



PEDDLER FREIGHT

Division 1 - MCR - NMRA

Akron - Canton - Youngstown Division

Serving Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Mahoning, Portage, Stark,
Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas and Wayne Counties

www.div1-mcr-nmra.org

Volume 32 - Issue 4

January 2025

Superintendent's Bulletin



Hello and welcome to 2025. I hope everyone in Division 1 had a nice Christmas and received a gift for your layout or did something fun for your model railroad hobby. It will be interesting to see what new items are introduced into our hobby in 2025 especially related to 3D printing and laser cutting. And don't forget the upcoming train shows and NMRA Regional and National conventions. If possible, try and make the NMRA

Conventions and any railfanning a family event. One year when my daughters were much younger, I took them and my wife to a NMRA National convention. They had a clinic on making trees and my wife and daughters attended the clinic and brought home trees which are still on the layout today.

If anyone thinks that our model railroading is stagnant, I offer you to check out a video on YouTube.

Ken Patterson hosts ["What's Neat This Week In Model Railroading" and they are up to #299](#). This #299 is a must watch video that will get one seeing where our hobby is headed in the print media department. Craig Fuller is the owner of Firecrown Media which purchased the assets of Kalmbach Publishing in 2024. And in my opinion, Firecrown and Craig Fuller will breathe new life into Model Railroader and Trains Magazines. From reading articles and watching the What's Neat video #299 we will see more content and better quality magazines in 2025. And Mr. Fuller has some interesting thoughts on the upcoming younger model railroaders. Please check out [Firecrown Media](#).

Sam Eisele and I are working on new places to host our Monthly Division 1 gatherings. We have several locations in the works but nothing firm yet. Our hope is that we hold our gatherings someplace that has a layout to view or is railroad related. Please contact Sam or me if you can help. Our January gathering will be held at the Ravenna Township meeting room, 6145 Spring Street, Ravenna, OH 44266. Sale and display tables will be available. For Bring N Brag please bring something that you either received as a Christmas gift or something you built. See you on January 19, 2025.

All Aboard!!!
Jim DiPaola, Superintendent
NMRA, MCR, Division 1



T-TRAK Module Event News

Many visitors waiting to ride the steam powered train with Santa Claus at the Age of Steam Roundhouse first visited the Division 1 HO scale T-TRAK layout. The youngster pictured above intently studies a mixed freight as it passes through Jerry Kruse's fine grain elevator scene. The trains ran well, several Division 1 members shared the throttles eager engineers and one young man even brought a train to run on the layout. Bob Gurdak's article about the day with Santa at the Age of Steam Roundhouse is on page 6.

2024 - 25 Division 1 Events

- Jan. 19 - Ravenna Township Meeting Hall
- Feb. 16 - TBD
- March 16 - TBD
- April 20 - TBD
- May 18 - TBD
- June 22 - TBD

**Division 1, MCR, NMRA
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2024**

1. Welcome:

- ~ Call to order: 2:05 PM.
- ~ By: Jim DiPaola, Superintendent
- ~ Participants: 19.
- ~ Location: Ravenna Township Offices.

1a. Special Guest: Ken McDonough

- ~ Presented a briefing on the 2025 MCR Convention in Dublin OH.
- ~ May 15 - 18, Embassy Suites Dublin, OH.

2. Clerk: Jeff Stone:

- ~ Previous meeting minutes published in Peddler freight.
- ~ Motion to approve minutes, (Steve Zapytowski/Rich Ramskugler) carried.

3. Treasurer: Mike Bradley:

- ~ Report presented by treasurer. Available on request.
- ~ Income: \$497 (Merchandise sold at Akron show) \$22 (50/50).
- ~ Expenses: None.
- ~ Motion to approve treasurer report, (Bob Gurdak/Steve Zapytowski) carried.

4. Superintendent: Jim DiPaola:

- ~ Holiday dinner, December 7, 12:00, Hartville Kitchen. Entertainment: magic show, *The Great Gurdako!*

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

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

6. Membership Committee: Jim Peters: Not present.

7. Clinic Committee: Jim DiPaola: No report.

8. Achievement Committee: Lloyd Horst: No report.

9. Module Committee: Lloyd Horst: No report.

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, scale logs from a Rhododendron bush.
- ~ Matthew Albright, Alco S2 models. (look great)
- ~ Jeff Stone, 3D print helium car kit.

15. Good of the Order/Announcements: None.

17. Adjournment:

- ~ Motion to adjourn carried (Lloyd Horst/Steve Zapytowski).
- ~ Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Post Meeting notes:

- ~ Jim Peters presented a clinic on operations.

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

Sam's Easy Peasy

by Sam Eisele

This month's project started out with the need for some signs for a recently completed building. Since my layout is the Tropicana Northern you shouldn't be surprised that I needed signs for the fruit industry.

Remembering that my brother Mike Bradley made me some fantastic signs for my Tropicana plant, I thought, there's my source. Mike has a really nice printer and he knows how to use it! He very graciously agreed to help me. I sat down with Mike, he pushed a few buttons (Google) and before you know it there were hundreds of examples to choose from. We picked a few and printed them out on photo paper.

This whole project came primarily out of my scrapbox.



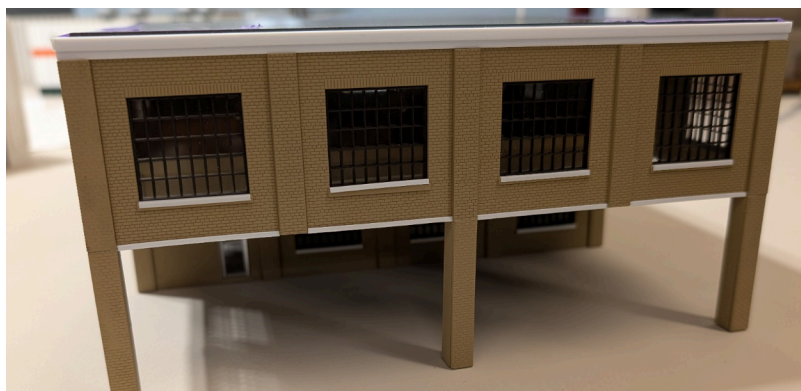
Following are the items needed:

- a reasonable well stocked scrapbox.
- a computer and printer or a really nice friend with both.

I cut four lengths of 1/4" square styrene. (that's what was in the scrapbox) I didn't want a flat two-sided sign.

Now make a square slightly smaller than the cut out signs. Use glue dots to mount the signs - Easy Peasy - you too can make great looking signs. Give it a try!

Many thanks to Mike Bradley for his assistance and be assured that no computers or printers were harmed in the process of this project.



(clockwise from top) Sam Eisele's kitbashed structure with his -Easy Peasy- sign installed.

The structure without the sign.

Sam wanted signage for his kitbashed building. Mike Bradley helped Sam by printing a variety of signs in different sizes.

Sam's scrapbox once again proved invaluable. All leftover parts always go into the scrapbox.



“The Great Gurdako” Amazes at Christmas Luncheon

by Sam Eisele

Those in attendance at the Christmas Luncheon at Hartville Kitchen were greatly entertained by “The Great Gurdako,” the physician magician, or as we know him Bob Gurdak. We were treated to nearly an hour of high level magic. Thanks to Bob for the hard work he put into preparing a very professional performance.



The Great Gurdako performs a feat of magic as treasurer Michael Bradley serves as witness.

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



Ken McDonough, representing Division 6, gives a short presentation at the November Div. 1 meeting on *The Buckeye Express*. The 2025 MCR Convention will be May 15-18, 2025.

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

HO T-TRAK Modules displayed at Age of Steam

On Saturday December 14, members of MCR Division 1 exhibited the HO T-TRAK modular layout at the visitor center of the Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum in Sugarcreek, Ohio from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. The Age of Steam was running their Santa Train which attracted a very large and enthusiastic crowd. We estimate that 200 - 250 children and adults viewed the layout either before or after their train ride and it was well received. Several of our members interacted with the kids allowing them to blow the engine horn or turn headlights on and off. Parents and grandparents alike, as well as AOS staff members, were very appreciative of our efforts.

Set up of the layout was facilitated by Lloyd Horst who went down to AOS on the prior Thursday to arrange the tables and set up the Rolling Command Station and necessary cables. Thanks in part to Lloyd's efforts, we had the layout up and running in just under two hours. This setup revealed a few kinks that need to be ironed out to help make our future setups run more smoothly. One of these is that not all the modules have the proper wiring to the power pole connectors. If you are in doubt about the wiring of your module, please bring it to the next meeting so that it can be checked. Other minor problems will be discussed at our next meeting. Hopefully events like this will motivate those of us who have not started or completed scenery for our modules to "get on track!" Thanks to everyone who participated in this event!

Bob Gurdak
East Division Module Chair



This young man (above) gets close and low to check out the corner modules with Jerry Kruse's in progress snowshed themed scenery. Bob Gurdak (above right) works with a junior engineer showing him which button to push for the train horn. (right and middle right) The Age of Steam Santa Train brought in train fans of all ages and many were awed by the Division 1 T-TRAK layout.

January 2025 Module Report

For 2024 the modules were only displayed twice. At the Route 30 Express in November and the Age of Steam's Christmas with Santa on December 14. The Route 30 Express setup was at the Wayne County Public Library in Wooster. I felt that we had a good turnout. The HO modules formed a complete layout and there was room for an even larger layout. The N scale modules were configured as a switching display as we do not have the corner modules completed.

We had 1-1/2 hours to set up before the public was admitted. Having plenty of help we proved that we can set up the modules the same day of a show providing we have 1-1/2 to 2 hours.

Division 1 has been invited back for 2025. The room in the library is large enough for us to display all of our modules in both scales. So in your planning for 2025 keep in mind the Route 30 Express and the need for all of our modules to be ready to go with scenery and bullet proof track and wiring. Bob Gurdak is writing about the Age of Steam event. Dan Condo of AOS is pleased with Division 1 and wants us back for 2025. The layout will be the same size of 8 feet by 13 feet.

At the Route 30 Express, there was some confusion on the correct way to use the bus cords and pigtails. This was due to the fact that I did not explain it properly. The pigtails are the taps to connect to the modules. To eliminate any confusion, I made sure the Power Poles were oriented correctly. Then I connected one pigtail to each bus cord in a permanent connection. Future bus cables will not have separate pigtails. The module taps will be permanently attached to each bus cable.

Bob Gurdak, Bruce Hukill, and I welcome your suggestions about local events in your area where we could display the Division 1 modules.

Lloyd Horst
Module Chair
330-465-7402
trainmodler@gmail.com



(top) Jerry Kruse, (l-r) Bob Gurdak, Glenn Yoder and Bob Ashley, Jr. chase down a short. It was determined to be a polarity problem on one of the modules. (above center) Bob Gurdak talks with a young train enthusiast. A young man (above) takes a video of the Division 1 HO T-TRAK layout. Jerry Kruse (left) passes around a throttle so kids could blow the horn and ring the bell on passing locomotives.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING
Sunday, January 19, 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



MICHAEL L. BRADLEY
LUTCF, CISR



BRADLEY INSURANCE AGENCY

WWW.MBRADLEY.COM

851 W. Main St.
Ravenna, OH 44266
Email: michael@mbradley.com

Phone: (330) 296-7622
Fax: (330) 296-7672

THE
**TILLAMOOK
& ASTORIA**
RAILROAD COMPANY




Northwestern Oregon Circa 1912 — HO and HO₃

Steve Zapytowski, MMR 612
Division 1, MCR, NMRA
330-678-4583
szapytowski@neo.rr.com
www.div1-mcr-nmra.org/steve-zapytowski








Pittsburgh, Youngstown & Ashtabula Railroad
www.pyamodelrailroad.com

Jim DiPaola
3201 Summit Road, Ravenna, OH 44266-9018
330-577-6052
Chief1RTRFD@aol.com





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

Snow Dog Train Show - January 4, 2025

Emidio's & Sons Expo Center
48 E. Bath Road at State Rd, Cuyahoga Falls 44223
Admission: \$6.00 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

Youngstown Model RR Assoc. - January 5

Train Flea Market, Parish Center
4490 Norquest Blvd., Austintown, OH 44515
Admission: \$7.00 10 AM - 3:30 PM

Independence Train Show - Feb. 22

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

TCA Winter Train Meet - January 25

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds
164 Eastland Rd., Middleburg Heights, OH 44017
Admission: \$6.00 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

Medina Train & Toy Show - February 2

Medina Fairgrounds, Medina, OH 44256
48 E. Bath Road at State Rd, Cuyahoga Falls 44223
Admission: \$6.00 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

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

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

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.

SUBSCRIPTION COST: \$5.00 for the publishing year September, 2024 through June, 2025. Make checks payable to: Division 1 - MCR - NMRA

Mail to: Bruce Hukill, editor
901 Wicket Dr.
Akron, OH 44307

Name _____

Address _____

PIKE AD: \$5

City _____ Zip _____

EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION (Free)

Email _____

Subscription preference: Mail _____ Email _____

PEDDLER FREIGHT

901 Wicket Drive
Akron, OH 44307

Publication of Division 1 - MCR - NMRA
The Akron, Canton, Youngstown Division

First Class

Division 1 Officers

Superintendent	- Jim DiPaola	330-297-5571
Asst. Supt.	- Sam Eisele	330-322-3487
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	
Webmaster	- Steve Zapytowski	330-715-3444

Who to contact in Division 1 and the NMRA

Mid-Central Region
President - Dave Neff
Email: mcprez@nmra.org

National Model Railroad Association
President - Gordon Robinson
Email: president@nmra.org

The **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.

