

Call Board

Volume 63 Issue 8

April 2023

April Program

Dave Ackmann, Gateway Division (McoR), “2 and-a-Half D CAD Using Power Point”. In this clinic he will demonstrate how to design 2D objects in Power Point, then convert them to 3D models for printing. The technique makes 3D design more approachable for newbies and shows how to create some cool stuff.

TRAINing Day

On March 18, we held our annual TRAINing Day at Carillon Park. It was a wonderful day. We had 19 mini-clinics given by members, long-time friends and new friends. Due to the cold and snow, attendance was light at first, but picked up later in the day. We set up our T-TRAK layout, sold one T-TRAK module and helped the buyer assemble it. We talked with at least 5 people who expressed interest in our group (not including the memberships we gave away). One became a member and attended our Sunday meeting. We also worked with a father and young son who are both just beginning in model railroading at the same time. We hope to see them again.

The winner of the layout could not stop smiling and her family was right behind her. We gave her the layout, a train set, extra materials (for repairs and upgrades) a small tool box and the thrill of a lifetime. In our other drawings, we gave away a family membership to Dayton History (including Carillon Park), 2 family packs of tickets to the Dayton Train Show and two Railpass memberships to NMRA.

The Argyle came out of retirement at TRAINing Day. It has been stored for a few years and it was nice to see it out at our event. Unfortunately, when the water leaked into the storage room, one of the few things that was damaged was the Argyle (plus one box of membership materials—ironic). It will take some work to revitalize the Argyle. However, it is still the ‘Mutha’ of all switching operations!

Since, due to their load of special events, the Brewery was not able to help us with lunch, we were served by Culp’s which was having a soft opening on the 17th and 18th (it is not yet open regular hours). It was exciting to see Culp’s up and running with our 602 gleaming in the middle of the room. We look forward to the day when it will be open regular hours.

Not only we were at the Carillon, but the new passenger train arrived during that week. It was being placed on the tracks on Friday by two giant cranes, still wrapped for shipping, and is now awaiting its final tweaks and introduction to the community. With that on the horizon and Culp’s opening, there are some exciting things going on at the park. The park management expressed their appreciation for us having our event there. They are very supportive of our efforts and we are already working on a date for next year.

Thank you to all who supported this wonderful event. Since 2012 we have only missed one year of having TRAINing Day. Groups all over the states have developed similar events after seeing and hearing about ours. The Carillon has embraced us as a separate entity which supplements its training efforts. None of this could happen without our members and friends who, even with such short notice, immediately agreed to support our efforts. It is always so much fun to be able to put on TRAINing Day and work with friends to educate the public about model railroading.

Division 3 Website: www.modelraildayton.com

Superintendent's Report for April 2023

The Division meeting was held on 19 March following a successful Model Railroad Training Day on Saturday, 18 March, at Carillon Park. Guest speaker at the general meeting was Mr. Jim Charters, a member of the Carillon Park staff who gave a presentation on "The Carillon: Now and in the Future." The presentation described many of the interesting facts about Carillon and Dayton's past, including how many of the buildings on the park were dismantled at the original site and then reassembled in their present locations in the park. Of special interest to the division, was a short presentation of how the large narrow gauge steam engine was built and shipped from Great Britton for operation in the park and how buildings within the park had to be moved to provide the space necessary to operate the train.

Our meeting, this month, will be at the Green County Historical Society in Xenia. Please plan to attend in person, but if you cannot be there, it will be a hybrid meeting, so you can attend via Zoom.

This month we will have a presentation by Dave Ackmann from the Gateway Division (McoR), St Louis, on "2 and a Half D CAD Using PowerPoint." He will describe how he designs object in PowerPoint, then converts them into 3D models for printing. The technique make 3D design more approachable for newbies and demonstrates an easier way to create 3D projects.

April's contest will be Locomotives (Steam, Diesel, or Electric). This is a new topic this year, merging the two locomotive contests from previous years and adding the Electric category. Bing in your favorite engine and show your modeling interests.

If you have something you would like to see as part of the program, please talk to me or another BOG member so that we can make the meetings better. Also, if you have a railroad topic that your are interested in and can present a 20-30 minute presentation on that topic, please let me know so that we can plan to let you present it sometime in the future. We are always looking for division members to give clinics.

Our next "event" will be Rail Fest at Carillon Park in June. Rick Lach will be looking for volunteers. The new train will be running and a large crowd is expected. Spend an afternoon working at our table and visiting the new displays in the park.

The Division Meeting in May will be 21 May.

Eric Zimmerman, DIV 3 Superintendent



Argyle at TRAINing Day

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors usually meets the first Monday of the month to conduct the business of the Division. Meetings will be conducted online until further notice. Any member may attend and participate in the meeting. Please contact a board member to verify date and time.

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The *Call Board* is the official publication of Division 3, Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association. It is published monthly except in August. All comments and opinions are welcome. Those views expressed in the *Call Board* do not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of the NMRA, the Mid Central Region or Division 3.



April 2023

Next Crew Call	
When:	April 16, 2pm
Where:	Greene County Historical Society 74 Church St Xenia, Ohio
Program:	2 and-a-Half D CAD Using Power Point by Dave Ackmann
Contest:	Motive Power
Visitors and Guests Always Welcome	

HYBRID MEETINGS

Our Hybrid meetings are undergoing changes. Soon I plan to hand off the hardware to allow me to branch out. I will still support the efforts and help with the meetings, but will not be the sole person working the system. If you are interested in finding out what needs to be done and how you can help, please contact me. Email at NMRA.Div.3@gmail.com or call 937-424-6413. Note that the email will be answered more quickly than the phone call. You can always send an email with times and dates you are available to talk and we can set up a time when it works for both of us, as opposed to playing a resounding game of telephone tag. Gail

DAYTON TRAIN SHOW

Beginning in April the Dayton Train Show (DTS) committee will meet. We will begin to plan the show and will be working on promoting the show. If you have input or are willing to help, contact us by email at NMRA.Div.3@gmail.com.

Contests

We have a category with three classes each month. They are: Scratch Built, Kit Bashed or just plain Kit Built. You may enter anything you are proud of and at any skill level. Judging is by popular vote. If you want to have your model judged to NMRA standards for the Achievement Program please contact Rick Lach.

The coming contest schedule ...

April - Motive Power (Diesel, Steam, Electric)

- January - Open Loads
- February - Non-Revenue Cars
- March - Freight Cars
- April - Motive Power (Diesel, Steam, Electric)
- May - Passenger Equipment
- June -
- July - No Contest
- August - No Contest
- September -
- October - Caboose
- November - Weathering
- December - Structures

Results

March - Freight Cars

Kit	
1st	Gordon Carlson
2nd	Mark Stiver
Photo	
1st	Nate Adams
2nd	Nate Adams

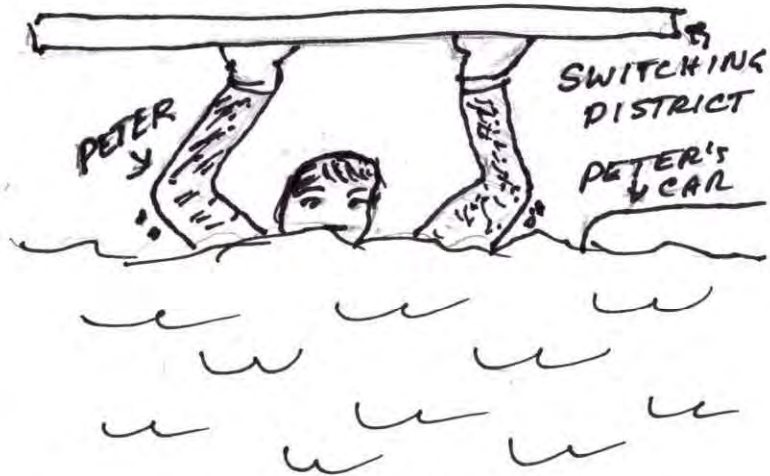
Live Contest

Deadline for entries is 2 pm Sunday, 16 April, 2023 at the Greene County Historical Society, Xenia, Ohio.

2023 SCOUT CAMPOREE
CARILLON PARK



PETER TOOK THE DIV 3
SWITCHING DISTRICT TO THE
CAMPOREE

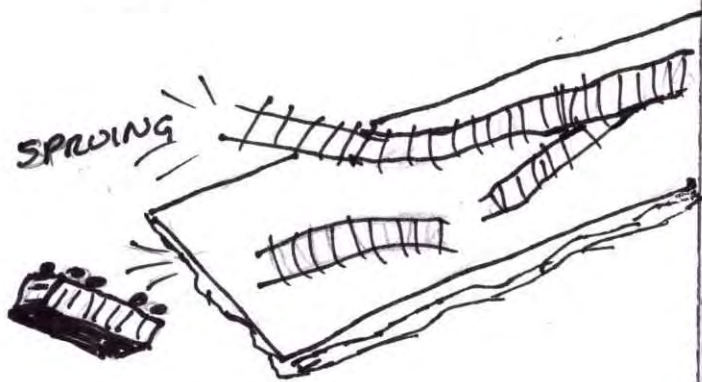


BEFORE THE EVENT, IT
RAINED... AND RAINED... AND

"SAVE THE SWITCHING
DISTRICT! I'M DONE FOR!"

HE SET IT UP, RAN IT
TWICE AND THE TRACK
DISLODGED

OUR FRIENDS FROM
OPERATION LIFE SAVER
SPOKE TO THE SCOUTS ON
RAILROAD SAFETY AND...
THE POWER WENT OUT.



THE BACKING DELAMINATED

"OF COURSE, HAVING AN
EMERGENCY FLASH LIGHT WITH
YOU AT ALL TIMES CAN BE A
LIGHT SABER... UH, LIFE SAVER."

THANK YOU!
GILES KENNEDY
JOSHUA ELZEY
PETER GUISE

KIRK PERKINS
GREGG HEETER
DAVID HOLL
BLAKE CLARK

SCOUTS LEADERS AND MODEL
RAILROADING FRIENDS PERSEVERE
CONGRATULATIONS FOR
HANGING IN THERE!

2023 CAMPOREE AKA
"MURPHY WAS AN OPTIMIST!!!"

gail

TRAINing Day 2023 Carillon Historical Park



A View with a Different Point

As I prepare to do another diorama, it occurs to me that I am approaching things from a different angle than most modelers. Each of my dioramas has a story of the railroad—a slice of time. Each one captures a moment of railroading and the environment surrounding it. Many components make up the scene: track, railroad cars, buildings, equipment, and scenery, to name a few. However, believe it or not, looking at your scene from a retailing point of view can enhance the draw of that scene just as it can enhance the sales of a store.

Some of the basic elements of attracting and holding attention in a retailing setting (and any other kind of display) are color, landscaping, light, space, signage, movement, storytelling and a person/persons.

- **Color:** Choose appealing colors that are bright enough to stand out but not so bright that they are off-putting, unless that is the point of the scene (ie, a circus or a bordello). Your job is to attract the eye, not to create a circus (unless you really are creating a circus).
- **Landscaping:** Other than grasses, sidewalks, dirt paths, flowers, etc., landscaping is about setting a scene. The best modeling can be dragged down by a bad or boring setting. Think of your scene as a framed photo and think about what else would make that scene rock (ie ‘frame’ the scene).
- **Light:** Light is not only created by lamps. Your actual scene creates light and dark. Two buildings very close to each other with a narrow alley between, the walls painted a bit darker than the part of the building out in the light, a battered dumpster, junk strewn around, and maybe a hobo sleeping with a wine bottle in hand creates a ‘dark’ area, especially if the buildings have a slight overhang at the roof. Open grass with flowers, a fountain, children playing and a statue creates a ‘light’ area.
- **Signage:** In a railroad model, signage can be a stop sign, a RR crossing sign, or whatever. If you are trying to make a point or doing a hidden object setting, obviously those flyers would amount to signs as well. A figure could have a sign in hand or could be painting a sign, Arrows work too. Signs draw attention.
- **Movement:** In most layouts, your movement is your train. Sometimes there are moving figures or vehicles. A static layout can be beautiful, but add some kind of movement and you create something more compelling. There is a subset of movement as well: ‘perceived movement’ which does not actually move, but rather it represents movement. For example: a flag can cause perceived movement. Instead of a flat flag on a building, curl the flag back and forth like ribbon candy or as if waving in a breeze. Even though it is a static flag, the perception is movement and suddenly it causes the scene to be far more alive.
- **Storytelling:** If you let your scene tell a story, it is a much more interesting scene. All the other components are solidified by the story of the area. It’s nice to have a house on a nice green lawn but, even more interesting if some people are playing basketball, raking, grilling, etc.
- **Person:** Humans as an element are also a draw. It is a known fact that in any selling situation, having a human who presents as a friendly, welcoming attitude entices more looking and higher sales. This is also true with a layout. A lawn by itself is very nice. A bunch of kids playing on it with a parent pushing a stroller and a couple of people sitting on a bench brings the area alive.

You may ask what all this has to do with you. There is nothing wrong with a quiet, static scene, but if you want to amp it up a bit, try some of these suggestions. And if you are selling something, even membership in your group, you have an outline above to enhance the experience.

Gail Yarnall