

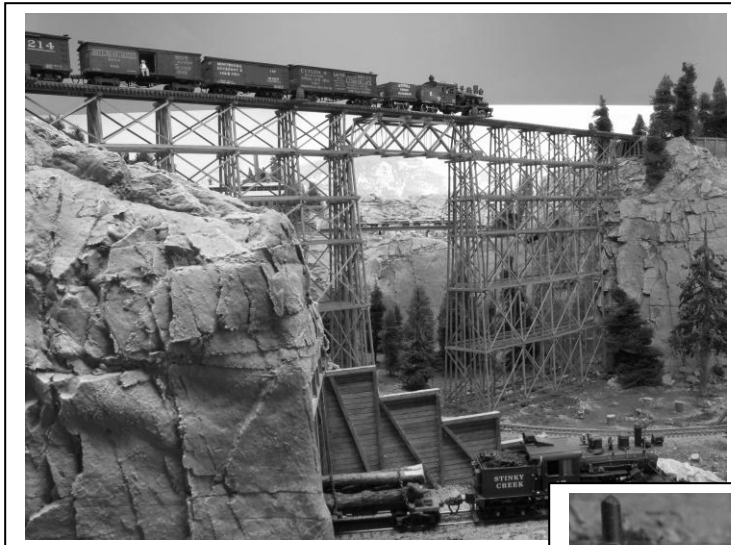


THE *HotBox*

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION, NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

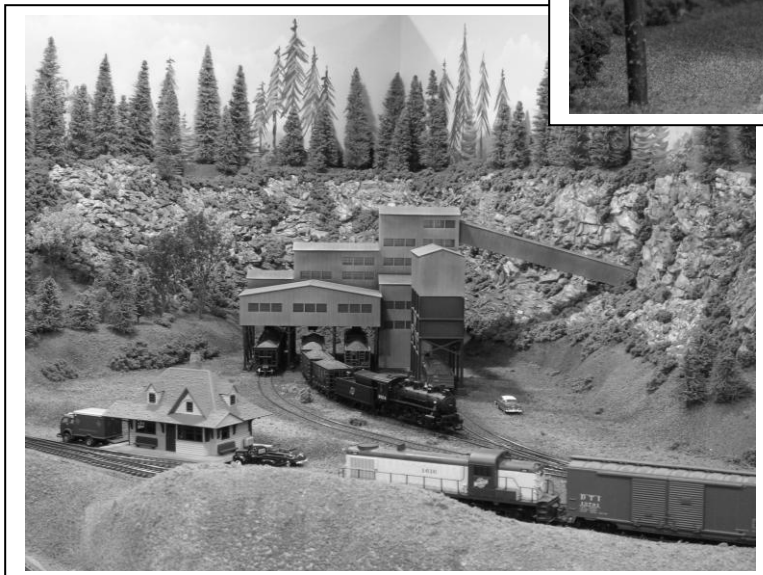
VOL. 49, NO. 3

FALL 2008



LAYOUT TOUR- The Stinky Creek Railroad

HOW TO- Sound for Street Cars



RAILFANNING- Chicago & North Western Railroad

PLUS- NCR News, Timetable, Pike Ads, and more.....

HotBox Editorial

Hello! Some of you know me, many others do not, so let's start with introductions... I'm Barry Hensel, your new Editor of the NCR HOTBOX publication. I have arrived here in this position, from an invitation by our new NCR President Jack Watson. Why did Jack ask me? Well for one, I opened my mouth and said I would probably be interested in trying this position. The other reason, Jack (and Div 6 members) have been reading my writings for the last 17 years or so, as the Division 6 newsletter Editor, and I guess he liked what he has read for those many years. I'm also Editor of a car club newsletter for 30+ years, have written a department newsletter at work for close to 4 years and recently handed over the editorship of the high school band booster newsletter, after 8 years of doing that. Does this mean I know what I'm doing... heck no! I just like to write, have since my own high school days, and now I get to add the HotBox to my list of publications. Cool! Well, now you know a bit about me, your next questions is... what about all those back issues I paid for and didn't get?? Well, please see the article further along in this issue for some explanations and plans we have for this publication. Some of these plans, were made by a committee of NCR members, who volunteered to help steer this publication in a

new direction. My Thanks to those who have helped and will continue to help! While our plans are made, the future is never set, so hopefully we'll travel that path together. What is set, is the past and with the past mentioned, I must also give a huge Thanks to those that came before me. Larry Wright, HotBox Editor extraordinaire, has been quite an inspiration to me. And recently, Tim Fisher and Stu Sonta, who tried so very hard to make this work. The National Convention and recent times have just meant that not enough time could be dedicated to this publication. Hey, we all have to work for a living first, our families come second and this is our hobby. I greatly appreciate all that they did to continue this publication. Will I do any better? Who knows?? I too have many other commitments in my life, but I'm hoping I can add this one as well and do well enough to give YOU a publication you will enjoy!

Thanks for reading... Barry

The HotBox

Fall, 2007
Vol. 49, No. 3

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All material, articles and advertising must be submitted to the Editor. All material should be electronic, preferably MicroSoft Word or Powerpoint. Pictures should be in Jpeg format and color. Material can be emailed or sent via US Mail on cd-rom. Materials will not be returned, unless return postage and envelope are included. Material submission deadline is FIVE weeks before publication date.

Feel free to contact the Editor via email, with any comments, questions or corrections.

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PRESIDENTS OBSERVATION by Jack Watson

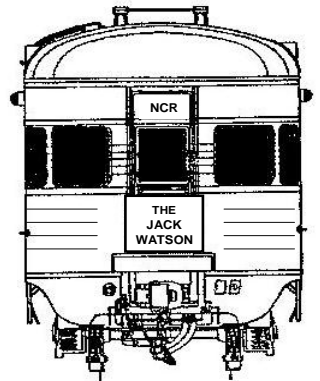
As a first, hopefully not too feeble attempt at a 'President's Column' for the HOTBOX, I wish to relay a very large THANK-YOU to many! To all the members of the North Central Region, who expressed their faith by voting for the 'slate', running in the last election! Vice-President Dave McMullian, Secretary Larry Wolohon, Treasurer Dean Pyers and Directors Marv Linke and Bill Neale all join me in Thanking-You for your support. We hope to prove capable of your trust in these elective positions.

Next, a hearty Thank-You to outgoing President Tim Fisher as he now moves into the role as a Director on the Board! For this we are indeed fortunate, as he will be available to advise the new regime as they take control. Tim suffered through two tough terms, actually his second stint as President, (my guess is that he did not learn his lesson the first time), for which we are grateful. Tim was instrumental in guiding the Region to and through the National Convention, many, many Thanks are owed, because of his tireless efforts, on the Region's behalf! As I begin my term at the April Board meeting, I am reminded what George Washington said to John Adams at the latter's inauguration- "Out with the old, in with the new. We shall see who is happier!"

We also need to include some large sized Thank-You's to the other out-going members of the NCR Board, former Secretary Sue Yestrepesky, Treasurer Marv Linke, Directors Roger Parry, Jim Sieradzinski and Larry Wolohon and let us not forget Registrar Bob Polasky! All of these folks worked hard for the Region. When you run into them, be sure to say "Thanks" and give them a pat on the back!

The Treasurers report is significant, we are not broke, but neither can we continue on the same path, as in the past. The issue of the National Convention revenue has been expertly handled by our NMRA Trustee and Convention Chairman Dave Thornton. Three huge cheers and an attaboy for Dave! When you receive this issue of the HOTBOX, the dispersion of funds should have been completed into various coffers!

The Board has also undertaken a study of the HOTBOX magazine. Most members and all of the Board of Directors are not satisfied with the current situation! We have been repeatedly informed that the problem lies in the lack of material for print. No doubt... we always need articles! Keep in mind, this is a route to fulfilling your author requirement on your quest to become an MMR. Write an article! The staff will assist with corrections, formatting, etc. Feel free to ask them for help! On this same vein, I have somehow (by lying or just sweet talking) gotten Barry Hensel of Division 6 and 'National Convention Fame' to become the new Editor of the HOTBOX! Barry is a very capable writer and editor, and most importantly, he is very dependable!! Other changes are afoot, there will probably be two more issues printed and mailed. The NCR Constitution requires that we provide the magazine to all NCR members who live within the NCR boundaries. If we continue to do this it will push the annual cost of the publication to between \$5000-\$6000 dollars! No small amount! No matter how you shake it, we do not have those kinds of funds. Beginning in 2009, we will be going electronic. The HOTBOX will be a pdf format file, listed on a webserver for anyone to download and read. There will be one issue printed per year to all NMRA members in the Region, with member information and ballots as necessary. You will receive much more information about this in the near future!



PRESIDENTS OBSERVATION continued.....

This year's NCR Convention is well on it's way, hosted by Division 1 in Toledo, "FAST FREIGHT '08" will pull you in on September 19-20, 2008. A few of the headliners will be Allen McClelland MMR, Gary Albers of the MCR, Andy Sperandeo of MR and our own Dan Lweis MMR (don't ya just love all of those abbreviations)! Lots of operating sessions are planned, many prototype tours are in the works and tons of clinics/workshops will be available! Come and take advantage! Are ya going??

This is pretty much where the NCR stands for the moment. Things will change and I will report any and all, good or bad, as they come down the pike! I also plan to attend at least one meeting in each Division. I need your input, otherwise I have no idea what you want. Please feel free to contact me, evenings are best, say 7pm-11pm at 586-598-7407. Fridays are out, got railroading to do! Or you can email me at jwatson1212@sbcglobal.net I will answer any and all questions... remember, I work for you!

THANX, Jack

REMEMBER!!! YOUR article could be appearing RIGHT HERE!! Please consider writing an article for a future issue of the HotBox!!

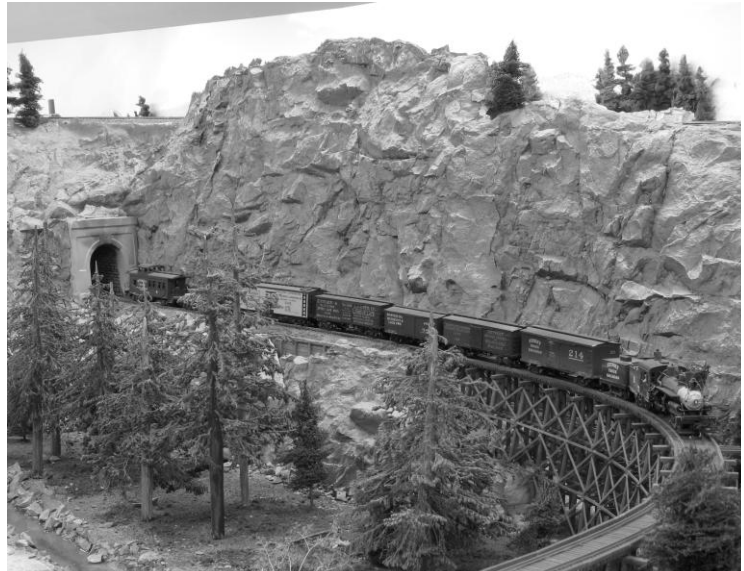
UPCOMING ARTICLES-

- ** Div 6 Superintendent Glenn Joppich will be starting a series of articles on the design and construction of his new HO scale pike!**
- ** HOW-TO make a nifty brake lever to hold your train while switching on a grade! No more "push pins" on your layout!**
- ** HOW-TO make a "lighted" uncoupler tool, for only \$2!**
- ** Railfanning Pennsy, BN, Michigan Southern, and more...**

REMEMBER!!! Only ONE more issue of the HotBox will be printed!! First issue of 2009, due in February, will be our first all electronic issue, available to download and view from our new website! More information in the Winter 2008 issue!

Not as it was, as it should have been

The Stinky Creek is inspired by the Everett and Monte Cristo Railway which was a 42 mile standard gauge railroad which ran from Puget Sound to the gold fields in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. The Everett & Monte Cristo was financed by a Rockefeller Syndicate. When a local surveyor submitted a plan that avoided the water level route along the Stillaguamish River, he was promptly fired by the Eastern Syndicate with the comment that they had been building railroads along rivers in the East for decades and that "little trout stream" was not a problem. They built the railroad along the river and every spring the "trout stream" became a torrent tearing out bridges, washing out track, and roaring through the tunnels knocking out the supports. As a consequence of the whopping annual repair costs and disruption of service the railway never made a profit, and was abandoned in the 1930's.



Gas station modeled from pen & ink drawing of a real station

In my alternate history, the railroad was financed by a couple of lumber barons from Michigan. Cutler and Savidge had made a fortune by cutting down every tree over 2 inches in diameter in upper Michigan. (It was also rumored that some of their money came from an illegal business which supplied the loggers with something they wanted but which was in short supply in the woods). Cutler and Savidge were looking for some where to continue their clear cutting when they heard about the gold and trees in the Cascade Mountains. They had the railroad built as designed by the local surveyor. They did not mind the circuitous route because their plan was to have the ore shipments from the gold mines pay for the railroad so they could ship their timber and lumber for free. The longer the route the greater access to the trees. Thus the Stinky Creek has lots of bridges, high trestles and tunnels. The spring floods were avoided and the railroad prospered. The time is now the 1930's and in spite of the depression the Stinky Creek is operating and bringing some prosperity to the area. The Stinky Creek Railroad and the town founded by Mr. Cutter were named after his Kentucky birthplace.

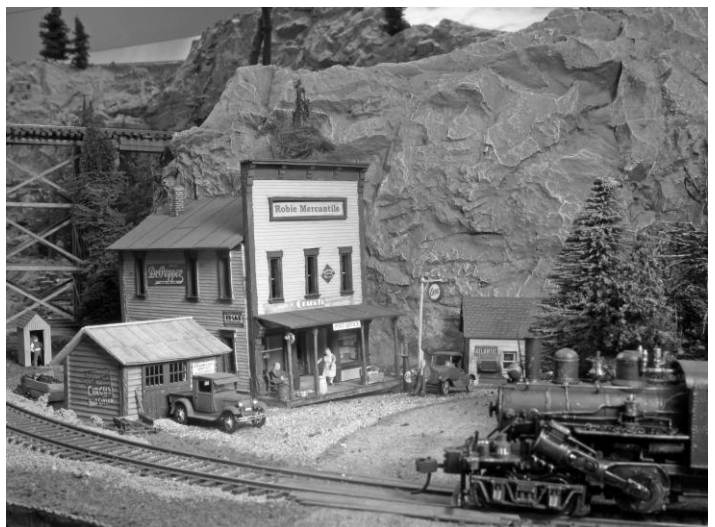
The Stinky Creek is located in a basement room 13' X 42'. It can operate with 5-7 people. Scenery is 75% done, bench work is 100%. The lighting is provided by florescent fixtures with one cool white bulb and one daylight bulb. Control is DCC by Digitrax. I have a base station and a booster with two MP42's which divide the layout into eight electrically isolated sections. (If I were starting over I would go with radio control). The mountains are plastic castings made from rubber molds. The chemicals and molds are from Bragdon Enterprises. The small pine trees are made from several kinds of furnace filters. They can be mass produced with the help of friends. The big Douglas firs are made from dried caspia inserted into carved balsa wood trunks. Each of those takes about two hours to make. Most of the structures are scratch built or kit bashed but I do use kits where they fit in. Both of the large brick buildings are from DPM modular parts. I use a lot of Grandit Line and Tichy windows. All buildings but one, were made by me.

Operations on the Stinky Creek equals No fast clock, No schedules, No signals, No switch lists, as this is a 1930's back woods lumber and ore hauler. It is point to point through the mountains with a helper district. Motive power is supplied by Shay, Heisler, or Climax. We use a 4 position way bill with car cards to move freight. No effort has been made to operate just like the prototype. This layout is not for the history buff who wants to recreate car movement on a class 1 railroad. It is for beginning operators and people who just want to have some fun running a train with a logical purpose.

Jim Treadaway's Stinky Creek RR is one of the 20+ layouts on the tours for the NCR convention in Toledo, FAST FREIGHT '08 on September 21-23, 2008!



Camp #3 at Clear Cut Valley, low point on the R.R.



General store in town of Robie.



STREET CAR SOUND INSTALL by Howard Andrews

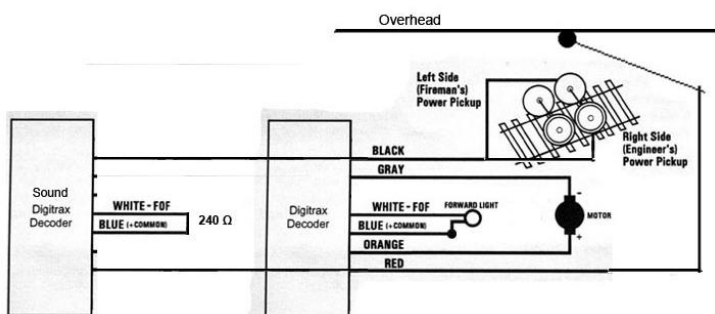
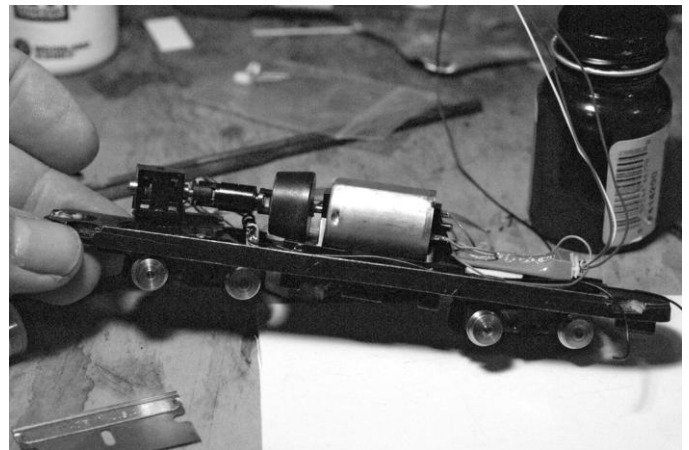
NCR HOW-TO ARTICLE

At the East Penn Meet this year Fred Miller put on a clinic explaining how he added sound to his Town & Country Traction Company using Digitrax's Sound Decoder. After seeing (and hearing!) Fred's sound equipped cars I knew I had to add this feature to my layout. I was completing a Pre-War Air Car from IHP. This is a resin shell with a Bowser drive and represents Pittsburgh Railway Company's 1200 series PCCs. OK, so the sounds are not PCC specific - but I just had to add it to this car. Fred's Clinic that explains the details of his sound project and loading them to the decoder is available on the Digitrax WEB site at http://www.digitrax.com/appnote_sfx_traction.php so I will not repeat those details here.

To get started I did purchase the Digitrax SFX064D SoundFX+Function Decoder (http://www.digitrax.com/prd_mobdec_sfx064d.php) and a PR2 SoundFX Decoder Programmer (http://www.digitrax.com/prd_compint_pr2.php). Fred's sound project can be downloaded from Digitrax's Sound Depot (http://www.digitrax.com/depot_traction.php). So, it was a simple matter of using the Digitrax Soundloader program to update the decoder with the Traction sounds and I was ready to begin installation.

As an aside here - if you're interested in adding sound but don't want to purchase the PR2 and/or hassle with doing the computer thing I would be willing to do that for you. You'd need to send me the decoder with return postage and I'll load the sound project and return it to you. You can then use your DCC Command station to set the CV's to manage the sounds.

Well, time to get started. Here's the drive for my car, it is a Bowser unit on the cast floor provided with the car. I have already installed a Digitrax decoder which controls the motor and the lights. The SFX064D only provided sound- so the motor decoder must remain.



The sound decoder is added in parallel with the existing decoder- here's the wiring diagram for my setup. Note that I've put a resistor across the Blue and White function wires on the sound decoder. I found this necessary to be able to read and set the CV in the sound decoder. And, to minimize the resistor heat I set CV33 to 2 which 'turns off' the current to this function.

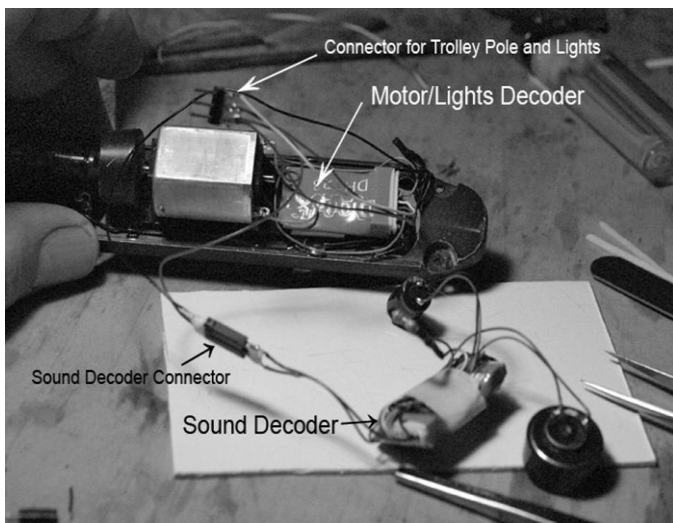
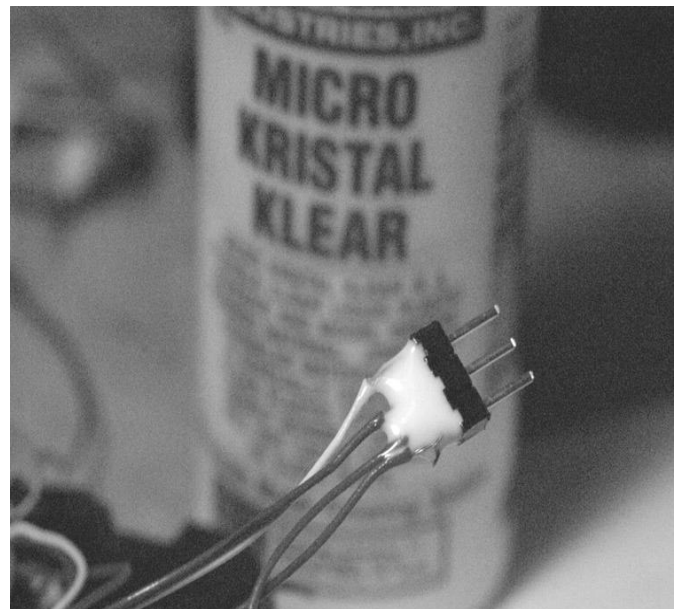
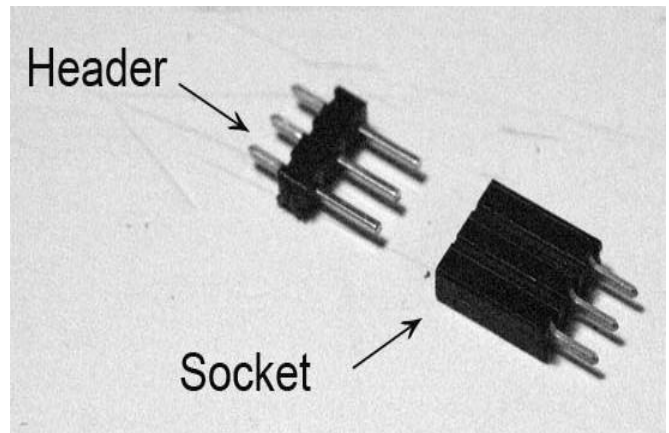
For the installation of wiring in my cars I use connectors that are designed for printed circuit boards. These are relatively inexpensive at about \$1 each, are easy to solder in and allow the easy separation of car shell from the drive. You can order these on line at Mouser Electronics (<http://www.mouser.com>).

The items I use are:

- 3M™ .100" Pin Strip Sockets
- 2 connector part # 517-974-01-02
- 3 connector part #517-974-01-03
- MOLEX KK ® Series Headers (.100")
- 36 strip connector part #538-22-28-4360

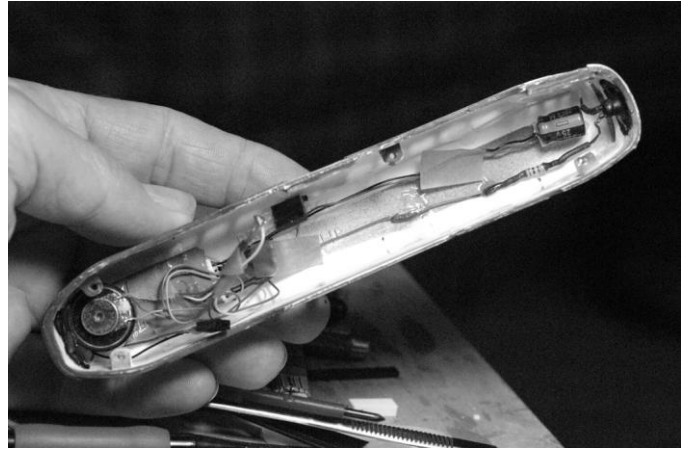
I get the header striped and simply cut it to the proper number of connectors I need.

Adding the connector is very simple - I solder the wires to pins then coat them with Krystal Klear to insulate the connection. The advantage of this is you can strip off the Krystal Klear easily if you need to service the connection - and it's cheap! Here is my connector to pick up the power from the Trolley pole and provide power to the LEDs in the car body for the headlamp and taillamps. Notice that my red wire is power from the overhead - I've connected one wire from the motor decoder and added another that will power the sound decoder.



Here is the chassis complete with the motor/lights decoder and the sound decoder added. Notice that the power to the sound decoder is via a 2 lead connector - this allows me to install it in the car body and even more important isolate it so I can program each decoder separately. Another change I made is to remove the speaker provided by Digitrax and replace it with a 0.63" diameter speaker in an enclosure that I purchased from Tony's Train Exchange www.tonystrains.com This is an 8 ohm speaker and the one provided by Digitrax is 32 ohm. The advice is to simply turn down the master volume until it sounds good without distortion. This is what I did and it seems to work fine.

With all the wiring complete I 'fold, spindled and mutilated' the sound decoder with it's speaker, capacitor and resistor into the body shell. I found I could get everything to fit at the rear of the car to avoid the motor and power truck in the front. I did need to modify the rear truck by cutting and bending the power pickups until they were below floor level to allow the truck to turn without interfering with the decoder attached to the chassis. In this photo you'll also notice the dropping resistor for the 3 volt LED's used in the headlamp and tail lights.



With everything plugged together PRC 1223 is seen pulling out of the Car Barn area on PRW headed for a day's service in the city. Now, if only you could hear how great the car sounds squealing around the curve and the clanging of the gong.



To contact Howard about his offer of help, call him at 734-728-4697 or email Howard at hwandrews@wowway.com



Chicago & North Western action in the mountains of northern Michigan and Wisconsin. Here, a passenger local is on the high line, while a freight lumbers below and a borrowed Milwaukee Road engine is powering a local on a branch line.

These pictures were from a recent operating session on Dick Harden's C&NW HO scale layout. The operating group was the RAIL GANG, a round-robin group Dick belongs to. Dick's layout is 29 x 32 feet large, powered by CVP Easy DCC and about 75% scened.



An F unit powered local waits for clearance as another local makes the turn toward Escanaba. On the lower track a Geep powered express is also emerging from a tunnel, headed eastbound.



Later in the day, Champion Ore Mine is being switched out by the local switcher as a steam powered local heads toward the mine lead track. It's the late 40's-early 50's on the C&NW.

Chicago & North Western RS-3 powered freight headed west as another freight heading east is about to disappear into a mountain.



A lone box car sits on the siding to Heritage Furniture as workers prepare to take items inside.

At the Hardwood Lumber Mill, Climax #4 awaits it's next switching duties.



The HotBox- THE FUTURE! by Barry Hensel NCR INFORMATION

As mentioned in my Editorial, we have some changes planned for this great publication, the HotBox! Some of this information has been "leaked" at a few of the local Division meetings, but here's the scoop, right from one who was involved in these changes and decisions.

FIRST- you have this issue and the Winter 2008 issue (due out in November) that will be printed on paper. Starting with the Spring 2009 issue in February, the HotBox will be all electronic. There is a new NCR-HotBox website being made right now. You will access your HotBox at that site between the 1st and 5th of the month that issue is due out. (see schedule of issues on the Editorial page) Yes, that means that some/many of you will need assistance in getting your HotBox because you do not have a computer or internet access. We do realize that and are sorry this change will cause you some grief in getting the great stories and information that you want. However, let's look at two BIG advantages to this up-coming change- One, the HotBox will now be **IN COLOR!** Two, the HotBox will be here at all!! As mentioned in President Watson's message, we cannot afford to keep printing the HotBox on paper, 4 times a year, year after year. Printing costs and mailing have simply become more than any income the NCR has or will have. Let's go back to that access concern- if you do not have a computer/internet access at home, this is available at any public Library for free or hopefully some of your model railroading friends that do have access will assist you in getting a copy, or at least reading it online.

SECOND- One of the ideas we looked at is a HotBox that is more informative and has more news, especially NCR news and Division news. At one time, we had "Division Scribes" who wrote a column in each issue and told everyone what was happening in their Division. I would REALLY welcome a return to that!! Please email me if you can be a **Division Informer** for your Division! It's always great to hear what's happening through-out our Region!

THIRD- One item that has also plagued the HotBox staff is the lack of material to put in the HotBox. This has been a bigger concern as of late. Well, we have another idea for helping that problem. Besides the Division Informer, we want each Division to submit a layout article AND a how-to-do article for each issue. Hold on!... this is easier than it sounds because there will be two Divisions assigned to each issue ONLY! We'll start this in 2009 as well. Here is the schedule... Feb 2009- Div 1 and 9; May 2009- Div 3 and 8; Aug 2009- Div 4 and 6; Nov 2009- Div 5 and 10. How did this schedule come about? If you look at the Divisions and their locations, we have two Divisions paired that are some distance apart. This will give us articles from each end of the NCR in the same issue. I am hoping that would make them more interesting! The Division Informers are NOT responsible for these articles, only their news items, but hopefully they can assist in getting the articles to me. These articles can/should be written by anyone in these Divisions. And remember- you earn points toward your Author Certificate by doing these!

FOURTH- By the rules, we must print and mail an issue to each NCR member, once a year for balloting information and convention information. At this time, I don't believe that will be a FULL issue of the HotBox, but more of a specific mailing of that information. Perhaps a HotBox Jr.??

FIFTH- I'm sorry to report that I, personally, do not know if anything can or will be done concerning past dues and fees for the HotBox. The NCR Board is well aware of this situation and are formulating ideas.

OK... that is a bit of changing, but it's better than no HotBox at all. At least I hope you agree to that statement! We are always open to suggestions, comments and criticisms, so feel free to write, but email is best!

THERE'S A MODEL RAILROAD CONVENTION COMING TO TOWN!

Take a look below and plan to attend yet another exciting
convention hosted by:

Division One of the North Central Region, NMRA



Division One of the North Central Region of NMRA is pleased to announce that we will be hosting the 2008 Regional Convention right here in Toledo, Ohio.

We are planning clinics, layout tours, and operating sessions on many of the layouts in the Toledo area. They range from Z gauge to G gauge. We are also planning some "real railroad" tours as well.

As usual, non-rail activities are also being included in our planning activities. Some of you will be pleased to know there are a couple of new malls in the area worth seeing.

Sorry, no new Hobby shops.



We have reserved a block of rooms at the Clarion Hotel located at the Secor Rd. exit of I-475. This exit is accessible from I-75 to the east and US-23 from the west.

You will find a registration form below with information about room rates and convention activities. This form is printable allowing you to fill it out and mail it in along with your payment.

**THE DEADLINE FOR LATE REGISTRATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO
AUGUST 15TH.**

Fill out the registration form and send it to the address listed. Hope to see you at the 2008 NCR, Division One Convention.

For more information and a peek at some of the layouts on tour, go to-

<http://www.divisiononencr.org/conv2008.htm>

Direct all inquiries to the convention chair Fred E. Lux, Jr. at **fred@fredlux.com**

FAST FREIGHT '08 - CONVENTION NEWS NCR INFORMATION

You are invited to attend the 2008 NMRA North Central Region convention being held in Toledo, Ohio, Friday - Sunday, September 19-21, 2008. The convention planning committee is working diligently to provide you with a great convention featuring interesting clinics, layout tours, operating sessions, prototype tours, and several modular layouts in various scales.

The Convention Hotel

Convention headquarters is the Clarion Hotel, which is located on the south side of the Secor Road exit of I-475. The hotel is easily accessible from all directions. The room rates for the convention will be \$72 per night, plus tax. Contact the hotel directly to make your reservations. Their phone number is **419-535-7070**. Mention the Model Railroad Convention to get the special convention room rate. The hotel has an on-site restaurant, various meeting rooms which will be used for clinics, a large ballroom which will be used for modular layout displays, and a smaller ballroom that will be used for the model contest. For those not attending the convention activities, shopping and a variety of restaurants are located within a couple of miles. The Toledo Zoo and the Toledo Museum of Art are within easy driving distance.

Layout Tours

Many layouts in and around Toledo will be open for self-guided tours during the convention. A list of open layouts, along with a brief description of each, is being posted on the Division One website. This list is being constantly updated as the committee takes photographs of the various layouts. A layout tour booklet, with detailed maps to the layouts will be part of the registration packet you receive when you check in at convention headquarters.

Operating Sessions

Various operating sessions are being planned for the convention. Some of these are in Toledo, while others are an easy drive from Toledo. The list of layouts available for operation include Doug Tagsold's layout in Blissfield, Michigan, the Blissfield Model Railroad Club layout and the Wabash Operations Road Show layout in Saline, Michigan. A complete schedule of available operating sessions will be posted on the convention website in the spring of 2008, along with a registration form for the sessions. Those who have registered early for the convention will receive a copy of the Operating Session Registration Form a couple of weeks before the form is published on the web site. Slots for the operating session will be filled as Operating Session Registration Forms are received on a first come, first serve basis. There will be a group of pre-convention operating sessions on Thursday evening, more sessions on Friday evening, and possibly some sessions on Sunday afternoon. There is no fee for participating in the operating sessions. Membership in OpSIG is not required to participate. Transportation to and from the layouts is not provided.

Proto-type Tours

We have arranged with The Andersons to tour their freight car repair facility. The Andersons maintains one of the largest fleet of privately owned freight cars in the country. The fee for the Anderson's tour will be \$15. This tour will be held on Friday afternoon, leaving the convention hotel at 12:30. Participants in the tour will be back to the hotel in time for the last two clinic sessions scheduled for Friday evening.

Model and Photo Contest

There will be an NMRA sanctioned model and photo contest during the convention. Entries will be accepted all day Friday and until Noon on Saturday.

Convention Awards Breakfast

An Awards Breakfast buffet will be held in the Atrium of the Clarion Hotel on Sunday morning. The keynote speaker will be Allen McClelland, who will talk about his observations of model railroading over the past 50 years. The cost of the banquet will be \$15 per person. Our MC for this event will be local TV personality, Greg Jones of TV channel 13.

Clinics

A variety of clinics are being planned for Friday and Saturday. Pre-registration for the clinics is not required. Featured presenters include Allen McClelland (the new V&O), Andy Sperandio (passenger train operation), Gerry Albers (Signaling and signaling software), and Dan Lewis (model railroad photography). A complete schedule of clinics will be posted on the convention website in the spring of 2008 to help you with your planning.

Modular Layouts

We have the main ballroom at the Clarion reserved for a modular layout display, which will be open Friday and Saturday during the convention. Watch the website for a complete list of modular layouts that will be on display.

Blissfield Dinner Train & Murder Mystery

Would you like a change of pace on Saturday evening? The Adrian & Blissfield Railroad operates a dinner train and murder mystery on Saturday evenings. They have agreed to set aside a block of tickets for the convention until the middle of August, 2008. Tickets are NOT being discounted for convention attendees. Blissfield is approximately 25 miles from the Clarion Hotel. Transportation is not being provided. For more information about the dinner train/murder mystery, or to make reservations, call them at 1-800-GO-RAIL-1 or visit their website at <http://www.murdermysterytrain.com/blissfield.htm>

Convention Store, Merchandise & Hospitality Room

Want a free cup of coffee, or just the opportunity to sit and chat with friends old and new? Come to the convention store / hospitality room. The coffee pot will always be on and snacks will be available. Three-button polo shirts with the convention logo are available by pre-order only. The shirts are gray with an embroidered black and green logo. The shirts are made of a cotton & polyester mix. Those who pre-order shirts on the convention registration form may pick up their shirts at the convention store. Coffee mugs with the green and black convention logo are also available. They may be pre-ordered on the registration form and picked up at the convention store. There will also be a limited number of coffee mugs available for sale at the convention store. The TP&W freight car commissioned by Division One will also be available for purchase at the convention store. The HO car is available in three different road numbers in kit form. See the Division One web site for details.

Railfanning

Toledo is ranked among the top ten cities in the country for railfanning. The convention packet you receive when you arrive at the hotel will include a guide to railfanning locations in the Toledo area. Be sure to bring your camera! Also included will be a list of places that look like great spots, but are **off limits** to the public.

Mailing Instructions

Mail your completed registration form, along with a check for all registration fees and convention merchandise to-

Fast Freight '08 Don Bigney 5012 Sandra Toledo, OH 43613-2532

Make your checks payable to **Division One NCR**

**FAST FREIGHT '08
REGISTRATION FORM
General Information**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Street Address:

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

NMRA membership #

Expiration Date: _____

Convention Registration

Circle the appropriate registration category and enter your total fee below.

Registrations postmarked after Aug 15, 2008 must add a \$10 surcharge

Single NMRA registration - \$35.00

Single Non-NMRA registration - \$45.00

Family (at least one NMRA member) - \$55.00

Family (no NMRA member) - \$65

Surcharge for late Registrations - \$10.00

Total Registration Fees \$ _____

Name Badge Information

Primary Registrant:

Registered Family Members:

Awards Breakfast - \$15 per person

Attending _____

Total \$ _____

Prototype Tour - \$15 per person

of Tickets _____

Total \$ _____

Convention Polo Shirts

With embroidered logo (presale only) Indicate number \$18/shirt Add \$2 for XXL and XXXL

S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

XXL _____ XXXL _____

Total for Shirts \$ _____

Convention Coffee Mugs @ \$5 each

of Mugs _____

Total \$ _____

Total Amount enclosed with Registration

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Payment may be made by check or money order made out to:

Division One NCR

Send Ops Session Information _____

NCR HotBox PIKE ADS

Cimarron & Santa Fe



TIM FISHER
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HQs: Wyandotte, Michigan

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Bottlewasher
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Plymouth, MI 48170
454-4816

The *South Western*
RailRoad



Marv Linke
Macomb, MI



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John Reitz
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FRANKLIN VALLEY
RAILROAD CO.
Bloomfield Hills,
MI. 48301



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Larry Wright
Canton, Michigan
lwright@detnews.com

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MIKE VANOOST

Front Range

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& WESTERN

Doug Tagsold
Blissfield, MI

PHT "Serving
the
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PORT HURON
TERMINAL
RAILROAD


RICK ZAREMSKI
St. Clair Shores, MI

ENTIAT DIVISION



BB&K
Boom Boom
& Katastrophe

ROGER PARRY SOUTH LYON, MICHIGAN



Lima, Springfield
&
Morgantown

ALLEGHANY DIVISION

JOHN ALANIVA



Detroit Division
Curt Danielewicz
Macomb, Michigan




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P.O. BOX 51
CHESANING, MICHIGAN 48616

**MICHIGAN
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Successor to Vandalia Central
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(from 1950)

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*The standard railroad
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The "J" has direct connections with every railroad
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& Pacific at Ingallton

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PIASA

A&W

WI

ROUTE

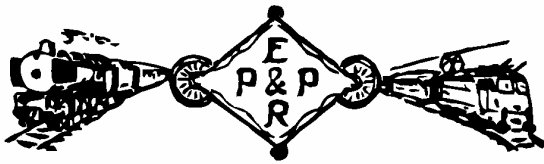
**CONEMAUGH
AND
JUNIATA**

PRR OWNERSHIP
Independent Management

DAVE REGITTKO
ROCHESTER, MI

NCR HotBox PIKE ADS

European Past & Present Railways



Uwe Thormaehlen Chesterfield, Michigan



N-scale Operations
DCC-Digitrax Powered
Al Huberty
Bloomfield Hills, MI



Modular railway Company
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CENTRAL
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CASS COUNTY RAIL-GROUP
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Sugar Spring

Mining Co. Railroad

Steep Grades, Tight Turns
& narrow Squeaky Rails.
No Load To Small
We Haul It All.

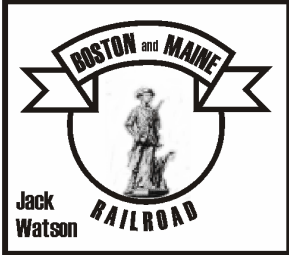
Jim Clements
Rochester Hills, Michigan



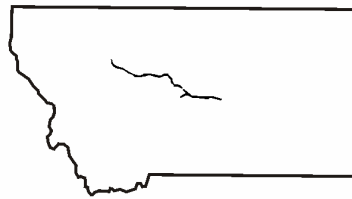
LOST RIVER R.R.



Bob McKibben
Dearborn



Jack
Watson



DAN LEWIS, MMR
Troy, Michigan
N-Scale

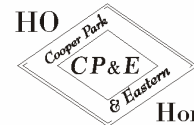


THE NORTH MONTANA LINE

DENNIS GRUDZINSKY



GARDEN CITY, MICHIGAN
THE FRIENDLY
SOUTHERN PACIFIC



Hon3

Kalamazoo Model
Railroad Historical Soc.
9336 Riverview Dr.
Kalamazoo, MI 49004
We meet every Monday
New members welcome

XPRESSWAY FOR INDUSTRY

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NEW YORK CENTRAL
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Detroit & Rangeley Lakes Railroad

Hon30

"The Maine Connection"

General offices: Howell, Mich.
Barret Snyder, MMR
Superintendent

LANTRAK

LANSING AREA NTRAK RR CLUB

Housed in the former PN/C&O Howell
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Historic Village in the Fowlerville
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Meetings held Tuesday evenings.
Visitors welcome, contact Supt. Mark
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The HIT & MISS RAILROAD

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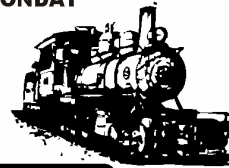
Superintendent Frank Spadafore Jr.
Detroit, Michigan



ART MILLER
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MEMBERSHIPS OPEN

MEETS EVERY MONDAY
AT 7:30 P.M.



Gratiot Valley Railroad Club

FOR INFORMATION CALL
586-468-4877


481 NORTH AVE.
MT. CLEMENS 48043

WORLD WIDE WEB: <http://www.michvhf.com/-gvrr>

NCR HotBox PIKE ADS



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 Mon & Fri 7 to 9 pm
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 Next to the CSX in Howell, MI


N-Scale with interchange by carferry, tug & barge

LOWER LEVEL LINE
 NMRA HO GAUGE NCR




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 Honorary Life Member #35
 General Superintendent
 Farmington Hills, Michigan

BARRY HENSEL Era-1968-72
 Canton, MI HO Scale



CENTRAL DIVISION



SANTA FE NORTHERN




GENE KOME
 Warren, Michigan
 HO Scale

TOLEDO & WESTERN RR

The Pleasure Route - HO
 Edward & Ronald Gould
 Superintendents
 Toledo, Ohio

South Oakland County Model Railroad Club
 Hazel Park, MI
 Meets Tues. & Fri. at 7:30 PM
New Members Welcome
 Call Ron McCreight at
 (248) 879-0956
 for information




SUSAN, REBECA & TERRY CARVER
 Trenton, MI

During discussions at Division meetings, I often hear the suggestion that we should contact the members via their email addresses listed on the various rosters. This past week I attempted to send an email to all the members of the North Central Region, NCR, of the NMRA using the addresses listed on the roster forward to me monthly by the National.

Currently the Region has 880 members of which 586 (66.6%) have email addresses. I did a cut and paste of the addresses from the national roster (avoiding all the typing of the addresses). A couple of dozen had errors that I could correct, such as extra blank spaces, @ symbol or missing dots. Several I guessed whether to add a "net" or com" to finish the address. 145 (24.7%) emails still bounced back as undeliverable.

If you did not receive a copy of the email (all addresses except mine were listed under bcc) I was informing you that after July 31st the cost of registering for the fall convention would be an additional \$10.00. It was a typo of my fault for the 25 or so, who were informed that after July 31st the cost was going to be an additional \$210.

If you have changed jobs or carriers and would like to update your email address please forward them to me at lafortes@gmail.com. I will forward the revisions to the National.

Martin E. LaForte, Registrar NCR-NMRA

HotBox PROTOTYPE PAGE

While it has graced the last two covers of the HotBox, one seems to never tire of looking at our "own" Michigan based steam engine, Pere Marquette #1225. This photo was taken during the run-by on the trip that started the NMRA National Convention in 2007, here in Michigan!

We'll try to bring you at least one photo each issue (hopefully a full page) of Michigan (NCR) based prototype photos.

Enjoy!



NCR TIMETABLE

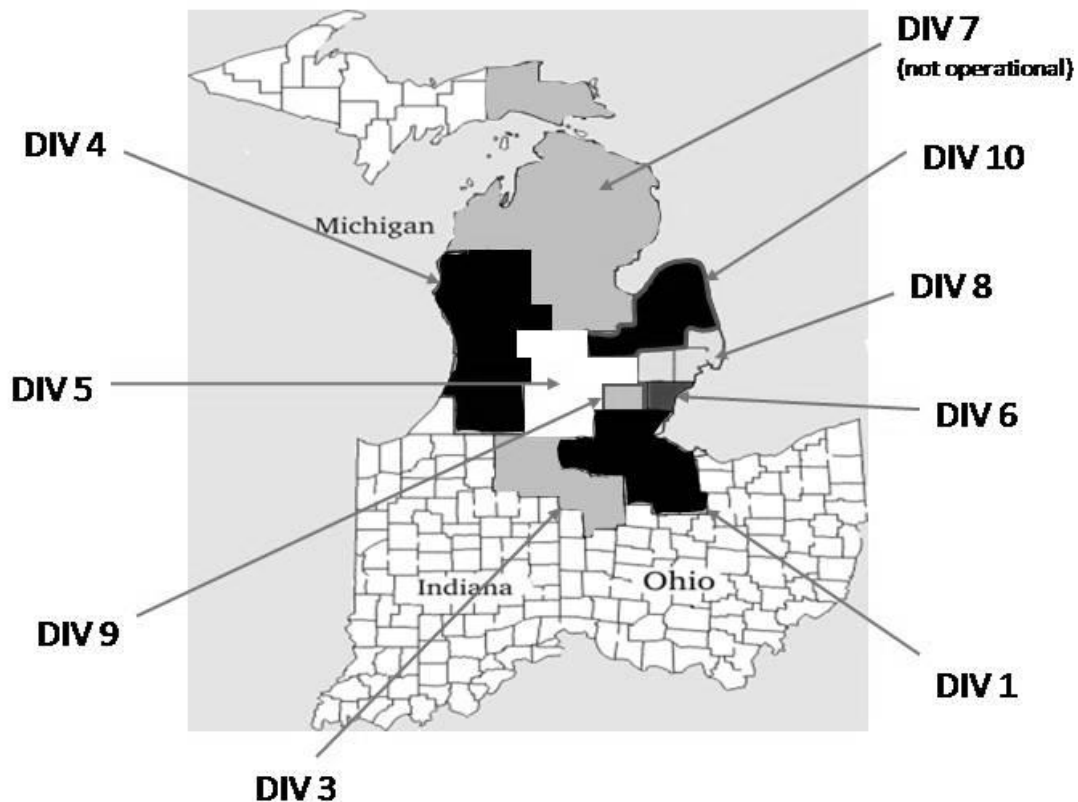
NCR AREA OTHER GROUPS meetings

The HotBox has traditionally listed several other train groups and their meeting times and places. However, after doing a bit of research to verify some of the existing information, we have found that there are well over 60+ different model and proto-type groups within the NCR boundaries. We can never list that many. However, you can see that list, as it is a website (at least for Michigan based groups). Please access this site- www.michiganrailroads.com

THE NCR - WHO AND WHERE

NCR INFORMATION

Here is a map of the NORTH CENTRAL REGION, the NCR, and the Divisions that are within our Region. Below the map is a listing of each Division and the county or counties that they serve. Of course, most of us don't care if you live in one Division's area and attend another Divisions' meetings... happens all the time! We just want you to be ACTIVE in your Division, Region and the NMRA! THANKS to Div 8 for allowing me to "lift" this (with modifications) off of their website! For Division Leaders, see the NCR Board and people listing page. For Division meeting times and places, see the TIMETABLE in this issue.



Division One: Ohio: Crawford, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, Williams, Wood, Wyandot, in Michigan; Lenawee, Monroe

Division Three: Indiana; Allen, DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, & Whitley and Ohio; Allen, Auglaize, Paulding, Putman, VanWert

Division Four: Allegan, Barry, Cass, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lake, Mason, Montcalm, Muskegan, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa, St. Joseph, Van Buren

Division Five: Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, and Livingston

Division Six: Wayne

Division Seven: Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Bay, Benzie, Charlevoux, Cheboygen, Chippewa, Clare, Crawford, Emmet, Gratiot, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Isabella, Kalkaska, Leenanau, Luce, Mackinac, Manistee, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Osceola, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Saginaw, Wexford

Division Eight: St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland

Division Nine: Washtenaw

Division Ten: Lapeer, Genesee, Huron, Shiawassee, Sanilac, and Tuscola

EVENTS-

Friday-Sunday, Sept 19-21- Fast Freight '08 NCR 2008 Regional Convention
Clarion Hotel Toledo, OH
This is the 2008 North Central Regional convention, hosted by Division One, Toledo, OH. The convention will feature prototype tours, a dinner mystery train, on-site layout displays, clinics, layout tours, and operating sessions.

Saturday/Sunday, Sept 20-21- Steam Railroad Institute Hobo Days
Steam Railroad Institute 405 South Washington Street Owosso, MI 48867
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Rain or Shine! \$5 per person. Children 4 & under FREE
Activities including acoustic music, Little Obie, children's games and activities, hand car rides, round house rides, cab tours more. You will be able to see the Pere Marquette #1225 Steam Locomotive that was used for the engine in the Christmas classic movie "The Polar Express". PLEASE, No Strollers, Wheelchair Accessible. For more information call 989-725-9464 or go to the website- <http://www.worldpath.net/~minstrel/grapvine.htm>

Sunday, Sept 21- Model Railroad, Operating Exhibit, Train Show and Sale
Lucas County Fairgrounds 2901 Key Street Maumee, OH 43537
11am to 4pm \$4.00 adult Under 12 free. \$8.00 early admission, 9:30am-11am
For more information contact Al or Yvonne Mitchell 517-264-5705

Saturday-Sunday, Sept 27-28- Lansing Michigan Model RR club open house
5309 Old Lansing Road Lansing (Delta Township), MI 48917
11:00 am to 4:00 pm both dates Free Admission!
The Lansing Michigan Model Railroad club is hosting an open house in conjunction with the Woldumar Nature Center fall festival. For more information contact Don Stokes at dst8596587@aol.com <http://www.lmrc.org>

Sunday, Sept 28- Railroad Memorabilia, Toy Train Show and Sale
Walker Arena Annex 561 W. Western Avenue Muskegon, MI 49443
10am to 3pm. Adults \$4.00, Students \$2.00, under 10 free
For more information contact Andy Bussard 231-755-6298

Sunday, Oct 12- Toy Train Swap Meet
UF&C Workers Hall 876 Horace Brown Dr Madision Heights, MI 48071
10 am to 2 pm \$3.00 per person, \$6.00 family
For more information contact Bob Burgee 586-752-1839

Sunday, Oct 12- Model Train Flea Market
Southgate Civic Center 14400 Dix-Toledo Road Southgate, MI 48195
10:30AM-3:00PM \$2.50; under 12 free with adult
Downriver Model Railroaders annual model train flea market will feature dealers selling new and used merchandise for all scales. Operating layouts, test track and snack bar on premises. Wheelchair Accessible. For further information and table reservations, contact Frank Brua at 734-285-3322

Sunday, Oct, 19- Train Show and Sale
South Bend Elk's Lodge 3535 E. McKinley Ave. (US 20) South Bend, IN 46615
10:00am - 3:00pm \$4.00 individual, \$8.00 family
All scales - "Z" through "LGB", videos, Collectables, Antiques, New Products
Operating Layouts, Buy-Sell-Trade, Food available. For more information contact David Korkhouse PO Box 6591 South Bend, IN 46660 574-272-6436 www.sjvrr.com

Saturday, Oct 25- 12th annual Model Railroad & Toy Train Show and Sale
Coliseum Bingo 911 West Washington Center Road Fort Wayne, IN 46825
9 am to 2 pm Adults \$3.00, Families \$5.00, Children 12 and under free
Sponsored by the Maumee Valley Railroad Club. Many tables of model railroad and
railroadiana, several operating layouts including the newly updated MVRRC DCC
modular layout. Hands-On trains display (for kids of all ages). Good food and
plenty of free parking available. Handicap accessible. For information contact
Maumee Valley Railroad Club P.O. Box 162 Leo, IN 46765 or Chuck White at
260-760-1666 Railcarman@verizon.net

Sunday, Oct 26- Trainorama 2008
Costick Community Center Farmington Hills, MI
10:00am to 4:00pm \$4.00 per person, children under 12 free with paid adult
Presented by the Redford Model Railroad Club: a flea market for train buffs of
all ages featuring scale model railroad equipment and supplies, toy trains,
plus a wide variety of railroad oriented antiques and collectibles. A display
of operating model railroads in a variety of scales. A chance for those
interested in the hobby to meet others and to learn about local, regional and
national organizations they may wish to join. For more information Email
Pierre@hbc-benefitsandeducation.com or call 313-565-1027 or 734-953-2546

Sunday, Nov 2- Train Show and Sale
Macomb Comm College Sports & Expo Center 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd Warren, MI 48088
10AM-4PM Adults \$5.50, Children 12 & under FREE, 50-cent Coupon @ www.gvrr.org
MICHIGAN'S LARGEST INDOOR 1-DAY TRAIN SHOW & SALE, FREE UNLIMITED PARKING, Over
400 Dealer Tables, Door Prizes, Kids Raffle, Lots of Operating Layouts, Food &
Refreshments, Free How-To Railroad Modeling Clinics, Wheelchair Accessible
Show Flyer, Dealer Information Package and Table Application on our Website at
www.gvrr.org or call 586-468-4877.

Sunday, Nov 9- Lansing Model Railroad Club Train Show and Sale
Michigan State University Pavilion East Lansing, Michigan
10am to 4pm Adults \$5, children (6-12) \$2, children under 6 & scouts in
uniform are FREE
One of Michigan's largest train shows with over 400 tables and 10 operating
layouts. Shop for new and used trains, railroadiana, artwork, books, DVD's, and
much more. Learn from local NMRA Division 5 experts on how to build a model
railroad at how-to sessions. For more information Email frezellm@sbcglobal.net
or phone 517-321-6776 and visit www.lmrc.org

Sunday, Nov 30- Div 6 Fall Model Railroad Show & Workshop
Livonia Senior Center Five Mile and Farmington Rds Livonia, MI
11am-4pm **FREE ADMISSION!!**
NOT a sale or swap meet!! Come and get your model railroading questions
answered. See demonstrations on all facets of model railroading. Hourly raffles
for prizes and model contests. Snacks-refreshments available. For more
information see www.div6-ncr-nmra.com

Saturday, Dec 13- Toy Train Swap Meet
Holy Family Regional School 2633 John R Road Rochester Hills, MI 48306
11am to 3:30 pm \$3.00 per person, \$6.00 family, early bird 10am, \$10.00
For more information contact Bob Burgee 586-752-1839

Saturday/Sunday, various- SRI 2008 North Pole Express

Steam Railroad Institute 405 South Washington Street Owosso, MI 48867

November 28th 4pm; November 29-30 10am & 4pm; December 6-7 10am & 4pm;

December 13-14 10am & 4pm; December 20-21 10am & 4pm

Tickets- \$65 adult, 12 and younger \$35

You will be able to ride behind the Pere Marquette #1225 Steam Locomotive that was used for the engine in the Christmas classic movie "The Polar Express".

For more information call 989-725-9464 or go to - www.mstrp.com

NCR DIVISION meetings

Division One (Toledo, Ohio area)

Starting September 2008, we will be meeting at Collingwood Presbyterian Church located at 2108 Collingwood Blvd. at Floyd St. near downtown Toledo. In an effort to comply with the National Model Railroad Association rules governing Liability and Insurance coverage for Division One events, Division One has agreed to be a 100% NMRA membership organization. www.divisiononencr.org

Division Three (Fort Wayne, Indiana and western Ohio area)

We meet monthly, year round on the second Tuesday of the month. Our meetings are held at the UM Church of the Covenant 10001 N. Coldwater Rd, Fort Wayne, IN. (1/4 mile S. of DuPont Rd.) Use rear entrance. www.hoosierdiv3nmra.org

Division Four (Grand Rapids and west Michigan area)

Div. 4 continues to meet quarterly with other special events thrown in. For more information contact: Skip Luyk, 616-363-3453 or heluyk@yahoo.com

Division Five (Lansing and mid-lower Michigan area)

Meets on the Second Saturday of each month in the basement of the main library of the Capital Area District Library, located at the corner of S. Capital and Kalamazoo Sts., Lansing, MI. Meetings start at 1pm. www.div5.ncr-nmra.org

Division Six (Wayne County, Detroit area)

Meets on the THIRD Friday of each month at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Rd, one mile north of the I-96 Jefferies Fwy. Meetings start at 7:30pm and last until 10pm. www.div6-ncr-nmra.com

Division Seven (mid-upper Michigan area)

Division Seven is currently inactive. Any Volunteers??

Division Eight (Oakland, Macomb Counties, north Detroit area)

Division Eight meets at 7:00 pm, on the third Thursday of the month, at Troy Christian Chapel. The chapel is located at 400 East Long Lake Road in Troy, Michigan. It is between Rochester and Livernois roads. www.div8.ncr-nmra.org

Division Nine (Ann Arbor area)

We meet on the first Sunday of most months at 2:30pm at Keller/Williams Reality at 2144 South State Street. Use Exit 177 off I-94 (Briarwood Mall) and go north toward downtown Ann Arbor. Turn west into the parking lot with the entrance to the building on the upper level. (Look for the NMRA sign at reception desk.) No meetings scheduled for July or August (summer recess) www.div9.ncr-nmra.org

Division Ten (Flint and Saginaw area)

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM at Woodside Church 1509 E Court St Flint, MI 48503 www.ncr_division10.tripod.com



DIVISION 6 of the
NORTH CENTRAL REGION of the
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS-



30th ANNUAL!

MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & WORKSHOP

Sunday, November 30th, 2008 11am-4pm

***LEARN HOW TO DO & ENJOY MODEL
RAILROADING!***

This is NOT a sale or swap meet!

SEE DEMONSTRATIONS

on power systems, scenery, kit building, structure building, backdrops, wiring, track laying tips, & basic building techniques.

ALSO SEE historical displays, FREE engine repair, video tape shows and operating model railroad layouts! Refreshments will be available.

PARTICIPATE IN a raffle for many prizes of model railroad items and an open model railroad model contest.



***GREAT FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY! STOP BY
FOR A VISIT, ASK QUESTIONS, GET ANSWERS!***

The **MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & WORKSHOP** is located at the
LIVONIA SENIORS BUILDING
Farmington and Five Mile Rds. (see map on back!)

Entry Fare: *FREE ADMISSION !!!*

Division 6

Model Railroad Workshop

Model Contest Rules

The contest will be open to anyone wishing to enter a model in the contest. You do not have to be a Division 6, NCR or NMRA member.

Models **MUST** be on display between 12:30pm and 3pm and participants **MUST** be present during the awards ceremony at 3:30pm. Models not picked-up at 4pm will be left unguarded in the building! Division 6 assumes **NO RESPONSIBILITY** for models left after 4pm!!!



Awards will be given to the top three models in these categories-

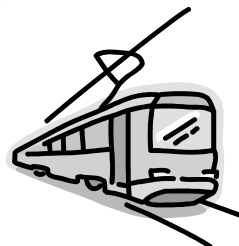
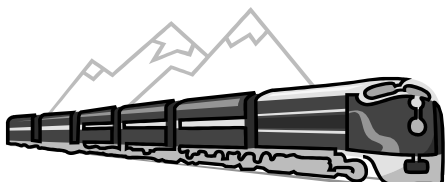
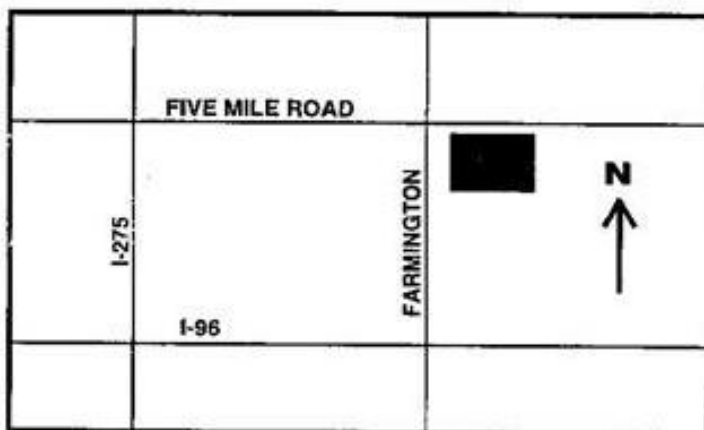
**steam locomotive, diesel engine, misc. motive power
structures, rolling stock**

One award will be given to the Best in Show. Awards will be presented by popular vote of all participants and spectators at the Model Railroad Workshop.

This contest is not an NMRA sanctioned event. No NMRA points or awards will be given.

All decisions of the Fall Workshop Committee are final.

To enter a model, simply attend the Fall Model Railroad Workshop and bring your model to the contest area, fill out the display card and place your model on the display table in the proper area. Assistance will be provided.



REDFORD MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

PRESENTS

TRAINORAMA

FLEA MARKET AND SHOW

OCTOBER 26, 2008

COSTICK COMMUNITY CENTER

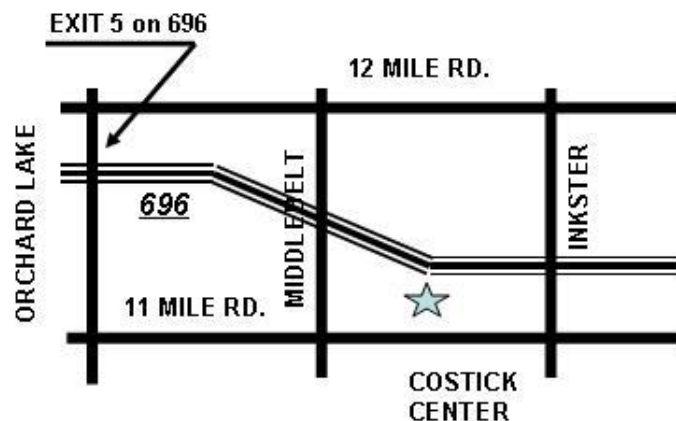
**28600 ELEVEN MILE ROAD
FARMINGTON HILLS, MI**

TIME: 10AM-4PM

Cost: \$4.00 Adults

(under 12 free with adult)

- MODEL TRAINS IN ALL SCALES
- RAILROADIANA, RR VIDEOS
- RR BOOKS, MAGAZINES, PHOTOS
- BRASS AND TINPLATE MODELS
- MODEL RAILROADING CLINICS
- OPERATING MODULAR RAILROAD LAYOUTS
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For more information contact:

Pierre Willermet

36123 Roycroft Street

Livonia, MI 48154

734-953-2546 or

pierre@hbc-benefitsandeducation.com

Dealer table reservation information:

Table rent: \$18.00 per 8 foot table

Make check payable to and mail to:

Redford Model Railroad Club

36123 Roycroft Street

Livonia, MI 48154

MICHIGAN'S LARGEST ONE DAY TRAIN SHOW & SALE

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2008 10am - 4pm

Over 400 Dealer
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Operating Layouts

Door Prizes and
Free Raffle

Food &
Refreshments



Two Modeling
Clinics

Kit-Bashing:
What is it?
How is it done?

Building &
Weathering
Freight Cars

FREE PARKING

**Square Foot
Modeling Contest**

PRESENTED BY

GRATIOT VALLEY RAILROAD CLUB

50¢ OFF Sunday, November 2, 2008
ONE MCC Sports & Expo Center
ADMISSION **ADMISSION \$5.50**
CHILDREN 12 & UNDER FREE

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

FILL OUT AND TURN IN COUPON AT SHOW FOR 50¢ OFF ONE ADMISSION.
A REMINDER FOR THE NEXT GVRR SHOW & SALE WILL BE MAILED TO YOU.

V198.1

**MACOMB COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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www.gvrr.org or 586-468-4877**

Future Shows
March 1, 2009 and November 1, 2009

*next month in the **HotBox** –*

MORE LAYOUT PHOTOS

MORE HOW-TO-DO ARTICLES

MORE INFORMATION



..... stay tuned!

Permit Holder:
The North Central Region,
National Model Railroad Association

c/o Larry Wright
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Canton, MI 48187

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lafortes@gmail.com

RAILROADING "WHAT THE ???"

NCR HUMOR

From the internet... is this the ultimate "cushion" coupler??



*How'd you like to change out this turnout?
Yes, this is a concrete beam turnout for the Monorail at
Walt Disney world! Bet that's one heavy duty turnout
motor they have...!*



*From the internet, via email-
Well... that's certainly one way to get that hopper car
to the mine. Did anyone see my wheels?*



Division One (Toledo, Ohio area)

Div 1 has been gearing-up for the annual NCR Convention, which is happening in September. There is still plenty of time to register, in fact, you can register at the door! Please see all of the convention information in this HOTBOX, or on our website.

Division Three (Fort Wayne, Indiana and western Ohio area)

Div 3 has also been working on a convention, the NCR Convention for 2009! Dates, site and tentative schedule have already been determined.

Division Four (Grand Rapids and west Michigan area)

Div 4 is busy with yet another convention... The NMRA NATIONAL for 2012!! Plans are progressing along on this major event.

Division Five (Lansing and mid-lower Michigan area)

Enjoy the summer? Div 5 has been on summer vacation, but returns to active duty in September. Lots of great events and activities are planned.

Division Six (Wayne County, Detroit area) by Barry Hensel (temporarily)

Div 6 has been meeting all summer long and has started to gear-up for our annual Fall Model Railroad Workshop & Show (see flyer in this issue). Because we have had good success the past few years and our treasury is solid, Div 6 decided to "give back" to the local communities, by having FREE admission to our event for this year, as we celebrate our 30th annual event! Div 6 has also been fortunate to have some layout tours almost every month. Thanks, goes out to the layout owners and Div 6 Layout Chairman Dick Harden. We've also had some good clinics, Thanks to our new Clinic Chairman and Secretary Howard Andrews. On a sadder note, long time member and History Master Don Watson has had several major health set-backs. He will not be returning to Div 6 activities and is now living on the north-east side of the Metro area, near his daughter. Div 6 member Norm Logan has volunteered to be our new History "Professor".

Division Seven (mid-upper Michigan area)

Division 7 is currently inactive. Any Volunteers??

Division Eight (Oakland, Macomb Counties, north Detroit area)

Div 8 has some award winners! In June/May, Rad Jones received his AP Certificate for Scenery and Allen Crowley received his AP Certificate for Electrical Engineer. Congratulations to both guys!

Division Nine (Ann Arbor area)

We at Div 9 are relatively new to the NCR, NMRA activities, but we're learning fast, thanks to some great mentors. We're looking for anyone in our area to stop by and become a member.

Division Ten (Flint and Saginaw area)

Div 10 continues to meet year-round, enjoying the camaraderie and skills of each member.

NOTE- information for this page was derived from Division websites and general knowledge of what's happening and compiled by the HotBox Editor, for THIS issue ONLY! Division Leaders, please get a volunteer to become a **Division Informer!** Thanks..... *Editor*

Here is a NEW section of the HotBox where your news items, rumors, and gossip of just about anything in the Model Railroading hobby can be reported. Heard someone is coming out with a new model? Heard a new hobby shop is opening? Whatever it is, send it to us and we'll let everyone else know!

BTR#1- I had the pleasure of chatting with Herald King's new owners, Emma and Rick Naylor, this week. Rick requested that I let other modelers know that they are back in business under the Herald King name after many, many years of inactivity (14 years, I think he said). You can view their on-line catalog and get contact info by visiting www.heraldking.com. Not only will they re-issue the old offerings, they will also entertain custom-run decals in multiple scales. According to Rick, a ballpark cost for artwork is \$25-30, decal sheets will run around \$12-14 each depending on number of colors and the minimum order is 15 sheets. Very reasonable, IMO. Gather up your modeling dollars and go support the rebirth of a great line of decals. Having a source for more modern, high-quality S scale decals should be a welcomed announcement for S modelers. Jim King, Smoky Mountain Model Works, Inc. www.smokymountainmodelworks.com

BTR#2- "The Christmas Kit"... It's a sweltering July day and here we are thinking about this years' upcoming "big one". Although we've launched the first two kits of the "1 of 500" series we haven't put out a "big box" (in our case, a "big wooden box") kit in two years. With the glut of "craftsman" structures on the market we just didn't see a reason to do a yearly release and had decided to keep it to every two years. There are only so many of these things we all have time to build (and all-too-often "collect") so we thought it would be better to skip every other year, keeping the "kit" a little more special and giving you guys a break from the craziness of the "annual decision making".

About the new Kit.... It'll be "HO" scale (of course), it'll consist of 4 structural elements, and will go together to make an entire diorama. The components will be made of wood, white metal, plastic, and resin. The kit is designed for either a land-based or waterfront based operation and can incorporate the use of tracks to complete the scene if you prefer (we used a track on our prototype, you don't have to). The kit will have the usual Bar Mills value, we figure it at this point to be WELL UNDER \$300. Photos will be released in the beginning of September, the kit will ship (as usual) just before Christmas.

YES, it will come in the custom wooden boxed we used for both "Gritty McDuff's" & "Raglan Road" (both of those kits have been long sold-out). Although we normally run about 450 kits this year we're gonna keep it down to about 350. You will be able to order as many as 3 kits, but we'd prefer you'd only order one, these kits are not being produced for the benefit of E-Bay brokers, it's being built for the other guys in the hobby.

That's it. We make these guarantees... The kit will be distinctive, be well engineered, and be a great value.... something we still think is important here at Bar Mills.

That's it, stay tuned, if you're a BMSM fan and want to pre-order this kit you'll be able to once the photos are posted, but not before. Shipping will be about \$10 within the CONT-US. We'll have a new "Moose" coming along shortly with news of some new "O" & "S" scale offerings as well. Well, time to mow the lawn... Merry Christmas!

Art Fahie, BMSM

"BETWEEN THE RAILS" continued.....

BTR#3- Hi, Editors - The 2008 National convention is over, and several important decisions came out of the Board meeting there. You'll be hearing about most of those decisions in "Scale Rails." However, one decision that may directly impact you is the new decision to raise the annual subscription rate of "Scale Rails." If you're currently running an NMRA subscription or renewal form in your newsletter, as of October 1, 2008 you'll have to adjust the rates for memberships that include the magazine. Here's the official word from the Board: "In order to keep up with rapidly escalating costs for printing and distribution, the Board approved a new rate of \$19 (US members) per annual subscription of 'Scale Rails.'" Remember, this is still quite a value, considering "Scale Rails" is typically 72 pages and full-color. In fact, a subscription comes to less than \$2 per month. So, bottom line: after October 1, the new annual NMRA dues rate with a "Scale Rails" subscription will be \$55. Please adjust your subscription or renewal form!

Thanks, Gerry Leone, MMR, Deputy Chair

Jan Wescott, Department Manager, Membership Services & Promotion Dept

DISCLAIMER!!- While we will try to verify most stories, the HotBox, HotBox Editor, NCR Board of Directors, it's agents and representatives will not and can not be held responsible for mis-information presented in this column!

HotBox RAILROAD HISTORY

NCR INFORMATION

From the TCA Members site: Lost railroad cars

Just to toss in my own little tale of a lost or misplaced railroad car: Around the time I moved to Indianapolis in January 1964, The Milwaukee Road decided to take up it's eastern most trackage in Indiana, which was the former Chicago Terre Haute and Southeastern which the Milw had acquired first through lease in 1921. With trackage going as far east as Seymour, IN, the Milw became the eastern most of any West Coast railroad, and was the only railroad in the U.S. to operate in four time zones. The primary business for the road was stone and coal from Southern Indiana, although other freight, both inbound and outbound was shipped as well. Eventually the demand for the bulk commodities, as well as the available supply petered out, the line became non-productive and the decision was made to abandon part of it.

The day that the last train was dispatched to run on the line, a switch crew was instructed to run those last few miles to pick up any freight cars that might have been left standing on a spur, a siding, a branch line or in any yard. The next activity was to be the wrecking crew that would tear up those tracks, thus isolating any car that might have been left. Well, as the crew traveled slowly down the last few miles, they came upon an old spur that switched off of the line and then traveled away, and out of sight of the "main" line. First one of the crew said that no one had used that spur in many years and they should just forget it and go on to the next one. Turns out the spur was over a mile long and had served a stone quarry that had long been abandoned. Small trees were growing up through the tracks, but the conductor said, "Nope; the boss said that we've got to run over every inch of the trackage on the line and that's what we're going to do". So with some difficulty they were able to throw the rusty old switch and started down the line. As they proceeded they couldn't even see through the foliage that they were knocking down and pushing out of the way, but when they finally got to the end of the spur, low and behold, there was a sealed box car sitting there, completely unaccounted for!

RAILROAD HISTORY continued.....

Well, they coupled on to it and with much groaning, creaking and squeaking, they got the car out to the main line. They reported it to dispatch by the car number and could find no record of it. As I mentioned, the car was sealed with one of those stainless steel, locking seals that no railroad man would dare open without "permission from the boss". Again, the dispatcher's office could not find any record of the car by number, not even in the U.S. freight car registry. So, finally "the boss" gave them permission to break the seal and find out if there was anything in the car.

They could hardly believe their eyes when they finally slid open the double doors. The car was filled with four brand new Pontiacs, completely undriven! Only, this was 1964 when they discovered the car and the four Pontiacs were brand new 1947 models! Apparently on their way to a Pontiac dealer somewhere in Southern Indiana the car was set out, temporarily, at the beginning of that quarry spur while the train went elsewhere to switch on the line. The brakes on the automobile car bled off and released themselves and there was a slight, almost imperceptible grade on the spur line and the car quietly rolled off to the end of the spur, and into history. I have no idea what happened to the Pontiacs!

This story was related to me by the late Vane Jones, the original founder of "O" SCALE Railroading, the predecessor of our O Gauge Railroading, only a few years after the original incident occurred. I have no reason to doubt it, as incredible as it may seem, because after that time I have also heard of other cars that got lost in some odd way, only to be found many years later. A friend of mine once told me of a car, set out on the "RIP track" in Butler, WI on the C&NW, was lost track of and was not discovered until many years later, even though the car was right there, in relatively plain sight, in an active railroad yard. It was supposed to have contained military vehicles.

So, if you have a long branch line on your layout, maybe it would be prototypical to just leave an old box car sitting at the end of it, "forgotten" by the rest of your operating crews. Great stories could be told to your visitors about the contents of that car!

Best regards, Frank Corley

ED- Thanks to Ken Borg of Div 6 for passing this along via email!

REMEMBER!!! We need YOU as a "DIVISION INFORMER" so that everyone else knows what your Division is doing! -or- You can submit a whole article! -or- you can even submit photos for our columns! We will need YOUR help for future issues of... the HotBox!

MODEL RAILROADING IS FUN!



Lansing Model Railroad Club



2008 Train Show & Sale

Map on Back!

**Michigan State University Pavilion
East Lansing, MI**

**SUNDAY, NOV. 9, 2008
10:00 am to 4:00 pm**



FREE PARKING!
See Running Trains - Expert Demonstrations
One of Michigan's largest with over 400 tables!

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Information:
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E-mail: nd5s@arrl.net

Michael Frezell (517) 321-6776 (eve)
E-mail: frezellm@sbcglobal.net
www.lmrc.org



Table Reservations:
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A Train Load of Fun for Everyone!

NCR HotBox PIKE ADS FALLEN FLAGS

Here are some Pike Ads for our friends that have gone before us.



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LUMBER CO.**
Alpha, Michigan
Ed Cummings
Agent
"WE GET THE TIMBER
BEFORE THE TERMITES:"



**Copper Range
Railroad**
Circa 1923
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Santa Fe & Eastern
Santa Fe
KEN SANBORN, PRESIDENT
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Juniper Valley & Western RR
"Route of Powder Snow"
JV&W
Visit Juniper Mountain Lodge
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West Bloomfield, MI
This is Lackawanna Country