Superintendent	- Jim DiPaola	330-297-5571
Asst. Supt.	- Sam Eisele	330-322-3487
Treasurer	- Michael Bradley	330-325-7622

**Division 1 Appointees**

Clerk	- Jeff Stone	330-356-0486
PF Editor	- Bruce Hukill	330-571-4037

**Division 1 Volunteer Positions**

Achievement Program	- Lloyd Horst	330-465-7402
Apparel	- OPEN	
Christmas Dinner	- OPEN	
Clinics	- Jim DiPaola	330-297-5571
Exhibitions	- Matt Woods	330-465-8724
	- Lloyd Horst	330-465-7402
Membership	- Jim Peters	216-402-8507
Modules:		
HO/Chair	- Lloyd Horst	330-465-7402
NTRAK/T-TRAK	- Don Bonk	330-418-6860
Roster	- OPEN	
Webmaster	- Steve Zapytowski	330-715-3444

**Who to contact in Division 1 and the NMRA**

**Mid-Central Region**  
President - Dave Neff  
Email: [mcprez@nmra.org](mailto:mcprez@nmra.org)

**National Model Railroad Association**  
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.

