

THE

Oil Can

January, 2012



Volume VI Issue 1



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The Editors Corner

Don Phillips

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As years go, 2011 was pretty much of a flop economy wise. The clowns in Washington are still borrowing from China so they can give away billions in economic aid to foreign countries while they worry about how to give less to Americans. (Incidentally, one of those foreign countries that got economic aid from us last year was China)

As far as our division went it was an improvement over 2010 as income from the shows was back up taking a big load off of the budget. Two successful shows, a great bus trip to Indiana, a new Division 7 Master Model Railroader and the usual interesting clinics along with a lot of railroading extras in the Cincinnati area made for a good year railroad wise.

2012 is also shaping up to be another fun year. From the looks of the 2012 Program Schedule, Bob Shreve has been hard at work lining up some great clinics. Rumor has it that the Burchnell/Jarman team is putting the final touches on another of their super bus trips. In March, The World's Greatest Hobby show will be in Cincinnati and in July, The NMRA National Convention will be within driving distance at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

All that along with the new products Bruce says are coming on the market should make it a great time to be a modeler railroader. Stay tuned in and we'll keep you up to date on things as they come up.

Contents

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3 - Headlights | 8 - Competition Winners |
| 4 - 2nd Section
Raffle Blurb | 9 - Fiction & Fact |
| 5 - 2012 Calendar | 10 - Knapp's Notes
Carr Projects Report |
| 6 - 2012 Comp. Categories | 11 - Down the Line
Regional & National |
| 7 - Layout Visits | |

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.

The Cover

As the train crosses the high trestle over Myra Canyon, inspector Sawyer Bonnett is pointing out some improvements he wants the division maintenance super to take care of. The scene is from Jim Bonnett's highly scenic Canadian Pacific HO layout.

HEADLIGHTS

Randy Kerka
Superintendent

Back in the “Black”...

About this time last year I was laboring over exactly how to tell the general Division 7 membership that we were seriously over budget and what would have to be sacrificed to correct the situation and put us back in the black.

The gremlins that brought this about were a car project that was slow to take off, low Flea Market and Fall Show surpluses due to flagging attendance and unforeseen and substantially increased venue rental costs, and the ever present burden of publishing and mailing a hard copy *Oil Can* to about half the membership that still refuses to embrace the Email version.

As a result, to balance the budget for 2011 it was necessary to suspend some community service activities, namely book donations to libraries. We also severely cut the advertising budget for the Fall Show and held off bringing in Regional and National Clinicians for Division meetings.

Now for the good news!

Due to the hard work of many Division 7 members, most threats to our financial health are behind us. The rebirth of the Postcard Database Program and judicious use of advertising dollars has shown a marked increase in attendance at the Cincinnati Model Train Show and The Spring Flea Market. This has resulted in bringing the surpluses for both those events back to where they need to be! And, with some creative maneuvering with respect to car projects, slow sales are behind us and the future is bright!

This brings us to the biggest “100% expense” budget item we face. In 2010, *The Oil Can* cost a total of \$4,410.00 to publish and mail. 207 Division members or 69.5% of our membership still choose to receive the black and white USPS mailed version of the venerable *Oil Can*. That translates into a cost to the Division of \$21.30 for each Division 7 member still receiving it! (The Emailed version cost the Division exactly \$0.00.) Furthermore, the cost of Bulk Rate mail will soon go up. Since Division 7 receives exactly NONE of the monies that members spend to belong to the NMRA, the burden of financing the USPS mailed *Oil Can* falls directly to the Division. This is one big reason that any variations in “surpluses” from shows, car projects, raffles or anything else affects our budget so drastically.

Fortunately, a core group of about 50 Division members (17%) can always be counted on to volunteer and assist in the fund raising and non-fund raising activities that Division 7 either sponsors or otherwise offers as a benefit to members and the public in general. These folks ask no extra privileges or thanks though they certainly deserve it. They give of their time and always get the job done!

How can you help?

Maybe you are not inclined to get involved with these activities... I truly understand. And maybe you choose not to come to Division meetings to take advantage of the programs... I truly understand that too. But, if you still want to help the Division, here is a very simple way to do it. Let us know that you would like to **stop** receiving the USPS version of *The Oil Can* and **start** receiving the Email version. The email version has extra content including color pictures and three to four extra pages! Try it and if you don't like it... we will put you back on the old black and white USPS mailing list. (Assuming the US Postal Service stays in business!) Simply email “editor@cincy-div7.org” and tell Don to hook you up with the “*E-Can*”!

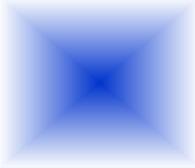
More good news...

Have you heard? Lou Sassi, nationally renowned free-lance photographer, author and modeler, will be here and presenting a clinic on November 4th, 2012. Just one more benefit of Division 7 membership!

See you on January 8th!

Randy

January, 2012



SECOND SECTION

Bob Shreve
Asst. Super

Happy New Year.

There was lots of food, drink, and pictures at our December meeting at the Westwood United Methodist Church. It was good to see Mike Mereness and John Altshool back at the meeting after recent illnesses. Thanks to Mike Brestel for making the arrangements for us to have our meeting there and handling the projectionist duties. Congratulations to Paul Musselman and John Buchnall for winning the engine raffles. Thanks to Jerry Strangarity and Dennis Malloy for hosting the layout visits after the meeting.

The January meeting will be at Harmony Lodge, home of the Cincinnati Model Railway Club. Bill Edwards has a new scenery clinic he is going to dry run for us before he takes it on a national tour. In honor of the meeting location, the monthly raffle will feature some O scale items. As usual, the CMRC layout will be open for visitors, and after the meeting Sam Swanson and Nancy Windes will show us some of their latest modeling efforts.

In February, the meeting will be in Mason. The clinician will be Pastor Doug Campbell. He is a regular attendee at the Lebanon sub meetings and builds some incredible scratch built structures. One of his structures is the engine house on the Gorre and Daphetid layout the Lebanon modeling group displayed at the train show in October. Layout visits are scheduled for Ed Swain and Bob Lawson.

Other clinicians on the schedule for 2012 include Allen McClelland, Dave Keith, Dave Puthoff, Mike Mereness, and Bob Weinheimer. See the program schedule elsewhere in this issue of the Oil Can.

Once again, I'm making my annual New Year's resolution to get the junk out of my basement and start building a layout. At least this past year I started putting some kits together and installed some decoders. Now I need to build some track to run them on. I'll let you know how that works out.

See you in January at Harmony Lodge..

Bob

John's Honest Raffle

John Shields

January is O Scale Raffle Month

January's meeting is at Harmony Lodge, home of the Cincinnati Model Railway Club, so we will shift our monthly raffle to HO and O Scale. Please help get the word out to all our fellow O scale members that we will have items especially to tempt them this month (or more precisely, to tempt some money out of their wallets and into the raffle kitty). The items include rolling stock, plus some other items; so the On30 guys will not be left out. We will still have the usual selection of HO items.

We had the drawing at the December meeting for our Fall Engine(s) Raffle. John Burchnall was the big winner of the HO Bachmann 2-8-0. Paul Musselman was the winner of the N Scale FMH16-44. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets, and a very special thank you again to those who donate items for our raffle, which in this case included the HO engine. Plus, I received several more items at the December meeting to help keep the pantry stocked for upcoming meetings.

Cincinnati Division 7 N.M.R.A. - 2012 Program Schedule

NOTE: ALL DATES, TIMES, AND EVENTS are subject to change. Check back often for updates

All REGULAR meetings begin at 2:00 PM

Month	Date	Location	Program/Speaker	Contests
Jan	01-8-12	Central Harmony Lodge – Winton Place	Bill Edwards Scenery Clinic	Models: MOW Equipment Photos: Passenger Trains
Feb	02-12-12	North – St. Susanna Mason	Doug Campbell Scratch Building Structures	Models: Passenger Cars Photos: RR Signs and Signals
Mar	03-17-12	Annual Spring Flea Market Lakota West Freshman School	None	None
Apr	04-15-12	Kenwood – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Allen McClelland The V & O Today	Models: On-line Dioramas Photos: Shots of Div. 7 Member Layouts
Apr	4-26 thru 4-29	MCR Regional Convention Pittsburgh, PA	Convention Clinics	Convention Contests
May	5-5-12	Div 7 Bus Trip to Columbus	None	None
June	06-10-12	East – Anderson Senior Center	Dave Keith Timetable / Train Order Operations	Models: Off-line Dioramas Photos: RR Personnel "Workin' on the Railroad"
July	07-8-12	Meeting in Colerain or Fairfield	Dave Puthoff Operating HO Scale Signals	Models: Flats or Gons with or without loads Photos: Trains at Servicing Facilities
July	7-29 thru 8-4	NMRA National Convention Grand Rapids, MI	Convention Clinics http://www.gr2010.org	Convention Contests
Aug	08-12-12	Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church	Mike Mereness Coal Traffic on Your Layout	Models: Thin Line Models (You supply support) Photos: RR Stations and/or Freight Houses
Sept	09-9-12	South – Northern Kentucky	Bob Weinheimer Getting Started in Operations	Models: Vehicles (Railroad related & marked) Photos: Diesel or Steam Locos (B&W or Color)
Oct	10-14-12	North – West Chester Library	Mini clinic / Bring & Brag	Bring 'N' Brag (or not!) (Models Only) Models: On-Line Structures Photos: Trains on Trestles or Bridges
Oct	10-27, 28??	Annual Fall Train Show Lakota West HS – West Chester	No planned Program or Speaker Lou Sassi	None
Nov	11-4-12	Far North West – Hamilton Senior Center or Ross school		Models: Tank Cars Photos: Caboose of any kind!
Dec	12-9-12	West – Westwood U. Methodist Church	Annual Pot Luck Slide Show	Models: Caboose Photos: "Fallen Flag" Rolling Stock

Model and Photo Competition Categories for 2012

MODELS:

Jan	MOW Equipment	
Feb	Passenger Car/s (this means any car in a passenger train consist such as head-end cars like Baggage, RPOs, etc.)	
Mar	No Contest – Flea Market	
Apr	On-Line Dioramas (Max. of 432 Sq. In.) By definition, this means <u>any</u> structure/s serviced by a railroad or owned by a railroad NOTE: this is not in a "thin-line" format.	
May	No Contest – Division 7 Bus Trip	
June	Off-Line Dioramas (Max. of 432 Sq. In.)	
July	Flat Cars, Hoppers or Gons with or without loads (this also includes covered hoppers)	
Aug	Thin-Line Models This is <u>not</u> in a diorama format <u>You</u> must have a means to support your entry.	
Sept	Vehicles (Non-Rail) This can be any vehicle found on a model railroad that <u>does not</u> run on the rails!	
Oct	Bring 'N' Brag – Structures (You do not have to "BRAG" about your entry---we're, however, giving you the opportunity if you want)	
Nov	Tank Cars	
Dec	Cabooses (of any type---conventional or "otherwise")	

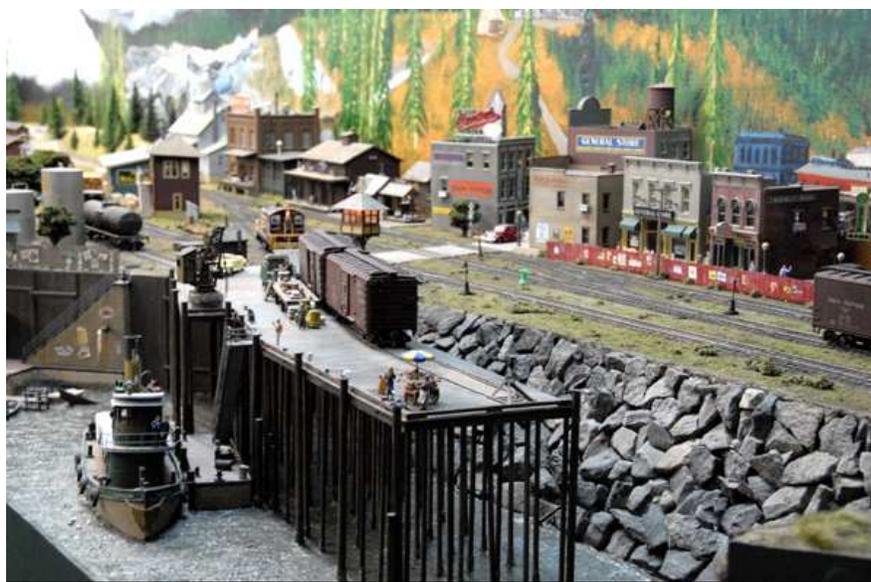
PHOTOGRAPHY:

Passenger Trains	(must show power unit/s and <u>at least</u> three (3) cars NOTE: can include head-end cars such as Baggage, RPOs, etc.)
Railroad Signs and Signals	(these entries will be on anything railroad related, but NOT on rolling stock such as engines, cars, etc.)
No Contest – Flea Market	
Shots of Division 7 Members' Layouts	(these entries can be taken by any NMRA member entering this NMRA member entering this competition, but the entry <u>must</u> be of a Division 7 Member's layout)
No Contest – Division 7 Bus Trip	
Railroad Personnel "Workin' on the Railroad"	
Trains at Servicing Facilities	Examples: Repair Shops, Roundhouses, Sanding Facilities, Coaling Towers, Water Towers, Ash Pits, etc.
Railroad Stations and/or Freight Houses	
B&W or Color Shots of Diesel or Steam Locomotives	
Trains on Trestles or Bridges	(must show power unit/s and <u>at least</u> three (3) cars NOTE: if freight, can include caboose, etc.; if passenger, can include head-end cars)
Cabooses	(of any type---conventional or "otherwise")
"Fallen Flag" Rolling Stock	By definition this means ANY rolling stock belonging to a road no longer recognized as an official carrier. A "Fallen Flag" has either been absorbed in a merger or no longer in existence. (Examples: Baltimore & Ohio, Pennsylvania RR, Vermont Central, etc.)

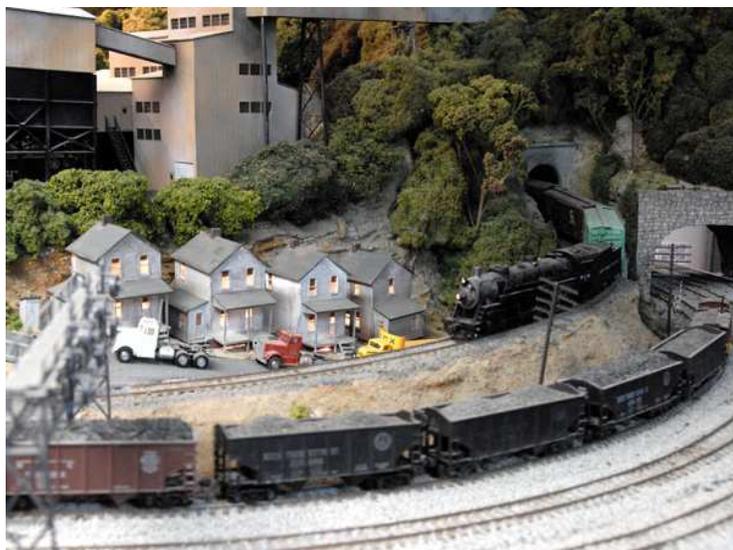
Member's Layouts



Rick Case



Jim Bonnett



Dennis Malloy

November Competition Winners



**1st Place Box Stock
Ron Gribler**



**1st Place Kit Bashed
Ron Gribler**



**1st Place Scratch Built
Virginia Dahlberg**

FICTION & FACT

Don Phillips

A Ride on the Dinner Train

Back in December, a friend and I spent an enjoyable Saturday evening on the Cincinnati dinner train. The trip starts at the BBQ Revue parking lot on Madison Road and heads towards downtown Cincinnati. The schedule calls for a departure of 6 PM and unlike Amtrak, at 6 PM the wheels were rolling. After passing Lunkin Airport, it turns and goes down along the Ohio River to the Montgomery Boat House. There it pauses for a while before returning to the BBQ parking lot some three hours after departing. Along the way our host called our attention to various points of interest all the while including interesting bits of Cincinnati railroad history. One place in particular that caught my attention was a stop we made at what had been Pennsylvania Railroad's Torrence Road passenger station that once stood near Eastern Avenue. Built in 1907, it featured an upper level connected to the track level by an elevator. It seems that then president William Howard Taft lived just up the hill from the station. The elevator was built specifically for Mrs. Taft who was an invalid and could this be more easily brought down to the track level for their frequent trips to Washington DC during his presidency. The station was torn down in 1933 when the Union Terminal opened.

The meal was superb. The menu listed three entrée choices: Prime Rib, Salmon and Boneless Chicken Breast and all three were served at our table of four. The portions were large and all four of us agreed our choices were excellent. I can personally vouch for the Prime Rib. Great! I topped it off with a big piece of some of the best New York Cheese Cake I've tasted in a long time. Fine dining at it's best with a little local railroad history thrown in for good measure.

The crowning point of the evening for me was a personal tour of the train by one of the owners. The tour wound up in the last car of the train which was a private car named "Oliver Hazard Perry". The car was built in 1954 by Pullman as a sleeping car for Canadian National's "Super Continental" and was originally named "Mount Resplendent". After several changes of owners and almost as many rebuilds, it was refurbished to it's present condition in 2000. The car features a Master Bedroom, two additional bedrooms with Captain's beds, two showers, a dining room with a kitchen equipped for full meal service and a spacious lounge. It's a railcar fit for a king, luxuriously furnished, paneled in Mahogany woodwork throughout and equipped with every luxury up to and including a wide screen plasma TV. Just getting to sit in it for a while and imagine what it would be like to take a trip across the country was worth the price of dinner. It sleeps six and is available in case you want to reserve it for your next vacation.

If you haven't been on the Dinner Train and your looking for something for a special occasion, I highly recommend it as a great railroad experience to be enjoyed right here in Cincinnati. It runs on Saturday nights all year long but because of it's popularity, if you want to try it, plan ahead. I had to make reservations three weeks in advance and at that I lucked out, it can usually run four weeks or more. Just keep trying and you might luck out as I did and catch a cancellation. It's worth the effort.

Check it out at: www.cincinnati-railway.com/dinnertrain/

Rocky Mountain Express

Another must railroad event is currently showing at the Cincinnati Museum Center's Omnimax Theatre at the Cincinnati Union Terminal. The film "Rocky Mountain Express" takes you on a steam train journey through the Canadian Rocky Mountains while telling the story of how the Canadian Pacific Railway built Canada's transcontinental railroad. Completed in 1885, the railroad passes through some of most spectacular scenery on the North American Continent. In addition the IMAX aerial photography is some of the best you'll ever see. Anyone with any interest in railroads at all should not miss this one. The film will only be there through the first week of February. If you go, take my advice and sit up high in the theatre to get the best effect.

December Competition Results

Sorry but the results for the December meeting's competition were not available at press time.

KNAPP'S NOTES

Bruce Knapp

Knapp's Musings to End 2011

I am very proud to see that John Shields has carefully preserved the same high standard for the raffle we inherited from Terry Judd. This month's raffle was one of the most honest ever, in the history of Division 7. I was especially happy to see that officers and committee chairs were the big winners [especially the locomotives]. I was pleased to pull Paul Musselman's ticket for the N scale locomotive. As my integrity has never been questioned [or even mentioned], I was a bit unhappy with some of the negative comments from a certain un-named individual who cast aspersions on my sterling character [see if we ever take you to the Pirate Show for your birthday again] It is indeed unfortunate that Ruth Ann lets John Burchnell out of the house without supervision. I know she will keep him under control for the May bus trip to Marion, Ohio. Ruth-Ann is a saint. There are a few other folks at the meeting who exhibited questionable behavior, but the WMPA team [Pat Homan and I] was there to keep an eye on them. We realize that poor Appalachian modelers can't help themselves.

All Aboard for Greensburg

November 6th was the NRHS trip to Greensburg, Indiana on the old "Big Four" [now the Central of Indiana]; as promised, I will make a few brief comments. The event was a trip back in time for all of us. There were a lot of Division 7 folks on the excursion; Keith and Martha Corman, Mike and Mary Brestle, Arlene and Paul Gahn to name a few. We departed from the site of the old Amtrak station and had a very leisurely 12-hour trip to Greensburg and back. The weather was beautiful, and a great time was had by all.

Topside Creeper

Last month, I mentioned Tom Brueggemann assisted me in securing a Micro-Mark [tm] Top-Side Creeper. Frank Koch [Frank's Finer Fleas] also has one for sale, at the unheard of price of \$50.00. Since the creeper currently lists new for more than \$225.00 [not counting shipping] this is a rare bargain. [I think Frank will autograph it for a slight fee] I have put mine to use and find it extremely helpful in accessing parts of the layout. Speaking of new products [nice segue, huh?] I picked up some "Never Stall" from Alex at DCC Trains [at his booth] and tried it on our test rack. I am VERY impressed as it made quick work of cleaning all the dirt and oxidation from the test track and kept it working flawlessly for the entire show. The product did everything Alex said it would. It is a bit "pricey" but it is well worth the investment in stall-free operation. Stop by the shop and pick up some; you will be satisfied. There are a lot of new products on the model railroad horizon, so the scheduled visit of **The World's Greatest Hobby** [March 10 & 11, 2012] should be an exciting event.

That's all for now; I hope everyone had a joyous and restful holiday. Keep 'em rolling!

Bruce

December 2011 Car Projects Report

Jim MacKnight

Our new Division 7 car project, Virginian & Ohio 50' plug-door box cars, in V&O blue, with "The Ridge Runner" slogan in white lettering, are now available. The 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 252 V&O boxcars during the first 3-1/2 months, mostly through mail order sales. We need to sell 4 more cars to break even, and be in the black for this car project. Our V&O boxcar announcement appeared in the December issue of the NMRA Magazine, on page 51, with a very nice photo and history.

We have sold 540 Allegheny Midland triple hopper car kits. We have a potential mail order for 4 Allegheny Midland triple hopper car kits in the mail, and have 27 car kits currently in inventory. Our goal is to sell a total of 587 AM cars.

Jim

Next Meeting

2 PM Sunday January 8

@

Harmony Lodge

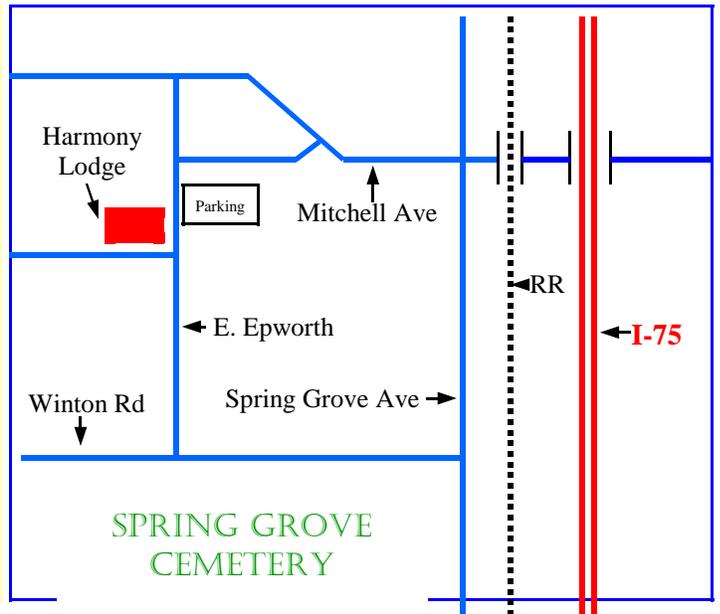
646 Epworth Ave. Winton Place

Directions

Directions:

from I-75 take Mitchell Ave west across Spring Grove to E. Epworth and turn left.
From Winton Rd. take E. Epworth north to Edgewood.

Limited parking is available in the lot across the street from the lodge.



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>
Jan 8	Harmony Lodge Winton Place	Bill Edwards Scenery Clinic	Cinn. Model Rwy Club Sam Swanson	<u>Models:</u> MOW Equipment <u>Photos:</u> Passenger Trains
Jan 19	Resurrection Church Lebanon, OH	Div. 7 Lebanon Sub	None	Show and Tell
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

Around the Region

1/15 Dayton Swap Meet Montgomery Fair Grnds
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

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

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Bruce Knapp (513) 941-2713

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Div. 7 Web Site www.cincy-div7.org
MCR Web Site www.midcentral-region-nmra.org