

Call Board

Volume 65 Issue 11

July 2025

Superintendent Report for July 2025

I wish everyone a great 4th of July; lots of picnics and fireworks. This is a great time to get family members together for picnics and BBQ. By the way, don't forget to come to the annual auction at our regular meeting time on July 20. It is a good opportunity to sell some of your excess railroad items and maybe even pick up a new item or two. The entry sheet is attached.

Railfest was last week and thanks to the efforts by Rick Lach, Peter Guise and their team, it was a great success. Thanks to all of those that participated. Now we have to look forward to the Annual Dayton Train Show in November. Please mark your calendars for 1-2 November and plan to help out. This is the one event we do each year that provides our operating budget for the coming year.

As usual, we are seeking both ideas and people to present clinics for our meetings. Since Mike Mereness' passing Rick Lach has assumed the role on Program Chairman. If you have an idea for presentations or demonstrations for the monthly meetings, please provide Rick or any member of the BOG with your desires. We can't provide what you want, if you don't let us know what those desires are.

The 2026 MCR Convention, "Whistle-Stop, Dayton" will be 4-7

June 2026. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. I presented a briefing at the Columbus convention last month providing our plans for the convention and it went over very well. Many of the attendees at Columbus are looking forward to next year's convention. We are emphasizing more of a family approach versus just model railroading. The time selected is better than the traditional May schedule since there are fewer public activities during our period. Schools are out the summer; college graduations (UD and Wright State) have been completed, and the May holidays (Mother's Day and Memorial Day) will be behind us, and plus this will be the coolest part of the summer. This is a great time for an early family vacation.

The Dayton area has a lot to offer in addition to our great history of model railroading. We want to take advantage of all this. Carillon Park, the Wright Brother's Bike Shop and the Flying Field, as well as the National Museum of the Air Force and even the possibility of seeing a Dayton Dragons baseball game. Of course we will offer tours of some of our members' layouts and a small number of operating sessions. Jim Foster, our clinic team leader, is seeking clinicians from other regions and railroaders outside of our area that should give us a wide variety of clinic topics that don't normally hear. And of course we will have a Company Store/

Consignment area and the Dalmatian and T-Trak displays.

This will be a great event, but we all need to participate so that it become a great success. What will be required is everyone's; participation for a relatively small amount of time to ensure that it goes over as planning. In most cases it will require that people provide an hour or two during the convention to help monitor and support specific activities, such as helping in the Company Store/Consignment area for a short period so that the team members can get a break for lunch or monitoring the Exhibit are during period when the area is opened. Another area that will require additional help is stuffing the individual bags ahead of the registration. There will be others as well, so please help out.

All of this planning and much of the needed activity will be done prior to the final two or three months before the convention, but for now, we need to focus on the Dayton Train Show. Gail Yarnall is the DTS manager and she will be soliciting your help in the coming months to make sure that the show is a great success. When she asks for volunteers, sign up early so you can work where you think you can be of the greatest help.

Lastly, remember to get things together for the auction. I'll see you on July 20 at GCHS in Xenia.

Layout Call for 2026 Convention

Over the past several months articles have highlighted that Division 3 is hosting the 2026 MCR convention. Conventioneers like to see model railroads so we hope to provide them with the full variety of model railroading that we have in our division, from tinplate to scratch built, and everything in between, including under construction and 'completed'.

In order to do that we need layouts. If you have a layout, no matter what stage of construction, let us know

your interest and we can talk a bit to see how your railroad can fit in with other offerings.

We would like to have a list this summer so the convention notices and articles will have a bit more detail to entice people to come to our convention.

Over the next few weeks we plan to contact via phone and email some who we know have layouts and determine how their railroad will fit with the convention schedule. We

will be doing open houses and operating sessions so hope you can join us.

Send an email to us and we will get back to you quickly

Gordon Carlson
gorhenca@twc.com

Bill Ford
wford@sbcglobal.net

Volunteering in Today's World

Some years ago, I took a Master's Degree class in Volunteer Administration. It covered all the aspects of running and maintaining a volunteer organization: including things like recruiting, maintaining, retention and membership rules.

We frequently talk about recruiting, membership and retention of members. It is very important for any group in these times, but especially for a small non-profit group. There are so many things that contribute to these areas and an equal number which can detract from the group, even though they are and have been commonly used.

TERMINOLOGY: as the generations have grown and changed, so has the terminology. It may seem like something hokey, but words really can hurt you (the organization) just as much as sticks and stones, and the usage of words is very important. Stop for a minute and think about some simple words

which were widely used years ago by all ages, but now cannot be used in polite society due to their use as a reference of a sexual connotation, a derogatory label, or an entirely different meaning ascribed to the word. Frequently used terms can also elicit a different response as additional definitions are piled onto them. For example:

“Membership”: Its origin was being a member of something (group/church/club/family . . .). However, currently there is an additional aspect to the term. I have repeatedly seen event attendees go out of their way to avoid a table labelled ‘MEMBERSHIP’ at various events. I, myself, have done it. They don't want to be ‘pounced on.’ They are afraid there will be pressure to join the group from those manning the table. They often do not want a perceived long lecture to eat into their time at the event. What other terms/phrases could you

use? “Ask me about model railroading**.” “I will answer your questions about model railroading.” And when you are describing things connected with this topic, try using the work “Growth.”

“Recruiting”: It sounds like you are signing them up for extended service of a long amount of time. Instead, try to keep with types of signs that encourage curiosity. This is a particularly interesting area. For example, try setting up signs on the aspects of model railroading: engineering, art, design, drafting, building, mapping, city planning, electrical/wiring, history and carpentry, for example. Integrate them with the model railroading hobby. We have an example of someone who didn't intend to be a part of model railroading, but ended up

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being very interested, David Reid, the visiting Cedarville student. There are more aspects of model railroading, but you get the idea.

“Retention”: I’ve never liked this word. It reminds me of the shepherd’s crook they use to haul comedians and actors off stage when they are getting booed. Instead of being a positive, it makes me think of long-term contracts, unhappy participants, counting the minutes, being kept after school as punishment and racing away as soon as possible. While it is a very business-like term, it is a poor term to apply to

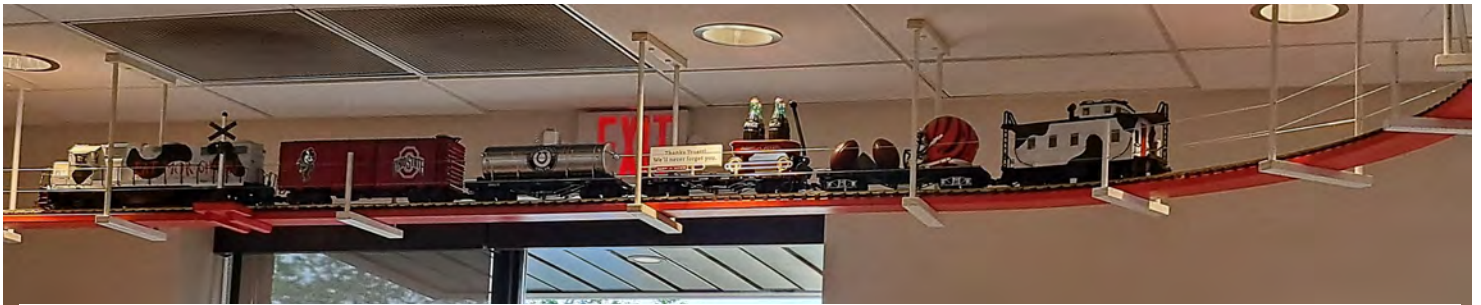
humans. Try looking at it along the lines of welcoming, supportive, sharing knowledge, accepting, and caring.

“Membership Rules”: This is an awkward topic. Rules are meant to keep the organization running well for everyone. We have General Rules and By-laws that help us to follow good business practices as well as politely accepted rules to support our members and strengthen our group. We have rules for every event, and they are very important, however the very acknowledgment of “RULES” is awkward among a predominantly

adult group. The biggest rules should be kindness, consideration and respect.

If you are interested in learning more about managing a volunteer organization, there is a very good group you could join (is this recruiting? ;-D).

MVAVA: Miami Valley Association of Volunteer Coordinators (a professional organization designed for anyone who works with or manages volunteers in the Greater Dayton Area). <https://www.facebook.com/MVAVADayton/>



Train spotted in Huber Heights Chick-fil-A
 Circles entire dining room
 Ohio State Box, Indianapolis Pacers Tank, Chick-fil-A Flat, Cincinnati Bengals Flat

J. Hedge



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 ...

July - No Contest

August - No Contest

January - Open Loads

February - Non-Revenue Cars

March - Freight Cars

April - Motive Power (Diesel, Steam, Electric)

May - Passenger Equipment

June - Railroad Owned Structures

July - No Contest

August - No Contest

September - Freight Cars

October - Caboose

November - Weathering

December - Non Railroad Structures

Results

June - Railroad Owned Structures

Kit- built - 1st - Wil Davis - 102

2nd - Jim Foster - 101

Scratch-built - Bill Ford - 301

Photo - 1st - Wil Davis - P1



First Place Kit — Wil Davis



Second Place Kit — Jim Foster



First Place Scratch — Bill Ford

Annual Auction Rules

Only Division 3 Members may participate.

1. To be eligible, seller must have auction items and completed forms on the designated tables by 2 PM.
2. Each item entered in the auction must be tagged with a code number formed by the owner's initials and the item number from this sheet.
3. Items will be sold in the order that they are listed.
4. Each item that is to be sold as a separate item will be listed on a separate line and be assigned its own item number.
5. A brief but accurate description must be given. This description must include the operating condition if the item is powered or has moving parts. If any modifications have been done they should be noted if they are not readily apparent.
6. If there is a minimum acceptable selling price, it must be entered in the Reserve column.
7. The "Chief Runner" will manage the rotation cycles to ensure that each seller is included in each cycle.
8. At the conclusion of the auction, the sellers will collect their proceeds from the auction clerk.
9. Any items not sold at auction may be sold by the owner after the conclusion of the auction.
10. All items will be paid for by cash at the time of sale. If the buyer wishes to pay by check this must be accepted by the seller before the conclusion of bidding. Checks will be made payable to the seller.

Board of Governors
Superintendent Eric Zimmerman ezrails@att.net
Assistant Superintendent Gordon Carlson gorhenca@gmail.com
Chief Clerk Gail Yarnall grich4440@yahoo.com
Past Superintendent Mark Stiver mstiver@woh.rr.com
Membership Chairman Wil Davis wdavis5069@gmail.com
<i>Call Board</i> Editor J. Hedge hedgejn@hotmail.com
Member at Large Ed Durkin eedurkin@ameritech.net

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.

Official Division Contact

Division 3, MCR, NMRA Inc
PO Box 341233
Dayton, OH 45434-1233

Division Cell Phone:
937-424-6413
Leave a message

Email:
NMRA.DIV.3@gmail.com
NMRA.MCR.Div3.gmail.com

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.



July 2025

Next Crew Call	
When:	July 20, 2PM
Where:	Greene County Historical Society 70 W Church St Xenia, OH
Program:	Members Auction
Contest:	
Visitors and Guests Always Welcome	