



# Call Board

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## This Month's Program ...

For April we have planned our annual **Photo Show and Tell**. Bring your railroad and modeling photos on slide or digital media to share with the group. The laptop and projector and a slide projector will be available'

The meeting will be at 2pm on Sunday, April 21, 2013 at the Wyndham Gardens Hotel, 31 Prestige Plaza Drive, Miamisburg, OH 45342. The contest will be Passenger Cars.

## Note Change of location



**Division 3 Website: [www.modelraildayton.com](http://www.modelraildayton.com)**

**2013 MCR Convention Website: [www.mcr2013convention.com](http://www.mcr2013convention.com)**

## Super's Notes for April 2013

### Meeting Notes

The March meeting continued our trend of increased attendance with several visitors, including a prospective member and the usual folks from neighboring divisions. Attendance has been averaging 50 plus for some time and that is great. We were also treated to another outstanding presentation by Ed Swain of Division 7. Ed showed how he made a long city backdrop scene by combining parts of stock kits, scratch built buildings and printed backgrounds to fill a long stretch of background buildings behind his yard. He incorporated a gradual transition from large city to wooded rural area to create a continuous scene that is very convincing. Someone in the audience was heard to say "if you think that looks good you should see it in person." Fortunately, you will have that opportunity as Ed is hosting an operating session for the convention as well as a Sunday open house.

Our AP Chair, Bob Fink, presented Phil Gliebe with merit awards for models he entered in contests at previous National Conventions, one from 2012 and the other from 2009. He is not sure why the one took so long, but it's great to see Phil get recognition for his efforts. The merit award is for receiving 87.5 or more points out of 125 in judging. It can be as part of a convention contest, or if you can't make a national or regional convention, Bob will make arrangements for judging at a meeting or wherever he can.

### MCR 2013 Convention

It is now less than two months before the big convention. As I write this, Ray reports that we have 214 registered for the convention. This is a good number for this far in advance. If you haven't sent in your registration yet it's not too late. Remember, the convention is taking the place of our regular meeting in May. If you are not able to attend the entire convention come out and register for one day. We have an economical registration rate for those of you who can only make one day. Hope to see you there!

Ray announced that he is still looking for volunteers to help out for at least a couple of hours with convention activities. Please call Ray at 607-727-9694 and let him know you will lend a hand. Ray and his committee have put in many hours over the past year and a half to make sure the convention is a success, but it will take the help of the rest of the division to make it happen during the period of May 15 – 18. There aren't enough of the committee members to do everything that needs to be done those four days. Many of the tasks involve sitting, so don't feel you can't help out. Let's support our committee!

### April Program/Meeting

The program is Your Photos. Bring your favorite photos to share. They can be in either slide or digital format. Share some of those pictures you have accumulated over the years. We did this last year and it everyone seemed to enjoy it.

We will be meeting at the Wyndham Gardens, site of the MCR spring convention. The contest is passenger cars, and Phil will be conducting the usual auction. This month will be the drawing for the special raffle prize.

### Volunteers Wanted

We are looking for a couple more people to help with meeting hospitality. Gordon Carlson is our membership chair and one of his duties includes meeting hospitality. Mainly this consists of making sure a few snacks are available and that coffee is made before the meeting. The division supplies the coffee and necessary supplies, but sometimes Gordon can't make a meeting and needs someone to lend a hand. Let Gordon or me know if you are willing to help out.

**NMRA Museum Gallery Exhibit Donation** - The WISE Division in Wisconsin recently voted to donate \$5,000 to the NMRA Museum Gallery Exhibit with an immediate payment of \$2,500 and a second payment of the same amount later in the year or early next year.

**Atlanta 2013 Convention Update**

- All tours are selling briskly, so be sure to register now to avoid disappointment. Most of the prototype and general interest tours are limited to 50 people due to venue limitations.
- A team of PTE convention reps visited the American Maglev Technologies test track on Feb 22 and were treated to a most informative and entertaining tour. This tour is offered on Tuesday, July 16 (P352) and again on Wednesday, July 17 (P457). If you're interested in the future of transportation, don't miss this tour.
- The tour to the CSX Training Center (P355) has been expanded to include a visit to the Georgia Northeastern RR, where you'll get an overview of their operations from GNRR president, see some of their locos, and visit their dispatch center and yards.
- The convention hotel, the Waverly Renaissance, is 40% booked at this time, so don't hesitate in reserving your room at this great venue.
- The clinic schedule has been posted to the website as well as updates to some of the other events. Visit the website at [www.NMRA2013.org](http://www.NMRA2013.org).
- A very active and entertaining general interest/non-rail program is available, so bring the family, sample some southern hospitality, and see all that Atlanta has to offer.

**NMRA BOD appoints new At Large North American Director**

The NMRA Board of Directors has appointed Mike Yurjec the new At Large North American Director, a position vacated by Miles Hale, MMR. Mike resides in Sherman, Ill., and is a Director of North America Railroad Products for a large hydraulics company. He was recently elected Vice President of the Midwest Region, and prior to that was District 5 Trainmaster for the Illinois Valley Division. Mike also served as Chairman of the "Railsplitter 2012" Midwest Region Convention Committee.

**NMRA BOD appoints new Vice President – Special Projects**

The Board has also confirmed the appointment of Gerry Leone, MMR, Vice President-Special Projects. Gerry served as NMRA Communications Director for five years, and, prior to that, was Deputy Chair of the NMRA's Member Services Department. He also served on the boards and edited the newsletters of the Thousand Lakes Region and Twin Cities Division. Gerry received the NMRA President's Award in 2010, and the Meritorious Service award in 2012. Gerry replaces Bill Kaufman, who resigned in mid-February.

**Email addresses for the NMRA eBulletin**

If any of your members did not receive the first issue of the NMRA eBulletin, which was mailed out on March 5, it means either their SPAM filter is preventing it from getting through, or their email address on file with NMRA Headquarters isn't current. Please have them visit <http://www.nmra.org/member/content/member-info-update> to update email information. Also let them know that it may take a little bit of time for the update to take effect, since this is currently being done manually by HQ staff. The next issue of the NMRA eBulletin is scheduled to be mailed out in early May.

**The 12th Annual Michigan Railroad History Conference**

**Saturday, October 5, 2013**

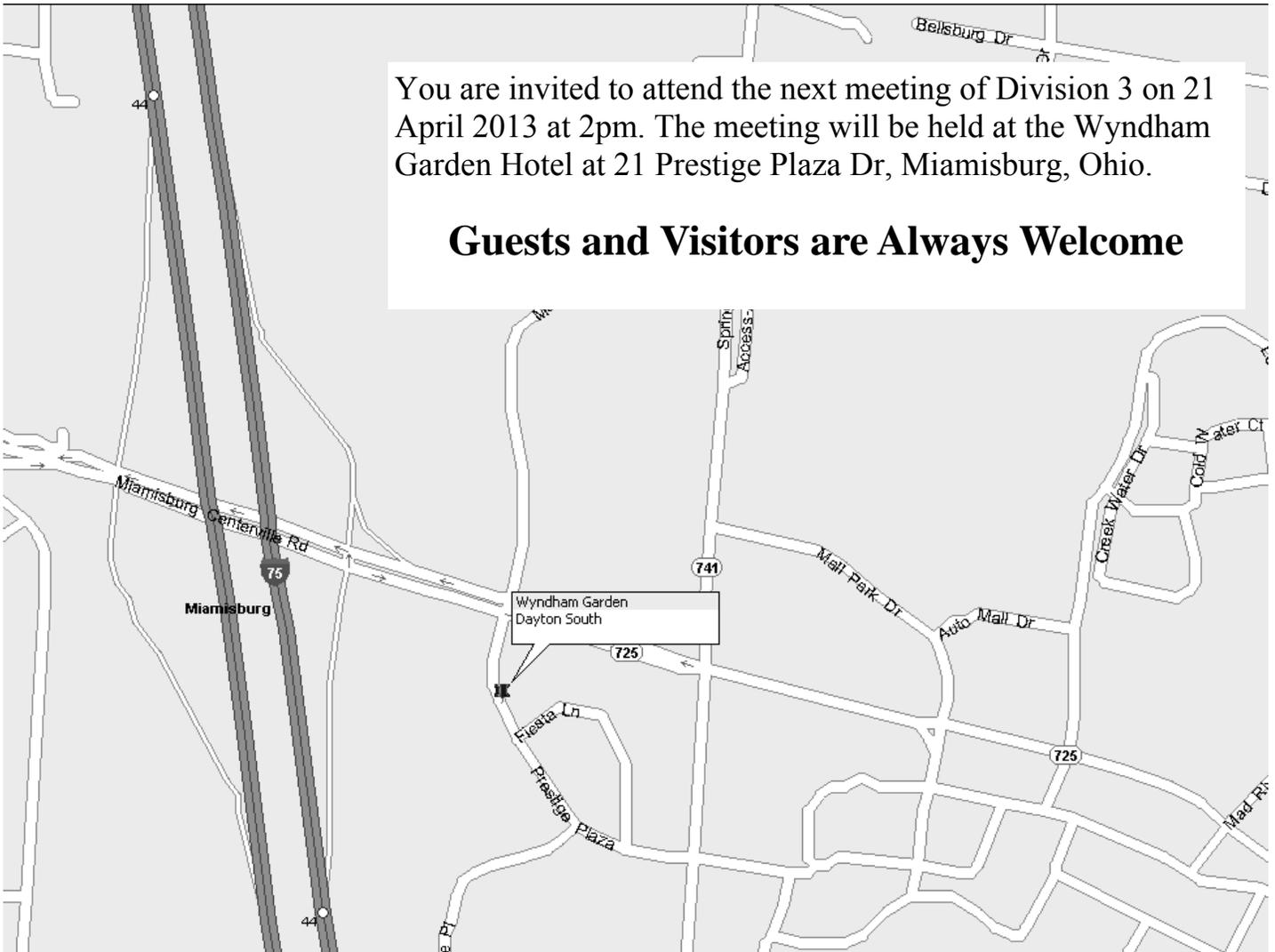
**Hilton Hotel in Downtown Bay City Michigan**

For more information check:

[www.michiganrailroadhistory.org](http://www.michiganrailroadhistory.org) or the Calendar of events at [www.michiganrailroads.com](http://www.michiganrailroads.com)

You are invited to attend the next meeting of Division 3 on 21 April 2013 at 2pm. The meeting will be held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel at 21 Prestige Plaza Dr, Miamisburg, Ohio.

## Guests and Visitors are Always Welcome



### Letter to the Editor

After gathering up all our stuff, we headed home and while waiting at the light at Airway Road, I looked across the street and all of a sudden A whole slew of windows just jumped out at me, just as neat as they could be, all lined up in a row just like the ones in Ed Swain's detailed presentation last Sunday at the Division 3 meeting.

I said, "Look at all those long white buildings over there, Jeffrey, next to the Museum of the United States Air Force. Now we know how to make them, thanks to Ed!"

Your non-journalist  
Kathy Lehman

Note: Isn't it strange? I just never paid attention to windows before and now I check out ALL the windows and doors whether they are on a house, a business building, a church, a club house or what ever while driving somewhere. Absolutely amazing how many there are out there; no wonder they are soooooo important to any model RR layout.

P.S. Loved the history on the Dalmatian Switching District. Sure makes me think of Dave, a great guy.

P.P.S. Did you ever hear of "Whiskey Northern"?

From AAA *Home & Away* MAY/JUNE 2001  
Gresham (pop 515) is a typical Northwoods community and was once served by a railroad nicknamed the "Whiskey Northern." The old depot is now the Gresham Railroad Depot Museum and is filled with railroad Memorabilia.

## Contests

We have three categories each month. You can enter Scratch Built, Kit Bashed, or just plain Kit built. This allows anyone to enter anything they are proud of and at any skill level. Judging is by popular vote but if you wish to have your model judged by NMRA rules for the Achievement Program, we will make arrangements for you “on the spot”.

### The coming contest schedule ...

**April - Passenger Cars**

May - Diesel Locomotives

June - Steam Locomotives

July - Non-Revenue Cars

August - No Contest

September - Make it cheap (1-3-5 Dollar)

October - Caboose

November - Weathering

December - Structure

January - Open Loads

February - No Contest

March - Freight Cars

## March Contest Results Freight Cars

Kit Category		Kitbashed Category	
1	Ric Zimmerman	1	Harry Sage
2	Jim Foster		
	Ed Durkin		Scratchbuilt Category
3	Jim Rollwage	1	Jim Foster
	Ed Durkin		
	Jim Rollwage		
			Photos
		1	Ric Zimmerman
		2	Rick Zimmerman
		3	Judy Zimmerman

## Furlongs per Fortnight

The state of Confusion, home of the Dalmatian Switching District, was settled by disgruntled English anarchists. They left England because there was too much regularity and not enough confusion to satisfy their sense of adventure. Shortly after arriving in their new homeland they discovered that they did need some minimal form of government just to get anything done.

One of the first and only tasks of the government was to determine the standards of measurements. Most of the English speaking world was using the Foot-Pound-Second (FPS) system. The French had settled on the Metre-Kilogram-Second (MKS) system and the Spanish were doing a little of both. The Confusionites, being perverse by nature, decided to create their own system. Thus was born the Furlong-Firkin-Fortnight (FFF) system. The Furlong was liked as the basis for distance measurements since many of the settlers avidly pursued horse racing in which the length of a race was measured in Furlongs. And since most people thought of distance more in terms of how long it took to get somewhere there were very few problems. The Fortnight seems like a long time for a basic measurement but was appealing to many of the husbands since that was about as long as they could tolerate a visit from the in-laws. The Firkin as the unit of mass was used to advantage by the merchants since hardly anyone they traded with knew what constituted a Firkin. Everything about the FFF measurement system looked acceptable until the invention of the steam engine.

Until railroads started to encroach on the Confusion landscape hardly anyone cared how fast they were moving. When the railroad builders tried to use speed as a selling point for their products they ran into the Furlong per Fortnight (FPF). The conversion from MPH to FPH is accomplished by multiplying the MPH by approximately 2688. Thus 10MPH is approximately 26,880 FPH. Needless to say the size of this number panicked the citizens of Confusion and caused them to fight the establishment of any form of transportation that traveled at more than 10,000 FPF (approximately 3 3/4 miles per hour). A committee was formed to investigate what to do about railroads and speed.

Like all good anarchic committees it immediately adjourned since everyone wanted to be the chairman and nobody wanted to be the secretary. The stalemate continued until the owner of the Argyle Mills stepped forward and bribed the committee to allow him to figure out what was best for the state. He immediately signed an agreement with the railroad companies that they would not advertise how fast their trains were running in MPH or FPH but would only say that it took so many Millifortnights to travel from one place to another. The populace was overjoyed to see travel times in fractions of fortnights since they felt that shorter was better. The Big Boy Conglomerate Railroad also agreed to put up furlong posts instead of mileposts along their right of way. They found out that only having to put up 8 posts per mile was a savings over the normal 10 posts per mile that were being used in other states.

When the state of Confusion became part of the United States the citizens reluctantly abandoned the FFF system and adopted the MKS system just to stay out of step with the rest of the country.

1 Furlong = 1/8 Mile  
 1 Firkin = 90 Pounds  
 1 Fortnight = 14 Days

40 Foot Boxcar = 0.0606 Furlong  
 Capy 100000 Pounds = 111.111 Firkins  
 LD LMT 123300 Pounds = 1370 Firkins  
 LT WT 45700 Pounds = 507.778 Firkins

More information can be found on the FFF system on Wikipedia.

