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## Super Saying

NMRA Conventions are like model railroad layouts: each one is unique. Each is influenced by the preferences of members of the organizing group; by the facilities in which it is held; and by the rail, industrial, and recreational environment of the region.

MCR's 2004 Regional Convention was at Pittsburgh last month, sponsored by Division 2. Attendance by MCR members was lackluster, but significant numbers of Mid East Region members attended, which helped the financial outcome substantially. There were at least seven Division 3 members there, maybe more.

The convention committee had 38 clinics scheduled, some more than once, for a total of 58 clinic sessions. There were clinics on old railroads, current railroads, narrow gauge lines, short lines, not-so-short lines, layout design, layout operation, trackside detailing, freight yard detailing, freight car detailing, diesel detailing, modeling with wood, modeling with styrene, backdrop painting, and more. There was even a wine-tasting clinic. Ray Persing presented two excellent clinics, "Scratch building in Wood," and "The Dayton and Troy Electric Railway Company."

There were five prototype

and industrial tours available. The one I was most interested in, a tour of a galvanizing plant and steel furnaces, was full. My fault. I didn't send in the reservation form before the convention. If you like prototype tours, get your reservation in as early as you can.

There were also the contests, silent auction, switching layout and banquet. I enjoy looking at the contest models, but feel both admiration and humility bordering on self-loathing. I missed what Ray won in the contests, but have no doubt that he won. We'll have found out at the Division meeting May 23rd, which has not yet happened as I write this.

Sunday, twenty-seven layouts were open for viewing. The convention committee provided descriptions and maps, so that folks could stop and visit on the way home.

I had a great time. My only regret about this convention is that there were very few activities planned or described for the non-rail attendees. Some of the MCR conventions do better at this, and a few do very well. It helps attendance. The 2005 National Convention Committee (Cincinnati) has a very extensive non-rail agenda planned.

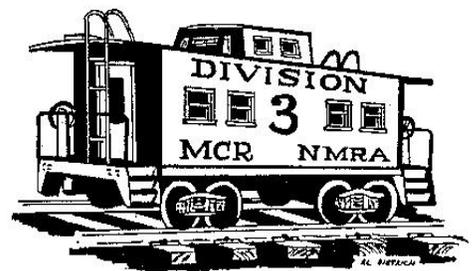
On Sunday, before visiting layouts, Phyllis and I went downtown. For almost as long as

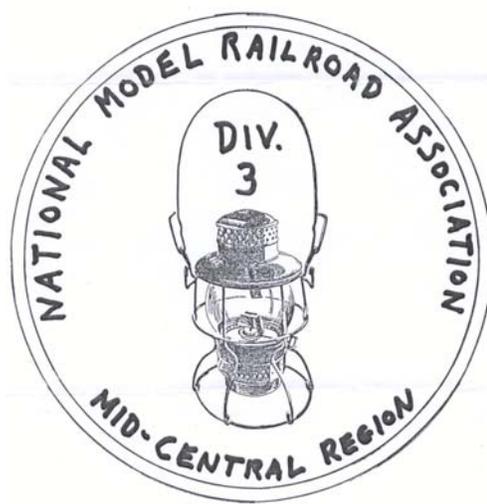
I have known about it, I have wanted to see the confluence where the Ohio River is formed. Point State Park, sitting in the vee bounded by the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, provided an excellent view. Had it not been an overcast day, we would have been inclined to ride the incline (sorry) high up the South bank of the Ohio, for what is said to be a spectacular view of the area.

Our Division 3 meeting in June will be a joint meeting with Division 7, and the speaker will be Allen McClelland. After the meeting we will visit Allen's home, and see his progress on the new V&O. Look for maps elsewhere in this issue.

See you Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, a week earlier than usual.

John





### November Show Help Wanted

Division 3 is looking for volunteers to demonstrate their model railroad talents to the public attending the annual train show. These clinics do not need to last during the entire day. 3 or 5 times a day each lasting 5 to 10 minutes would be perfect. Track laying, building structures, kit bashing structures, decaling rolling stock, trees and scenery are some of the demonstrations that have been done in past years. If you have a different topic feel free to present it. If you can't do a demonstration both days, why not one day or part of the day. You don't have to be a public speaker. Most of the time is spent one on one. We will have table space on an elevated platform for these demonstrations. Contact Ron Dietrich (937) 548-4780

**Free to a Good Home**  
As a former Division member, I have some layout components (tabletop, layout paint, etc.) that would be available free to a Division member. Bill Craig (937) 390-0211

### Division Shirt Logo

The logo and shirt designs were discussed at the May meeting. The Lantern logo submitted by George Ardwin was selected by popular vote. The other selections are:

- Polo shirt with pocket
  - Silk screened logo
  - Green shirt
  - Yellow or gold logo
  - Logo on front and back
- The estimated cost is at least \$15. There will be an initial run with reservations and a quantity to be made available through the Company Store.

### Raffle Layout Construction

Construction is getting underway on the November train show raffle layout. The layout is being constructed at the Greene County Historical Society in Xenia. The current schedule is for construction to occur on the first and third Saturday starting in June. There are building kits available for assembly. Contact Jim Foster for more information.

# Contest

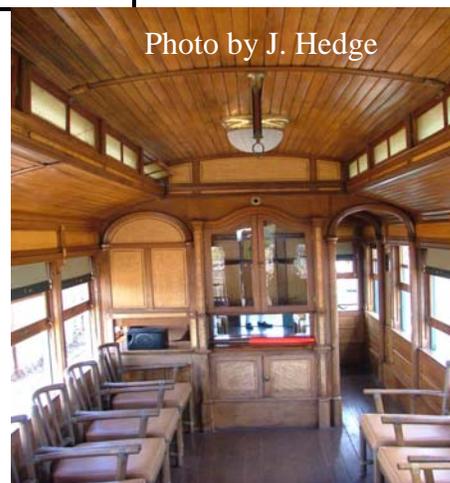
## May Non Revenue

You are allowed up to 3 entries per contest. You do not have to be a member of the NMRA to participate in the popular vote contest.

June                      No Contest                      July                      Scene (Any Size)

May Non Revenue			
Models		Photos	
1	Ray Persing	1	Nick Folger
2	Bill Spinks	2	J. Hedge
3	Richard Davoust	3	J. Hedge

Date	Location	Contest	Program	Layout
13 June (2nd Sunday)	Ramada Inn Miamisburg, OH	No Contest	Update on V&O By Allen McClelland	V&O by Allen McClelland Virginia Southern by Wes Reece
18 July	Masonic Home Springfield, OH	Scene	Raffle Layout	Fred Schneider



### Promoting the Hobby

There are different ways to promote model railroading. But maybe this idea will catch on. When my wife was having surgery in a local hospital I was sitting in the waiting room. When I reached for a magazine I noticed it was last years issue. On a return trip to the hospital I took an armful of model railroad magazines and left them on a table. It was not very long until 10 or 15 people were enjoying them. I don't know if we got any more people interested in the hobby, but it sure could not hurt, and it is one way to clear out all of your unused maga-

### Layout Tour Signs

The Division has 8 real estate signs available. These can be turned into open house signs with a little paint and lettering. Delivery can be arranged. Contact J. Hedge (937) 878-2391

### 100 Years ago in *The Railway Age* (April,1904)

#### Rail Trespassing

It is daily becoming evident that some means of preventing trespassing on railroad right of way is necessary. The average American seems to think he has an inalienable right to use railway track for highway, sleeping, or other purposes. During the present winter many railroads have been greatly incommoded by numbers of women who frequent the tracks for gathering up coal which has dropped from cars en route. Singularly enough, many of these women wear red skirts, with the result that frequently trains are brought to a sudden stop by the engineman's discovery of what he takes to be a danger signal. An engineman rounding a curve sees a flash of red. He has no time to wait to discover whether it is a skirt or danger signal, but instantly puts on the emergency, with inconvenient and sometimes serious results to passengers. Frequently, too, trespassers, as well as others, are killed or injured. It would seem the time has come for a vigorous railway campaign to suppress the practice. While it would constitute a considerable item of expense, it is believed that it would pay to arrest and prosecute everyone found occupying the railroad right of way without proper authority.

*Ed: Trespassing is still a problem and as modelers and railfans it is important that our hobby activities do not add to the problem.*

### June Program

The clinic shows the latest version of the new Virginian and Ohio Railroad, now under construction. It will show new design considerations and unique construction techniques including the use of computers for track planning and construction drawings and an overview of concepts for prototype operation. Allen will conclude this program with prize-winning photos of the original V&O layout.

### June Layout Open Houses

The Virginia Southern, by Wes Reece, is a point-to-point railroad terminating on the southern end at Bluefield and Marion, Virginia, winding its way through the mountains and valleys of central West Virginia, and terminating at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on the northern end. Towns in-between have not been named yet.

The railroad is constructed in a 27' x 33' room – prepared just for the railroad – with finished walls, suspended ceiling, carpet,

and wide aisle ways. It also features a hand-painted background around the entire room.

All track is hand-laid. Tor-toise switch machines are used throughout. Control system is the DCC system by Lenz. Three local control panels are in and operational, and trains can be run from point to point over the main line.

Virginian & Ohio by Allen McClelland.

**You are invited to the June meeting on Sunday the 13th at 2pm at the  
Ramada Inn  
State Route 725 at I-75, Miamisburg, Ohio  
Visitors and Guests Always Welcome**

