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# THE **HotBox**

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

VOL. 65 NO. 3

AUTUMN 2024

## **RAILFANNING** the Railroads of Division Six



## **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024 NCR Convention FINAL NEWS!**



## **STATION No. VI is OPEN!**

## **HOW TO - CONTROL PANELS**



## **BUILD A SAUNA!**



**PLUS- RR History, Timetable, NMRA-NCR-Division News & more!**

## The HotBox

AUTUMN 2024  
Vol. 65, 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.

### Business ads-

1/2 page \$20 per issue or \$65 per year  
full page \$30 per issue or \$100 per year  
business card \$10 per issue or \$35 per year -or- free business card for exchange of websites and/or sales of HotBox

**Pike ads-** \$15 small, \$30 double and

\$60 quad for a 3 year period!

### NCR Division Event ads- FREE

To pay for any ad space... send your payment to the Editor. All checks/money orders need to be made out to "The North Central Region, NMRA"

Send address corrections to the Registrar- Marshall Stull

248-817-9328

[mstull@marshallstull.com](mailto:mstull@marshallstull.com)

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

**Hello AUTUMN!!** Yes, Autumn will soon be upon us. Colorful scenery, falling leaves, cooler temps are all part of the seasonal change. Another change is the many model railroading events that are part of the seasonal calendar. Trains shows, open house tours of layouts, conventions and even monthly meetings that return to your schedule. I hope you will be able to take part in many of these events, They are all well worth the time to attend, make friends and even learn new modeling skills. Have fun!!

As to that personal issue.... it has been resolved and thankfully, in my favor as far as the house is concerned. The Reading Lines – Central Division will live on! No moving, no teardown, just remaining as is and maybe even more improvements and even a small expansion. Thank-You to many that gave me your support and well wishes!!

**NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024** is only ONE month away!! Are you registered? If not, please do so ASAP!! There are a few deadlines and those are approaching fast. In this HotBox, the latest and near final arrangements are shown. We hope you will join us for a great weekend of model railroading!

As you read this, WE ARE OPEN! Registration for the 2025 NMRA National convention – **STATION No. VI** hosted by us, the NCR and all of our Divisions, has been open for nearly 3 weeks! Just like our Regional convention... have you registered yet? STATION NoVI will be like no other national convention. Let's all get ON BOARD to help or attend and show the NMRA that the NCR does it best! Mark your calendars now for July 14-19, 2025. See the latest news in this **HotBox**.

Well, time to do some MORE model railroading... and that's always a good thing!! Thanks for reading... Barry



## MODEL RAILROADING IS FUN!

## NCR ON FACEBOOK

**NCR NEWS**

In case you didn't know, the NCR does have a Facebook page! Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/NCRNMRA> Please LIKE us and feel free to post your current projects, modeling and model railroad events! We'll also post announcements of interest too!

## HOTBOX CORRECTIONS NCR "OOPS"...

Always striving to be correct is something we will do with the **HotBox**. But, we are human and mistakes can/will happen. Please forgive us,

these are NOT intentional! For the June issue, we know of no concerns or typo's.

**FRONT COVER PICTURES-** Norm Charbonneau's O scale (3 rail!) Northbrook Railroad; NMRA logo, Station No.VI logo; NCX logo; How To – Layout control panels; How To – build a sauna!

**REAR COVER PICTURES-** Station NoVI logo;

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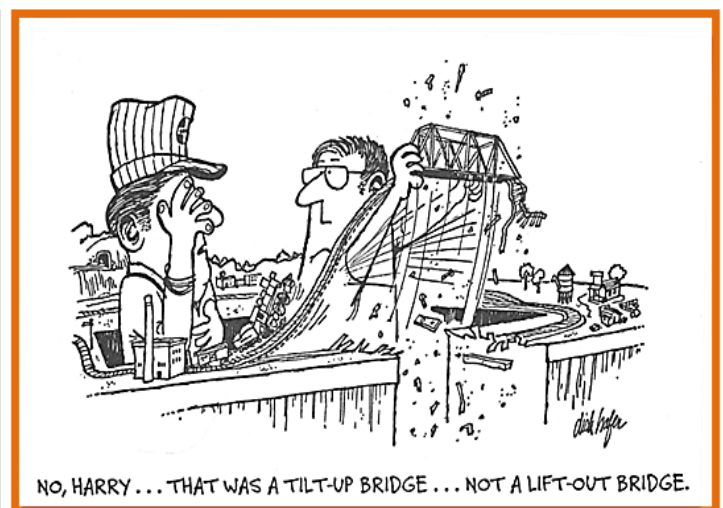
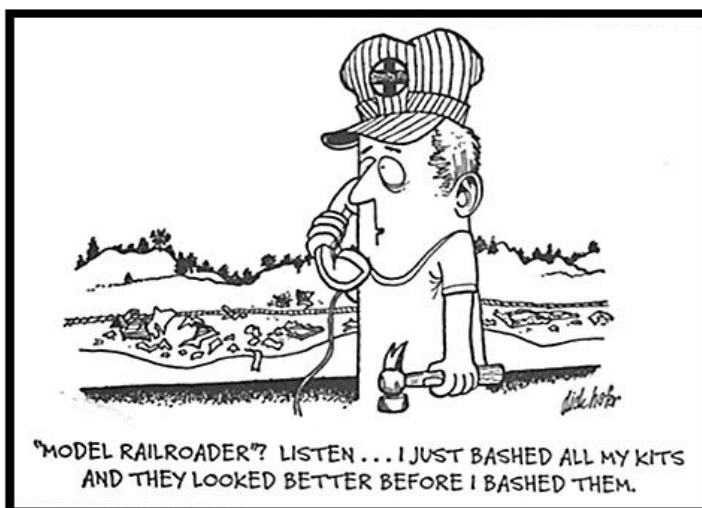
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## RAILROADING "WHAT THE ???"

**NCR HUMOR**

Here's a few more to share from the book "Sometimes You Gotta Compromise" by Dick Hafer, printed 1996 by Kalmbach Publishing. Shared with permission.



Hello again! Let's continue some discussions on ideas to improve our Division attendance and involvement of members.....

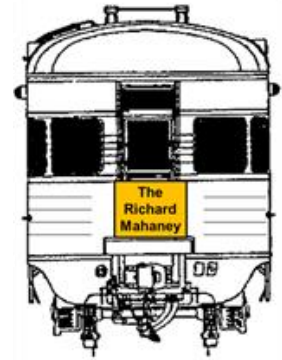
**We need to take our meetings "on the road" –**  
My own Division 9 looks for opportunities to travel during the "good driving months" to see things, meet at something new or different for our meeting, visit layouts and historical items related to railroads, these are planned outings. We try to schedule a meeting in Sturgis, MI every so often because there are a number of Division 9 members living there. There are railroad operations in Sturgis, a historical railroad museum there, a model railroad club, and other things to see. I know Division 4 tries to meet in Holland and Muskegon (maybe Grand Haven in the future) besides the greater Grand Rapids area. I mentioned going to Coldwater this coming June for a steam train ride. Maybe in the future, Division 9 will try to go to Owosso, MI for a steam train ride as a group. Next September, Division 9 will hold its September meeting (our "annual" business meeting) at the Vicksburg, MI Train Station and Historical Society facilities. We met a while back with the Michiana Division in Hartford, MI at the West Michigan Railroad "transload yard & facilities" for a tour and presentation. Maybe even a day out trip to a busy location for rail fanning and railroad photos. My old Eastern Iowa Division used to meet in the summer at a spot with a community building by the UP RR "mainline tracks" for a day of bring a project to work on, enjoy fellowship, watch and photograph UP trains going by and cook burgers on a grill for lunch with people bring food to share and pass. It was a great fun day meeting!

### **Layout tours –**

Layout tours can be broken up into different groups. They can be by scale; railroads modelled (focus on one railroad like the CSX or GTW); home layouts vs club layouts \*Division 9 did a trip to the Grand Rapids area to see 4 back-to-back club layouts); era of the layout (transition period vs modern era vs the beginning of railroads, WWI or II era or Civil War era), maybe by industry modelled (I have seen some pretty neat layouts focused on coal mining or iron ore mining or forestry/timber operations); beginning of construction, middle of construction or finished/completed (I know there is no such thing as a "completed" model railroad); a railroad that focuses on all steam or all diesel power; model railroads that focus on railroads of Europe or Asia.

### **Industry tours (prototype tours) –**

How about trying to schedule a field trip to an industry to learn how they make stuff and include railroad traffic into their operations. I know this can be tough due to manufacturing secrets, safety on the tour (need for safety glasses, hearing protection, work boots and long sleeve shirts and pants), having people that can take us around (everybody is busy and short staffed), weather, parking, security, etc. Also the companies have difficulty understanding our wants and needs (what's a model railroad, you guys do what) and the old question of "can we take photos"?



### **Show off your favorite photos, images and videos meeting –**

Have everybody bring in 5 minutes or 10 minutes of their favorite 35mm slides, PowerPoint slides, movies and videos. Tell us about what you saw, what you like, tell us a fun story, how these images relate to your layout or operations or why you took these images or visited this location to take these images! The challenge to this meeting is having the equipment to project the images. 35mm slide projector, what the heck is that these days, videos, movie projectors, videos, etc., what members have in the equipment at home.

### **Hosting a "hands-on" clinic -**

This could be on any topic. Division 9 just hosted a "weathering railroad cars" clinic. Division 9 purchased the materials needed, members brought inside railroad cars to "practice on", we had a seasoned veteran instructor lead the clinic and processes. Everybody enjoyed the time and clinic and went home with some "weathered: railroad cars. Topics and projects such as scratch building of building, installing decoders, repairing and tuning up engines, making water on your layout, lighting of buildings, building trees, making snow for your layout, painting backdrops, and the list could go on and on!

**Continued next page → →**

## **PRESIDENT'S OBSERVATION**

**Rich Mahaney**

### ***“Zoom” meetings –***

The use of “Zoom” for our meetings has been a “controversial and challenging” topic. We survived covid times because of “Zoom”. But we have lost people from showing up to our “real” meetings, because they could “attend” from home. Now is the time to figure out more ways to use “Zoom” in our meetings to make them better, because “Zoom” is not going away. At Division 9, we have been able to have clinic presenters from across the US present at our meetings. We have had other people attend our meetings from across the US and in Canada also. “Zoom” does come with a cost for somebody and you can have problems with equipment, links, and limited internet signal.

### ***An “all-day” meeting with a theme –***

Think about every once in a while, or once a year, schedule an all-day event for your members. I recently participated with Division 8 of the Mid Central Region for an all-day event. I presented four clinics that they chose from my catalog of clinics. During the clinics, they had a regular business meeting, catered in a lunch, and other activities besides my clinics. Maybe a time frame of 9am to 5pm. Focus on a theme or topic that all model railroaders would enjoy for a day long event.

So think about these ideas and thoughts, and think about how you can improve, change, get better and shake up your Division meetings. Let me know what you think? Let me know what works, did not work and other ideas you have at your Division.

**Rich Mahaney**

**NMRA NCR President**

## **HotBox SUBSCRIPTIONS**

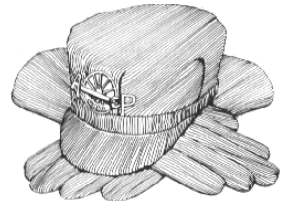
**NCR NEWS**

Starting this month, September 2024, the NMRA is no longer collecting the subscription fee for the HotBox. Your NCR Board of Directors is working on an alternative way to pay this fee, most likely directly to the NCR. However, this is not in place yet and needs more work and study on how best to do this. For that reason, we will honor and extend your subscription for one or two issues, if your NMRA membership renews in October 2024 - March 2025. We hope to have the new program in place to announce in the December 2024 issue of the HotBox. Thanks for your understanding.

## **NMRA-NCR ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

**NCR AWARDS**

Thanks go to Ken Chick, Jim Macino, Dorman Wilson, Ron Gilbert and Pete Magoun as they continue doing a great job keeping the level of AP activity in our NCR Divisions at a high pitch. Thanks go to all NCR members that are participating in the Achievement Program. With the summer months, it seems everyone is taking a break. That means, unfortunately, we have no certificates to report on for this issue of the HotBox. We hope that once cooler temps return, those projects will also return to your workbench. Then, fill out those forms and let's get some AP Certificates awarded!



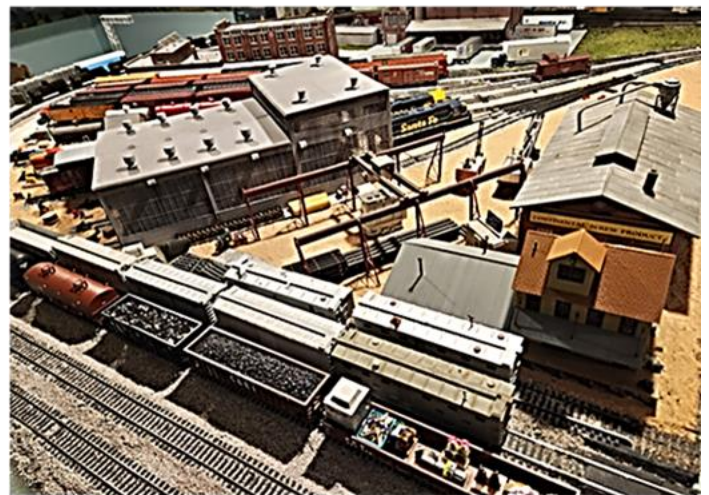
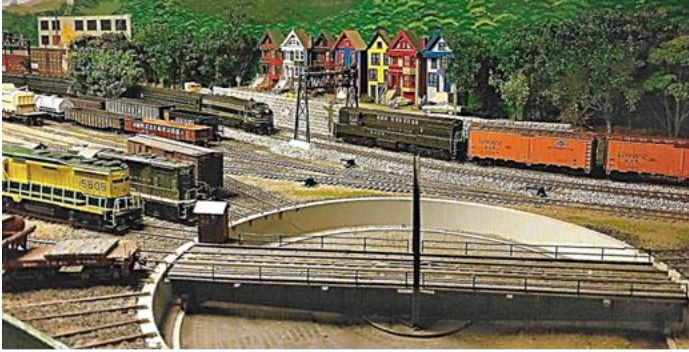
*Skip Luyk, MMR, NCR AP Coordinator*

**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM QUESTIONS:** If you have questions about the AP or requirements, start with your Regional AP manager, Skip Luyk, MMR. Also – Ron Gilbert covers Div 1 [rarjgilbert@yahoo.com](mailto:rarjgilbert@yahoo.com); Jim Macino, MMR covers Div 3 - 260-693-6102 [jim@icmgt.com](mailto:jim@icmgt.com); Ken Chick, MMR covers Div 6, 8 and 10 – 734-420-0276 [kdchick@wowway.com](mailto:kdchick@wowway.com); Pete Magoun, MMR covers Div 2 – 231-941-1669 [orion@chartermi.net](mailto:orion@chartermi.net) and Dorman Wilson for Div 9 - [N8YNW@charter.net](mailto:N8YNW@charter.net) If you still have questions, contact the NEW NMRA AP Chairman RAY PERSING! Ray can be reached at [achiev@nmra.org](mailto:achiev@nmra.org) We wish to say Thanks and Happy Retirement to Frank Koch for his many years of service to the NMRA and the Achievement Program!

**How about writing an article on your latest modeling project! Earn AP points! At the HotBox, WE NEED and WANT your articles!!**

# ***RAILFANNING the Railroads of Division Six*** NCR TRACKSIDE

Here's a quick look at many of the layouts that will be open for tours during the **NCX-24 North Central Express** – NCR convention in October! *left down, then right...* Barry Hensel's Reading Lines RR; Fox Run retirement community HO Pere Marquette Railroad; Jim Tilley's HO PRR-B&O Railroad; Bill Neale's HO PRR Railroad; John Emley's HO Soo Line Railroad; Ken Chick, MMR N scale Danforth Hadley & Northern Railroad; Byrne Blumenstein's HO AT&SF Railroad



# ***RAILFANNING the Railroads of Division Six*** NCR TRACKSIDE

*left down, then right...* Mark Ellis' HO Melville Railroad; Mike Tranquilla's HO Burlington Pacific Railroad; Norm Logan's HO Michigan Southern Lines Railroad; Jay and Brook Qualman, MMR HO Michigan Lines Railroad; Pierre Willamet's HO Allegheny and Eastern Railroad; Rick Neibert's HO Chessie System Railroad; Bill McMillan's G scale Detroit Windsor Connecting Railroad; Ron King, MMR HO Erie Railroad



Here is an update on your NCR Elections - As was announced in the Summer edition of Hot Box, the nominations for positions on the NCR Board of Directors are closed. One and only one candidate has been submitted and vetted for each open position on the Board for the 2025/2026 term. NCR By-Laws provide for election of the presented slate by a single vote of the board of directors when there are no competing candidates for any of the open positions. Accordingly the following will be duly elected by the board at its meeting associated with the NCR Convention upcoming in October.

**President: Rich Mahaney** - I would like to continue my work in a second term, as the North Central Region President, continuing to make the North Central Region great.

**Vice President: David McMullian** - David wants to continue to serve his fellow modelers. Dave has also been NCR President, Vice-President and Director.

**Secretary: John Young** - John is the incumbent Secretary willing to continue his duties.

**Treasurer: Steve Harsh** - Steve is the incumbent Treasurer willing to continue his duties.

**Director: T.J. Stratton** - T.J. is a 64-year-old who recently relocated from Maumee, OH. to Cadillac, MI. He was an NCR Div. 1 member since 2000 and transferred to Division 2 in June of 2023. TJ intends to be a positive force to the NCR as the current and past directors have been.

**Director: Scott Kremer, MMR** - Scott is a returning incumbent director, also leading the Station No. VI 2025 National Convention

**Director: Dave Capron, MMR** - Dave is a returning incumbent director, and has also served as NCR President prior to Rich Mahaney.

The remainder of the board consists of the Superintendents of all of the NCR Divisions, plus the appointed positions of Resident Agent, Registrar, and Achievement Program Director.

Phil Doolittle, Vice President 22021/2024, Election Coordinator

If you have any questions, feel free to contact our Elections Committee – **NCR Elections Committee 344 Sussex Fair Rochester Hills, MI 48309 Phil Doolittle 248-375-2513 [doolittlep@comcast.net](mailto:doolittlep@comcast.net)**

## INTRODUCTION TO OPERATIONS EVENT

North Central Region Division 2 Invites you to join us for an Introduction to Operations Event. We will have several wonderful layouts to choose from for this event. Whether you are brand new, or have some experience with operations, this will be a great event to hone your skills.

**October 26, 2024**

Operating sessions will take place Saturday (Oct. 26th) in the Traverse City area. The first session will run between 10am to 1:30pm, and the second session from 3:30pm to 7pm.

Please contact Reece Sivek via email for further details and registration information at [sivekr@gmail.com](mailto:sivekr@gmail.com)

**\*\*Registration for this event closes\*\*  
September 28th**

HOSTED BY:





We are sad to report that several members in the NCR have been lost. Our deepest sympathies go to the family and friends of our fallen members.....

**RICHARD "DOC" CORNWELL FLEMING**, age 92, of Olivet, died July 7, 2024, in Battle Creek. He was born March 10, 1932, in Chicago, Illinois. Richard graduated from Bangor High School. On March 28, 1958, he married Elizabeth A. Nichols in Kalamazoo. Richard was a great proponent of education. He earned two doctorate degrees. The first was a Doctorate in Science from Olivet College and the other a Doctorate in Philosophy (Entomology) from Michigan State University. He worked as a professor at Olivet College for over 35 years. He had a vast knowledge on many subjects, but ornithology and entomology were his passion. Richard was an avid model railroader, an AP contact person and was a member of Division 5. He also loved to build and fly RC planes, played numerous musical instruments, was a talented painter, wrote much poetry, and enjoyed listening to his beloved Chicago White Sox play ball. Richard was a member of many organizations but was especially proud to belong to the Olivet Lion's Club, where he became a recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellowship. Richard and Elizabeth had 5 children, 15 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.



Richard "DOC"  
Fleming

**ROBERT JAMES STEVENS** passed away June 29, 2024 after a short battle with cancer. Bob was born September 27, 1949 in Grand Haven, Michigan to Harold and Martha (Spanjer) Stevens. Bob is survived by his wife Susan, his two children, granddaughter, his two brothers and sister, along with several nieces and nephews. Bob graduated from Grand Haven High School and Michigan Technological University. He worked as an electrical engineer. Bob was a founding member of the Lansing Area N-Trak Model Railroad Club (LaNTrak) and enjoyed many hours running model trains and building modules to display at train shows. Bob was also a Division 5 member. Bob was also a lifelong fan of baseball, in particular the Detroit Tigers. He passed his love of the game onto his children and many family vacations were planned around visiting a Major League ballpark and catching a game.



Bob Stevens

**WALTER W. PLENTIS** of White Lake passed on July 18, 2024 at the age of 81. He was the loving husband of Akiko for 40 years. Cherished father of 3 children, grandfather of 8 and great grandfather of 6. Walt was a member of Saint Perpetua Catholic Church. He worked for the Chrysler Corporation as a Die Maker and then later as a Purchaser/Buyer. He was a handyman for anyone who needed help and had an elaborate HO scale model train layout in his home. Walt modeled the PRR and was a member of the RAIL GANG and Division 6. Walt will be missed by his many friends and family!



Walt Plentis

**JOSEPH ANDREW KOCSIS, MMR**, a man of deep faith and boundless passion, passed on July 16, 2024, at the age of 84. Born on April 18, 1940, in Detroit, Michigan, he was a lifelong resident of the state, passing away peacefully in Wayne, Michigan. He was the beloved husband of Mary Ann Kocsis, with whom he shared a loving marriage since August 12, 1961. Joseph, a graduate of Cody High School, served his country with honor as a veteran of the Air Force. Following his service, he built a career as a dedicated purchasing agent, where his integrity and work ethic were greatly valued. He was a pillar of the SS. Simon and Jude Catholic Church for over 50 years, contributing not only as a member but also as the kitchen manager, where he combined his love for cooking with service to his church community. A master model railroader, Joseph held the distinction of being MMR #110, a testament to his skill and dedication to the craft. His model railroads were more than a hobby; they were a canvas for his imagination and a source of joy for all who had the pleasure of seeing them. Joe and Mary Ann had 2 children, 2 grandson's and 7 great grandchildren. Joe will be missed by many!



Joe Kocsis, MMR

# **NCR DIVISION HAPPENINGS**

## **DIVISION INFORMATION**

### **Division One - Black Swamp Division** (Northwest Ohio with Michigan Lenawee and Monroe Counties)

We are currently on our summer break and will resume monthly meetings September 13, 2024 (this could change so check the website). Our September meeting will feature the topic "What I Did Over the Summer" where we ask everyone to bring a subject, model or photo to share at the meeting. Our meetings are open to guests so please feel free to stop in and say "hello". Stay informed of the latest news and information at the Black Swamp by visiting our website and subscribing to our newsletter at <http://div1.ncrnmra.org>. Our Facebook group is located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ncrdiv1>. (submitted by- Marshall Stull, Superintendent)

**Division Two - Tip Of The Mitt** (Manistee to Iosco counties, north to the Mackinac Bridge plus Luce, Chippewa, and Mackinac counties in the U.P.) Our meetings take place at 10:00 am in the Foster Family Community Health Center, located at 550 Munson Avenue, in Traverse City. Planning is under way for the Fall. "Show and Tell" is always popular and gives us a chance to see member's progress. An Intro to Operations will take place on October 26th. Division 2 will be holding a special event in the fall of 2024 - North Central Region Division 2 invites you to join us for an Introduction in Operations event. Keep on the lookout for more information – see ad on page 8!! Send an email to [jens.hensel50@gmail.com](mailto:jens.hensel50@gmail.com) and we will include you in our next invite. (Submitted by Mike Cipko, Division 2 Superintendent)

### **Division Three - 3 Rivers Division** (Fort Wayne, Indiana and western Ohio area)

The 3 Rivers Division has just gotten together for our annual picnic and day of railroading fun. We are just finishing up the Van Wert County Fair week with our 4H Model Railroading group. We had over 30 T track modules that our kids had designed and built which we had operating during the week long fair. We also gave away multiple train sets daily with our Run a Train program for the kids which again was a huge hit. We are putting the final touches on our October 19th Train Show & Swap at the Coliseum in Ft Wayne. Hope to see you there to help support our mission. Happy modeling. (Submitted by- Bob Jones, Superintendent)

### **Division Four – Grand Rails Division** (Grand Rapids and west Michigan area)

We continue to struggle with getting members involved in Division activities. Please watch our website and Facebook page for meeting updates. I'm going ask again what are you looking for with the division, what like of programs, etc...? Let's share our ideas. For more information contact Mark Baldwin at [grandrailsdiv@gmail.com](mailto:grandrailsdiv@gmail.com) or Tim Scott at [tjscott46@hotmail.com](mailto:tjscott46@hotmail.com) or visit the NEW division website <http://grandrailsdiv4.org> (submitted by Mark Baldwin, Div 4 Superintendent)



**North Central Express**  
**Oct 10 - 13, 2024**  
[ncx24.ncrnmra.org](http://ncx24.ncrnmra.org)

BIG low price for everyone!  
Day Pass available!

NMRA - NCR  
Regional Convention



**July 14 – 19, 2025**  
[www.nmra2025.org](http://www.nmra2025.org)

STATION No. VI

2025  
NMRA

BIG low price for everyone!!  
NMRA National Convention

Novi, MI  
CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

**YOU should join and attend your local NMRA/NCR/Division meetings and activities! Get the most out of your hobby – participate often!!**

### ***Division Five – Capital Division (Lansing and mid-lower Michigan area)***

The Capital Division (5) will start off again in September with a show of layouts, several scales, from this summer's N Scale Enthusiasts Convention in Bethlehem, PA, the train show in Van Wert, OH and Railfan Days at Cross Roads Village's Railfan Days. You can subscribe to the 15-25 page monthly Division 5 Newsletter. Send a request, Mark Cowles, at [nkpcowles@yahoo.com](mailto:nkpcowles@yahoo.com). For more information, see the Division 5 website: <https://nmranrcdiv5.com/> (Submitted by- Mark Cowles, Div. 5 Clerk)

### ***Division Six – Motor City Division (Wayne & Washtenaw Counties)***

The Motor City Division is no longer resting, as we are in “full steam ahead” mode as we prepare to host the next big event, the NCR Convention – **THE NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024!** We're looking forward to layout tours, OPS sessions, Yard sale, model displays and great clinics! Full and updated information is in this issue of the HotBox. Registration is OPEN!! Many of our members are on the Planning Team for the 2025 NMRA National convention – STATION No.VI that the NCR is hosting. Plans for our 4th annual Model Railroad Sale have hit a snag and we're working through that presently. We are still planning on the last weekend in January 2025. Please stay tuned to our newsletter and emails for the announcement. Plus our monthly meetings continue, local layout tours when possible and lots of fun and education. Everyone is welcome to attend! Our newsletter “On The Rails” and other information can be found on our website - [www.div6-ncr-nmra.com](http://www.div6-ncr-nmra.com) (submitted by Barry Hensel, Newsletter Editor)

### ***Division Eight - Clinton River Division (Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair Counties)***

On July 20th, Division 8 held their very first NMRA membership engagement event. It was held at the 7 1/2 inch gage live steam railroad of the late Bill Hayes. We had a perfect day with about thirty division 8 members participating. Spouses were included in the fun and lunch was also provided. Judging by the smiling faces, everybody had a great time. These events are a great way to keep members engaged and to help generate more excitement for joining the NMRA. For those not familiar with this program, the NMRA will cover half the cost of a special event up to \$250, once per year. I urge other NCR divisions to host their own events! As always, you're invited to join us at 7PM on the third Thursday of the month, please drop into the Troy Christian Chapel at 400 East Long Lake Road in Troy Michigan. Our NEW web site is, <http://div8.ncrnmra.org/> Our Facebook group is at [www.facebook.com/groups/288929175921717/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/288929175921717/) (Submitted by Mark Mincek, Superintendent)

***Division Nine – Southwest Michigan Division (Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and VanBuren Counties)*** After vacationing in July & August, our Fall activities start with the annual meeting on September 21st at the Vicksburg Train Depot located at 300 N. Richardson St. in Vicksburg. There will be coffee & donuts, a 50/50 raffle and door prizes with the key agenda items being the election of Officers, a review of upcoming events followed by a presentation on the railroads of Kalamazoo County by Mark Tomlonson. In October we will participate in an Op Session on Bruce Chubb's layout. When we are not on the road our new regular meeting place is the Kalamazoo Bridge Club located at 648 Maple Hill Drive in Kalamazoo. Our newsletter The Yardmaster, and other information are posted on our website. [www.ncr-div9.com](http://www.ncr-div9.com). If you would like to receive a copy of our monthly newsletter via email, please send your email address to [alanwbau@gmail.com](mailto:alanwbau@gmail.com). (Submitted by Alan Bau, Div 9 Newsletter Editor)

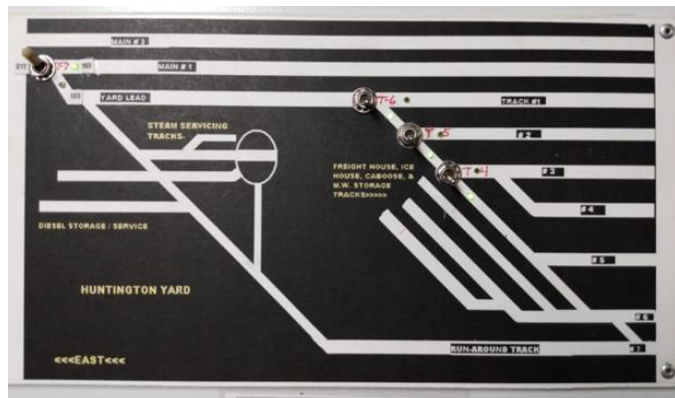
### ***Division Ten – Ten Wheeler Division (Shiawassee, Genesee, Lapeer Tuscola, Sanilac and Huron Counties)***

Division 10 has had a busy summer, having meetings in June and July. August was busy with Railfans Weekend at the Huckleberry Railroad, and Thomas the Train at Crossroads Village. We will continue our regular schedule of meetings on the 4th Thursday of the month, contact us at [NCRDIV10@gmail.com](mailto:NCRDIV10@gmail.com) for more information. We are also looking for some layouts to visit or clinics/workshops to view, let us know if you would like to open your layout for some visitors or operators. All are welcome to our informal meetings. If you would like to join one of our meetings or for more information contact [ncrdiv10@gmail.com](mailto:ncrdiv10@gmail.com), or Superintendent Wayne Wilder at 989-823-3409. (Submitted by Wayne Wilder, Superintendent)

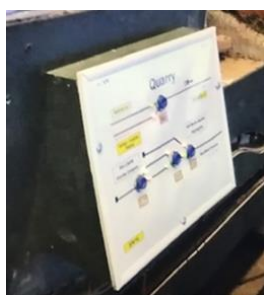
# Model Railroad Control Panels by Barry Hensel **NCR MODELING**

This article will look at different styles and construction of control panels for your model railroad. The vast majority of layouts use control panels to mount electrical switches to control turnouts or track power. As with many subjects in our great hobby, there are several ways and methods of doing a task. With the help of several friends, let's look at some control panels, their features and construction. As you can see from these pictures, control panels can vary in mounting type, size, color, and function. Some are mounted flat or on an angle for easier viewing. Some are surface mounted or recessed into the fascia. The style is strictly up to you, the layout owner!

designed his using a "Paint program", then printed them on 8-1/2 X 11" full sheet label paper. He applied that to 1/8" thick sign plastic sheets, and drilled holes for toggles/LED indicators for turnouts. Joe uses control panels for turnout control.



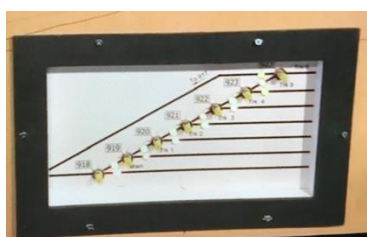
Friend Norm Logan uses control panels for track power. His layout started as DC block control and when he switched to DCC he kept the panels and block controls. Now all block controls are switched to the same position for DCC operation. But, if a problem occurs he can still isolate a section of track to find and fix the problem. He also has toggle switches to simply turn power on/off to sidings or yard tracks.



Here are a few more examples of control panels. As we said at the start, there is no wrong way to make a control panel. It is customized to your layout and needs!



Norm's panels are all hinged and have a simple hook connector to hold them closed. Open the hook, swing the panel out for maintenance!



Friend Chris Elliott has a combo control panel. It controls both track power for DC block control and turnout control for powered turnouts. Note the use of different color tape for different type of track – mainline vs sidings. This panel framework is plywood and the panel itself is painted sheet metal.

Let's take a close-up look at some types and the construction of some panels..... Friend Joe Bliss

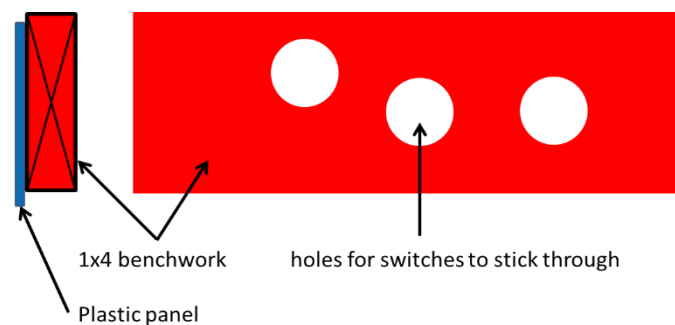
# Model Railroad Control Panels *by Barry Hensel* **NCR MODELING**



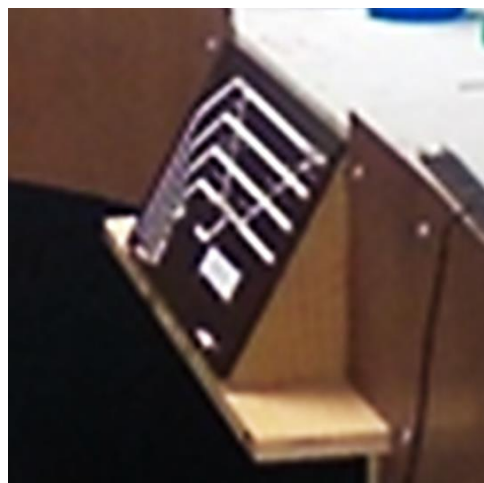
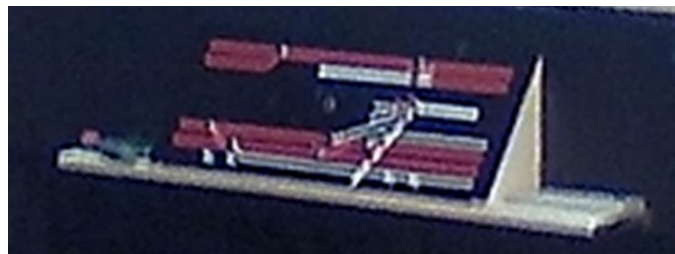
Friend Terry Suetterlin uses 0.40 sheet metal, painted and track lines with pinstripe tape. His panel is flush mounted to the fascia board and controls DC track power only. The colored dots are for the different cabs. The controllers are color coded to match. Terry's layout is N scale.



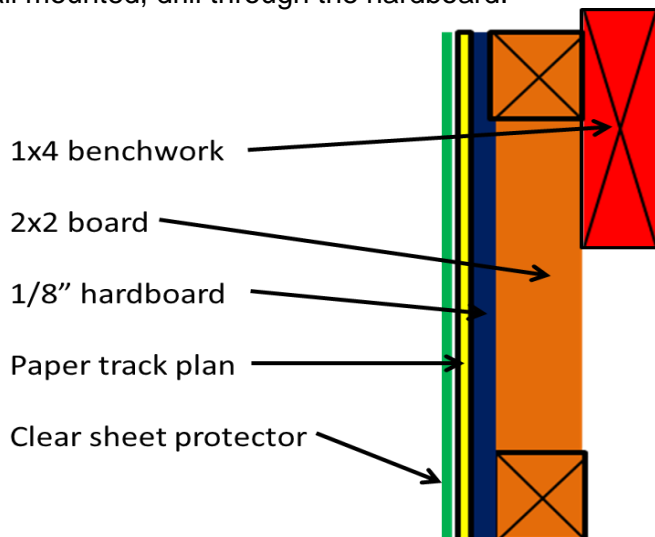
Here is how a flush fascia mounted panel could be constructed. You have to build the plastic or metal panel first with your track plan and switches mounted. Once you have the panel located on your layout fascia, you need to mark and drill holes in your fascia and benchwork so that the switches can stick through. Then, mount your panel to the layout with some screws.



Fellow members of the RAIL GANG Ted Pilchak and Walt Plentis are both using a common design – angled control panels attached to the fascia. What is interesting is that they extended the base to be a small shelf to hold uncoupling tools or a coffee cup! The actual panels are plastic with pinstripe tape for the track diagrams. The panels control turnouts.



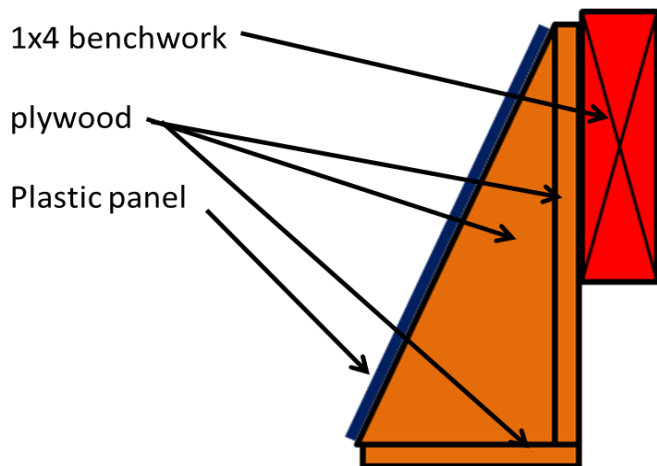
Here is a simple way to make a panel, similar to what Joe Bliss did. You build a framework and attach to the benchwork, then sandwich a piece of hardboard, the printed track plan and a clear plastic sheet protector to protect the printed track plan. How to get holes for electrical switches? The best way would be to punch the holes into the printed plan and the clear plastic together, then once it's all mounted, drill through the hardboard.



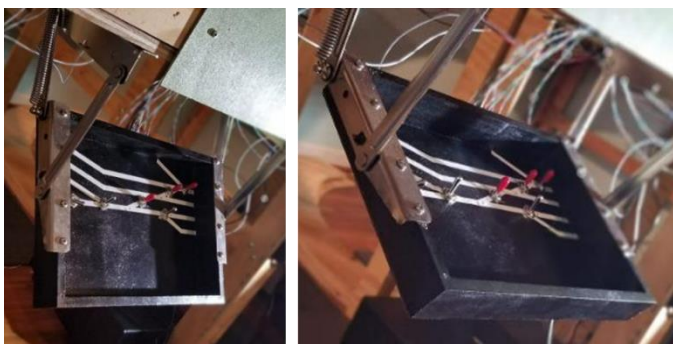
See next pages →

# Model Railroad Control Panels by Barry Hensel **NCR MODELING**

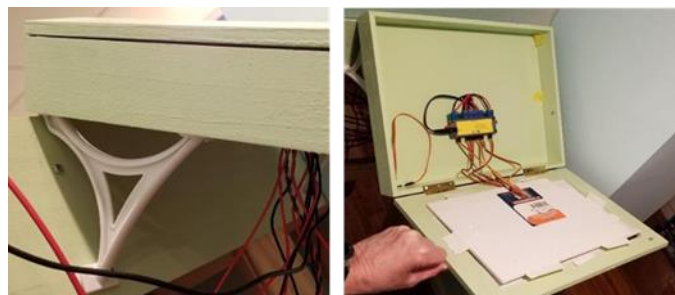
Here is another popular way to construct a control panel. Using plywood cut to a triangle shape gives you the angle of the panel. The framework then easily mounts to your benchwork and a plexiglass panel mounts to the framework to complete the panel. A large hole or slot cut into the plywood back allows wiring to get from the panel to the layout.



Here is a control panel from Div 6 member Byrne Blumenstein and it's a bit unusual. This is a simple open fronted shadow box that provides a perimeter frame to provide some additional protection against bumping accidentally into the switches. More uniquely, it's mounted using the frame from a drop down cookbook holder mechanism. This provides the ability to safely retract the panel when not needed up into the benchwork, but project it out, at an angle for better visibility, when access is needed.

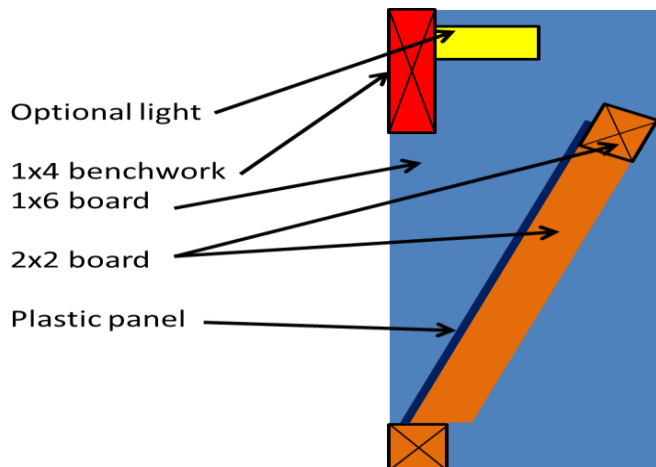


Here is another interesting control panel from Byrne. While its construction is fairly normal, it's the technology that makes this one different. Again, using a pre-made shadow box, but fully enclosed with a glass frame face. In this case, he attached TouchToggle switches to the back of the glass behind a sheet of paper with the route on it, rather than toggle switches, eliminating the need for any drilling of the face panel, and dramatically reducing the wiring effort. The TouchToggle senses your finger tip on the glass, so there is nothing to damage, move accidentally, or get dirty. Additionally, as you can see, by adding a piano hinge to the face panel, the switch power and control circuitry rests safely inside the shadow box itself. The box itself is angled using a closet wire shelf angle bracket.



# Model Railroad Control Panels by Barry Hensel **NCR MODELING**

Here's the Reading Lines – Central Division way to do control panels! I like recessed and smooth panels. These take a bit more work, but I feel they're worth it. First, Construction, here's a cross section of how they are mounded to the layout....

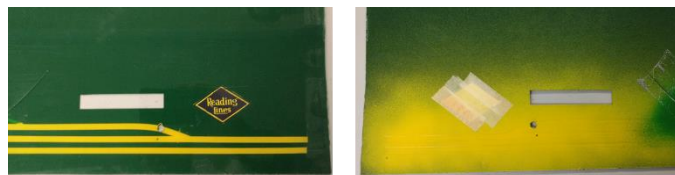


The trick to smooth panels is to do everything on the back. The difficult part is that you have to think “backwards” because it is on the back! Draw a sketch of your panel on a clear film, then turn it over, that is how you will “draw” on the back side of the plastic. Using pinstripe tape, draw out your track plan. Using masking tape, tape off areas where you will have instructions, logos, labels, you must know the size of these areas. Last, carefully drill any holes needed for mounting screws and electrical switches.

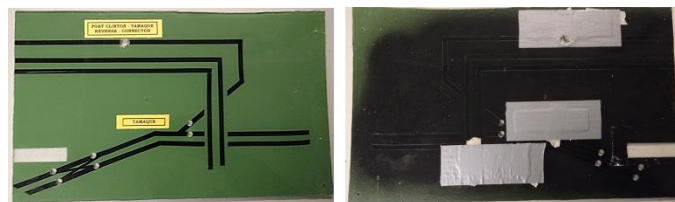


The next step is to paint the back of the panel the color you want it to be. In my case, I used the same latex paint that I used on the fascia. I even rolled it on for a smooth finish. Once that has dried, pry-up all of the tape for your track plan. Then you can paint those areas the color you want the track to be. If you want different colors for mainline vs sidings, only peel-up the tape for the main line and paint that first, then do the rest in the other color. Once all the paint for track is dry, carefully peel-up

the tape for the labels, instructions and logo areas. They should be clear “windows”!



For all of your labels, instructions and logos.... Using a program like powerpoint to make those is easy and quick. Make all that you need, print them out on color paper if you want them to be colored and cut them out a bit larger than the actual image. NOTE, the image must be just a bit smaller than your clear windows in your panels. Once you have them all cut out, go to your panel and using masking tape, place the labels in the windows from the back side of the panel. Once it is in position, use duct tape to cover it all to hold it in place! Now is the time to mount your electrical switches and do some wiring. Then mount the panel to its place on your layout.



Finish the wiring and you are done! You now have smooth and nice looking custom control panels! For an added feature, you could mount some small lights above the panel, on the backside of your benchwork, to make it a “lighted” panel!



Here is where your news items, rumors, and gossip of just about anything in the Model Railroading hobby can be reported. Whatever it is, send it to us and we'll let everyone else know!

**BTR #1-** We did get a few links to share, so we're passing these along...

Our first video link is BIG... as in Big Boy! Here's a cab ride on the massive loco, traveling in Nevada from Elko to Carlin on July 8, 2024. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLlevDFQidM> This was sent to us by NCR President Rich Mahaney.

Next, from friend Bruce Ernatt, Action at O'Fallons, NE and Coal Line West to South Morill Sub heading to Powder River. Double coal trains loads/empties and an intermodal train – 3 train meet! Drone views of the trains and Nebraska landscape. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wN3FdCgHuel>

Also from Bruce, this video of an interview and layout tour of Mike Burgett and his C&O Clifton Forge Division in HO <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cA0n2EevPc4>

Many of us model coal mines on our layouts, but do you know what they are really like? Here's an interesting video of the old coal mines below Hazelton, PA. <https://on-demand.wvia.org/video/the-secretbeneath-hazleton-fykyw/>

**BTR #2-** It has been reported online, that Shapeways, the pioneer 3D printing company, has gone under. You can no longer order parts or have them print your parts. Shapeways was the first big-time 3D printing service, but so many others have now emerged. Plus, so many modelers are doing 3D printing on their own, as the price of quality printers has continued to become very affordable.

**BTR #3- BREAKING NEWS!** – Chi-Town Union Station located in Commerce Township, the worlds largest O scale model railroad, host to the World's longest model train, has been sold! It has been for sale for almost a year, since the passing of Paul Gribbell, the owner and operator of the layout. Unfortunately, we have learned that the new owners are not keeping the layout intact. Some items have already been sold. The Detroit Model RR Club is helping with the sale of everything. To Schedule a time to see/buy we ask that you Text your full name and 2 preferred time frames to 248-568-7355. SE Michigan has lost a great model railroading asset.

**BTR #4- MICHIGAN RAILROAD CLUB PROGRAM** The Michigan Railroad Club will be meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at The Radcliff Center, 1751 Radcliff St. in Garden City, Mich. This is south of Ford Road and along Wildwood St. (east side of Wildwood). We will be meeting in a NEW Room #690. This can be accessed from the South parking lot through door RC-5. Enter from the parking lot on the West side of the building. ALL are welcome! Meetings will start at 7pm and end at 8:50pm. Here is the schedule –



**September 04, 2024: Dennis Smolinski**

**October 02, 2024: 60th Anniversary of the end of the NKP.**

**November 06, 2024: Open projector night. Bring 8 minutes of your own material to show.**

**December 04, 2024: Joint program by Gary Sample/Mark Cowles.**

For any other questions please contact: Kenneth Borg 3512 Merrick, Dearborn, MI 48124

**BTR #5-** Local model railroaders in the national news – well... kinda hard to admit, but your HotBox staff and Editor have not renewed any magazine subscriptions. One... budget is a bit tight and two, I just don't make the time to read them. When I was working, I'd read them over 2-3 days while I ate my lunch at my desk. But, that was many years ago... and I'm not going back to work, just to have time to read magazines! So... unless others send me a report that an NCR member was featured in XYZ magazine... *we may never know again.....!*

**BTR #6-** STATION No. VI 2025 NMRA National Convention, hosted by us, North Central Region....

## **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!**

**DISCLAIMER!!-** While we will try to verify most stories, the HotBox, HotBox Editor, NCR Board of Directors, its agents and representatives will not/cannot be held responsible for mis-information presented in this column.



Division Six of the  
NCR- North Central Region of the  
NMRA- National Model Railroad Association presents-



# ***NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024***

**A MODEL RAILROAD WEEKEND CONVENTION!**

**THURSDAY - FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 10-11-12-13, 2024  
NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN, USA**

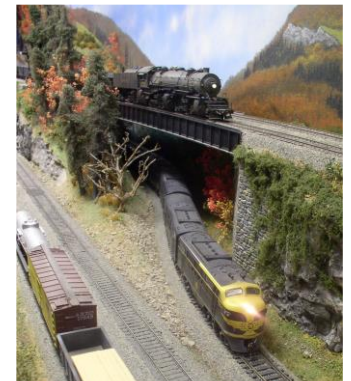


**WELCOME** to the NCR Model Railroad Convention, ***NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024!*** The convention is being hosted by DIVISION SIX, located in Wayne and Washtenaw counties. We are planning a great weekend of model and prototype railroading, just for YOU! Please access our website for all of the important information you need to help you to decide to attend this event. As you'll soon read, we're concentrating on having fun and learning all about model railroading! All you need to do is fill out the registration page, send it in with your registration fees and you'll be part of one of the greatest model railroad events in Michigan! Visit us online and register there using your credit card and PayPal security services! Come and join us for the ***MAXIMUM*** model railroad ***FUN***, all in one weekend!

**Open to ALL model railroaders! You DO NOT have to be an NMRA member to attend!**

## **EVENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE-**

- \* Event site – Ward Church, Northville, MI
- \* Event shirts available pre-order only
- \* Special DAY PASS entry available!
- \* Online Registration available on website!
- \* Banquet Dinner on Saturday evening
- \* Clinics on Friday and Saturday
- \* Operation sessions available Thursday, Friday, Saturday
- \* NO model contest – MODEL SHOWCASE – show off your work!!
- \* Get a discount for participating in the Model Showcase!!
- \* Model layouts to visit on Friday and Saturday
- \* Prototype tours on Friday (if available)
- \* Yard Sale of new/used model railroad equipment
- \* Ask the Experts (MMR's) table
- \* EVERYONE welcome to attend!



For more information or questions answered, contact -  
Norm Logan, Chairman –  
248-444-3491 [nlogan114@wowway.com](mailto:nlogan114@wowway.com)  
Paul Lichau, Div 6 Superintendent -  
734-878-5390 [plichau@yahoo.com](mailto:plichau@yahoo.com)  
Mark Ellis, Asst. Chairman -  
734-536-5470 [emark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:emark@sbcglobal.net)  
visit our web pages at- [ncx24.ncrnmra.org](http://ncx24.ncrnmra.org)

# THE NCX TIMETABLE

Here is our proposed schedule for the **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024** model railroad convention-

**THURSDAY, October 10**

Operating Sessions by pre-register only  
 Registration Desk 8am-9pm  
 NCR annual Board Meeting  
 Yard Sale/Model Display Room  
 Clinics/Workshops  
 Layout tours starting

**FRIDAY, October 11**

Operating Sessions by pre-register only  
 Registration Desk 8am-12 noon  
 Clinics/Workshops  
 Model Display Room  
 Layout Tours  
 Operating Sessions by pre-register only  
 Dinner & Speakers

**SATURDAY, October 12**

Layout Tours

**SUNDAY, October 13**

As you can see, we've packed as much model railroading as possible into one weekend, all for YOU! To participate in all of this, just fill out the registration form, send it in with your fees and you will have a great time! A pre-convention info package with the final schedules, clinic schedule and topics and any other late information will be mailed/emailed to you starting early September. You can also get updates on our website!!



## CLINICS/WORKSHOPS

Here is an UPDATE on the clinic schedule for NCX 2024.....

<b>Friday, October 11</b>				
TIME	E501/503	E505/507	E521/523	E525/527
9:00-10:00	Bill McMillian - Scenery (Static Grass)	Bruce De Young - The Logging Railroads of Pennsylvania: The Industries Served	John Parsons - Azatrax -Model train detection methods	Video
10:15-11:15	Bruce Wolff - "A weekend in narrow gauge country - Swiss style"	Bruce De Young - Railroads and the Natural Ice Industry: A Symbiotic Relationship	John Parsons - Azatrax -Railroad signaling practices	Video
11:30-12:30	Bruce Wolff - Kitbashing a double-crossover	Bruce De Young - Modeling Gas Stations in the Steam Era, Transition Era and today	John Parsons - Azatrax -Using the Atrax signal system	Video
12:30-1:30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
1:30-2:30	Mark Cowles - A Brief Look at the Great Lakes Railroad Car Ferries.	Brook & Jay Qualman - Engines	Rich Mahaney - "Quick Industries" For Your Model Railroad	Video
2:45-3:45	Dan Lewis - Getting the most out of your DPM kits	Dean Pyers - History of Railroad Fan Trips, maintaining and operating the 1225	Rich Mahaney - "Perishable Operations in the 1950's"	Video
4:00 -5:00	Dan Lewis - Modeling Rimrock and Talus Slopes	Irv Chmielewski - Moveable and Temporary Scenery	Rich Mahaney - Modelling Crude Oil and Ethanol Operations and Transportation For Model Railroaders.	Video
5:00-7:00	Dinner Break	Dinner Break	Dinner Break	Dinner Break
7:15-8:15	Matt Letts - History of Grain Elevators	John Bopp. M.C. in the 20th Century		
8:30-9:30	Pierre Willermet - Layout Lighting	John Bopp - Machinist tools for modeling,		

<b>Saturday, October 12</b>				
TIME	E501/503	E505/507	E521/523	E525/527
8:00-9:00	Ken Chick - N Scale considerations and Other Stuff	George Van Duyne - Modeling Manual Crossing Gates	Mark Cowles - Boats for Trains	Video
9:15-10:15	Tim Fisher - Layout Planning Concept Stage	Jim Baker. DCC Revealed	Mark Cowles - Ideas: From the Prototype to Your Layout and Static Action	Video
10:30-11:30	Tim Fisher - Down East, Steam and Steel – Dave Regittko Photo Overview	Dave Dave McMullian - A Beginner's Guide to 3D Model Design	Fred Soward - What's Happening at the National - NMRA	Video
11:45-12:45	Paul Lichau - "I've been workin' on the railroad" The music of the rails	Bill Rubarth - Solano Train Ferry	Glenn Joppich - Acrylic Paints & the Model Railroader	Video
12:45-1:45	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
2:00-3:00	Mark Ellis - Animation	Andy Keeney - Intro to the Nashville Road	Larry Wolohon - Refrigerator Cars of the 20th Century	Video
3:15-4:15	Bill McMillan - Scenery w. Static Grass	Andy Keeney - Developint CC/WB Systems for the Nashville Road	John Bopp - PRR Erie Docks	Video

## CLINICS

At the **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024** convention, we will be having over 40 clinics! Some will be repeated, so you don't have to miss many. See the schedule on the previous page! NOTE – one clinic room is marked VIDEO all day. That will be layout tour video's, aimed for those that have mobility problems, as most layouts are in basements and you need to use stairs to get to them. Also please note... most of the clinicians are people you know from the NCR and other Divisions. THANKS to these guys and gals for stepping up to help out your NCR convention – the **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024!**

## OPERATING SESSIONS

At the **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024** convention, we will be providing a schedule of layouts that will be available for OPS Sessions, in your pre-convention info package. Then you will have to pre-register for the session(s) you wish to attend. Send in right away as space will be limited. OPS sessions will take place at the Layout Owners discretion and are being planned for Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

## YARD SALE

At the **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024** convention, we will be having a YARD SALE of model railroad items. This will be new/used items that registered participants bring in to sell to other registered participants! The Yard Sale room will be open on Friday and Saturday. There is only a 10% commission on all sales, back to the NCX. We'll be posting some forms and other information on the website very soon. Maybe you can find that wanted loco or boxcar by attending the **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024!**

## LAYOUT TOURS

The SE Michigan area is a hotbed of model railroad activity and we have some of the best layouts anywhere! Here's a list of some of the layouts that will be open for tours during the NCX 2024 convention.....

**Ron King MMR – Erie**

**Jay & Brook Qualman MMR – Michigan Lines**

**Bill McMillan - Detroit Windsor Connecting RR**

**Barry Hensel – Reading Railroad**

**Ken Chick - Danforth Hadley & Northern**

**Michael Tranquilla - Burlington Pacific**

**Norm Charbonneau - Northbrook Railroad**

**John Emley – Soo Line**

**Rick Neibert – Chessie System**

**Byrne Blumenstein - AT&SF**

**Bill Neale MMR - PRR**

**Norm Logan – Michigan Southern**

**Pierre Willermet - Allegheny and Eastern**

**Mark Ellis – Melville Railroad**

**Jim Tilley – PRR/B&O**

**Fox Run Model Railroad Club**



These layouts range from N, HO, O and G scale! A complete convention booklet with all the layout locations and open times will be given to you when you check in at our registration desk, when you arrive for the **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024!** (Note – Fox Run Model RR Club is the only handicap accessible layout)

## AWARDS DINNER & SPEAKERS

Division Six will be hosting a dinner on Saturday evening. However, it will be shorter, early and ALL you can eat! At Ward Church we'll be hosting a spaghetti dinner with dessert and refreshments included. We're on for 5pm to 7pm, which still gives you lots of time for layout tours, and on a full stomach! Our guest speaker is **JOHN RICKOFF**, past CEO of Lake States Railroad! We'll also hear from a few local speakers, including Rich Mahaney, NCR President. We will be limited to 150 people, and you must pre-register for this activity. No tickets will be available after October 1, 2024, so sign-up early for the **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024!**

## MODEL SHOWCASE ROOM

There will NOT be a model or photo contest at the **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024** convention! However, we will be offering a **Model Showcase Room**, where anyone can bring a model (or several) to display. Bring a model to show and get a discount!! (see registration form) NMRA AP judging is available on request. The Model Showcase room will be open Friday and Saturday. We'll present any NMRA Certificates, Awards and ribbons at the Saturday night dinner at the **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024!**

ON-LINE registration available until October 7, 2024 at [ncx24.ncrnmra.org](http://ncx24.ncrnmra.org)

# NCX - NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024 REGISTRATION FORM & INFORMATION

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Name		Spouse	
Address			
City		State	
Phone		Zip	
email NMRA No.		Region	
		Div	
		MMR	

## REGISTRATION FEES

on or before September 25, 2024 - NMRA member	\$65	how many	
on or before September 25, 2024 - NON NMRA member	\$75		
after September 25, 2024 - NMRA member	\$75		
after September 25, 2024 - NON NMRA member	\$85		
on or before October 13, 2024	One Day Pass = \$40		

**REGISTRATION** - is per person for anyone over 18 years old that will be participating in the convention activities. Spouse is free if ONLY attending layout tours and/or dinner. Children under 18 years old are free for the weekend and welcome to attend convention activities with a paid adult.

**Dinner** - SPAGHETTI DINNER!! Everyone (including children under 18) must pay for dinner if you are attending. This also includes our Keynote Speaker and Awards presentation. **NOTE- cut-off date for dinner is October 1, 2024.**

**Event Sweat shirts** are cotton/poly blend, green in color with the NCX logo embroidered in color on the left side

**Event polo shirts** are 35-65% cotton-poly no pocket shirts, green in color with the NCX logo embroidered in color on the left side **NOTE- cut-off date for ordering shirts is September 10, 2024. Your order MUST be received by the cut-off date! NO shirts available at the convention!**

**Model Showcase Discount!!**

If you bring a model to display in the Showcase room, we will give you a \$5 discount on your entry to NCX-24! NOTE - you do NOT get \$5 per model!! Only ONE discount per person no matter how many models you bring. Discount to be given at Registration!

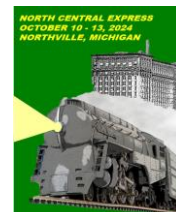
**ONE DAY PASS** - is for Saturday only and includes all the clinics that day and 5 layout tours.

## EXTRA BOARD

		how many	
Dinner per person	\$25		
sweat shirt	small	\$34	
	medium	\$34	
	large	\$34	
	X-large	\$34	
	2X-large	\$34	
	3X-large	\$34	
	4X-large	\$34	
polo shirt	small	\$32	
	medium	\$32	
	large	\$32	
	X-large	\$32	
	2X-large	\$32	
	3X-large	\$32	
4X-large	\$32		

**TOTAL**

--



Payment to be check or money order made out to- **NMRA DIVISION 6**

Send registration form with payment by October 1, 2024 to-

**NCX Registrar 35684 Camden Ct Farmington Hills, MI 48335**

ON-LINE registration available until October 7, 2024 at [ncx24.ncrnmra.org](http://ncx24.ncrnmra.org)

## WHEN FISH RODE THE RAILS

In recent times, Americans' taste for fresh fish has led to serious overfishing in many parts of the country. But this is not a new problem. As early as the mid nineteenth century, wild fishery stocks were seen to be dwindling as a result of overfishing, and the construction of dams that cut off access to the fishes' upstream spawning grounds.

The U.S. Fish Commission, a forerunner of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service, was established in 1871. Congress soon charged the new Commission with the task of "supplementing declining native stocks of coastal and lake food fish through fish propagation" by expanding the habitats of Eastern species into the American West. In 1873 Dr. Livingston Stone, of the Fish Commission's Baird Station fish hatchery in California, was tasked with safely transporting 35,000 Hudson River shad fry, by rail, from the East coast to the Sacramento River. The fish were carried in ordinary ten-gallon milk cans with Stone changing the water every two hours. Most of the shad fry survived and the trip was judged to be a success.

More transcontinental fish carrying trips followed. Over time, Stone and his colleagues developed improved techniques to keep the fish safe and healthy on their long journey. The milk cans were cooled by ice. At first, Stone hired fellow passengers to aerate the fishes' water by hand. Later, a simple aerator device was developed. It was understood that the water had to be kept free of slime and impurities. To that end, the fish were not fed for a few days before their trip.

The fish were accompanied on these early trips by attendants called 'messengers' who needed their own food and accommodation. It soon became evident that the ordinary baggage cars that were being used were not ideal for this job. So, in 1881, the Commission purchased its first dedicated 'fish car', shown below, a Pennsylvania Railroad baggage car specifically fitted out for carrying fish and their attendants across the country.



So successful was this car that, in 1882, the Commission ordered Fish Car No. 2, from the B&O, for \$7,334. It was fitted with special compartments to hold ice and was reinforced so it could carry as much as 20,000 pounds of fish, water, and equipment at passenger train speeds.

A third Fish Car was built in 1884 and added to the fleet. This car could carry not only fish but also fish eggs which could be hatched in transit. A replica of Fish Commission car No.3 is displayed at the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives in Spearfish, SD.



Fish Car No.4 arrived in 1893. Eventually, the Bureau of Fisheries, as it was later called, had a total of ten dedicated Fish Cars. At first, the railroads had been eager to have the Fish Cars run over their lines. Stocking lineside streams with game fish was seen as a way to encourage tourist traffic on their lines. But as the cars became heavier than ordinary passenger cars, some railroads began to view them as potentially dangerous. Fish Car No. 4, for example, weighed 42,780 pounds. One of the heaviest railroad cars in the country, it was blamed for a 1911 wreck near Bridgeport, Connecticut, which killed 13 people and injured 48. The cars generally operated from April through November with the rest of the year reserved for maintenance. They crisscrossed the country, sometimes on trips as long as 10 days, travelling millions of miles and transporting billions of fish, with losses of only 1 percent. The 'modern' Fish Car era began in 1916 with the first steel car, No. 7, having a fish-carrying capacity of 50 percent greater than the previous wooden cars.

*Continued next page → →*

The railroads were converting to heavyweight steel passenger equipment and they were becoming reluctant to run wood cars in their fast, all-steel trains.

Fish transportation technology was also changing. The traditional 10-gallon milk cans were succeeded by new lightweight containers called "Fearnow" pails, patented in 1922 and named for their inventor Edgar Fearnow. These containers, seen in the interior view of a fish car shown below, weighed only 5 pounds but could carry twice as many fish as the older milk cans, while taking up half the space. Moreover, each "Fearnow" pail had a special built-in compartment for ice to keep the water cool.



The last Fish Car built, No. 10, was added to the fleet in 1929. It was an 81-foot-long heavyweight that could hold 325 pails containing 34,000 3-inch fish or 500,000 1-inch fish. It had an onboard generator to operate all the equipment, including electric aerating devices. But, while No.10 was impressive, it was built at the beginning of the end of the fish car era. In 1928, 27,000 brook and rainbow trout had been transported by airplane from Northville, Michigan, to Dayton, Ohio, without a single loss. And it was becoming evident that trucks could transport fish cheaper and more efficiently than the traditional fish cars. By 1933, 17 percent of the output of hatcheries was hauled by truck. By 1940, only three fish cars were still operating. The last one, No.10, was taken out of service in 1947, marking the end of the Fish Car era for the Bureau of Fisheries.

While the Bureau of Fisheries cars were the best

known of the railroad Fish Cars, theirs were not the only ones on the rails. Several states operated their own fish cars including California, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, and Wisconsin, and perhaps others. Michigan's car, the Wolverine is seen here.



Little information seems to be available on state owned Fish Cars. However, Wisconsin's Badger II has survived and is displayed at the Mid-Continent Railway Museum in North Freedom, WI. It was given full restoration, completed in 2008, to bring the car back to its as-built configuration, complete with fish storage tanks.



But perhaps the most unusual railroad Fish Cars were those belonging to Chicago's Shedd Aquarium. While the aquarium was under construction it was decided that a custom-built rail car would best meet the institution's needs for specialized transport of specimens for display. Built in 1929 by the Pullman Car Works for about \$40,000, the car, named Nautilus, was custom fitted with cypress and metal containers for marine animals and a life-support system of pumps, air compressors, and electric refrigeration coils with steam heat to transport fresh and saltwater fish and invertebrates from cold, temperate, and tropical waters. Fully loaded, the car carried 4,500 gallons of water. It also had modest living quarters for the six-person collecting crew.

The Nautilus only racked up an average 20,000 miles a year, far less than the Fish Commission's cars and it did not carry fish by the thousands but it did transport unusual and exotic sea creatures from around the world to their new home in America's Midwest.

In 1959 the aging heavyweight Nautilus was replaced with the lighter, higher-speed, stainless steel Nautilus II. This car began life as Chicago and Eastern Illinois car 304, "Turkey Run". It was converted by the Thrall Car Manufacturing Company to carry saltwater creatures to Chicago. The Nautilus II ran until 1972. It has been preserved at the Monticello Railway Museum in Monticello, IL.



The Fish Car era began in the 19th century when it was thought that conservation of natural species could be promoted through scientific interventions that could help both nature and civilization with no apparent downside. The 21st century recognition of the damage that often results from the introduction of non-native species into an environment likely never crossed the minds of Dr. Stone and his contemporaries.

## REFERENCES

'Official' fish car history from the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1979

- <http://npshistory.com/brochures/nwr/fish-car-era-1979.pdf>

'Official' fish car history from the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration

- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/transporting-fish-rail>

Fish car history with a 21st century spin

- <https://www.vitalchoice.com/blog/fish-cars-the-forgotten-history-of-fish-by-rail/>

Fish Commission car No.3 Replica

- <https://dcboothfishhatchery.org>

Preserved Wisconsin Fish Car Badger II

- <https://www.midcontinent.org/equipment-roster/wooden-passenger-cars/wisconsin-fish-commission-2>

History of the Shedd Aquarium's Fish car Nautilus

- <https://www.frandp.com/2019/06/the-forgotten-railways-of-chicago-shedd.html>

The Shedd Aquarium's preserved Fish car Nautilus II

- <https://www.mrym.org/passenger-equipment>

*NOTE- John Bopp is a Division 6 member and has been our "historian" for several years, giving our members interesting railroad related history lessons nearly every meeting. The HotBox will be featuring many of his lessons. Thanks John!*

*Editor Note - if you have it in your files... check out the Autumn 2014 issue of the HotBox. There was a one page article on "Fish Cars" by Rich Mahaney. Some additional info and pictures of those cars that are in Michigan.*

## North Central Express

Oct 10 - 13, 2024

[ncx24.ncrnmra.org](http://ncx24.ncrnmra.org)

17 Layouts to see!  
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900 - 3000 sq feet large!

NMRA - NCR  
Regional Convention



## North Central Express

Oct 10 - 13, 2024

[ncx24.ncrnmra.org](http://ncx24.ncrnmra.org)

40 high quality clinics!  
Some given twice!

NMRA - NCR  
Regional Convention



I model an area of Michigan's Upper Peninsula called the "Copper Country" and have included the mining town of Mohawk. Some of the residents of Mohawk were of Finnish descent, and wherever there were Finns, there were saunas. I needed to have one. As you might expect, there were no commercial kits that even resembled a real sauna, so I decided to scratch build one.



I found a number of pictures on the internet, with varying sizes and of different materials, but this sauna shown on the Minnesota History web site caught my attention. Some of the specific characteristics of this Sauna are that it is a "Savusauna" or black sauna meaning there is no smoke vent. Also notice that the door is smaller than normal. (They were usually only about 4 feet high, which helped keep in more heat. Some saunas had an attached changing room, but I chose not to model that.

A sauna is not the same as a steam bath, the heat is dry. (Think... Arizona in August). However, at times, a ladle full of water might be splashed on the hot rocks to help increase the temperature. I have also heard stories of some liquid "medicine" being splashed on the rocks to help clear the sinuses.

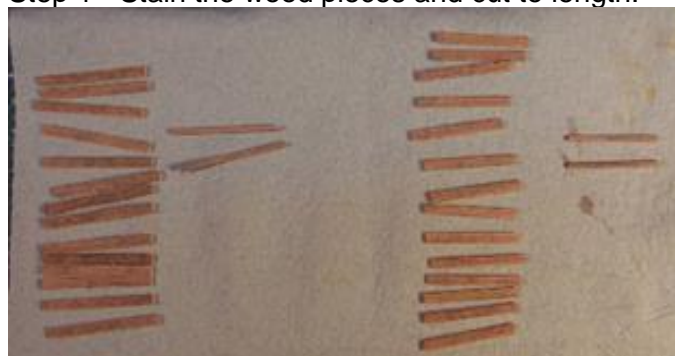
To prepare a sauna for use, first a fire was built in the "stove", and kept until the rocks in the sauna were hot. (3 to 5 hours). The temperature could reach between 190 and 212 degrees, but usually is kept between 150 and 195. The fire was then removed, the upper windows closed, and the soot was brushed off of the benches. A "typical" sauna would last about 45 to 60 minutes. The bathers would wait until they broke a good sweat, whisk

themselves with branches (Birch was popular), then rinse, and get dressed. The rinse would be a bucket of water, or maybe a dip in Lake Superior. In the winter, a snow bank was a viable alternative.

For my model, the only commercial parts are the door hinges, the figure, and the shingles. The walls were built from scale 6x6, 6x12 while the other wooden parts were scale 2x4, 2x6 and scribed sheets. The firebox was cast from plaster with aquarium rocks added to the top.

The process goes something like this:

Step 1 - Stain the wood pieces and cut to length.

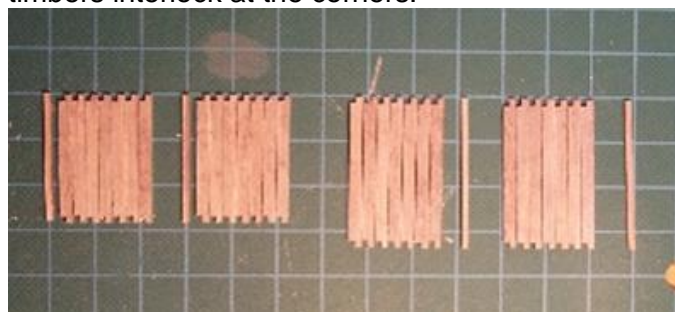


Step 2 - Notch the timbers.

The notches should be as wide as the timber and half as deep.

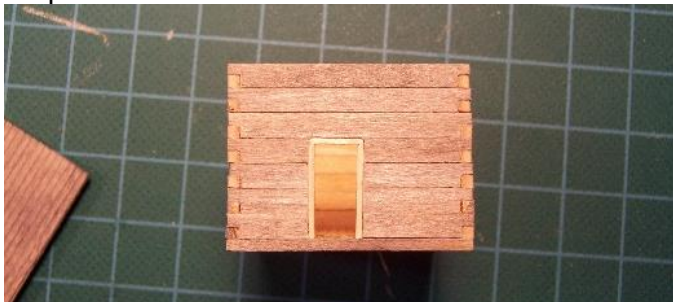


Step 3 - Dry-fitting helps to visualize how the timbers interlock at the corners.





Step 4 - Assemble the walls.

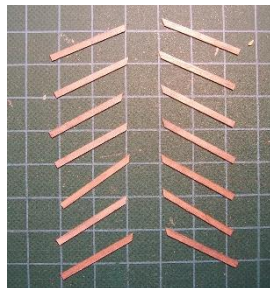


Because the timbers interlock, build all 4 walls together. Start with a 6x6 on the bottom, then add a 6x12 timber for each side, then the next row on top of that. Cut the door opening as you add rows. Then add the final 3 rows on top. Add the trim around the door.

Step 5 – Cut the floor from a sheet of scribed siding to fit inside the walls, with a large opening for the firepit. Add bracing to the underside of the floor to bring it level with the door opening. (The wood across the top will be the ridge pole.)



Step 6 – To make the job of building multiple roof trusses easier, build a jig on a scrap of hardboard, and cut all of the pieces needed at the same time. Build more than you need. They will be useful in shaping the end peaks.



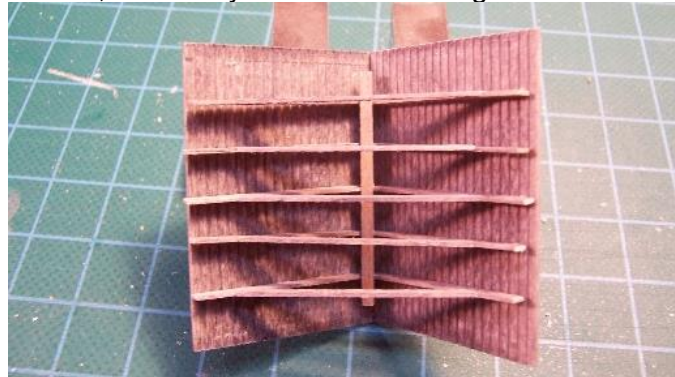
Step 7 - Assemble the trusses, and attach them to the ridge pole, being sure that they are all plumb and square.



Step 8 – Using an extra truss as a pattern, cut the timbers for the peaked ends to match the trusses and attach them to the end walls. Include trusses covering the edges.



Step 9 - After verifying that the trusses fit inside the end walls and matched up with the sides, measure and cut the roof from scribed siding. Attach the roof with the scribing facing down to simulate individual boards, and add your favorite roofing material.



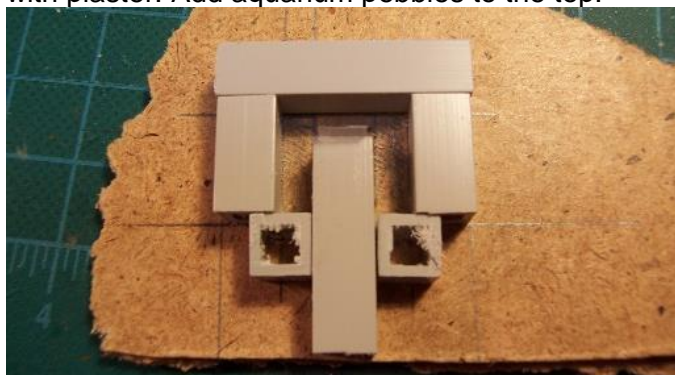
*Continued next page → →*

# ***BUILD A SAUNA!***

*by Mike Sutinen, Div 6*

**NCR MODELING**

Step 10 – Build a U-shaped mold for the firebox from some scrap pieces of square material. (Plastruct tube was used here). Then fill the mold with plaster. Add aquarium pebbles to the top.



Step 11 – Make the benches from pieces of scribed siding and scale 2x4s, and the steps from scale 6x12s. Each sauna was different, so you can include 1 or 2 different levels of benches.



Step 12 – Fashion a door from scribed siding and use hinges to attach it to building.



Finally, for my sauna, I weathered the outside and added a few Preiser figures.



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**2025 National Convention**

**Hosted by:**

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**July 14-19, 2025**

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!**  
**<https://nmra2025.com/>**

# **STATION No. VI 2025 NMRA CONVENTION!**

**NCR NEWS**

## Station No.VI 2025 Spring Report

Good news! By the time you read this you will be able to register for the 2025 National Convention in Novi. Go to [www.NMRA2025.com](http://www.NMRA2025.com), our convention website. Click on registration and it will lead you through the process of registering for the convention and to book a hotel room if you want one.

You will be able to register for yourself, a spouse or a partner, a teenage child and a child under 11 years of age. You will have an opportunity to include prototype tours and to buy a convention shirt, sign up for the banquet and our Friday night pizza party among other things. You can also sign-up for email updates and don't forget our Facebook page – NMRA 2025. Look there too for the latest news and updates!

We hope you will register early. If you need a hotel room and wish to stay at the Sheraton, the convention HQ hotel, we strongly advise you to reserve that room soon as there are a limited number of rooms available. If you prefer you will also be able to select a room from one of four additional hotels, all within three miles and accessible on surface roads.

There five tours to select from. They include a Ford factory tour, a tour of Greenfield Village, a tour of the Henry Ford Museum, a cruise, including lunch, on the Detroit River which will emphasize railroad and industrial history, and a combined tour of the Motown Museum and the Michigan Central Station. All these tours have a limit on reservations so sign up soon as well.

Information on clinics, layout visits and operating sessions is being worked on now and will be added to the website as it becomes available. Remember, there is no additional charge for any of those activities, they are included in your registration price, and all are self-directing, no buses. As it stands, we have 60 layouts for visits, we are working toward a significant number of slots for operating sessions and expect at least 90 different clinics, most given twice. We are excited because we already have commitments from some of the most popular clinicians in the hobby.

There are some items that will become available over time, such as Modeling With The Masters. They will be added to the site when they become available. As a registrant you will be notified of these additions and will be able to easily modify your registration to include these additional items if you choose to do so.

We are excited to reach this milestone. We are proud of the registration system we have created. We believe you will find it very easy to use. All of this is the result of very hard work and long hours by a number of people. When you have a chance say thank you to Byrne Blumenstein, Doug Tagsold, Marshall Stull, Paul Andersen Barry Hensel and their team for doing a great job on this critical item.

So, we are off and running. We are putting together a convention that stresses the basic items we believe you want most. That is clinics, layout visits and op sessions. Yes, there will be additional things for you to see and do. But by being very careful about what we are offering you we can do so at an unprecedented low price. Our motto is "a convention like no other". We think you will find this true in a very good way. Sign up!



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**NMRA National Convention**

In this issue of the HotBox, we look at some unusual loads that the railroads transport from time to time. These photos were passed on to us from your NCR President Rich Mahaney (before he was President) some years ago. Here we see several types of farm equipment, aluminum rods, army tanks, aluminum slaps, construction equipment and auto frames. We're not sure of the locations of the photos. How many have you modeled?





# Save The Date

Three Rivers Division of the NMRA  
Train Show and Swap Meet

Oct 19, 2024

at the

Allen County War Memorial Coliseum  
4000 Parnell Avenue  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

**Contact**

Don Hanley c/o NMRA Div 3 / Show Coordinator  
19123 Maples Rd  
Monroeville, IN 46773  
(775) 686-5725 or dehanley665@gmail.com

# Model Railroad Show & Swap

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**Saturday, November 23, 2024**  
**10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

## Classic Café Catering and Event Center

4832 Hillegas Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Classic Café Catering and Event Center is about 10 minutes away from the Coliseum Bingo going West on W. Washington Center Rd. and then South on Huguenard Rd. which becomes Hillegas Rd.

From I-69, Exit at U.S. 30W/33N, #309 B westbound. Then 1/4th mile exit U.S. 30 onto U.S. 33 North, at stoplight turn right/east onto Washington Center Rd., go one block at stoplight turn right / south onto Huguenard Rd. which becomes Hillegas Rd. Proceed about 1 mile. Classic Café Catering & Event Center is on the east side of the road, across from Coyote Creek Golf Course.

From I-69, Exit at IN 930E, #309 A eastbound. Then 1/4<sup>th</sup> mile at stoplight turn right/west onto California Rd., go 1/4<sup>th</sup> mile at stoplight turn right/north onto Hillegas Rd. Proceed about 1/2mile. Classic Café Catering & Event Center is on the east side of the road, across from Coyote Creek Golf Course.

Information / contact:  
Maumee Valley Railroad Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 314  
Hartsville, IN 46743-0314

<https://maumeevalleyrailroad.com/index.php/contact-us>



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49508 616-247-9933

**OTHER HOBBY SHOPS in the NCR** - Whistle Stop Hobbies & Crafts, Decatur, IN - Phil's Hobby Shop, Fort Wayne, IN - The Gladioux Train Depot, Oregon, OH - Carlton Hobbies, Waterford, MI - Trains and Things Hobbies, Traverse City, MI  
**Please visit your local hobby shop!**

**HOBBY SHOP NEWS** – If you have a favorite hobby shop in the NCR boundaries that you would like to see listed on this page, please let us know!!

If you have a story about a local hobby shop giving you over the top service, let us know!!

**THANK-YOU to our hobby shops for your support by selling the HotBox in your stores!**

**Division One Black Swamp Division** (Northwest Ohio and Michigan Lenawee and Monroe Counties)

We meet at the Proclaim FM radio station community center at 7112 Angola Rd., Holland, OH 43528. Meetings are held on Friday evenings once a month from September - May. During the AUTUMN (June - August) we will have a field trip to a rail museum, prototype site, layout tour, etc. The exact schedule, information about our activities and our monthly publication, the Train Order, are posted on our website at <http://div1.ncrmra.org>

**Division Two - Tip of the Mitt** (Northern Michigan) Twenty-four counties, both north and south of the Mackinac Bridge. Meetings are typically held in Traverse City on the third Saturday of each month. There will be some exceptions this Fall as we will be meeting on Sept. 21st, Oct. 19th, Nov. 16th, and Dec 14th. We also go hybrid, connecting by Zoom. We are planning for an Ops Session on October 26th. To request meeting invites and our quarterly newsletter, email our Assistant Superintendent, [jens.hensel50@gmail.com](mailto:jens.hensel50@gmail.com)

**Division Three 3 Rivers Division** (Fort Wayne, Indiana and western Ohio)

Our meeting schedule is the 3rd Monday of the month with Zoom meetings in January, April, & October, In person meetings in February, May, August, & November with various meeting locations, & Operating Sessions in March, June, September & December at various members homes. Any updates/changes can be found on our website: <http://div3.ncr-nmra.org>

**Division Four Grand Rails Division** (Grand Rapids and western Michigan)

We meet monthly using locations in Holland and Grand Rapids. All meetings start at 10am and details to be determined. For additional information contact Superintendent Mark Baldwin [grandrailsdiv@gmail.com](mailto:grandrailsdiv@gmail.com) or 616-258-0110 or visit the NEW division website at - <http://grandrailsdiv4.org>

**Division Five Capital Division** (Lansing and mid-lower Michigan)

Meets at 1pm, on the SECOND Saturday of each month at the Meridian Township Fire Department event room in Okemos. We meet September to May with additional activities added through the year. Please check our website or contact the Supervisor for meeting location. <https://nmranrdiv5.com/>

**Division Six Motor City Division** (Wayne & Washtenaw Counties)

Meets at 7pm, on the THIRD Friday of each month at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, one mile north of the I-96 Jefferies Freeway, Livonia. Division 6 meets year-round. [www.div6-ncr-nmra.com](http://www.div6-ncr-nmra.com)

**Division Eight Clinton River Division** (Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair Counties)

Meets at 7:00pm, on the THIRD Thursday of each month at Troy Christian Chapel, 400 East Long Lake Road, between Rochester and Livernois Roads, Troy. Division 8 meets year-round. <http://div8.ncrmra.org/>

**Division Nine SW Michigan Division** (Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren Counties)

We meet monthly on the 3rd Saturday of the month, except in July and August. Monthly meetings start at 9:30AM at one of two locations (check website for meeting location each month). Our meetings typically include a clinic and/or layout tour(s). Visitors are always welcome. For additional information contact Garry Johnson, Superintendent at 269-365-6777. Our website is <http://ncr-div9.com>

**Division Ten Ten Wheelers Division** (Shiawassee, Genesee, Lapeer Tuscola, Sanilac and Huron Counties)

Meets the FOURTH Thursday of each month at 7 PM at Dalton Airport on Pierson Road in Flushing. We meet in the meeting room of Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 77. Contact Superintendent, Wayne Wilder 989-823-3409 or [ncrdiv10@gmail.com](mailto:ncrdiv10@gmail.com) for directions to the meeting location.

OTHER GROUPS meeting in the NCR AREA There are MANY rail organizations in the NCR area. They can be found at [www.michiganrailroads.com](http://www.michiganrailroads.com) [www.ohiorailtourism.org](http://www.ohiorailtourism.org) [www.irtg.org](http://www.irtg.org)

**YOU should join and attend your local NMRA/NCR/Division meetings and activities! Get the most out of your hobby – participate often!!**

# **NCR TIMETABLE EVENTS!**

## **NCR AREA EVENTS**

**NOTE-** Events listed have been compiled from listings on [www.trainshowlist.com/](http://www.trainshowlist.com/) and [www.trains.com](http://www.trains.com), website for Model Railroader magazine. If you have an event you want listed, it's FREE, but information must be submitted to the Editor at least 45 days in advance of our publication dates!

**Sunday, September 8, 2024** - Flag City Train Show Northwest Ohio Railroad Preservation, Inc. 12505 County Rd 99, Findlay, OH 10AM - 3PM \$5.00 per Adults, Children 12+under accompanied by an adult will be free. 419 423-2995 [nworrp@nwrrp.org](mailto:nworrp@nwrrp.org)

**Saturday, September 14, 2024** - Battle Creek Model Railroad Club Train Show & Swap Meet Calhoun County Fairgrounds 720 Fair St. Marshall, MI Several operating layouts, "hands-on" displays, door prizes. Children 12 & under free admission. Contact Info - Andy Buck [andrew.buck@comcast.net](mailto:andrew.buck@comcast.net) 269-268-0910 Website: <http://bcmrrc.net/>

**Saturday, September 28, 2024** - 22nd Annual Fostoria Rail Festival Fostoria Jr. Sr, High School & Fostoria Elementary 1001 Park Ave & 1202 H. L. Ford Dr. Fostoria, OH Fostoria Iron Triangle Rail Park is nearby. 80+ trains/day. Model Train Layouts, Mdse, Soup Contest, Photo Contest, Train Ride between Bldgs. too. Great show. Sponsored by Fostoria Rail Preservation Society. 10am – 4pm \$5 admission Contact Info - Ellen Gatrell 419-435-1781 [ellengatrell@gmail.com](mailto:ellengatrell@gmail.com) Website: <http://www.fostoriairontriangle.com/>

**Friday-Sunday, September 20-21-22, 2024** - Anthracite Railroads Modelers Meet XII Reading Railroad Heritage Museum, Hamburg, PA Clinics, model displays, vendors, layout tours! [www.readingrrmm.com](http://www.readingrrmm.com)

**Saturday, September 28, 2024** - Mt Clemens Train Show St. Louis Social Hall 39140 Ormsby St. Mt. Clemens, MI 48036 10am – 3pm 15th Annual Fall Train Show. Admission is \$5 per person, \$8 per family & children under 12 free. Tables are \$15.00 each with a max of 6 tables per vendor. Food & refreshments available,, free parking, barrier free access, operating layouts, hourly door prizes, all scales welcome , parts vendors. Contact Information - Carl Hikade 586-463-5184 [cdhikade@juno.com](mailto:cdhikade@juno.com)

**Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 21-22, Oct. 19-20, Nov. 9-10, Dec. 14-15, 2024**

Blissfield Model Railroad Club Open House 109 E. Adrian St. (US 223) Blissfield, MI 49228 11am to 4pm FREE! Wheelchair Accessible Website: <http://www.bmrr.org>

**Sunday, September 29, 2024** - Lansing Model Railroad Club Open House 5309 Old Lansing Road Lansing, MI 11am-4pm Tim D. Childs [tim.d.childs@gmail.com](mailto:tim.d.childs@gmail.com) Website: [www.lmrc.org/openhouse/](http://www.lmrc.org/openhouse/)

**Saturday, Sunday, October 5-6, 2024** - The Great Berea Train Show Cuyahoga Co. Fairgrounds 19201 East Bagley Rd Middleburg Heights, OH 440-785-9907 <https://thegreatbereatrainshow.org/>

**Thursday - Sunday, October 10-13, 2024** – NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS – NCR Regional convention Ward Church Northville, MI Clinics, layout tours, OPS sessions, display layouts **SEE PAGES 17-20**

**Friday - Saturday, October 11-12, 2024** - 17th Michigan Railroad Conference Albion College Science Complex 900 W. Michigan Albion, MI bus field trip on Friday and a full day of presentations on Saturday Contact Info- Paul Trap [paultrap41@gmail.com](mailto:paultrap41@gmail.com) 616-396-6492 Web- <https://www.michiganrailroads.com/>

**Saturday, October 12, 2024** - Greater Grand Rapids Fall Train Show Home School Building 5625 Burlingame Ave SW Wyoming, MI over 200 vendor tables; 70+vendors; Thomas the train play area; huge Lego display & play area; Drawing for Lionel "Thomas-The-Train" Set; Free Parking; Door Prizes; Food Concessions; Model Trains in all Scales; Books; RR Photos; RR Collectibles; Family Fun for "Children" of All Ages Contact Info - Tom Klonowski [trainshow@grvrrc.org](mailto:trainshow@grvrrc.org) 847-691-1163 <https://grvrrc.org/>



# **NCR TIMETABLE EVENTS!**

## **NCR AREA EVENTS**

**Saturday, October 19, 2024** – Three Rivers Division – NCR - Fort Wayne Model Railroad Show and Swap  
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum 4000 Parnell Ave Fort Wayne, IN 10am - 5pm Contact Info- Don  
Hanley [dehanley665@gmail.com](mailto:dehanley665@gmail.com) 775-636-5725 **SEE AD ON PAGE 29**

**Sunday, October 20, 2024** - Taylor Town Train Show Taylor Town Trade Center 22525 Ecorse Rd Taylor,  
MI 100+ Vendor. All gauges. \$5 Entry fee. Kids free under 14. Contact Info - Mike Leland 313-955-5523

**Sunday, October 27, 2024** – 43rd Annual Gigantic Train Show and Sale Kalamazoo Model RR Hist Society  
Expo Center Building on the Kalamazoo County Fair Grounds 10AM to 3PM cost - \$6 adults Kids under 10  
Free with paid adult admission. We have Operating layouts, A Hands-On Children's Layout, RR hobby clinics,  
over 175 Vendor tables and tons of train and RR memorabilia in every scale. There will be Door Prizes, Free  
parking, and MORE! Contact Information- David Hayes-Moats 269-344-0906 [kaltrainshow@kalnet.net](mailto:kaltrainshow@kalnet.net)

**Sunday, November 10, 2024** - Lansing Model Train Show and Sale Hosted by Lansing Model RR Club  
Michigan State University Pavilion 4301 Farm Lane East Lansing, MI 48824 [www.lmrc.org](http://www.lmrc.org)  
10 am to 4 pm \$8 adults, free under 12 yrs and scouts in uniform. Wheelchair Accessible Free parking  
over 500 tables of model trains, railroad collectibles, toys, operating layouts, how-to demonstrations, and more!  
Contact Info- Flyer, table forms and map [www.lmrc.org](http://www.lmrc.org) or call Ron St.Laurent 517-256-3588 or Dennis  
Morley 989-723-2870 [DJMorley0604@hotmail.com](mailto:DJMorley0604@hotmail.com)

**Saturday-Sunday, Thanksgiving weekend Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, Dec. 7–8, Dec. 14-15, 2024 and Jan. 11-12,  
Jan. 25-26, Mar. 1-2, Mar. 15-16, 2025**

Detroit Model Railroad Club Open House 104 North Saginaw St. Holly, MI 48442 Noon - 5PM Adults - \$5,  
Seniors (65+) - \$4, Children (5-18) - \$2, Children under 5 – Free See several O scale trains in operation, over  
a 350 foot double track mainline and several branch lines. Info: 248-634-5811 [webmaster@dmrcc.org](mailto:webmaster@dmrcc.org)

**Saturday, November 23, 2024** - Maumee Valley Railroad Club Model Railroad Show & Swap  
Classic Café & Event Center 4832 Hillegas Rd Fort Wayne, IN 46818 **SEE AD ON PAGE 29**  
10am - 3pm \$6 Adults, \$8 Families, ages 12 and under free <http://maumeevalleyrailroad.com>  
Vendors, layout, on site concession stand, free parking, historical and other organizations represented  
Contact Info - Maumee Valley RR Club, Inc. P.O. Box 314 Harlan, IN 46743  
[Swap@maumeevalleyrailroad.com](mailto:Swap@maumeevalleyrailroad.com)

**Saturday, November 23, 2024** - Grand Rapids Model Railroad Historical Society Open House 4040 Leland  
Ave NW Comstock Park, MI 11am – 4pm Website: <https://www.grmrhs.org/>

**Saturday, November 30, 2024** - Train Show Packard Proving Grounds 49965 Van Dyke Ave. Shelby  
Township, MI 48317 10am – 3pm Mike Neuendorf 586-271-6024

**Sunday, December 1, 2024** - 27th annual Rails on Wheels' Annual Southeast Michigan Model Train Show  
and Sale. Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road Ann Arbor, MI  
10 AM to 3 PM \$5, children under age 12 free with an adult. Early Bird - \$10/person (8–10 AM)  
A family-friendly event featuring operating train layouts, a Lego layout display, plus a train kids can run. Over  
100 tables of scale and tinsplate model trains, railroading and train-related books, videos and photo for sale,  
too. Food available and free parking. Contact Info: John Young 517-449-063 or [cdiyoung@yahoo.com](mailto:cdiyoung@yahoo.com)

**Saturday, December 14, 2024** - Lima Train Show & Swap Meet hosted by HO Model Railroaders of Lima  
Allen County Fairgrounds, 2750 Harding Highway, Lima, OH 10am-3pm \$5 adults, under 12 free  
New/used trains all gauges, antique and collectable trains, buildings, kits, scenery, RR books, Photos, videos,  
handicap accessible, food service, free parking  
Contact info – Bob Hammell 419-225-8144 [rhammell@woh.rr.com](mailto:rhammell@woh.rr.com)

# NCR DIVISION OF CHOICE

**NCR PROCEDURE**

Do you live in one division, but attend meetings and participate in another? With the "DIVISION OF CHOICE" program you can become an official member and even hold office in the division of your liking! All you need to do is fill out the **DIVISION OF CHOICE** form and submit it to the NCR Registrar. Once filed, you can vote and hold office in the division of your choice. Please be aware, the North Central Region (NCR) will notify both divisions of your choice and records will be maintained within the NCR. The NMRA national office WILL NOT change your default division (which is part of your NMRA number). The NCR and your division of choice will honor your selection and provide all the rights of a standard member of that division.

<https://www.ncrnmra.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/NCRDivisionOfChoice.pdf>

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email: [wab2ndops@yahoo.com](mailto:wab2ndops@yahoo.com)



**Greater Washtenaw County's HO Modular Model Railroad Club**

See our web site for meeting times and locations

<http://www.railsonwheels.com>

Visitors and new members welcome!




**Lake Shore Garden Railway Club**

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**New Members Welcome**  
[www.lakeshoregrc.org](http://www.lakeshoregrc.org)

**MEMBERSHIPS OPEN**  
MEETS EVERY MONDAY AT 7:30PM



**Gratiot Valley Railroad Club**

281 NORTH AVE.  
MT. CLEMENS, MI 48043  
FOR INFORMATION CALL- 586-468-4877  
[www.gvrr.org](http://www.gvrr.org)



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Era- 1970  
HO Scale




CENTRAL DIVISION




Grand Trunk  
Western


Detroit Division  
Curt Danielewicz  
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South Oakland County  
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For information Contact  
[info@socmrrc.org](mailto:info@socmrrc.org)  
[www.socmrrc.org](http://www.socmrrc.org)



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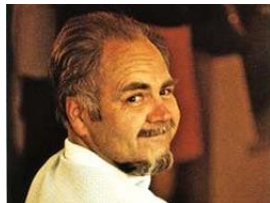
**MORE LAYOUT PHOTOS**

**MORE HOW-TO-DO ARTICLES**

**MORE INFORMATION**

*.... stay tuned! Stay informed!*

***RailFanning LaNtrak***



**Meeting  
John Allen!**



**STATION NoVI  
2025 NMRA CONVENTION NEWS!**