

THE

Oil Can

August 2012



Volume VI Issue 8



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The Editor's Corner

Don Phillips

Bob Chapman and Jerry Michael took the Gorre & Daphetid layout to Grand Rapids and had it on display at the National NMRA convention. The Cincinnati Northern Module Group also had their prize winning module layout at the convention so Cincinnati and Division 7 were well represented this year.

This was Mike Brestel's last national as NMRA president so next year he can start enjoying the conventions as an elder statesman. Thanks Mike for all your hard work and contributions to our hobby.

Congratulations go to Ron Gribler on receiving his seventh achievement award which qualifies him for the title of Master Model Railroader. Looks like Division 7 is on a roll in turning out MMRs. So whose next??

Division 7's 45th Annual Train Show will be here before you know it. The dates this year are October 21st and 22nd so plan on pitching in and help make this one another winner.

HOC MODO FERROVIA OPERARE INFERNO EST

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The Oil Can is a publication of Cincinnati Division 7, Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc. Opinions expressed herein are the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Division 7, the MCR, the NMRA, it's officers, or it's members.

Space permitting, The Oil Can welcomes news items, articles and letters on Model Railroading and related topics. Deadline for submissions is generally the fifteenth of the month preceding the next meeting.

Cover: It's business as usual at the Licking River Terminal while they repair the leaks in the roof of the engine house on John Miller's industrial layout.

I believe that no one attending the meeting last Month at St. Matthias felt “anonymous” thanks to Georgia Dahlberg, MMR. She did a great job of making sure that all attendees...members, guests or otherwise...were properly name tagged. I had no excuse for forgetting anyone’s name and neither did you! Now if you’d rather not wear one of our admittedly large but officially “spiffy” paper name tags, you are welcome to pony-up \$8-10 bucks at the company store and have an engraved permanent name tag forever! Crazy Paul Musselman, Company Store Proprietor will be happy to sign you up and accept your money.

So far one person has come forward offering to assist Georgia. I’d like to see a couple more. This is an easy way to get to know your fellow Division 7 members. Anyone interested in assisting in this effort should let me or Georgia know.

What a great clinic!... I hope you enjoyed Dave Puthoff’s clinic giving us his tricks and techniques for making his own signals as much as I did. Since I have been bitten by the scratch building bug, I can’t wait to get started on 20 or 30 signals of my own. However, as an N-Scaler, it may be time to re-examine my own sanity.

So what is “Scratch-Building” you new folks ask?... As Wikipedia defines it, “Scratch building is the process of building a scale model “from scratch”, *i.e.* from raw materials, rather than building it from a construction kit or buying it pre-assembled.

For those of you that have never built anything from “scratch”, you are missing a rewarding part of our hobby. As an admitted “cheap-skate” I find that scratch-building not only saves a ton of money, but also delivers a pride boost to a true modeler. The secret is to start small and simple (a garage, out-house, or even a simple loading dock). Division 7 is fortunate to have some of the finest scratch-builders in the nation. (I aspire to be one of that group but admittedly have a ways to go.) Given the opportunity, check out the layouts of Sam Swanson, Bob Lawson and Ron Gribler, just to mention a few. Scratch builders are generally very approachable and love to answer questions. I promise you... your first “scratch-built” projects will become your most coveted models. And a few positive comments from your buddies will soon have you pushing yourself towards harder and more involved projects. Try it... you’ll like it.

Things are still kind of quiet... By now the NMRA National Convention and National Train Show in Grand Rapids are a memory. Hopefully, a lot of you were able to attend. If you have never been to a “National”, it is a solid week of top-notch clinics, layout and prototype tours. The NTS (National Train Show) is nothing less than an extravaganza.

Of course, if you did miss the NTS, the venerable 45th Annual Cincinnati Model Train Show (CMTS) is coming up in a few short months. Start gathering your “White Elephant” items so Frank Koch knows you love him! You price it, Frank sells it and you get the cash (less 15% for the division). Many vendors tell us that the CMTS is their favorite show and they prove it by coming back year after year to separate us from our model railroading allowances!

Each year we promote the CMTS with over 5,000 targeted postcards, over 10,000 hobby shop and member distributed flyers and several well-placed Enquirer spots. Since EVERYBODY loves trains, a lot of our show attendees are not even modelers. Each year I am scolded by friends and neighbors because I failed to remind them of the show dates.

I’ll let you in on a little secret...*by far the best promotional tool we have for the CMTS is YOU!* So please, mark your calendar for October 20th and 21st and tell your friends, neighbors, co-workers, church members and even the folks down at your senior center. Remind them that there are two big gyms full of top quality, operating model railroad layouts with smoke, noise and more than a few engineer caps. This is your show and the Division needs your help!

And finally... OK, so like my mind works, my column this month has kind of wandered all over the place. Mike Brestel is looking forward to becoming a modeler again and earning his MMR. Jim MacKnight is again stunned that N-Scalers actually buy HO Club Cars. Bob Shreve is still bragging about how he gets his *Oil Can* article in. John Shields is still swearing that the Raffle is not rigged. Jack Laubisch is excited about contest participation. Some may say these last few comments were a gratuitous way to fill the last few inches of my column. Am I having too much fun?

See you August 12th at Hyde Park Methodist.

Randy

SECOND SECTION

Bob Shreve
Asst. Super

The weather was hot the day of our meeting in July. Fortunately, the air conditioning was working well at St. Matthias church in Forest Park. This was a new venue for our meetings and the room was quite nice. Dave Puthoff gave a very informative clinic showing how he made signals for his layout. After the meeting, John Miller and Bill Doll opened their homes for layout visits. These are two impressive layouts and provide a nice contrast between the open countryside of Bill's layout and the highly industrialized scenery at John's. Thanks to Dave, John and Bill for making the afternoon enjoyable. Thanks to the folks at St. Matthias church for their hospitality.

The next meeting on August 12 will be at Hyde Park United Methodist Church. Mike Mereness will give his presentation on coal mines and how they generate traffic on your model railroad. After the meeting Pat Homan and Jim Hodde will be open for visitors. This will be a chance to compare the mountains of West Virginia and the much-less tree covered terrain of Colorado.

In September, we will make our usual foray south of the Ohio river. This year will take us further south than we have previously traveled for a monthly meeting. This meeting will be at the Erlanger branch of the Kenton County library. Bob Weinheimer will have a presentation on getting started in operations on your model railroad. Bob Adams and Master Model Railroader Georgia Dahlberg will have their layouts open after the meeting. Carpooling to Georgia's house should be considered, as she lives even further south in Williamstown, KY. This will be our chance to see how all of those great structures she brings to meetings look on her layout.

At the July meeting, Frank Koch presented Ron Gribler with his motive power achievement certificate. Frank also noted that this was Ron's seventh certificate which means he has also earned his MMR certificate. Congratulations to Ron on this achievement.

By the time you are reading this, Mike Brestel will be enjoying the title of "Former NMRA President". Thanks to Mike for his 6 years as president and the umpteen other years he has served the NMRA at the local, regional and national levels. Mike stated he is looking forward to having time to do more modeling. Who knows, maybe Mike will be Division 7's next MMR.

In 2013, I am looking to get back to more basic modeling clinics. I'm looking for people to give presentations on backdrops, scenery, rolling stock, weathering, etc. I would also like to add some more layouts to our post-meeting visitation list. Contact me if you have an idea for a clinic, or if you would be willing to have some visitors over to see your handiwork.

See you in Hyde Park August the 12th.

Bob



1st Place Models ... JUNIOR DIVISION
Congratulations Anthony Zillich

Contest Results for July, 2012

Models: Flats, Gons, Hoppers

- Box Stock:** 1st Pl: **Sam Parfitt**; Richter Sons Co. Vinegar Tanks on flat Car #RSX 11
2nd Pl: (tie) **John Listermann**; WM Gondola #5442 w/scrap load
2nd Pl: (tie) **Sam Parfitt**; NYC Gondola # 477498 w/containers
- Kitbashed:** 1st Pl: **Jim MacKnight**; PRR Gondola # 315868 w/containers
2nd Pl: **Sam Parfitt**; Von Allman Pickle Vats on flat car
3rd Pl: **Ron Gribler**; Wabash Gondola # 9413
- Scratch Blt.** 1st Pl: **Jim Ossman**; PRR Hopper #180228 w/coal load
2nd Pl: **Georgia Dahlberg**; Bordens Milk Tank on flat car
No other entries submitted

Models: Junior Division:

- Box Stock** 1st Pl: **Anthony Zillach**; V&O Hopper #1898
2nd Pl: **Anthony Zillach** Midland Road Gondola #87779

Photos: Trains at Service Facilities

- Print Proto:** 1st Pl: **Jerry Baston**; Big South Fork Engine Shop
2nd Pl: (tie) **Georgia Dahlberg**; Cumbres & Toltec loco at ash pit
2nd Pl: (tie) **Jerry Baston**; R.J Corman Diesel at sand facility
- Print Model** 1st Pl: (tie) **Jerry Baston**; Coaling Tower on Perry Simpson's layout
1st Pl: (tie) **Bob Adams**; Steam Loco on Gerry Albers' layout
3rd Pl: (tie) **Jim MacKnight**; B&O diesels at fuel facility

2012 Overall Standings

<u>Models</u>		<u>Junior Division</u>		<u>Photos</u>	
Jim Bonnett	08	Anthony Zillich	05	Jerry Baston	12
Ron Gribler	06			John Listermann	06
Georgia Dahlberg	05			Roy Hord	05
Perry Simpson	05			Georgia Dahlberg	04
Rick Stern	05			Jim MacKnight	04
Jim Corbett	03			Bob Adams	03
Randy Kerka	03			Jim Corbett	03
Jim Rollwage	03				
Tom Brueggemann	01				
Bob Chapman	01				
Rick Taylor	01				

August Competition

Models: Thin-Line (False Front) Models This is not a diorama format. You provide a means to support model

Photography: Railroad Stations and/or Freight Houses

Jack Labisch

Competition Chairperson

PS Each month I have been posting on the contest table a laminated copy of the rules for our local competition, as outlined by the BOD of Div 7. Hopefully this posting will help you should you have any questions.

[A Lesson in Warpage](#)

By Georgia Dahlberg, MMR

Kits are wonderful things, full of such useful leftovers. I have boxes of leftover parts and bits of wood, plastic and metal. I recently ran across a 4" x 6" sheet of thin basswood left over from something I built long ago and I can't remember what. Looking at this, it occurred to me that I had a lot of unfinished road crossings on my layout and this might be the answer for all those poor souls bumping over my layout rails.

It wasn't long before I had laid out with a sharp pencil, 12 scale inch planks crosswise to the sheet. I drew several 12 foot lengths, an 18 foot length and a 24 foot length lengthwise as being about right for single and double lane crossing timbers. Before I began cutting, I dutifully added penciled nail holes, two per plank end over the sheet, including intermediate lengths on all the crossing widths. Looking pretty good!

I brought the sheet into my workbench and cut across it at the 12, 18 and 24 foot marks. Found a scrap piece of HO track and began cutting pieces to fit between the rails. The pieces nestled down quite nicely and being thin, there would be no interference with the coupler pins, how excellent of me! A quick covering of white glue and I was putting three in place at one station and on to another site for more.

Working on this fourth site, I noticed that the sides of the thin sheet were poking up too much and would interfere with the car trucks. I hadn't anticipated this and as much as I poked at the edges, I couldn't get the sheet to lie down flat. I checked the crossings at the other finished station and blast it; they were all curled up as well! Quickly, before the glue dried, I removed them all back to the workbench. Warpage had raised its ugly head or maybe its ugly sides.

I could only think of one remedy, slice the pieces down the penciled lines. This did make the sheets lie flat but left me with a handful of planks to align at the crossing sites. I tried to leave about a 3/16th uncut end but it still had the curl. Finally, I partially cut two planks on one side and cut two planks in the opposite direction on the other side. This left the piece pretty much intact but still lying flat when glued. On some of these I had to fold the uncut ends to keep them from curling up. This worked out pretty well and my dried road crossings will now let scale autos roll across as well as my freight cars lengthwise.

[July 2012 Car Projects Report](#)

By Jim MacKnight

Our 2012 car project, Allegheny Midland 41'-6" steel gondolas, are offered in three numbers, priced at \$18 for singles and \$51 for a three-car set, plus Ohio sales tax. We have sold 63 gondolas during the first six weeks, more than half thru mail order sales. We have 330 car kits remaining and must sell 165 kits to break even on this project.

Our 2011 car project, Virginia & Ohio 50' plug-door boxcars in V&O blue with "The Ridge Runner" slogan in white lettering, are still available. These cars are offered in four numbers, priced at \$17 for singles and \$64 for a four-car set, plus Ohio sales tax. We have sold 380 V&O boxcars during the first 10 months, mostly through mail order sales. We are in the black for this car project and still have 100 car kits remaining to sell.

We have sold 573 Allegheny Midland triple hopper car kits and are including an advertisement with each AM gondola or V&O boxcar mail order sale. We have only 14 car kits remaining in inventory.

Frank's Pre-Show White Elephant Sale

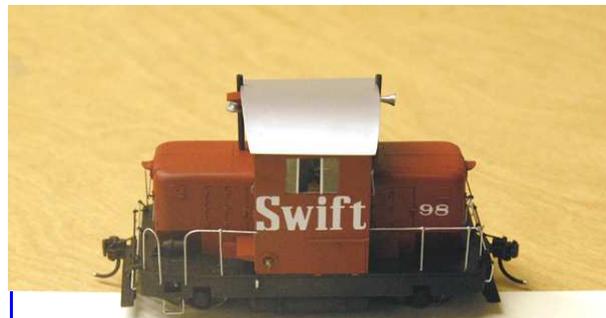
By Frank Koch

I've been asked to dispose of a large model railroad HO collection and find there is way too much stuff to bring to the show. There are books, locomotives, rolling stock, many built and unbuilt structures, hundreds of detail parts, and lots of other stuff. So... I'm going to have another pre-show sale at my house to start the liquidation process. The sale will be Saturday, August 25th from 10 am to 2 pm. The sale will be in my basement, with access around the left side of the house and into the basement. Directions are easy: Go east on I-275 and take exit 63B which is Rte 32 east toward Batavia. Go past three traffic lights and take Olive Branch-Stonelick exit to the right. If you go down the hill into Batavia, you've gone too far. At the bottom of the ramp, stop, and CAREFULLY turn left onto Olive Branch-Stonelick Road. Go approximately 1.5 miles and turn right onto Silverwood Drive. Go to the first house on the left, # 4769 and park in the street on both sides. All items are sold "AS IS" and all sales are **CASH**.

July Meeting

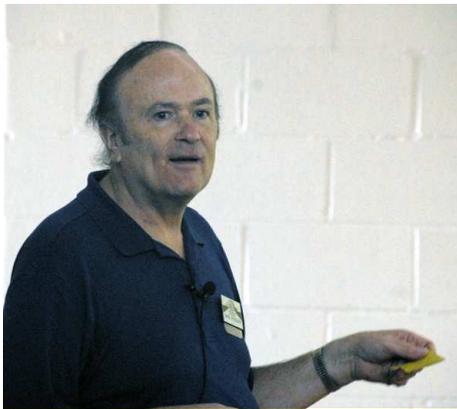


Frank Koch awards Ron Gribler with his 7th Achievement Award which means he is Division 7's next Master Model Railroader.



National Model Railroad Association, Inc.
MERIT AWARD
This Achievement Program Certificate has been awarded to
Ron Gribler – Division 7, MCR
in recognition of Superior Craftsmanship in
Construction of a Model in the Motion Power Category
Swift #98 - EMD Model 40 (108 points)

Ron's scratch built critter that earned him his 7th A.A.



Dave Puthoff's Signal Clinic



A cargo of statues for Rabbit Hash, KY, as they attempt to duplicate the success of Cincinnati's plastic pigs. This car is, of course, known as a "Triple Hopper."

Pete Weiglin's Kitbashed entry

JULY COMPETITION



1st Pl. Box Stock
Sam Parfitt

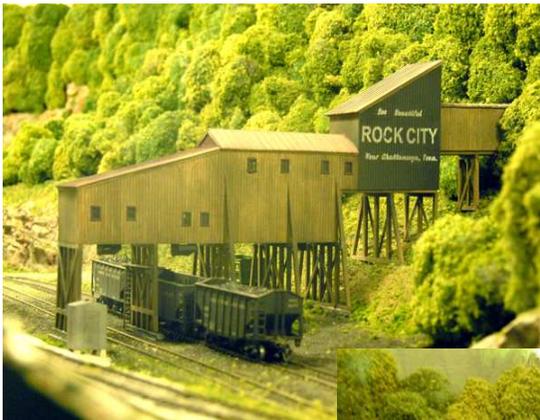


1st Place Kitbashed
Jim MacKnight



1st Place Scratch Built
Jim Ossman

JULY LAYOUTS



Bill Doll



John Miller

Observations on July's Meeting

As promised, I was in attendance for July's Division 7 meeting and made the following "life altering" observations. [1] During my three month hiatus, Division 7 continued its tradition of excellence and [2] we have a few members that don't seem to understand that the hobby is serious business; not for amusement. I cite the following examples of this disturbing trend towards frivolity. First there were some lapses of decorum from our officers, especially our National NMRA's president's behavior. If that wasn't bad enough, I need only mention some of the committee reports. I am glad that Pat and I take our "Modeler's Aid" very seriously, and avoid the silliness exhibited by others. No diatribe about the total lack of professionalism would be complete without our monthly contest. I was seriously looking at the entries, so I could vote intelligently [?] when I came across Peter Weiglin's unique entry. Peter did an outstanding job of assembling, decorating, and weathering the "rabbit" car, and even took time to explain his efforts. A load of rabbit statues for Rabbit Hash, Kentucky certainly made sense, plus that bracing and tie-downs seemed appropriate for his load. Also to call the item a "triple hopper" was very "Hare-raising"; I voted for Peter just because of the humor [?]. [By the way, my vote is for sale.] Now let's turn our attention to the raffle; I was very glad the new member won [he also did well in the model contest], but all the N scale items went to our officers and chair people; NOW REALLY! [Can you say, "The fix is in?"] Seriously, I enjoyed the July meeting and was very glad to be back. Now let's see what can be done about our honest [?] raffle. I almost forgot to mention our two layouts for July; Bill Doll and John Miller have superb layouts. Bill's layout is set in Appalachia, during the steam to diesel transition, while John has chosen to model the 1970's around the Cincinnati area; both layouts are outstanding. THANKS GUYS!!

New Products

I recently mentioned that Bachman has released a new series of low-cost locomotives with both DCC and Tsunami sound. I have a Santa Fe S-4 serving the yard at Trinidad and am very pleased with it. The locomotives sound is very impressive for a moderately priced model. These units don't have all the options that the normal SoundTraxx locomotives have, but the horns, bell, and prime mover are outstanding. I think Bachman has a real winner here and hope they will issue other units.

I hope to see everyone at the August meeting. I also hope everyone will work on their decorum before August, as I don't want some visitor to think we are having fun; this is, after all, a hobby not something enjoyable. I hop Mr. Weiglin works on his entry description writing.

Keep 'em rolling!

Bruce

Next Meeting

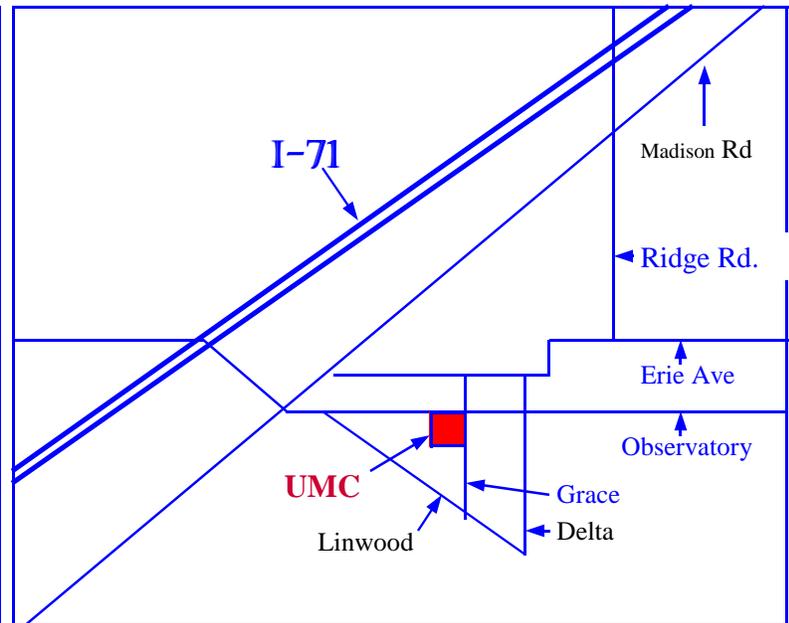
2 PM Sunday August 12
@

**Hyde Park
United Methodist Church**

Directions:

From I-71 South: take the Ridge Rd. exit, go south on Ridge to Erie Ave. Turn right and go west to Grace Ave. Turn left and go south to 1345 on your right.

From I-71 North: Take the Observatory exit and go east on Observatory to Grace Ave. Turn right on Grace.



Coming Down the Line

Cincinnati Division 7, MCR, NMRA
2012 Schedule

NOTE: ALL REGULAR MEETINGS START AT 2 PM
(Unless otherwise notified)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Program/Speaker</u>	<u>Layout visits</u>	<u>Contest Topic</u>
Aug. 12	Hyde Park United Methodist Church	Mike Mereness How Coal Mines Generate Traffic	Jim Hodde Pat Homan	Models: Thin-Line Models Photos: Railroad Stations and/or Freight Houses
Aug. 16	Resurrection Lutheran Church	Lebanon Sub Meeting	None	Show and Tell
Sept. 9	Kenton County Library Erlanger, KY	Bob Weinheimer Operations	Bob Adams Georgia Dahlberg	Models: Thin-Line Models Photos: Railroad Stations and/or
Sept. 20	Resurrection Lutheran Church	Lebanon Sub Meeting	None	Show and Tell

Around the Region

8/11	Summerrail CUT	Cincinnati, OH
9/15	All Trains Flea Market	Greenville, OH
10/20-21	Cincinnati Model Train Show	W. Chester, OH

National

8/7-11	National S Ga. Conv.	Chattanooga, TN
9/12-14	National NG Conv.	Bellevue, WA

Modeling Problems ? Member Aid Committee

Pat Homan (513) 861-2057
Bruce Knapp (513) 941-2713

Div. 7 Hot Line (513) 662-RAIL
Div. 7 Web Site www.cincy-div7.org
MCR Web Site www.midcentral-region-nmra.org