



THE LANTERN



OCTOBER 2026 VOLUME 28 ISSUE 10

Superintendent's Report

On October 20th Brad Lockwood, Bob Belt and I went to the monthly meeting of Division 8 in Louisville. The featured speaker was Ray Persing, the national AP Chairman. Ray has been working hard on improving the AP program and wants to make changes in the it which will benefit NMRA members. Ray first gave an update on the changes in the language of the various AP categories which make it more understandable. He wants all of us to be better modelers. If you are not involved in the AP program, please think about getting into the AP program. Go slow at first and test it out. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me or any member who is involved in AP. I have enjoyed and have learned a lot from it.

Our presentation on October 4 will be at the Eastside Library. We hope to see you there in person or on Zoom. Our old friend Charles Bogart will present information about innovative Interurban car design that was developed in Cincinnati in the 1920s. This improved design lightened the cars, similar to later passenger car construction. On November 1 Jeff Hedge will tell us about "Operations on a Steel Themed Layout." Jeff has a great layout based on the steel industry. If I remember correctly, Jeff grew up in the Youngstown, Ohio area where a lot of steel has been made. Steel making was, and still is an interesting industry to model. For our December program on the 6th, we will have a "3D Printing Presentation" from Frank Stevenson. You will see and hear how he creates his amazing 3D printed models.

Our Monthly Modelers Showcase topic for this month is Automation and Lighting. More about this on top of page 4. I will contribute what I have and I

hope others will also. Please show us what you have.

We have two upcoming train shows. Division 7 in Cincinnati will have their show on October 10 and 11, and Division 8 will have their train show in Louisville on November 14. Check out the schedule on page 4 of *The Lantern*.

This is the last time you will hear from me as Superintendent. My two terms and my interim term are over. I will still be a member of the Division so you will be able to see me, but in the role I had before being Superintendent. I hope I have helped the Division over the years. There were some things I wish had happened for our Division. I have enjoyed being your Superintendent. I also appreciated the help and assistance I have heard from a number of members who also wanted an active division and were willing to help out. I thank you very much.

Our new Superintendent, Kevin Ellis, will take the reins at the end of the October meeting. I hope you will give Kevin and the other elected officers your support in the coming years. I hope all of us will become more active in the Division. You paid good money to join, so make the experience worth it by doing more. A number of you have taken advantage of it. If you do, you will find good relationships with the other members and even learn something in the process, and you will be helping others. Remember to take care of yourself and those around you.

—Larry Smith MMR



For the NMRA MC Region officers link to
www.midcentral-region-nmra.org/bod2.html

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In Recognition...

Many thanks to folks listed in the column below. They have given their support for our club. We encourage all NMRA members to help with financial support to *The Lantern* and our website and the Division 10's activities. **Send your monetary contribution to our Treasurer.**

To be listed here your contribution needs to be at least \$20 in cash, or material valued at \$50, or a total of 20 hours time within the last year. Division 10 receives NO monetary support from the NMRA or the MidCentral Region. Div.10 is recognized by the US government as a 501c3 corporation and your cash or material donations may be tax deductible.

Report materials or time to Stew Winstandley. To the right of each contributing member's name is the month of his or her latest contribution. Whenever one makes a contribution of money, material, or time, his or her date will be updated, and for new contributors, their name will be added. Anyone making a contribution will be listed below for 12 months.

Alan Bourne	2/2026
Rich Murphy	12/25
Lou Jaquith	11/25
Randy Coffman	11/25

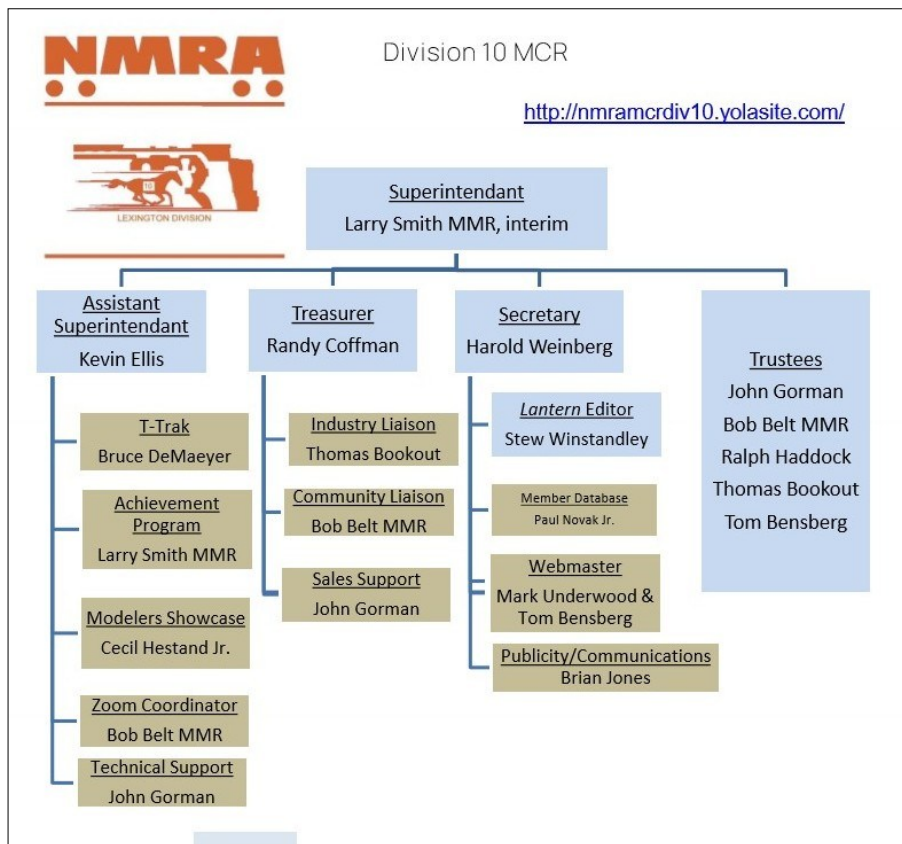
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Gemini article continued from page 3:

7. What are Gemini's sources? *Per Gemini, they include "established scale modeling practices and techniques shared across the model railroading community." Among these are Model Railroader and Railroad Model Craftsman magazines, manufacturer application guides, and the NMRA. Information also comes from online sources such as UTube.*

8. Does Gemini violate its sources' copyrights? *To be determined. When I asked Gemini, it candidly admitted to several infringement cases pending against it. Gemini's defenses are largely based on copyright "fair use."*



Division 10's advertising policy:

A. COMMERCIAL AD RATES 1. Newsletter • \$10/month for business card • \$15/month for 1/8 page or less • \$25/month for 1/4 page • \$45/month for 1/2 page • \$80/month for full page • Multiple separate ads can be aggregated together for the above price structure. Div10 Website: No commercial ads allowed.

B. MEMBER AD RATES 1. Newsletter: Member rates will be at 20% of the commercial rates Members that have a commercial business will pay the commercial

Website addresses are: 1) above at top of Organization Chart,

2) <https://www.facebook.com/NMRA.MCR.Div10/> and

3) <http://ttrak.wikidot.com/nmra-mcr-division-10-the-kentucky-division>

4) YouTube.com search: Division 10 Mid Central Region NMRA, Past Div.10 clinics are available on YouTube.

Contributions to Division 10 are sent to the treasurer, Randy Coffman. His address is 1500 River Circle Dr, Richmond, KY 40475-7907.

Model Railroading and Gemini AI (gemini.google.com/app)

Harold Weinberg

Google's free Gemini AI responds to questions or instructions with text derived from a universe of sources. It provides references for its responses. And it recalls and stores responses enabling users to ask follow-up questions as their thinking and experience develop. If that is not enough, Gemini also creates visual and graphic output such as logos, signs, and billboards.

This article summarizes recent Gemini inquiries following my acquisition of a monorail. Installing the monorail placed me in a position to substantially complete the layout which triggered further Gemini inquiries.

Monorail

1. The monorail's wheels and its overhead U-shaped tracks differ substantially from an ordinary model railroad's wheels and tracks. However, they must serve the same purposes of transmitting current and digital command signals. Here are some of my questions to Gemini and its responses.

a. How do the wheels and trucks transmit power and digital command signals without causing a short? *Answer: They contain special materials and structures that are not readily visible.*

b. Does anyone sell an end-of-track bumper for the monorail? *Answer: No*

c. Am I correct that a nonconductive bumper inserted into the tracks' U-shaped openings will not interfere with power and signal transmission? *Answer: Yes.*

2. How can I adjust the monorail tracks so that a car suspended below them does not tilt. *Answer: Multiple options. Best answer for me is to shim the tracks.*

Layout

To complete the layout, I needed detailed information that I largely or completely lacked. For example, I had built (but not permanently fastened down) a two-lane highway made of 7 basswood strips (24"x6"x1/8"). To simulate concrete, I had painted the wood with gray Rust-oleum auto primer. Here are some of my questions and Gemini's responses.

1. How can I weather the road? *Gemini provided detailed information for capturing color shifts, road grime, tire wear, and environmental staining. It also explained how to create surface texture and simulate center lane grime, tire tracks, and expansion joints. It helpfully provided an illustrative photo from Model Railroad Craftsman.*

2. Would a coat of acrylic paint over the Rust-oleum provide a good base for weathering and other finishing. *Gemini responded yes with detailed instructions, e.g., how to use washes, stippling, and dry brushing. This included information for weathering materials, paints, etc*

Q. and A.

1. Did Gemini ever tell me I asked a stupid question? *No, despite ample provocation.*

2. How has Gemini's information worked out in practice? *I designed, built, and installed monorail truck bumpers. They work fine. Gemini's suggested road base coat looks good. I am experimenting with the weathering, etc. Happy with the results so far.*

3. Is Gemini the best AI tool for model railroaders? *Don't know. If you have relevant AI experience, please describe it to me (weinbergharold1@gmail.com), or share it on our Division's Groups.io. It would be great to have a discussion about model railroading and AI.*

4. Is Gemini reliable? *In my experience, its text answers are very reliable. If you ask Gemini about its accuracy, it will tell you that it strives for "high accuracy" with some areas of unreliability, e.g., rapidly evolving information. I've encountered only one clear Gemini error: an incorrect US patent number for a railroad related invention. I noted the mistake to Gemini which promptly apologized and provided the correct number.*

5. Must questions or instructions to Gemini be logical or precise? *Mine were far from it. If you ask Gemini, it will tell you how to ask questions for best results (e.g. avoid ambiguity).*

6. Are Gemini responses hard to understand? *No. However, you may receive more information than you expected or needed.*

Continued on page 2

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NEWSLETTER FOR NMRA DIVISION 10 MCR

210 BRANNON RD.
NICHOLASVILLE, KY 40356-9711
nmramcrdiv10.yolasite.com

OCTOBER 4, 2 PM

EASTSIDE LIBRARY, 3000
BLAKE JAMES DR., 40509

MODELERS SHOWCASE

AUTOMATION AND LIGHTING

MEETING AGENDA

STRUCTURAL INNOVATION IN
CINCINNATI INTERURBAN
CARS, CHARLES BOGART

SHORT PRESENTATION

NONE

MONTHLY MODELERS SHOWCASE

The monthly showcase for October is Automation and Lighting. Send your photos to Bob Belt (beltbob1@gmail.com) to be displayed at the meeting. Automation is defined as “using technology, machines, or computers to run a system or perform a task with little human help.” Lighting is the use of light sources to illuminate a space, object, or a scene.

One experience with automation was a cityscape layout at our MCR convention in 2015. It was point to point controlled by software on a PC laptop that tested block sensors and controlled the stopping and starting and direction of tram movement. Since then layout automation has been facilitated using Raspberry Pis and Arduinos. Let us know the functions controlled by these on your layout. Also there is JMRI (Java Model Railroad Interface).

There should be plenty of examples of lighting on your layouts. There are now even lights on N scale vehicles.



AROUND THE BEND

MON.	DAY	HOST	PLACE	EVENT / PROGRAM	TOURS	SHOWCASE
Oct..	4	Div. 10	Eastside Library and via Zoom	Interurban Car Innovation Developed in Cincinnati, Charles Bogart	None	Automation & Lighting
Oct.	10-11	Div. 7	Lakota West High School, West Chester, Ohio 45069	Model Train & Trade Show, 10 am—4 pm, \$10 cash only	Layouts onsite	
Nov.	1	Div. 10	Eastside Library and via Zoom	Operations on a Steel Themed Layout, Jeff Hedge	None	Animals and People
Nov.	14	Div. 8	Saffin Center, 3938 Poplar Level Rd, Louisville 40213	Train Show and Sale, 10-3, div8-mcr-nmra.org	Layouts onsite	
Dec.	6	Div. 10	Eastside Library	3D Printing, Frank Stevenson		