



PEDDLER FREIGHT

Division 1 - MCR - NMRA

Akron - Canton - Youngstown Division

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Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas and Wayne Counties

www.div1-mcr-nmra.org

Volume 32 - Issue 5

February 2025

Superintendent's Bulletin



Have you ever started on a project and as you went along it just didn't feel right? Well, I had this area on my layout that I wasn't sure what to do with, so it just sat there waiting to be used.

In the last two years I've become interested in Maintenance of Way, MOW, track equipment.

I originally parked the MOW equipment at the very end of an 11-foot-long yard lead track. At that

time, I only had 2 pieces of MOW track equipment which took only 1 ½ feet of that yard lead track. I now have 9 pieces of MOW track equipment which takes up about 6 feet of that 11-foot yard lead track. Well, the yard switching crews are complaining on the lack of head room for switching. So that unused area, which is about 8 feet long, became an idea site for the new MOW track equipment siding.

Plywood was cut and installed. Cork roadbed was installed and sealed with cheap gray paint. A switch was cut into the main line and track for the siding laid. At this point I was pleased at how quickly and easily the project was coming along. Before the MOW track equipment was moved to the new siding, the scenery needed to be done. The first step was to put down some plaster to shape the terrain. That was done easily. Next step was to paint the plaster once it was dry. That was also easily done. The next step was to put down scenic material to represent dirt, grass and weeds. This is where things went off track. One layer was put down and didn't look that great so another layer was added. Still didn't look that great so another layer was added, I decided to let things dry overnight and check it in the morning.

On day two I checked the new scenery and it was still wet and still didn't look great. My first thought was to let it sit and hopefully dry and look better the next day. I started to walk away and stopped. My inside voice told me that if the scenery didn't look good today wet it still wasn't going to look good dry tomorrow. And still being wet would be very easy to remove. The nearby putty knife called out to me and in 10 minutes the wet scenery materials were removed.

The point of this is to say that there will be times when you're working on a model railroad project and things are just not going as you want them. It's okay and probably a good idea to stop and do what you have to do to make it

look good. In the end, you'll be very happy with the result. The same goes with a completed model railroad project. Just redo it!

I'll show everyone the finished siding in an upcoming issue of the Peddler Freight.

All Aboard!!!

Jim DiPaola, Superintendent
NMRA, MCR, Division 1

T-TRAK Module Event News

The HO and N scale T-TRAK modules will be displayed at the 31st Annual Narrow Gauge Show. Division 1 member Gary Kohler, founder of Portland Locomotive Works, has secured a new location for this year's show with twice the space previously available and has invited the module group to bring as many modules as we want.

The show will be held at the Salem Friends Church from March 20 - 22. The public show starts at noon on Friday, March 21. We can begin setting up at 8:30 AM on Friday. The show hours on Saturday, March 22 are 9 AM to 3 PM.

Division 1 members who are assisting with the modules will receive free admission to the show. Each member is asked to volunteer an hour or two of their time to help with the show. Gary Kohler will be our contact for volunteering. We will also need to provide tables for this event which we will discuss at the February meeting.

Lloyd Horst will be at the February meeting with supplies for the Powerpole connections. Please bring your module(s) if you need the Powerpole connections, wiring, or track measurements checked for accuracy.

2024 - 25 Division 1 Events

Feb. 16 - Ravenna Township Meeting Hall
March 16 - TBD
April 20 - TBD
May 18 - TBD
June 22 - TBD

Division 1, MCR, NMRA
Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2025

1. Welcome:

- ~ Call to order: 2:05 PM.
- ~ By: Jim DiPaola, Superintendent.
- ~ Participants: 13 + 1 guest.
- ~ Location: Ravenna Township Offices.

2. Clerk: Jeff Stone:

- ~ Previous meeting minutes published in Peddler freight.
- ~ Motion to approve minutes, (Bob Anelli/Bob Gurdak) carried.

3. Treasurer: Mike Bradley:

- ~ Report presented by treasurer. Available on request.
- ~ Income: \$497 (Merchandise sold at Akron show) \$81 (50/50).
- ~ Expenses: \$107 (Peddler Freight) \$549.81 (Hartville Kitchen).
- ~ Motion to renew CD (Bruce Hukill/Bob Gurdak) carried.
- ~ Motion to approve treasurer report, (Sam Eisele/Jeff Stone) carried.

4. Superintendent: Jim DiPaola:

- ~ MCR Convention 2026 Dayton, 2027 Cincinnati.

4a. Assistant Superintendent: Sam Eisele: No report.

5. Peddler Freight Committee: Bruce Hukill: No report.

6. Membership Committee: Jim Peters: Currently 69 members.

7. Clinic Committee: Jim DiPaola: No report.

8. Achievement Committee: Lloyd Horst: No report.

9. Module Committee: Bruce Hukill and Bob Gurdak.

- ~ Bruce Hukill: Gary Kohler has invited us to set up at Narrow Gauge Convention in Salem, March 20-22.
- ~ Bob Gurdak: Please check wiring on your modules.
- ~ Bob Gurdak: We could use old iPads and phones to run layout and allow kids to run it.
- ~ Bob Gurdak: Canfield and Wooster shows full, no modules.
- ~ Invited back to Age Of Steam next December.

10. Facebook Committee: Jim DiPaola: No report.

11. Website Committee: Steve Zapytowski: No report.

12. Old Business: None.

13. New Business: None.

14. Bring and Brag:

- ~ Sam Eisele, piece of salvage turned into a furnace.
- ~ Patrick Wamsley, 2 blue box locomotives he has detailed with lights. (look great)

15. Good of the Order/Announcements:

- ~ 50/50 cash won by Bob Anelli, book won by Sam Eisele.

17. Adjournment:

- ~ Motion to adjourn carried (Bob Gurdak/Bruce Hukill) carried.
- ~ Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Post Meeting notes:

- ~ Sam "Tropicana" Eisele presented a clinic on palm tree building.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Stone
Clerk, Division 1.

T-TRAK Module Information Sheet

Module Name or ID

Code _____

Owner: _____

Module Description: _____

Module Design (place an "X" in the appropriate spaces):

Single		Double		Triple		Quad	
Corner		Inside Corner		Junction		180 Degree Corner	
Crossover		Siding		Skyboard			
Other							

Are ALL your modules displayed as one unit: NO ____ YES ____ Only some _____

Explain _____

Do modules need to be displayed with another person's modules? NO _____ YES _____

Explain _____

Electrical Information:

Kato/Tamiya Power Connectors	Y / N	Accessory Power Required	Y / N
Specify required volts/amps		UTP	Y / N
DCC Accessory Decoder	Y / N	Specify Type	
Date Constructed		Date of Certification	
Date of Major Alteration or Rehab		Date of Re-certification	

Module Condition (Place an "X" in the appropriate spaces):

	Excellent — scenery complete; no issues with scenery, wiring, track, etc.
	Good — scenery not complete; no issues with scenery, wiring, track, etc
	Fair — Under construction, nothing that prevents running trains.
	Unserviceable — major issues that are fixable; add estimated date for repairs
	Other comments on Module Configuration

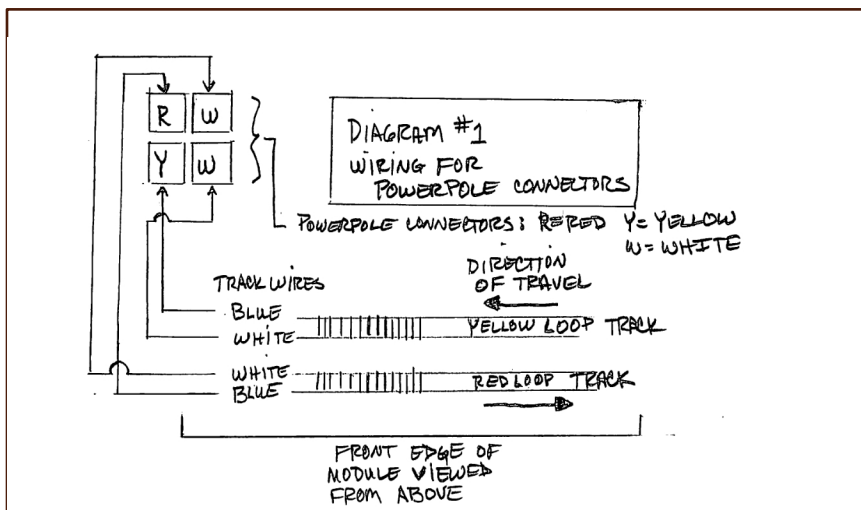
Please attach front photograph, top-down photograph and track plan if available.

MIS:04.22.24

Powerpole Connections on T-TRAK Modules

To help facilitate set-up of our modules at the next event, please check the wiring of your Powerpole connectors as well as the orientation of the connectors within the white plastic housing. Diagram #1 shows the proper wiring for both tracks to the Powerpole connectors. Note that the “red loop” represents the outside track (toward the front of the module) and the direction of travel on this loop is intended to be counter-clockwise. The “yellow loop” represents the inside track and the direction of travel is intended to be clockwise. Photo #1 shows the proper orientation of the Powerpole connectors within the white plastic housing as viewed from the back of the module. Let me know if you need help or have any questions. Thanks for your cooperation.

Bob Gurdak
NMRA MCR Div 1 Module Committee
Eastern Division Chair



(above) Photo #1 shows the correct orientation of the Powerpole connectors on the back of a T-TRAK module.

(left) Diagram #1 showing the correct wiring for rack leads to Powerpole connectors for a T-TRAK module with the standard Blue-White-White-Blue wiring.

photo and illustration by Bob Gurdak

31ST ANNUAL NARROW GAUGE SHOW. FIRST FRIENDS CHURCH, 1028 JENNINGS AVE., SALEM, OH 44460. MARCH 20-22, 2025.

31st Annual Narrow Gauge Show registration for attendees and vendors. Show schedule as follows:

Thursday evening setup 6-9PM.
Friday setup 830, show opens noon.
Early entry and registration are open.

Saturday setup 8-9AM, show opens at 9. Show closes at 3PM.

Layouts, displays contact us with your needs.

Model contest is open.

On site food.

If you wish to present a clinic, contact us.



<https://shop.portlandlocomotiveworks.com/13-31st-annual-narrow-gauge-show>

Sam's Easy Peasy

What to do With a Million Legos?

by Sam Eisele

Last summer, I was wandering around a flea market, looking for my next treasure. After about half an hour in the desert sun, there it was. Stuck beside a worn out pair of snow tires under a table piled high with hot wheels and action figures! It was probably the biggest tub of Legos I've ever seen!



Sam Eisele's million piece Lego flea market treasure. Now, what to do with the find?

"Sold" I replied. Before you know it I'm lugging this huge tub of Legos back to my truck. Of course I'm parked a mile away. It's 95° and uphill...

After getting back to my truck with my prize of the day well most of them. (remember no lid) I started for home. On the way home it dawned on me - just what are you going to do with a million - maybe a few less - remember no lid Legos. I don't know but I got a great deal.



Sam used Evergreen metal siding for his small building scene.

I'm not necessarily a Lego fan, but I know they are supposed to be good for building stuff according to my brother Mike. There had to be a million of them. Before I knew it I'm asking the nice man in the NASCAR hat and Busch Beer T-shirt how much? "Twenty dollars," he says, "but there isn't a lid to the tub - as is."

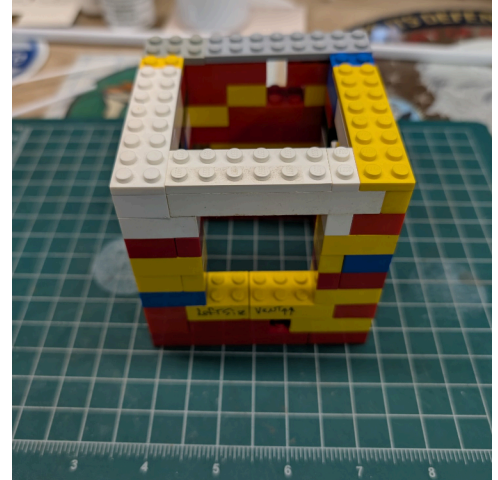
After I got home. I dragged them down to my train room in the basement. As I sat and looked at my newly acquired bonanza it started to hit me. A million Legos in a tub with no lid makes up a fair amount of real estate. As I tripped over the tub at seemingly every turn I was beginning to question my flea market choice - maybe the mystery pack of baseball cards would've been a better choice. There were only 10 cards in the pack.

With winter finally here I've been able to spend some

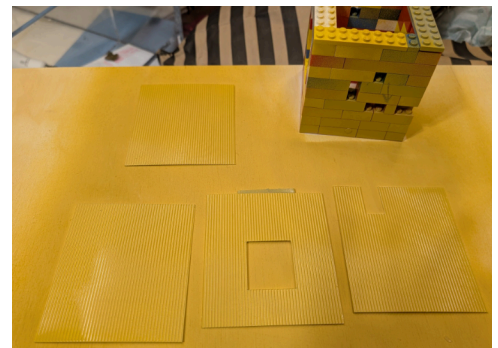
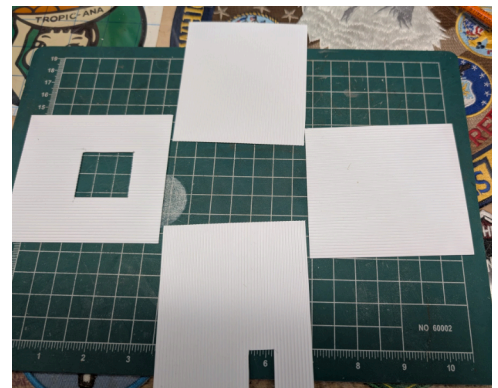
more time modeling.

I needed a small building for a scene I've been working on. Looking through my stuff - after moving the tub of Legos - with no lid - I came across a package of [Evergreen Metal Siding](#). That will work great I thought. Now this styrene metal siding is pretty thin. What can I make a frame out of to support the walls? Then the eureka moment hit me - Legos - Easy Peasy!!!

According to my brother Mike Legos are perfectly square, they lock together, they're nearly indestructible and I have a million of them! I set about digging through the tub - it was easy - no lid. Before long I had the skeleton assembled. I decided where the exhaust fan and door were going and a few cuts later, we're ready to assemble.



(above) Sam's Lego skeleton takes form. A perfect justification for that flea market find. (below) The walls are ready to go with the openings for the door and exhaust fan cut out.



(above) The wall sections with paint applied.

After building the skeleton and test fitting the walls, time to rattle can some paint. While the paint was drying I went to my supply and got:

- Evergreen Styrene #293 angle to enclose the corners
- Evergreen Styrene #295 angle to make a roof cap
- Piece of Gator Board for the roof
- Exhaust fan louvers - from scrap box
- Man door sticker - leavinamark.com

After the paint dried I installed the exhaust fan into the wall. My next question was how to attach the walls to the Lego skeleton? I settled on 3M Spray Adhesive. Never used it before but I figured if I screwed it up, I still have about 900,000 Legos left...

I'm pretty happy with the end result. If you saw the article in "Model Railroader" about Rod Stewart's layout - you saw the fabulous buildings and those skyscrapers. I think I know his secret... He probably got the million piece Lego set and probably paid extra to get the lid. Sir Rod Stewart - I've got a few leftover Legos that I'll make you a great deal on... no lid though.

(right) Sam's Lego skeleton with styrene siding structure painted with some details applied. The improved palm tree behind the building is material for Sam's next *Easy Peasy* column, so tune in next month.



Buckeye Express Coming to Columbus Division 6 to host MCR Convention May 15 - 18

The Mid Central Region cordially invites you to join us for the 90th anniversary of the NMRA in its original home - Columbus, Ohio. The *Buckeye Express* will feature a wide range of clinics, operating sessions, layout tours (including a trip to a 7 1/2" inch gauge scale live steam operation), photo and model contests, T-TRAK, company store, swap meet, and more. Additionally, the Columbus area features three hobby shops specializing in model trains, plus two of the premier shopping areas in the Midwest (including IKEA). Nonrail activities include tours of the Ohio Stathouse, art museum, and more. Click below for details.

<https://buckeyeexpress.div6-mcr-nmra.org>

THIS MONTH'S MEETING
Sunday, February 16, 2025
Ravenna Township Meeting Hall
6145 Spring Street
Ravenna, OH 44266

Bring your T-TRAK module if you want to check it to the standards, share your craft or tips, or just have questions.

Bring a snack to share and a drink of your own.

Sale table will be available.

Please bring your Bring-N-Brag items to share.

2 PM

13th Year



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Northwestern Oregon Circa 1912 — HO and HO_n3



Pittsburgh, Youngstown & Ashtabula Railroad
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DAVIES STEEL

216.402.8507

LS & MJ Railroad
Little Scioto & Mingo Junction



Jim Peters
Interested in operation send email:
jpeters711@yahoo.com

Train Shows and Open Houses

Medina Train & Toy Show - February 2

Medina Fairgrounds, Medina, OH 44256
Admission: \$6.00 9 AM - 3 PM

Iron and Steel Winter Train Show - Feb. 8

St. Mary's Assumption Social Center
356 S. Belle Vista Ave., Youngstown, OH 44509
Admission: \$7.00, under 16 free 10 AM - 3 PM

Canfield Train and Toy Show - Feb. 15

Canfield Fairgrounds, new Event Center
7265 Columbiana, Canfield, OH 44406
Admission: \$7.00 10 AM - 3 PM

Independence Train Show - Feb. 22

The Independence High School Fieldhouse
6001 Archwood Rd., Independence, OH 44131
Admission: \$7.00 10 AM - 3 PM

Akron Train and Toy Show - March 9

Emidio's & Sons Expo Center
48 E. Bath Road at State Rd, Cuyahoga Falls 44223
Admission: \$5.00 9 AM - 3 PM

Div. 5 Railfest Model RR Show - March 15-16

Lakeland Community College
7700 Clocktower Dr., Kirtland, OH 44094
Admission: \$9.00 10 AM - 4 PM

Wooster Train and Toy Show - March 15

Wayne County Fairgrounds, Wooster, OH
48 E. Bath Road at State Rd, Cuyahoga Falls 44223
Admission: \$7.00 10 AM - 3 PM

31st Annual Narrow Gauge Show - March 20-22

First Friends Church, 1028 Jennings Ave.,
Salem, OH 44460
Admission: \$20.00 for all days
Fri. 12 - 3 PM, Sat. 9 AM - 3 PM

Division 1 T-TRAK modules will be running.

TCA - Spring Show - March 29

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds
164 Eastland Rd., Middleburg Heights, OH 44017
Admission: \$6.00 10 AM - 3 PM

Medina Train & Toy Show - April 6

Medina Fairgrounds, Medina, OH 44256
Admission: \$6.00 9 AM - 3 PM

Youngstown Model RR Assoc. Show - April 6

Parish Center, 4490 Norquest Blvd. Austintown 44151
Admission: \$7.00 9 AM - 3:30 PM

PEDDLER FREIGHT SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Division 1 has moved to email publishing of the Peddler Freight. There is no cost for the email Peddler Freight. However, if you want to receive the Peddler Freight by regular mail, Division 1 requests that you subscribe in order to support the cost of printing and mailing. Under current rules, you will NOT be denied a copy of the Peddler Freight if you do not subscribe, but your support for Division 1 would be appreciated.

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Akron, OH 44307

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First Class

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Treasurer	- Michael Bradley	330-325-7622

Division 1 Appointees

Clerk	- Jeff Stone	330-356-0486
PF Editor	- Bruce Hukill	330-571-4037

Division 1 Volunteer Positions

Achievement Program	- Lloyd Horst	330-465-7402
Apparel	- OPEN	
Christmas Dinner	- Jim DiPaola	330-297-5571
Clinics	- Jim DiPaola	330-297-5571
Exhibitions	- Matt Woods	330-465-8724
	- Lloyd Horst	330-465-7402
Membership	- Jim Peters	216-402-8507
Modules:		
West Div. Chair	- Lloyd Horst	330-465-7402
East Div. Chair	- Bob Gurdak	330-506-8550
Webmaster	- Steve Zapytowski	330-715-3444

Who to contact in Division 1 and the NMRA**Mid-Central Region**
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Email: mcprez@nmra.org**National Model Railroad Association**
President - Gordon Robinson
Email: president@nmra.orgThe **Peddler Freight** is published each month September through November and January through June. Opinions expressed in this issue may not represent the opinions of the Peddler Freight Editor, Division 1, MCR or the NMRA.