

THE

# Oil Can

February 2012



Volume VI Issue 2





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## The Editor's Corner

Don Phillips

Congratulations to Georgia Dahlberg on becoming Division 7's fourth Master Model Railroader. Georgia joins Frank Hermanek, Charlie Atkinson, and Tom Brueggeman in that elite group of modelers who have demonstrated their proficiency in all phases of our hobby.

What I find surprising is that only a little over 1% of our current membership have obtained that coveted MMR title. As Oil Can Editor I have visited and photographed with very few exceptions, every after-meeting open house layout in the last 6 years. Thus, I can tell you from personal observation, we have a whole lot of really great modelers in our division. I'm continually impressed (and envious) of the quality of modeling I see on just about every one of those visits. Not only that but each time we have revisited a layout, I usually find something I missed seeing on the previous visit. One of my problems each month is trying to pick just a couple of pictures from the previous month's layout visits to put in the next edition of the Oil Can.

I'll bet a lot of you are a lot closer to acquiring various AP Certificates than you think. What you need to do is document what you have already done to get an idea of what else would be required and go for it.

## Contents

<b>3 - Headlights</b>	<b>8 - Layout visits</b>
<b>4 - 2nd Section Car Projects</b>	<b>9 - Making your own signs</b>
<b>5 - Competition Winners</b>	<b>10 - Knapp's Notes Misc. News</b>
<b>6 - Buckeye Express Form</b>	<b>11 - Down the Line Regional &amp; National</b>
<b>7 - Jan. Meeting Pictures.</b>	

*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:

**Three sister engines bring a mixed freight through the newly scenicked section of the Cincinnati Model Railroad Club layout at Harmony Lodge.**

## Thinking back...

Once each year I choose a topic that harkens back to my youth. Boy Scouts was a huge part of my life until I was 16. I wish that I could tell you that I was an Eagle Scout...but Life Scout was as high as I got. Just on merit badge short of Eagle. My Dad was the Merit Badge Counselor for all the Citizenship merit badges and I just needed one more of those to make "Eagle". Unfortunately, in my 16th year two friends and I were accused of setting fire to a Big Four caboose on a rip track behind my house. It was later proven that I did not do it but my Dad doggedly thought otherwise and any hope of being an Eagle Scout went down the tubes! On the positive side, "Railroading" was the very first merit badge I ever earned.

Growing up in the city, Boy Scouts gave me the opportunity to experience things I would never have been able to do otherwise. Camping, hiking, canoeing, orienting, and many more activities were not available to most "city boys" like me.

You are probably aware that several Div. 7 members are actively involved with Counseling the Railroading Merit Badge at multiple Greater Cincinnati locations. These folks are truly dedicated and a major part of our Community Service effort. As a compliment to these efforts, I recently learned that Div. 7 member Dick Wilson and others have also been active with Railroading Merit Badge in conjunction with the Miami Valley Railroad! They host over 450 adult and Youth participants each year. Dick tells me that they are "booked" through 2015. Way to go guys. The Boy Scout program is alive and well!

## Old Ross School Update...

From time to time, Div. 7 meets within the friendly confines of the Old Ross School band room. While there we generally visit three fine layouts. I am now pleased to report the Old Ross School is NOW the home of six (6) railroad clubs! They are the Queen City Hi-Railers, Ross Rails Model Train Club, Black Diamond Lines, Cincinnati Northern, Queen City N'Gineers and The Ohio Valley Sipping and Switching Society. What a group!!!

## More "Grand Rails 2012" news...

In a tradition started by our Cincinnati Limited 2005 Convention, Grand Rails 2012 has some great things planned for non-rails. There's a cooking demo that will make attendees think they're watching a stand-up comedian do a cooking show and great entertainment at the luncheon in one of the most beautiful ballrooms in the country. There's also a ride on a dune schooner to see the 1100-acre Saugatuck Dunes.

This year registration for Grand Rails 2012 will be handled in a new way. Instead of a registration package inserted into NMR Magazine, the full package can be downloaded from [www.gr2012.org](http://www.gr2012.org). Those who prefer a printed piece can "snail mail" their request to GR2012 Registrar, 4165 Costa NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525.

## Times...they is a changin'...

It has been decided that due to no entries, the Div. 7 Model/Photo Contest will no longer include 35mm slides. Likewise, 35mm slides will not be supported at the December Potpourri picture show.

## Don't miss the bus...

Once again, the Burchnall/Jarman team has come up with another "Don't Miss" bus trip. On May 5th. One bus load of intrepid travelers will head toward Columbus for the "Buckeye Express". The featured stop will be to Marion Tower and Station plus visits to five premier layouts. In the words of the "producers", a "Fantastic Inspirational Day"... I'll be there... how about you?

## The Last Word...

Are you a "Facebooker"? Div. 7 maintains a very informative Facebook page. Pam Moleski and Dave Read make certain that it is a great place to get information about the goings on at Div. 7. Please go to "Cincinnati Division 7 MCR NMRA" on Facebook, check it out and "Like Us".

*Randy*

# SECOND SECTION

Bob Shreve  
Asst. Super

The weather was cold the day of our January meeting at Harmony Lodge, but the folks at the Cincinnati Model Railway Club provided some warm hospitality. A highlight of the meeting was Frank Koch presenting Georgia Dahlberg her MMR certificate. Congratulations, Georgia. In honor of the meeting location, the HO items in the monthly raffle were relegated to the 'small scale' role compared to the O scale items. Bill Edwards presented a clinic showing a new use for cans of expanding insulation foam. My apologies to Bill for the delay in getting the computer part of the presentation going. The CMRC layout was open for visitors, and after the meeting Sam Swanson and Nancy Windes welcomed us to their beautiful old house to see the progress on their layout. Thanks to the CMRC, Bill, Sam, and Nancy for an enjoyable afternoon.

Pastor Doug Campbell will be the clinician at our February meeting at St Susanna Church in Mason. He has shown some very nice scratch built structures at the Lebanon sub meetings. Doug was also part of the crew that built the Gorre and Daphetid layout displayed at the October train show. Layout visits are scheduled for Ed Swain and Bob Lawson.

Speaking of train shows, look for the sign-up sheets to help out at the division booth at the "Worlds Greatest Hobby Tour" train show on March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, and the Division 7 swap meet the following weekend on the 17<sup>th</sup>. It should be an interesting couple of weekends.

The April meeting will be in Kenwood. Allen McClelland will bring us up to date on how the V & O railroad lives on in new venues. One of those is Gerry Albers' layout, which will be open after the meeting along with Jim Stewart's layout.

Merlyn Jarman and John Burchnall have put together another interesting bus trip in May. Look for information elsewhere in the Oil Can or on the web site.

Last month, I referred to my annual resolution to clean up my basement and start on a layout. At a recent Friday evening work session, Gerry Albers indicated his intent to hold me to it. Apparently, after 9 years of Friday evening sessions at his house, Gerry is ready to spend some time in somebody else's basement. I mentioned to the other people present that we could all make a resolution to earn at least 1 AP certificate during 2012. That actually should be possible since several of the regular operators at Gerry's are about 5 hours and some paperwork away from a Dispatcher certificate.

So who's ready to join me in that resolution? Frank Koch enjoys handling out certificates at the meetings. Lets see how much business we can give him this year.

See you in at the February meeting.

*Bob*

## January 2012 Car Projects Report

**Jim Macknight**

Our new Division 7 car project, Virginian & Ohio 50' plug-door boxcars, in V&O blue, with "The Ridge Runner" slogan in white lettering, are now 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 now sold 275 V&O boxcars during the first 4-1/2 months, mostly through mail order sales. We are now in the black for this car project, and have 206 car kits remaining to sell. Our V&O boxcar announcement should appear in the March issue of Model Railroader magazine.

We have sold 543 Allegheny Midland triple hopper car kits, and are including an advertisement with each V&O boxcar mail order sale. We have 24 car kits currently in inventory, plus 30 car bodies.

*Jim*

Competition Results for the December Meeting

Models: Hopper Cars

Photos: (Fallen Flags)

(Both Rolling Stock and Locos were accepted)

Box Stock

- 1st Pl Ron Gribler
- 2nd Pl Georgia Dahlberg

Proto Print (Freight Rollin Stock)

- 1st Pl Georgia Dahlberg
- 2nd Pl Georgia Dahlberg
- 3rd Pl Georgia Dahlberg

Kit-Bashed

- 1st Pl Ron Gribler

Proto Print (Locomotives)

- 1st Pl Jerry Baston
- 2nd Pl Jerry Baston

Scratch Built

- 1st Pl Ron Gribler



FINAL STANDINGS FOR 2011

MODELS

PHOTOS

Ron Gribler	23
Georgia Dahlberg	20
Jim MacKnight	11
Michael York	07
Frank Hermanek	05
John Miller	03
Tom Overton	03
Jim Ossman	02
Charlie Atkinson	01

Jerry Baston	30
Georgia Dahlberg	22
Bob Adams	14
John Listermann	06
Jim MacKnight	05
Charlie Atkinson	03
John Miller	03
Jim Rollwage	03
Bob Chapman	01



January Competition Results

Models: MOW Equipment

Photos Passenger Trains

Box Stock

- 1st Pl Jim Bonnett
- 2nd Pl Ron Gribler

Proto Print

- 1st Pl Jerry Baston
- 2nd Pl (Tie) Georgia Dahlberg
- 3rd Pl (Tie) Roy Hord

Kit-Bashed

- 1st Pl Ron Gribler
- 2nd Pl Rick Stern
- 3rd Pl Tom Brueggemann

No other entries

Scratch Built

- 1st Pl Jim Bonnett
- 2nd Pl Jim Bonnett
- 3rd Pl Ron Gribler

Models

Overall Standings for 2012

Photos

Jim Bonnett	08
Georgia Dahlberg	06
Rick Stern	02
Tom Brueggemann	01

Jerry Baston	03
Georgia Dahlberg	02
Roy Hord	02

# "The Buckeye Express"

**Saturday, May 5, 2012**

## **Deluxe Motor Coach Tour of Historic Station and Tower in Marion, Ohio plus Five Premier Model Railroads in and around Columbus, Ohio**

*Departing 7:00 AM and Returning by 7:00 PM, from and to Mason, Ohio  
Venue Restrictions Limit this Trip to the First 47 Registrants that Sign Up  
Registration Deadline Sunday, April 22, 2012 – No Refunds after this Deadline*

### **Exclusive and Rare Tour Package**

#### **Exclusive Tours of Marion Tower and Station!**

Guided tour of restored tower, station and HO layout  
See heavy prototype action on 6 mainline tracks!

#### **Single Departing Location: Mason, Ohio**

Exact location disclosed later only to registrants  
Park at own risk - Provide car and license info below

#### **View Five Premier Model Railroad Layouts!**

Four nicely scenicked HO layouts and a huge O scale layout  
within the Buckeye Division 6, Mid-Central Region, NMRA

#### **Fantastic Inspirational Day for a Great Price!**

Deluxe motor coach transport, scenic roads, bottled waters  
Experienced guides, Panera Bread deluxe box lunch

**Dick Wagner** – huge recently enlarged 2 rail O-scale empire set in the steam-diesel transition era, featuring many New York Central trains and locomotives across lots of track, scenicked in old basement, incredible new mileage in new basement

**Gerri Doebelin** – rare visit to exquisite HO layout inspired by Colorado narrow gauge prototypes, featuring large number of beautiful wood craftsman structures (almost every Campbell Scale Models kit) with geared, rod and articulated steam locos

**Howard Smith, MMR** – very nice, nearly completely scenicked, HO representation of the 1953 Sandpatch Division of the Baltimore and Ohio, featuring meticulous construction, realistic operations, signals, dispatch console, helpers and staging

**Dick Briggs, MMR** – huge mostly scenicked HO version of PRR's Pittsburgh, Youngstown & Ashtabula Branch, set in the 1950's, featuring many scratch or kit-bashed structures including Ashtabula coal and ore docks, large steel mill, 6 ft lake boat

### **Fares and Registration**

#### **Basic Fare of \$65 per person includes:**

- **Deluxe Motor Coach** round trip transportation from Mason, Ohio to all included Columbus, Ohio area attractions
- **Transport and admission to Marion Tower and Station, 5 premier model railroads, deluxe box lunch, waters**
- **Rare guided tour up inside fully restored historic Marion Tower**, with cameras and photography permitted
- **Visits to 4 other premier model railroads in the Columbus area** - all never seen before on Division 7 bus tours

#### **Other Terms and Conditions:**

- Long pants and fully closed shoes required - umbrellas not permitted (bring caps, hooded jackets or ponchos instead)
- Registration exclusively limited to Cincinnati Division 7 members, spouses and children (at least 12 years of age)
- Do not delay in registering - due to venue restrictions this trip is limited to the first 47 registrants that sign up!
- Cincinnati Division 7 reserves the right to modify or cancel this event due to matters beyond our control

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parked Car Make & Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Lic. Plate: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ x \$65 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Pay by check or money order to: Cincinnati Division 7, NMRA**

**Mail to:**

Buckeye Express Registrar  
17765 Horizon Way



**January Meeting**



**Georgia Dahlberg, Div. 7's latest Master Model Railroader**



**Frank Koch and Mike Brestel with 3 of our 4 MMR's  
Georgia Dahlberg, Tom Brueggeman and Frank Hermanek  
Missing is Charlie Atkinson**

## Member's Layouts



Both photos are from Sam Swanson's narrow gauge layout.



Another scene from the Cincinnati Model Railroad Club's O scale layout



1st place Kitbashed—Ron Gribler's Snow Plow

### Note:

Both the first place Box Stock and Scratch Built models by Jim Bonnett were not available for photographs after the meeting.



# An Incredible Modeling Tool, Your Computer

By Georgia Dahlberg

The other day I was constructing a model of an old 1941 Motel for my layout and was agonizing over the small signs on the photo I was using as the prototype. How could I make those neat signs? Decals, Hand lettering, computer, which method to pick? I hand lettered a cardboard mock up and wasn't thrilled with my hand lettering, especially on the smaller wording. I thought I'd give it a try on the computer. Good old M.S. Word starts it's fonts at 8. It occurred to me to look up fonts in the help section and I noticed that you could do a 10.5 font, should you need it. What about less than 8? I tried using 4 just for chuckles and low and behold! Hard to see, yes but with microscopic decals in N scale, it was just the ticket for my signs.

Now, M.S. Word has an excellent array of fonts included in it but my Cad program has some 5 pages of fancy fonts even more excellent for a period pike. I came to find out that all fonts are shared in Windows, so my CAD fonts were available in M S Word. I found it helpful to print out each Font by name and to also print the alphabet both upper case and lower case in Word. This helps in matching your picture to a specific prototype. It happens that the font "Bravo" closely fits the signs on my model with a few exceptions. The normal font was too high. Solution is the Format/Fonts/Character Spacing. (Normal 100% Spacing) **150% Spacing** 80% Spacing. So you can stretch your printing to alter the look. One sign had words raised on each end. You can alter the height of the printing using the Format/Font/Character Spacing /Position. Don't limit yourself to the whole numbers either. You can do 1.5 pt raise or lowering and a spacing of 127.583.

This was my result:

INDIAN

REST SPRINGS ROOMS

Experiment is always the best teacher!

CABINS 4 CABINS 5 CABINS 6 CABINS 7 CABINS 8 Mini Font test, font listed after word:

GROCERIES 8 TIRES 8

GROCERIES 7 TIRES 7

GROCERIES 6 TIRES 6

GROCERIES 5 TIRES 5

REST ROOMS 8

REST ROOMS 7

REST ROOMS 6

STANDARD OIL PRODUCTS 8

STANDARD OIL PRODUCTS 7

STANDARD OIL PRODUCTS 6

C C C  
A A A  
B B B

# KNAPP'S NOTES

Bruce Knapp

## Wm. Edwards, Esq

I am doubly sorry I missed January's meeting, [1] I always enjoy visiting the club's layout, and [2] I find Mr. Edward's clinics very informative, as Bill is one of the hobby's best scenery gurus, plus his presentations are always unusual [to say the least] It was nice that his parole officer allowed him to attend and nobody was injured. I have attended several of Bill's presentations and have even done some with him and have survived. [There was the unfortunate incident with the missile firing truck at Johnny's Toys]. My favorite Bill Edward's clinics are "Zip Texturing with an M-16", "Land Forms using C-4", and, of course, my favorite "Weathering with Eye Make-up". A couple of hecklers wound up in the ER after the last make-up clinic. [I knew they were in trouble when they called Bill, "sweetie"]. Bill will be repeating some of his clinics at Tim's Trains and Hobbies this spring; I recommend you attend [or else] Bill. "What ever happened to that one loud mouth at our weathering clinic'?"

## Santa Fe's El Capitan

The "El Capitan" was introduced in 1938 to be an economy "Super Chief", the name was selected to honor the many contributions of the early Spanish explorers on the Southwest area. The train [#21 & #22] was all-coach, limited stop, Chicago to Los Angeles train, providing a less expensive alternative to the "Super Chief" and the "Chief" Walthers is now producing the famous Hi-Level version [complete with Warbonnet F-7's] of this famous train. They have already released the RPO and the 70' baggage car; next to be issued will be the baggage-dormitory-transition car. The rest of the set will include coaches, the "Sky-Lounge" and the diner. The cars include interiors and a simulated "stainless steel" exterior. Walthers also plans to offer interior lighting for the cars. When the train was introduced in 1956, it became an instant hit and helped Santa Fe keep its West-Coast passenger service survive until the advent of Amtrak. In the very last years of Santa Fe passenger service the "El Capitan" was often combined with the "Super Chief". Interestingly, Amtrak's current "Super-Liner" fleet is based on Santa Fe's original cars. I had a chance to see one of the original El Capitan cars still in Amtrak service at the Amtrak station in Fort Worth, 3 summers ago. I got to see the pilot model of the train set at the National Train Show in Sacramento. I immediately asked Western Hills Photo to order a set, which is now arriving monthly. This is a must have for any Santa Fe type modeling Santa Fe's famous passenger service.

## Raton Pass Update

I know that I am representing the Santa Fe circa 1951, but I could not pass up the "El Cap" set, as it is really spectacular. There was not much change in the area between 1951 and 1956 so I won't have to make any major structure changes to run my "El Capitan", the major change will be replacing the 2-10-2's and 4-8-4's with GP-7's and Alco RSD 4/5's. I will get a chance to place some newer vehicles on the layout during operating sessions. I have part of the Trinidad yard in, and am completing the track work past the Trinidad depot. Hopefully I will have a little operation going by the end of February. Remember the great clinics at Tim's Trains and Hobbies; I hope to see everyone in February.

Keep 'em rolling,

*Bruce*

## Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet-Valley Forge

March 23-25 Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet-Valley Forge at the Desmond Great Valley Hotel, Malvern, Pa .Registration \$35 Prototype clinics, vendors' room, model display room, Friday Op Sessions, Sunday layout tour. Contact Paul Backenstose, at [PRRpaul@aol.com](mailto:PRRpaul@aol.com), 610-269-2763, or visit [www.phillynmra.org](http://www.phillynmra.org) for details

## Woodland Scenics Up and Running

Woodland Scenics announced they are recovering and back to shipping product after a fire caused by an exhaust fan destroyed two of the seven buildings at their Linn Creek, MO facility.



## Next Meeting

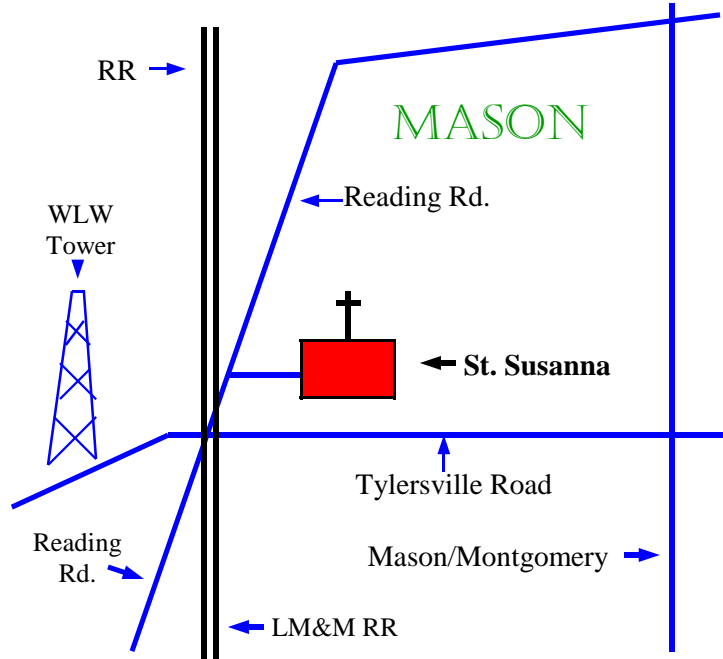
**2 PM Sunday February 12**

@  
**St. Susanna Church**  
**Mason, OH**

### Directions

**From I-75:** Take the Tylersville exit. Go East on Tylersville to Reading Rd. (Route 42) Turn left to St. Susanna on your right.

**From I-71:** Take the Mason/Montgomery exit. (after I-275) Turn left and go North on Mason/Montgomery to Tylersville Rd. Turn left and go West to Reading Rd. (Route 42) Turn right to St. Susanna on your



## 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>
Feb 12	St. Susanna Church Mason, OH	Doug Campbell Scratch Building Structures	Bob Lawson Ed Swain	<u>Models:</u> Passenger Cars <u>Photos:</u> RR Signs & Signals
Feb 16	Resurrection Church Lebanon, OH	Div. 7 Lebanon Sub	None	Show and Tell
Mar 15	Resurrection Church Lebanon, OH	Div. 7 Lebanon Sub	None	Show and Tell
Mar 17	Annual Spring Flea Market Lakota West Freshman School	None	None	None

### Around the Region

2/25-26	Great Train Expo	Hara Arena Dayton
3 /10-11	World's Greatest Hobby	Duke Energy Center
3/17	Div. 7 Swap Meet	Lakota W. School
3/22-24	Mid-west NG Conv.	Greenford, OH
4/26-29	MCR Regional Conv.	Pittsburgh, PA

### National

3/23-25	Prototype Modelers	Malvern, PA
5/4-5	National Z Ga. Conv	Denver, CO
6/27-7/1	National N Ga. Conv.	Medford, OR
7/18-21	National O Ga. Conv.	Parsippany, NY
7/29-8/4	NMRA National Conv.	Grand Rapids, MI
8/7-11	National S Ga. Conv.	Chattanooga, TN
9/12-14	National NG Conv.	Bellevue, WA

### Modeling Programs ? 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](http://www.cincy-div7.org)  
 MCR Web Site [www.midcentral-region-nmra.org](http://www.midcentral-region-nmra.org)