



# Call Board

Volume 55 Issue 3

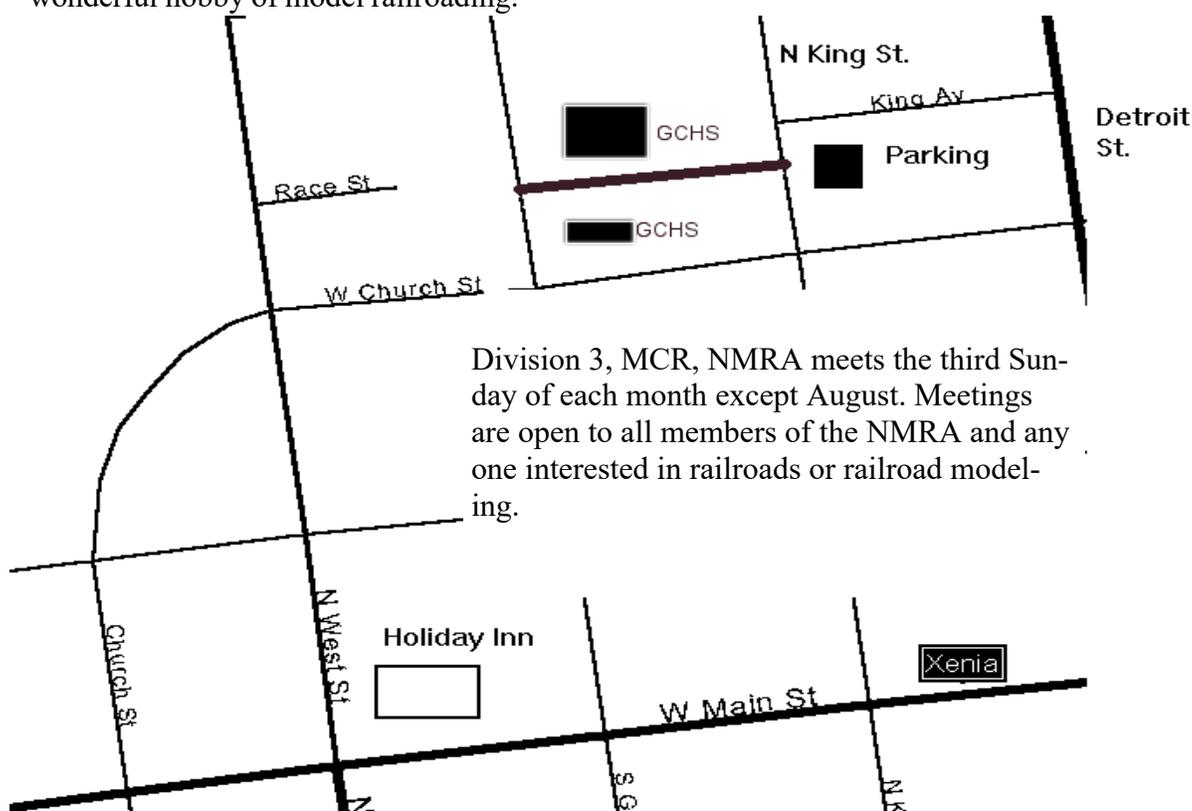
November 2015

**The next meeting will be at 2pm on Sunday, November 15, 2015  
Greene County Historical Society  
Church and King St  
Xenia, Ohio**

## **Roadbed Materials**

**by John Burchnall of the Eastern Loggers from Cincinnati, Ohio**

See a comprehensive study of an incredible number of ways to model roadbeds to support model railroad tracks as well as to represent the gravel ballast beneath. Encompasses many useful and interesting methods - both commercial and make-it-yourself options. Includes flexible (bendable) options, rigid options, self-adhesive options, plus a wide variety of materials (cork, wood, plastic, rubber, foam). Pros and cons are shared, as well as eye-opening material cost comparisons. A fantastic new material option is revealed along with demonstrations on how to form and apply it. You will not believe how easy, durable and inexpensive this new material is. Investigating, designing and using new methods is a source of much enjoyment in this wonderful hobby of model railroading.



**Division 3 Website: [www.modelraildayton.com](http://www.modelraildayton.com)**

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2015



By the time Division 3 members receive this issue of the Call Board, we will be one week away from our 40<sup>th</sup> Dayton Train Show. So I would like to bring our membership up to date on our plans, and I continue to ask for volunteers to work the train show. Again, we have a large show; all tables were sold out by the middle of the summer with approx. 100 vendors selling at 504 tables; we have approx. 40 exhibitors with about 25,000 square feet of running trains; and we will continue with door prize drawings, Thomas the Tank Train set drawings, historical societies, and clinics. At the October General Meeting, I circulated a sign-up sheet for volunteers to work the show. We got about 20 names, but we need more help. If you can donate a couple hours on either or all of Friday afternoon, Saturday, and/or Sunday, we certainly would appreciate it.

Here are the times that we have things going on:

- Thursday, Nov 5: 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM Check table arrangement and put labels on tables
- Friday, Nov 6: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM Table and electric drop check
- 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM: Vendor load-in (we help unload vendors)
- 5:45 PM: Pizza and soft drinks with vendors and exhibitors
- Saturday, Nov 7: 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM: Continue vendor load-in
- 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM: Train show activities (miscellaneous jobs)
- Sunday, Nov 8: 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM: Prepare for show
- 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM: Train show activities (miscellaneous jobs)

Please: if you plan to attend the show, can you donate a few hours to help?

A couple related train show items: Since this is the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Train Show, we will honor Lone Eagle Payne and the V&O Railroad of Allen McClelland. As such, if any members have V&O Project Cars and would like to see them run, we plan to run a special V&O train the first 15 minutes of each hour on the Miami Valley Modular Layout. Please take your project car to the MVMC on Friday for a brief inspection to insure that it will couple (Kadees) and run on the tracks. Put a label on the bottom of your car with your name on it. We know that there are at least 20 project cars over the years, and it will be a first to see an all V&O train at our show. Allen will also have V&O cars for sale at his booth. We are also very pleased that we will have on display from the Warther Museum near Dover Ohio an ivory and wood carving of the New York Central steam engine #999. This 18 inch carving is a national treasure, and you won't want to miss it.

We also remind Division 3 members that you and your family members are ineligible for the door prize drawings in order to avoid any appearance of drawing impropriety. There will also be a vendor drawing for a shopping spree, and division members will be ineligible for that drawing as well due to the same perception issues.

So, think about volunteering where you can help, and we certainly would enjoy the help of your spouses. Let's make this the best train show ever.

Thanks:

Thanks to the staff at the Greene County Historical Society for being willing to showcase their facilities to our division. It certainly was interesting to see the many items on display that portray the history of our local past. My favorites were Simon Kenton's musket and the B&O Caboose. Thanks to Dick Strous and his staff.

*(Continued from page 2)*

**2016 Regional Convention:**

Division 6 from Columbus will host the 2016 Mid-Central Regional Convention in May, 2016 in Dublin, Ohio. They are calling for layouts as far away as Dayton to tour and to operate on. If you would like your layout highlighted in the MCR Convention, contact Rick Lach, and I will pass your name to Division 6.

**Division 3 Elections:**

Per our By-Laws, we must have division elections in 2016 to elect a superintendent, an assistant superintendent, and a chief clerk for a two year period. Tom Mroczka is the head of our nominations committee. Anyone seeking election to one of these 3 positions must contact Tom soon. We must have your name on the ballot by February 2016; elections will take place in March and will be finalized in April. The new BOG will then take over on May 1, 2016

**Miscellaneous:**

The next BOG Meeting is scheduled for November 2 at the home of Rick Lach. Please forward any comments or ideas you wish discussed to me before that date.

I am aware of one immanent train show: Springfield Train Show on Sunday, December 1 at the Springfield Fairgrounds.

And finally, we hope to see everyone at the November General Meeting at the Greene County Historical Society building at 2 PM on November 15. John Burchnall from Division 7 will talk about a new kind of track roadbed.

Parting thought: The Chief Dispatcher AP Certificate requires you to operate trains like the prototype and become familiar with operations procedures. You need 50 hours of operations in several categories to include working a yard. I now have 17 hours toward the certificate, and I continue to learn so much at each new operating session I attend. Many thanks to Jim Montgomery for teaming with me at a recent session and opening my eyes to a great adventure. Working a yard is like trying to solve a Rubik's cube!!

Rick Lach  
Superintendent

**Video Review  
Submitted by Wil Davis**

**Design and Build a Helix, VV848, by Jim Heidt**

Running Time 30 min

Planning and building a six foot diameter helix. Jim uses a somewhat novel approach in that he uses threaded rod to support the helix which is anchored on the top and bottom to plywood "donuts". The roadbed material is half inch plywood and Homasote™ roadbed with code 100 track. It is a single track design. He outlines the procedures he used to determine the spacing of the layers and the circumference of the helix. Overall the video was informative although the quality is variable as it is an amateur video filmed live at a convention.

# Contests

We have three categories each month. You can enter Scratch Built, Kit Bashed, or just plain Kit built. This allows anyone to enter anything they are proud of and at any skill level. Judging is by popular vote but if you wish to have your model judged by NMRA rules for the Achievement Program, we will make arrangements for you “on the spot”.

**The coming contest schedule ...**

**November - Weathering**  
 (The weathering is to be judged not the model)

- December - Structure
- January - Open Loads
- February - No Contest
- March - Freight Cars
- April - Passenger Cars
- May - Diesel Locomotives
- June - Steam Locomotives
- July - Non-Revenue Cars
- August - No Contest
- September - Make it cheap (1-3-5 Dol-

Results for October 2015	
Cabooses	
LEVEL 1	Kit
First Place	Chris Howe
Second Place	Leonard Wikle
LEVEL 2	Kitbash
First Place	
LEVEL 3	Scratchbuilt
First Place	Doug Campbell
PHOTO	
First Place	Paul Jenkins
Second Place	Gail Richardson
Third Place	Gail Richardson

First Place - Kit



Second Place - Kit



First Place - Scratchbuilt



Model Photos by John Buhmann

### **Make Division 3 a Beacon for Model Railroading**

I think everyone will agree that we need to bring young blood into model railroading. No one that we know is growing younger and we need to work to continue the craft by encouraging youngsters to take an interest. But how to reach them. . . ?

Our annual train show brings to light the importance of advertising. For this one event, I have placed approximately 115 ads, one at a time, which generated an additional 10 ads, fliers have been distributed at least 13 places, it was advertised through our exhibitors and with 9 other Facebook groups. In addition, I have placed multiple blurbs on both of our Facebook pages which segued into daily blurbs beginning about 2 ½ weeks before the show. Finally we have been putting blurbs on both websites.

With all that advertising, our train show name is out there for the world to see. We could search in several different ways and have pages full of results, full of our train show. We have had some interesting results. According to the ClustrMaps, we are very hot in the Midwest of the US over to the Eastern shore of the Atlantic US. The next best place is the far West US (California area), followed by. . . Brazil (they seem to love us) and then Europe in general. Our train show internet presence, advertising-wise, is wonderful at show time. After things cool off we will see how it compares. But that is not all there is to advertising ourselves.

People seem to follow the group much less than the show. Again on the websites, going by ClustrMaps, the group following is 80% of the train show following. It is even more significant on the Facebook following: the group ‘likes’ are about 15% of the train show likes, and even more significant are the Facebook ‘views.’ Two weeks ahead of the train show, the train show Facebook had 226 views that week and our group Facebook had zero for the week.

We are the best advertising tool there is for Division 3. Wearing your shirt & hat when appropriate, but even more, being willing to answer questions, talking about model railroading and prototype photos and being a good listener are good advertising for the group. In my opinion this is one of the best groups, not only in the NMRA but in model railroading in general. The group is knowledgeable, passionate and interesting. Showing that side of us is a good way to get the word out.

There is one more thing we can do to advertise the group and the hobby: Think outside of the box (or if you prefer, subvert the dominant paradigm). Our church had a Trunk or Treat the other day. (For those who don’t know, it is a safe version of trick or treat where only church-known members may bring candy. They decorate the trunk of the car, wear costumes and have candy there for the children. The children go from trunk to trunk and trick or treat. It gives them the ability to have a safe trick or treat.) I participated. I dressed in my NMRA cap and shirt, added a red bandana and blue jeans. I spread sheets in the trunk, added a mossy bottom and laid out an HO train. Then I added train pictures, signs, a couple lanterns, train caps on the back of the backseat headrest, and a couple of baskets with candy flanking a small tray with our train show fliers on it. As the kids trick or treated, I asked if they liked trains. If they showed any interest (and sometimes the dad showed interest even if the kids didn’t) I handed them a flier. I passed out 75 fliers to a prime audience: young parents with children of a wide range of ages. What does Halloween and a church event have to do with trains? It was an opportunity too good to miss.

### **Free Layout**

With the new Penn Valley being rebuilt in a new location, I am offering to anyone who is willing to take it out of my basement the section of the old layout called “Quincy”. This HO scale 6 foot by 3 foot scenic section has hand laid track with 8 hand laid turnouts. There is a street with sidewalks on it where commercial buildings can be placed on the 6 foot side and a three track yard behind the downtown buildings where up to 6 industries depending on their size can be placed. Buildings are not included. Legs will need to be constructed by the new owner to fit the height they will need.

Two men will be needed to carry it up the stairs. If interested please call David Holl at 318-8539 for directions to my new home.

## The Eastern Loggers

**The Eastern Loggers** - The Eastern Loggers are an informal group of modelers with the primary purpose of promoting the hobby of scale model railroading through modeling and sharing the history of Pennsylvania logging railroads and related industry. Their major focus is the research, development, and exhibition of their "museum quality" portable layout. Other family members participate in social activities, as well as pitching in on layout set up, staffing, and take down activities. The Loggers first got together in January 1981, at the initiative of Jerry Strangarity. Two of the four original members are still actively involved.

**The Eastern Loggers Layout** - An HO scale 1920's era Pennsylvania logging layout, built by an informal group known as the Eastern Loggers. Inspired by the series of books authored by Kline, Casler, and Taber. This is a "fine scale" sectional model railroad layout emphasizing realistic scenery, structures, rolling stock, and theme consistency. It is totally built using a pioneering foam board construction method. The basic scenery is 100% complete. The structures and final scenery are about 98% complete. In addition to the standard gauge track, the layout has some narrow and dual gauge track. The best features of the layout include scenery, trees, structures, rolling stock and cohesive theme and execution. The layout is rectangular, measuring 10 x 20 feet, with a double-ended horseshoe shaped staging yard hidden in the interior.

**Layout Exhibition History** - The portable HO scale layout has been exhibited in numerous model railroad shows and conventions in the Cincinnati, Ohio area, plus three showings in Columbus, Ohio, with one as part of the 1992 National Model Railroad Association Convention and another during a National Narrow Gauge Convention. During the July 4th weekend in 1989, the layout was on display at the Annual Bark Peeler's Convention at the Pennsylvania Lumbering Museum in north-central Pennsylvania. This exhibition marked a very special highlight for the Eastern Logger's, as it was in essence a "Back-to-the-Roots" type experience. Another highlight was displaying at the "Cass Bash" logging modelers event at Cass Scenic Railway in August of 2003. In recent years we have found it easier to display the layout in the home of one of our members.

**Recognitions** - The layout was awarded **Best of Show** at the 1992 NMRA National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. **Railroad Model Craftsman** magazine featured the layout in the September 1992 issue. A color photo of a scene on the layout was the cover of the July 1994 issue of NMRA **Bulletin** magazine. The layout also had feature articles in the 1998 issue of **Great Model Railroads** magazine (with photos taken by Lou Sassi) and in the September 2004 issue of NMRA **Scale Rails** (Bulletin). Most recently 2 new "trackside" photos (by Lou Sassi) were published within the gallery section of the 2014 HO Scale **Walthers Catalog**.

### John Burchnall a Brief Bio

John is a Professional Engineer, retired Research Fellow at Procter & Gamble and founding member of the Eastern Loggers modeling group. He is a lifetime model railroader and railroad and technology enthusiast, and is very active in the NMRA and Cincinnati Division 7. As a teenager John worked in the hobby in both manufacturing and retail. He enjoys most every aspect of our incredible hobby, including photography, research, scenery and design. He has publication credits in several model railroading magazines. John is happily married to Ruth Anne, and they greatly enjoy their two adult sons and their wives.

### Open Operating Sessions

The Darke County Model Railroad Club is inviting anyone who is interested in operating their layout to join them. They meet on the second Sunday of the month, starting at 1:00 pm. There is plenty of parking and lots of fun. They are located at:

405 1/2 S. Broadway  
Greenville, Ohio  
(Second Floor)