

Call Board

Volume 65 Issue 6

February 2025

Superintendent Report for February 2025

It looks like winter is here to stay for a while which means we have a good reason to get back to work on our railroads. Everyone that has this opportunity should spend a little more time fixing, tuning, maintaining or repairing your equipment, electronics and scenery. This is while supporting the division activities wherever possible.

Looking at our upcoming calendar of events, Division 7 is hosting their annual Spring Flea Market at the Lakota Junior High School on March 15, 2025. This is a good chance to add a few pieces of equipment to your railroad. Our TRAINING Day will be held on April 12, 2025. We need everyone that plans to participate to let Gail Yarnall know what you plan to exhibit and/or how much time you can give to this event. We also plan to have the April Membership Meeting the day after TRAINING Day.

While we are on the topic of TRAINING Day, please keep in mind that if you are planning to exhibit something this year, we want you to keep that exhibit item/ paraphilia so that you are ready for

2026. With the convention only 3 months after the 2026 Training Day, we are all going to be pretty busy getting ready to host the 2026 MCR Convention.

Planning for the 2026 MCR Convention has been going on for the past several months, mostly by the Focus Group (Gordon Carlson, Wil Davis, Rick Lach and me). We have firmed up the hotel location, signing the contract on January 14, 2025. I made my first presentation to the MCR Board of Directors on January 17.

Now I need many of you to sign-up to work on the various areas that need to be addressed. We will be working on various pieces of the convention in teams. Each team will address specific areas of need, such as registration, clinics (both Rail and Non-Rail), layout tours and operating sessions, publicity and printing, the contest and awards, and the banquet. Team leaders and the “back-ups” will be asking you to provide support for their area. Early planning activities by the teams will not be over-taxed, especially if we get started now and not put off things until it is “panic time.”

I reviewed the previous conven-

tions, especially our in 2013, and what I found was many activities were not really started until very late in the period, resulting in high pressure requirements during the final months. There is plenty to do in those final months without having to accomplish things that could have been done earlier.

We have been talking to members recently, seeking Team Leaders. Several people have come forward offering to take on a task and we are greatly appreciative of their offer. What is next is that the team leadership needs to seek out those people that can support their efforts, especially in the early planning stages. If you are willing to work on the convention activities, let the leaders know it. This is a great opportunity for potential leaders to “show their stuff.”

On next meeting will be on February 16, at the Greene County Historical Center. Erik Buck will discuss 3D Printing and have a demonstration. I hope to see you there, especially those of you that we don't get to see very often.

Eric Zimmerman

NMRA AT 90:

This year, 2025, the NMRA celebrates its 90th Anniversary. From time to time this year, we will see articles appear in the NMRA Magazine, Model Railroader Magazine,

and perhaps other model railroad publications. From a small group of guys meeting in Chicago in 1935 to recommend standards to promote interoperability for model railroads and to promote the hobby of model railroading, the NMRA

has grown to be a worldwide organization serving over 15,000 members in the hobby we so much experience. Let us all join in any activity that promotes the NMRA so that we all can continue to enjoy the world's greatest hobby.

AP PROGRAM UPDATE:

Superintendent Eric Zimmerman presented a Merit Award for Scenery and the AP Certificate for Scenery to Ray Persing at the January General Membership Meeting. Ray's scenery modules were judged at the November 2024 Dayton Train Show because they were part of the layout operated by the Great Lakes Narrow Gauge Mini-Group. His scenery modules earned 114 total points out of a possible 125 points. Way to go, Ray! This is AP Certificate #5 for



him. He needs just 2 more to earn his Master Model Railroad-er (MMR) certificate. He is near-

ing completion of the Civil Engineer and Electrical certificates for which we will hold judging sometime in the near future. As an aside, Ray became the NMRA National Chair for the AP Program last July. He announced at our January meeting some initiatives which he hopes will encourage more NMRA members to participate in the AP Program and make earning the certificates more of a fun challenge to their modeling skills. More on this later. Rick Lach

WHAT'S NEW IN 2025? By Gail Yarnall

This year brings new things to railroad modeling. Just look up "What's new in model railroading in 2025" and watch the list grow. You can find articles, You-Tube videos, and much more. According to my search, some of the trends will be:

>**3-D printing will increase** and modelers will have more access to 3-D which will lead to an increase in custom models. This includes, cars, engines, scenery, and more. (BTW, one of our new members, Erik Buck, does quite a bit of 3-D printing for his N Scale layout: Cleveland Flats Industrial Area. To see more, go to <https://www.modelraildayton.com/Erik%20buck%20Cleveland%20flats.html>). Who else does 3-D

modeling in our group and what do you use 3-D for?

>**An increase in local conventions.** Looking at the economy, gas and other travel prices, staying local does seem to be a good way to meet with others while keeping costs under control. Of course internet conventions can help as well.

>**An increase of 'niche' products,** ie specialized cars/engines, following a favorite road or era, etc. This may especially be true with the increase of 3-D printers, since you can design and make a car/engine body which no one else makes. You would no longer have to use an SD40-2 and some custom made parts to make an SDP40 for Erie Lackawanna. Another example is if you want a GP30-B. Instead of starting with a GP30 and rebuilding

it using parts from small manufacturers (made for that particular kit-bashing purpose), you can create a GP30-B yourself. Parts can also be made on site (your site) which are exact scale. It will eliminate some kitbashing , since your car of choice can be manufactured all at once by you. A final (and sad) consideration is how many of those small parts manufacturers are still in business, thinking about our aging , bankruptcy, Co-Vid, and other reasons for the companies cease.

And what about publications? I have heard of 3 that attracted my attention.

>**Great Model Railroads 2025,** special issue including new layouts, plans, and ideas.

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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 ...

January - Open Loads

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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

January - Open Loads

Kit Built

First Chris Stilson

Kit Bashed

First Gordon Carlson

Second Jack Honeycutt

Third Jim Foster

Scratch Built

First Mark Stiver

Second Ron Goble

Third Jack Honeycutt

Photo

First Nate Adams

Second Paul Jenkins

IN MEMORIAM:

It is with great sadness that we announce to the Division 3 membership the death of Mike Mereness on December 21, 2024. Mike was a member of Division 3 when he lived in Dayton, but he later became a member of Division 7 when he moved to Cincinnati, due to his employment location. He became reinvolved with Division 3 when Bob Fink, newly elected Superintendent, asked him to become the Division Programs Manager. Because of his extensive connections, Mike was able to gain access to many speakers outside of our division that we would otherwise have not been able to hear. In addition to



many wonderful speakers, Mike also initiated several highly successful bus tours to layouts in our local area, Cincinnati, Columbus,

Indiana, and Dover. Mike continued to be our Programs Director for each succeeding Division 3 superintendent since Bob Fink until early 2024 when he became ill and could not recover. Mike was 85. There will be no funeral nor a memorial service, but his family will publish a more official obituary sometime in the future. Mike was a friend to many of us; he always had Division 3's best interests at heart; and his death will leave a tremendous void in both Division 7 and Division 3. And I will miss him as a friend. Mike was 85 and leaves behind a loving and devoted family. May he rest in peace.
Rick Lach

WHAT'S NEXT ON OUR CALENDAR? By Gail Yarnall

Our next big effort is our annual TRAINing Day event. For those of you who are new, TRAINing Day is a chance for everyone to see how we make this, do that and for them to play a bit with trains. We will once again hold the event at Carillon Park, this year on April 12, to set up displays, layouts, and construction materials to create a great event. We will be in the same area, admission is free to our event, with regular admission to the park itself.

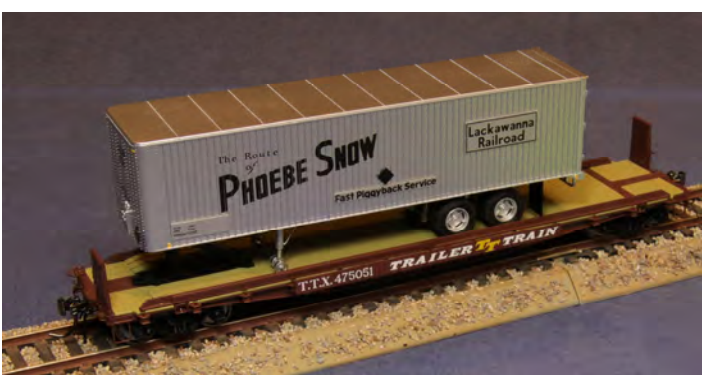
If you have done this event before, please consider once again bringing your expertise to teach youngsters, parents and anyone else who stops by, about model and prototype railroading. If you have never done this event, please consider doing it. It is the most fun ever. We get to play with trains, and to help others to learn about playing with trains. Check out our flyer for more information. Email me with questions (NMRA.Div.3@gmail.com).

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>**Model Railroader 2025 Calendar**, including a new layout for every month created by Model Railroader and Great Model Railroads.

>**Model Railroad Planning 2025** with all the goodies: building projects, ops tips and the inevitable track plans.

Finally, look for new cars, engines and all kinds of other things. Anything that you or someone else can design, you can make in 3-D. More fun than a barrel of track spikes!



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.



FEBRUARY 2025

Next Crew Call	
When:	February 16, 2PM
Where:	Greene County Historical Society 74 Church St Xenia, Ohio
Program:	3D Printing By Erik Buck
Contest:	Non-Revenue Cars
Visitors and Guests Always Welcome	



The Miami Valley Division 3, Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association invites you to our 12th



FREE

Admission to this event is free, admission to the rest of the park is the normal admission price.

2025 Model Railroad TRAINing Day

**Carillon Historical Park* 1000 Carillon Blvd, Dayton, OH on
April 12, 2025 from 9:30am to 4pm.**

(*Also home of the annual June Railfest and the CPR&SS train ride in Dayton as well as the new mile long 3' narrow gauge train ride.)

Everyone Invited. Events for adults and for the kids.

New modelers and Experienced modelers; we have something for everyone. Our friendly, experienced model railroaders will be on hand to answer questions and demonstrate techniques.

Children 12 and under can help construct a small HO layout.

Those who participate are entered to win the layout.

Try your hand at operating a train.

What is T-TRAK??? Learn about the latest trend in modeling railroads: T-TRAK! This involves compact modules that join to make incredibly complex layouts which can be stored in a storage tub, under the bed, in some dresser drawers, . . . Examples of modules, as well as a running layout will be available.

Building with the Experts! Bring your car (no Engines, please) to build/assemble, taking advantage of our experience and ideas. Get help with problem areas. Learn new ideas, tips and techniques. Some cars available at cost.

Demonstrations include:

Talking Track

Building Structures and Scenery

Digital Command Control (DCC) basics

What's in your toolkit?

Maintaining locomotives and cars

Layout Design and Drawing

Building train cars

Scouts can earn Railroad Merit Badge

And much more . . .

Sponsored by "Miami Valley" Division 3, MCR, National Model Railroad Association. Contact us at: NMRA.Div.3@gmail.com or call 937-424-6413. For more info; www.modelraildayton.com/div3trainingday.html



Early Bird Pricing and
Benefits available until
February 1, 2025



May 15-18, 2025

Dublin Embassy Suites

(Free parking, free breakfast and two drinks at happy hour daily)

5100 Upper Metro Place, Dublin, OH, 43017

Operating Sessions

Thursday, Friday & Saturday

Self Guided Layout Tours

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Clinics

3 rooms

Morning, Afternoon and Evening

Coshocton Tour

7 1/4" Gauge Live Steam
and Huge HO Club

Hands on Modeling

Improve you scenery skills

Hobby Shops, Local Attractions, and Shopping

Non-Rail Clinics & Activities

Celebration Room

Enter your model for AP Judging,
Competition or Display

Banquet

Featuring Awards and a
presentation by Stu Nicholson
from All Aboard Ohio

Company Store

Buy a convention car and con-
signment sales

Door Prizes and Raffles

T-TRAK Room

See our website to register and for more information
<https://buckeyeexpress.div6-mcr-nmra.org/> or use the QR code

