



THE **HotBox**

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

VOL. 66 NO. 1

SPRING 2025

RAILFANNING the *Detroit Windsor Connecting Railroad*



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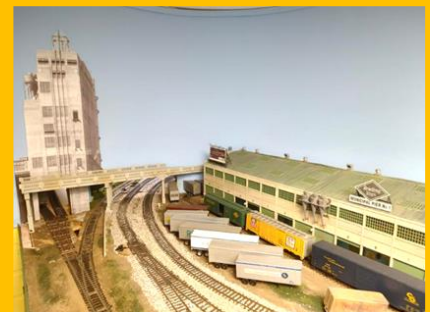


STATION No. VI **LATEST NEWS**

MODEL RR in Michigan Station!

HOW-TO DO **Presentations**

2025 Division 1 Spring **Railroad Modeler Meet**



CLOSET EXPANSION part 2!

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

The HotBox

SPRING 2025
Vol. 66, No. 1



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The HotBox is available online at-

<http://ncrnmra.org>

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

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

Hello!! Happy New Year! While that greeting is a few months old, this is the first opportunity I have had to say it to all of you. Here's hoping 2025 will be a very good year for everyone! Personally, professionally and in model railroading!

We're only 4.5 months away! Station No. VI is rolling down the tracks and will not be stopped until it's over. We have so much to offer attendees! And at such great prices. See the updates in this HotBox! Or go to the website. If not already there, very shortly, ALL clinic, OPS and tour information will be posted there. You can plan your WHOLE week very shortly!

There is another update on the status of the HotBox, see page 5. As mentioned in the December 2024 HotBox, all current subscriptions will be filled. However, there were still two other issues that were not resolved at the last Board meeting in October. These are now resolved. Just know that as Editor, I had my opinions listened to by the NCR Board and I am grateful for that opportunity. They were reached fairly and after many considerations. NCR President Rich Mahaney also has some insights on these decisions too. See his address a few pages away. Now that all HotBox issues have been resolved, we move forward together, to continue giving you the best possible publication, news and entertainment possible. THANKS for your support!!

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 December issue, we know of no concerns or typos.

FRONT COVER PICTURES- NMRA logo, Station No.VI logo; Setting out a load of fuel oil at Laforte Fuel and Coal on the Detroit Windsor

Connecting Railroad of Bill McMillan; new grain elevator tracks on the Reading Lines; HOW-TO-DO presentation tips; modular layout visits MCS

REAR COVER PICTURES- Station No. VI logo; A Pennsy SW1 shifter (switcher) works the yard at Olean, NY on Gaylord Gill's PRR Buffalo & Chautauqua Branch; railroad clubs in the NCR – past/present

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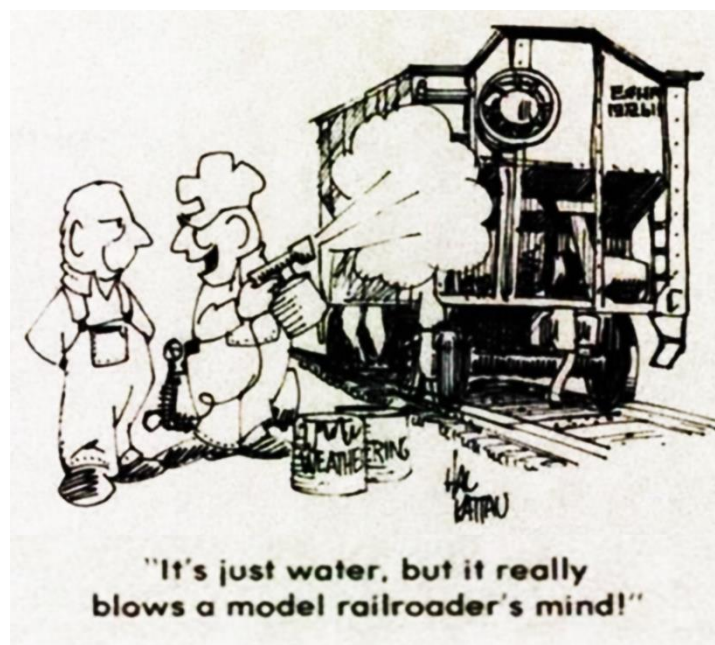
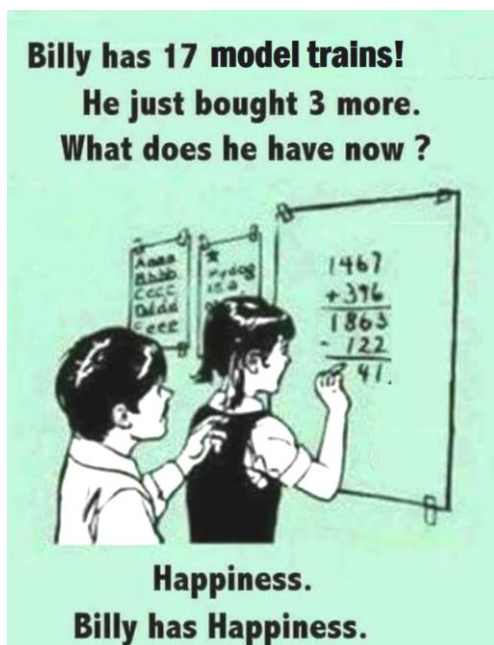
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RAILROADING "WHAT THE ???"

NCR HUMOR

Here's a few new items we've found on facebook or other online sources..... enjoy!!



PRESIDENT'S OBSERVATION

Rich Mahaney

Well, it is so nice to see some extra light in the morning and in the evening as I drive to and from work between my home in Gobles (south of Allegan) and Holland, MI. We have only had a few days of serious snow and then that dreaded "lake effect snow" this season so far. Those of you with time on the west side of Michigan know what I am talking about. There are times in this area of Michigan that you would swear you are living in the Traverse City/Petoskey area of Michigan or in the Keweenaw Peninsula of the Upper Peninsula, when Lake Michigan "turns on its snow machine". It will all be over again soon and spring/summer will arrive!

In January, your North Central Region (NCR) Board and the Division Superintendents met to re-look at some decisions that we made at our Board meeting at the Fall 2024 NCR Convention. With the information we had in October, we decided to stop printing the HotBox magazine/newsletter by the end of 2025. A variety of people in December decided that maybe we were wrong on our decision, based on costs, and that we should just stop printing the HotBox immediately in January 2025. So, requests were sent to Barry Hensel, HotBox Editor and Steve Harsh, NCR Treasurer to put together information that we could review on the real costs of printing and the mailing costs the HotBox, as compared to our NCR income money. These guys did a great job of putting the information together and on January 11, at 7pm we met on Zoom for an almost 2-hour meeting. Instead trying to decide everything in one big bite, we broke the discussion or problem down into three parts: 1. Paid subscriptions to the HotBox. 2. Free HotBox issues to "NCR Life Members", 3. Printed HotBox issues to sell at area hobby shops. Each one of these were discussed with both pros and cons, and then a vote was taken by the members online. The decisions are as follows: 1. People that had paid for printed issues of the HotBox for 2025 and to have them mailed to their address, would continue to have that happen through the end of 2025, even if the NCR was losing money from our treasury. 2. Free issues to Life Members of the NCR would not continue. 3. Printed copies, delivered and sold to several hobby shops would stop, while these are to sell to the public, again the NCR is really losing money on

them. There was also some discussion about our HotBox compared to the glossy, shiny magazines in the side-by-side display at the hobby shops. SO, remember the HotBox is free to everybody online, the HotBox is not going away to the subscribers or the



"Lifetime Members" these people will just need to figure out a new way to get access to it online, or have somebody else print off a copy from their computer and give it to them, or if they don't have a computer they can look at it online at somebody else's house or at a public library (even get it printed off at the library). The online version is so much nicer in color! Not needing to mail it out, also gets us out of the size restrictions of the Post Office for "bulk mailing and number of pages", now the HotBox can add pages when needed for larger articles and photos! While these decisions were not perfect for everybody, they were made in a democratic way, that we are famous for in America (everyone gets a vote). On the loss of the HotBox in the hobby shops, it is still important for the NCR to figure out other ways to get our NCR name and activities out to the public! Think about ways we can have a presence in hobby shops to "announce and advertise" what the NCR is doing and to direct people to our websites and to our online HotBox magazine! Send me any ideas that you have, thanks!

2025 is the 90th anniversary of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). The NMRA is planning a number of events and activities to celebrate this anniversary. Keep looking at the NMRA website for more information. There will also be information in the NMRA magazine, the other model railroad magazines and our own HotBox. There is some planning and thinking going on about an NCR event/activity for the Labor Day weekend for everyone, which is the actual anniversary date.

Continued next page → →

PRESIDENT'S OBSERVATION

Rich Mahaney

Another idea for the future, to attract people to join the NMRA, is to get the train shows in the NCR territory to offer an "early entry" to the train show during "set up time" with a paid entry fee. Pay to get in, show your NMRA membership card and get in early during the show set up time to start your looking and shopping. Check it out, ask around, maybe it could be done!

The NMRA 2025 Convention (July 14 -19, 2025) planning and work is coming along great! Get registered now! As the NCR President, I have been very pleased to see a number of stories and photos in the last couple of months in all of the national model railroad magazines involving NCR model railroaders! Great job men and woman, well done!

Rich Mahaney
NMRA NCR President

MORE NEW NEWS!! HotBox Status

NCR NEWS

As reported in the last issue of the HotBox, the 2025 issues will be the last printed HotBox issues, to those that have paid subscriptions. All current subscriptions run out in 2025. However, the NCR Board held an emergency meeting via zoom, to resolve two other issues with HotBox publication. Those two issues are –

NCR Life Members

Printed issues in hobby shops

After some spirited discussions, official motions were made, seconded and passed with very little decent. Here's what the NCR Board has decided.....

NCR Life Members – As far as we know or have learned, some time back in the late 1970's, the NCR was almost bankrupt. The NCR issued NCR Life Membership sales to boost the treasury. This was different and separate from NMRA Life Membership. When Barry Hensel took over as HotBox Editor, it was related to him that "Life Members" received printed issues of the HotBox. The NMRA membership/mailling lists do show who the NMRA Life Members are with a subscription date of 2099. However, NMRA Life Members really do not have the right or privilage of receiving the HotBox for free. There are also no records that we know of, to show who might be an NCR Life Member. Thus, the NCR Board has decided that any NMRA or NCR Life Member will no longer receive a printed/mailed HotBox beginning right away.

Printed issues in hobby shops – The HotBox is delivered to seven local hobby shops and mailed to two Riders Hobby Shops (Flint-Grand Rapids), each getting 6 copies to resell. We split the cover price with the store, so they get \$2 and the NCR gets \$2 for each issue sold. This has never been a profitable or even break-even arrangement. With reduction of printed issues, maintaining publication of issues for hobby shops would be even more costly and become an even bigger drain on the NCR treasury. Thus, the NCR Board has decided that there will be no further issues printed for hobby shops, beginning right away. The hobby shops will be informed in March and in-person, when this issue would have been delivered, as the hobby shops need to pay for any sales of the December issue on their magazine racks. The NCR still believes we should have some sort of presence in the hobby shops and the Board will be looking at ideas, such as a poster or flyers if allowed in the hobby shops.

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>

RAILFANNING Detroit Windsor Connecting RR *NCR TRACKSIDE*

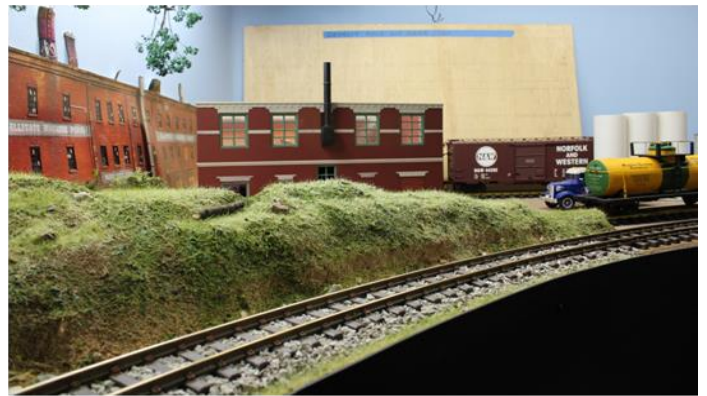
The Detroit Windsor Connecting Railroad, owned and operated by Division 6 Superintendent Bill McMillan, is a 1/29th scale G gauge railroad. Unlike many large scale layouts, the DWCRR is an indoor layout. The layout models select locations in the southwest Detroit area, primarily Delray and West Detroit. Many of the class 1 roads are represented including; the C&O, NYC, CN CP, DT&I, and of course, the fictitious DWCRR.

Left, down, then right - Dropping of load of fuel oil at Laforte Coal & Fuel in Delray; Malaznik Oil Recycling in south Delray; Rougemere Yard; NYC local leaving Delray for West Detroit; Canadian Pacific freight heading to Rougemere Yard; Rougemere Yard is a stub end yard and a transfer table was installed to an escape track



RAILFANNING Detroit Windsor Connecting RR *NCR TRACKSIDE*

left down, then right... NYC local passing the Delray wye for West Detroit; NYC switching out Reefers at Fort St Produce Terminal, West Detroit; Canadian Pacific crossing the Rouge River heading east to the river tunnel; Canadian Pacific continuing east past Delray to the Detroit River Tunnel; Ellis Scrap Metal on John Kronk in West Detroit; All Chem Company in West Detroit; Bridge over the Rouge River (only duck under on layout!); 1/29th scale USRA 4-8-2 and an HO 1/87th scale USRA 4-8-2

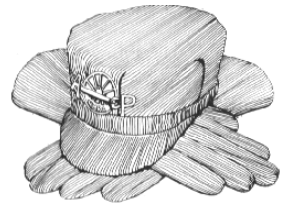


NMRA-NCR ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NCR AWARDS

I am pleased to report that we had a very active finish to 2024. Thanks and Congratulations go to all NCR members that are participating in the Achievement Program.

Skip Luyk, MMR, NCR AP Coordinator



GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD - George Van Duyne, John Martin, Steve Weber, Div 8 and Gary Hunter, Div 6

NMRA ASSOC. VOLUNTEER - Marshall Stull, Div. 1

NMRA ASSOC. OFFICIAL – Marshall Stull, Div. 1 and Steve Harsh, Div. 5

MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR - Marshall Stull, Div. 1



George Van Duyne



Gary Hunter



Steve Harsh



Marshall Stull

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; Jim Macino, MMR covers Div 3 - 260-693-6102 jim@icmgt.com; Ken Chick, MMR covers Div 6 and 10 – 734-420-0276 kdchick@wowway.com; Pete Magoun, MMR covers Div 2 – 231-941-1669 orion@chartermi.net; Bruce DeYoung covers Div. 8 - bbdeyoung@comcast.com and Dorman Wilson for Div 9 - N8YNW@charter.net If you still have questions, contact the NMRA AP Chairman RAY PERSING! Ray can be reached at achiev@nmra.org

RAILROADING "WHAT THE ???"

NCR HUMOR

Here's an extra laugh for you.....



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

MODEL RR IN MICHIGAN CENTRAL STATION **NCR STORY**

The Redford Model Railroad Club, located in Inkster, and having been around the western Detroit area since 1938, recently received an interesting request. Here's the story, from Club Vice President Theresa Osvath.....

I got an email from Sachse Construction asking us to build them a layout for their Christmas party. (was about two months ago) I was like... ummm... can't build you a nice full layout in that short amount of time, but we have a modular unit we can set up at your event.

They came up with all these crazy things to do with the center of the layout like putting a bar in the middle of it, we were like... NO... that leads to liquid on the layout and cups being sat down on it like a bar top. Took a bit but finally got them to give that up. Then they went into us building a scale MCS. I was like nope that will not happen in this little amount of time. (this idea came about like 3 weeks before the event)

The representative for Sachse visited us at the Lansing show and was in love with the layout. The entertainment company they hired wanted the MCS to be part of our layout and put it on it. We were like, well, scale is like 3 ft tall, almost 4 ft wide and over 3 ft deep. Our sections are 2'x4' with track on them, so its not happening. They made it anyhow out of foam board. It took up most of our yard so we had to solve where to put it. Milk crates next to yard. (this is what is in the photos behind us inside)

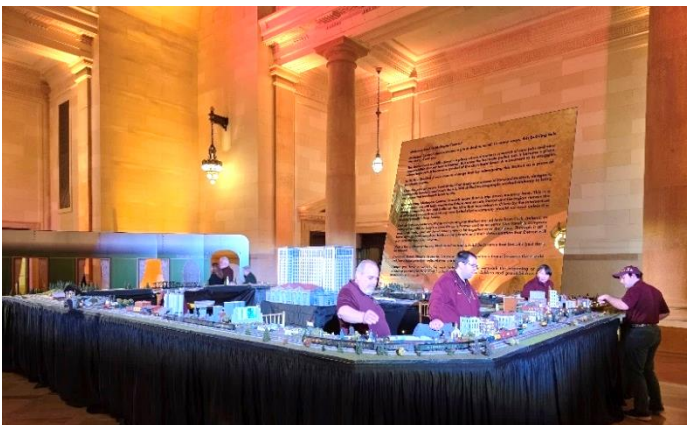
The rep then calls me and tells me she has a friend who is into trains and has some HO Santa Fe passenger cars we can borrow for the event since they are lit up. Ben and I met him at club to get the cars from him and make sure they play nice with Ben's engines. Turns out he is from South Oakland RR club. I asked the Rep why she didn't tell us and she says she didn't know. Maybe was a good thing for us that she didn't otherwise it might have been South Oakland Club there!

We put lots of hours into the layout getting things ready for the event the week before. Like lots of hours, some till 2am some till 4:30am. Set up on Friday before the event at 11am and left at about 10pm, then the event on Saturday. Some of us got there by 2pm, others 4pm till 2:30am! At the Christmas Party the rep told us Wow, it looks totally different than when she saw it in Lansing, great job guys. It was fun and a neat experience.

Sachse was very good to us.... We enjoyed the event and were honored to be there!



Redford Model RR Club members, L to R... Ben Osvath, Brad Wise, Bob Richardson, Theresa Osvath, and Tim Dumas



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

Our regular meetings have moved! We now meet on the SECOND FRIDAY of each month! We just concluded a Bar Mills (<https://barmillsmodels.com/>) build challenge with our members. The results of the build challenge will be on display at the Spring Railroad Modelers Meet on April 5th (<https://smm.ncrmra.org/>). Stay informed of the latest news and information at the Black Swamp by visiting our website and subscribing to our newsletter at <http://div1.ncrmra.org>. Our Facebook group is <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 am at the Foster Family Community Health Center, located at 550 Munson Ave, in Traverse City. Division Elections will be held in May to fill Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Yardmaster positions. We always enjoy "Show and Tell" as it gives us a chance to see members progress on all aspects of modeling. Recent clinic topics included "rolling stock weathering", "coupler & wheelset tune-ups" and Model Railroad Photography". Planning is ongoing for 2025. To request meeting notices and our quarterly newsletter, email our Assistant Superintendent at 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 is getting ready for our 5th year of participating in the Great Train Connection at the Botanical Conservatory here in Fort Wayne of which we allow kids of all ages to operate and run trains for 3 days. We are planning a new program for future Train Shows calling it "Run a Train" designed to get kids more involved in Model Railroading. We are continuing our support and participation in the 4H program of Van Wert, Ohio for 2025. We've started organizing our 3rd annual Train Show & Swap at the Memorial Coliseum here in Fort Wayne on October 18th. Some of our members are hosting and participating in numerous layout Ops Sessions throughout our division. (Submitted by- Bob Jones, Superintendent)

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

We continue to meet. Please watch our website and Facebook page for meeting updates. Couple of updates from the Grand Rails Division, Starting with the May 10th meeting we will have a new meeting place in Jenison MI. (Details to come later) Also we have found a venue for the 2026 NCR Convention in Zeeland MI. 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 or visit the NEW division website <http://grandrailsdiv4.org> (submitted by Mark Baldwin, Div 4 Superintendent)

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

Division 5 is back on schedule after having to skip a couple of Fall meetings due to scheduling conflicts. The December meeting in Charlotte was celebrated with pizza and a hands-on clinic for weathering cars. January featured a clinic on layout room lighting by Kevin Griffin and a showing of recent acquisitions of holiday gifts. February's show and tell featured models constructed out of paper, tagboard or Strathmore paper. The clinic, presented by Mark Cowles featured "Railroad Architecture" including various types of stations, towers, shop facilities and other railroad structures. A future meeting will include a trip to visit some of the area's home layouts that will be featured during the National Convention in Novi. **Correction.** In the LaNtrak feature (December HotBox), the Adam's Family house module was weathered by Paul Limmer but constructed by a younger Club member, Brandon Poisson. The Club Superintendent apologizes for the error. You can subscribe to the monthly Division 5 Newsletter. Send a request to Mark Cowles, at nkpcowles@yahoo.com. For more info, see our website: <https://nmranrdiv5.com/> (Submitted by- Mark Cowles, Div. 5 Clerk)

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

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

The Motor City Division is taking another break, as our 4th annual Model Railroad Sale event was completed at the end of January. Thanks to anyone that attended or was a vendor. The Sale was a success with over 500 attending, including free kids, spouses and veterans! We had 78 vendors using 189 tables. Our new location at 2142 Church in Brighton was well received by all. We're hoping this will be a new home for our event for many years. Division 6 will be helping with the STATION No. VI convention in July. After that, we hope to redo our annual FALL SHOW & WORKSHOP in November. This is our annual "how to do" event where we teach model railroading to anyone that attends. Plus we have several layout displays to enjoy. In January, Division 6 voted on a new Board of Directors. Congratulations to Bill McMillan on returning to the Superintendent position and Matt Letts as our new Secretary. All other positions remain the same and past Superintendent Paul Lichau is now a Director at Large. 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 (submitted by Barry Hensel, Newsletter Editor)

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

They say if you do the same thing you've always done, you'll get the same result you always did. With that in mind, Division 8 just finished up its first full calendar year of a new recruitment initiative. After years of spending money on train show tables and getting no new members from that investment, we instead initiated a "sponsor" system. Anybody who joins Division 8 now gets a \$25 gift certificate to Great Lakes Hobby. If that person joined as a result of a Division 8 member bringing them to the meeting, then the sponsoring Division 8 member gets a \$10 gift certificate. The cost is offset by Great Lakes Hobby with a discount they give us on these gift certificates. To be honest, I've lost track of how many gift certificates we've given to new members, but the program is definitely working. We are getting new people to join our Division. With that in mind, I urge all of our members to not be afraid to try something different when it comes to bringing people into the NMRA or the hobby. It just might work! 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/ (Submitted by Mark Mincek, Superintendent)

Division Nine – Southwest Michigan Division (Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and VanBuren Counties) We have quite a mix of activities over the new few months as we move from winter into spring. We start off in February at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club with a "Zoom" clinic by Dan Lewis MMR on "Modeling with DPM Building Components". Then in March we move our meeting site to the Kalamazoo Model Railroad Historical Society for a series of "How To" presentations on various aspects of model railroading. In April we move back to the Kalamazoo Bridge Club for one of Doug Harding's clinics titled "Fun with Pickles" a look at the Pickle Industry. In May we plan to travel to the Mid-Michigan Railroad Facilities in Cornwell's Turkeyville, Mi. for a day of fun and relaxation. We are also working on creating a new Division 9 website, please note the new web address is <https://div9.ncrnmra.org>. Our newsletter The Yardmaster, and other information are posted on our website. If you would like to receive a copy of our monthly newsletter via email, please send your email address to alanwbau@gmail.com. (Submitted by Alan Bau, Div 9 Scribe & Newsletter Editor)

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

The 10 Wheelers from Division 10 continue to meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 77 meeting hall at Dalton Airport in Flushing. Last month we welcomed an additional new member, and we invite other model railroaders to attend our meetings. Our meetings are very informal as we start out by discussing NMRA, NCR, and other model railroad events, the rest of the evening we usually share our latest "show and tell" projects. If you would like to join one of our meetings or for more info contact ncrdiv10@gmail.com, or Superintendent Wayne Wilder at 989-823-3409. (Submitted by Wayne Wilder, Superintendent)

HOW-TO DO Presentations by Rich Mahaney, Div 9 *NCR MODELING*

PRESENTATION TECHNIQUES FOR CLINIC PRESENTERS

I want to give some thoughts and ideas on lettering and fonts, photos, colors in this article. I recommend several thoughts related to lettering. First make the lettering as big and bold as you can make it. I use Calibri font most of the time, always “bold” the lettering and I use font sizes from 48 to 66 depending on how much lettering I need to place on a PowerPoint slide. A big mistake is trying to place too much lettering or words on a slide. It is ok, to use two slides (or more) if you have a lot of written information to cover or place on a slide.

Text size and bolding text

- **A** size 28
- **B** size 36
- **C** size 48
- **D** size 66
- **E** size 88

On photos – “remember a picture or photo is worth 10,000 words”! Using photos as large as possible will help the viewer see what you are talking about or what you want them to see. Try to have six or less photos on a PowerPoint slide. Sometimes it is appropriate to use images that with different angles of the object you are discussing, instead of straight on. It can be more pleasing and interesting to the viewer. Also, this way you don’t need to use the same image more than once. Also take lots of photos of images so if one is not good, you have a “substitute image” to replace it. You should never need to “apologize” for a bad out of focus image in your presentation. Take lots of images such as close up and far away shots. Sometimes an image can have words placed on it to make great title slides as you change sections or topics.

Image Sizes



Take multiple angles for images



Horizontal vs Vertical Images



HOW-TO DO Presentations by *Rich Mahaney, Div 9* **NCR MODELING**

A bit more on photos....

Get up above or below



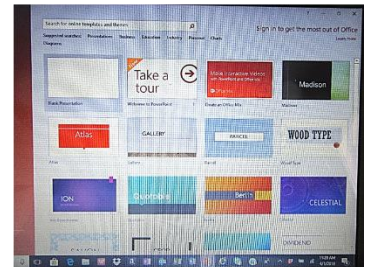
Look for interesting angles to photograph



Don't get carried away with backgrounds on your PowerPoint slides, just because they offer you lots of example background on slides to consider, the simpler the better. You want your words and images to be drawn to the viewer, not an uninteresting, crazy background. The background is just a "background", not the message.

What about slide backgrounds?

- Colors,
- textures,
- graphics,
- other,
- or white?
- **Checkout what PowerPoint (or others) has to offer you?**



I rarely use any slide animation or sounds in my word or photo slides. I think it can distract the viewer and it takes time away from the presentation while the viewer and the presenter wait for everything to get done on "building" a slide during a presentation. Words and images "flying" in from off the side or out of the background, just doesn't do anything for me (and many other people). Present information and not an example of how creative or nuts you can be. Remember they asked you present a presentation, not a show of how many "special effects" you can use from the PowerPoint files.

These are just some ideas to help make your presentation/clinic better and more enjoyable for your audience. I hope these will help you!

IN MEMORIAM

NCR STORY

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

TORRENCE "TERRY" ALBERT BOSSICK – Terry, age 82, passed on January 22, 2024. He was born in Binghamton, New York on April 14, 1941. Terry was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Donna. He is survived by his three loving children, seven dear grandchildren, sister: Eve Izzo and many loving nieces and nephews. Terry was a singer and an artist. He was a member of the GM Chorus, his church choir and studied voice. Terry was an avid train and streetcar hobbyist and was a member of many clubs and associations including; the Detroit United Railroad Club, the National Model Railroad Association, and the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum. He was also a member of the Warren Tri County Fine Arts Association and the Mount Clemens Fine Arts Association. He was a major volunteer at the Anton Art Center in Mt. Clemens, and in 2023, he won the Volunteer of the Year Award. Terry was very involved with his church First Presbyterian Church of Warren.

(note – We're sorry to report Terry's passing over a year late, but we were not informed of his passing)



2025 Spring Railroad Modelers Meet

Hosted by the Black Swamp Division (Div 1) of the North Central Region (NCR), NMRA



April 5, 2025 – Sylvania OH

Doors Open 8:00AM with activities into the evening. See website for details!
Sylvania Senior Center, 7140 W Sylvania Ave, Sylvania, OH 43560

Learn New Skills, Share Your Models, Share Techniques, Visit Layouts



This is a Model Railroading event!
Lunch options will be available on-site!



This event is open to ALL MODELERS - NMRA Membership is not required

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Modeling Clinics – 9 clinics on 3 tracks to choose from on a mixture of subjects presented by modelers, historians, and industry experts.

Model Showroom – Bring your models (finished or in-progress) of locomotives, rolling stock, structures, dioramas, or scenery. All are Welcome! The showroom is about sharing the hobby in all its many forms. Freelance and prototype welcome.

Layouts and Displays - Small and modular displays will be available within the main venue. Operations are planned during the morning.

Layout Tours - Layout tours of local layouts will be available during the afternoon and evening.

Admission is \$20 at the door

17 and under free, all individuals 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult

All event activities (minus lunch) are included in one low price!

This is NOT a swap meet!



Visit our website for more information
and event schedules
smm.ncrnmra.org

Hosted by the Black Swamp Division
Division 1, NCR NMRA
div1.ncrnmra.org



April 5, 2025 – Sylvania OH

Live Clinics, Layout Tours and So Much More



This is a Model Railroading event!
All scales and gauges are welcome!
Lunch options will be available on-site!



Model Showroom – Bring your models (finished or in-progress) of locomotives, rolling stock, structures, dioramas, or scenery. All are welcome! The showroom is about sharing the hobby in all its many forms.

Modeling Clinics – learn new skills with clinics on a mixture of subjects presented by modelers, historians, and industry experts.



Layouts and Displays – Small and modular layouts will be on display within the main venue.

Layout Tours – Layout tours of local layouts will be available during the afternoon.



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....

Who remembers Ozzie & Harriet? Here's a show they did with a Lionel train set. Fits us all.....

https://youtu.be/mrw6_Ye_TPo

GREAT video (only 5 minutes) of RDG 2102 leaving Port Clinton on a run, cab, wheel and run-by shots! Big steam looking great! https://youtu.be/Vf1YAA7L-Lw?si=PVD_sB_sExvyrV5H

Guy gets pulled from a crashed airplane moments before its hit by a train!

www.reddit.com/r/trainwrecks/comments/1hdej44/planes_trains_and_automobiles/

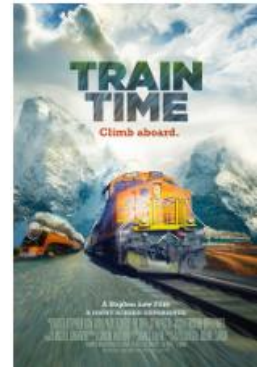
For our Veterans!.... Rails of North Texas: Rerouted Military Train:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dnk116vcRFY

Another Military Train Action- www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaEafJY844g

BTR #2- Not sure how long it's been there, or how long it will stay, but at the Henry Ford Theater at The Henry Ford museum, there is a show on the BIG screen..... TRAIN TIME! It appears to show daily but at various times, so you must check out the date/time online at the Henry Ford website. There is a short trailer you can watch... looks interesting!!

<https://www.thehenryford.org/visit/giant-screen-experience/films/>



BTR #3- 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 –

March 05, 2025: Thomas Livesy with another exciting program

April 2, 2025: Down East Steam and Diesel by Tim Fisher. Tim will be presenting photographs from the collection of Dave Regittko featuring steam excursions, Gt. Lakes Steel, EBT, Cass and first gen diesels.

May 7, 2025: Dale Berry

June 4, 2025: TBA

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

BTR #4- NCR MEMBERS IN PRINT The NCR Members listed below have had articles, letters or photos published in the National model railroad press in the past few months: Rad Jones (Div.8) had a letter about Stoney Creek Model RR Club's 55th anniversary in Nov. NMRA; Barry Hensel's (Div 6) article about the 2025 NMRA Convention in the Nov. NMRA and an article about his Reading Railroad in the December NMRA; Doug Tagsold (Div. 1) had an article in the Jan. NMRA about Ron (Div. 8) Griffin's "Adrain and Blissfield" railroad, Doug also took the photos; John Emley (Div. 6) had an article featuring his Soo Line RR in the October '24 RMC; Rick Neibert's (Div. 6) letter about John Emley's SOO Line was in the Nov. RMC; Tim Fisher (Div. 8) wrote an article about an "Easy Operations Session" hosted by Dan Lewis (Div. 8) that included his photos of Dan's layout in the October DO. Doug Tagsold (Div. 1) had a Trackside Photo in the January MR; Brooks Stover (Div 5) had a feature in Nov. MR; Bob Hanna (Div 3) has a regular column in the DO.

I regularly review the following magazines for items from NCR members: Dispatcher's Office (DO), the OPSIG magazine, The NMRA Magazine, Model Railroader (MR), Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette (NGSLG), Railroader Model Craftsman (RMC). If you have an article, photo, or letter published elsewhere, such as Railroad Modeler, N, O or S gauge magazines, etc. feel free to notify me for inclusion in this list.

Phil Doolittle, doolittlep@comcast.net

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.

STATION No. VI 2025 NMRA CONVENTION!

NCR NEWS

Station No.VI 2025 Spring Status Report -

We should have surpassed 500 registrants by the time you read this. We have 58 layout visits, 41 op sessions with almost 500 spots for operators and 90+ clinics, almost all of which will be given twice. Scheduling for all of these events will be done soon. If you are a registrant you will be notified when this is complete. Why is that important? Well, for layout visits and clinics there is no impact. You will be able to select, and put on your schedule, any of these events you want to. Your only challenge may be to be the first in line for a clinic or OP session.



However, op sessions are different. When we open the website to op sessions you will then be able to schedule the ones you are interested in. But there will obviously be a limit for each session. If you wait, or you are not registered, you may miss your chance to operate that layout you always wanted. The only other issue is prototype tours. They too have a limit. So far it appears that we will be able to accommodate those that are interested in any of the tours. However, that may change. Obvious! the earlier you reserve a tour the more likely that it will be within the capacity for that tour.

Have you looked for the layout visit articles we have in magazines? In total we will have 23 layout articles. Keep a look at Model Railroader, Model Railroad Craftsman, Model Railroad Hobbist and the NMRA Magazine. If you are not familiar with all of these layouts the articles might help you decide which you many want to visit. Have you visited the website – www.nmra2025.com Here's a look at some of the content there.....

STATION No. VI 2025 NMRA CONVENTION!

NCR NEWS

Here is a look at some of the registration page and other items that require additional costs. It's best to sign-up for these as soon as possible, as most have limited attendance.



Registration Pricing Summary

- Standard Registration** - \$ 125.00
This registration level applies to attendees regardless of NMRA membership. It includes admission to National Train Show on Saturday and Sunday with special early entrance Saturday morning.
- Companion / Spouse Registration** - \$ 62.00
An adult attending with principle attendee already registered using Standard Registration. It includes admission to National Train Show on Saturday and Sunday with special early entrance Saturday morning.
- Youth Registration (ages 12-17)** - \$ 20.00
Must be accompanied by a person registered under a Standard Registration. This registration level includes admission to National Train Show on Saturday and Sunday with special early entrance Saturday morning.
- Youth Registration (under 12)** - FREE!
Must be accompanied by a person registered under a Standard Registration. This registration level includes admission to National Train Show on Saturday and Sunday with special early entrance Saturday morning.
- Saturday Pass (includes National Train Show)** - \$ 40.00
Includes admission to convention activities on Saturday, July 19th, plus a ticket to the National Train Show on Saturday and your ticket Friday morning.
- Friday & Saturday Pass (includes National Train Show)** - \$ 60.00
Includes admission to convention activities on Friday, July 18th and Saturday, July 19th, plus a ticket to the National Train Show on Saturday, July 19th. Pick up your ticket Saturday morning.

Prototype Tours

- Ford River Rouge Factory Tour** - \$ 62.00
Monday Jul 14, 2025 @ 10:00:AM - 04:00:PM EDT
Visit the Dearborn Truck Plant at Ford Motor Company's historic River Rouge facility. Cost includes bus transportation to/from the venue.
- The Henry Ford Museum** - \$ 70.00
Tuesday Jul 15, 2025 @ 10:00:AM - 04:00:PM EDT
Spend a day at the The Henry Ford, an internationally recognized cultural destination that immerses visitors in the stories of ingenuity, resourcefulness and innovation that helped shape America. A National Historic Landmark with an unparalleled collection of artifacts from 300 years of American history. Cost includes bus transportation to/from the venue.
- Detroit River Cruise (Gordie Howe Bridge)** - \$ 85.00
Wednesday Jul 16, 2025 @ 10:00:AM - 06:00:PM EDT
Experience Detroit's rich history and impressive skyline with a sightseeing tour, narrated by knowledgeable local guides. With breathtaking views, fascinating insights, and a relaxing atmosphere, this cruise is the perfect way to explore Detroit's unique charm. Visitors will enjoy unique views of the new Gordie Howe Bridge, still under construction. Cost includes lunch and bus transportation to/from the venue.

Meals

- Farewell Pizza Party with Soft Drink** - \$ 18.00
Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel - Assembly Area
Friday Jul 18, 2025 @ 09:00:PM - Saturday Jul 19, 2025 @ 01:00:AM EDT
- Farewell Pizza Party with Beer** - \$ 23.00
Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel - Assembly Area
Friday Jul 18, 2025 @ 09:00:PM - Saturday Jul 19, 2025 @ 01:00:AM EDT
- Farewell Pizza Party with Wine** - \$ 31.00
Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel - Assembly Area
Friday Jul 18, 2025 @ 09:00:PM - Saturday Jul 19, 2025 @ 01:00:AM EDT
- Saturday Night Banquet** - \$ 64.00
Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel - Ballroom B
Saturday Jul 19, 2025 @ 06:00:PM - 10:00:PM EDT
Enjoy a dinner with your fellow convention attendees. Several delicious meals will be available for your selection at the event. With the last Amtrak train departing Michigan Central Station in 1988, the historic structure stood abandoned for 30 years before Ford Motor Company purchased the building in 2018. Preservation architect Angela Wyrembelski will discuss the Station's extraordinary transformation process and how adaptive reuse of the historic station connects Detroit's past to its promising future.
Social hour: 6-7pm
Banquet starts: 8pm

[Click here to start the Registration Process](#)

Station No.VI 2025 NMRA National Convention Registration is now OPEN! Using the link below, you'll need to create a registration account, fill out your information, make your registration selections and pay with your credit card. All registrations must be submitted through the system with a credit card. Attendance to several activities is limited so register early! The registration system allows you to add items as they become available or change so do not wait.

NOTE: Hotel reservations are made independent of event registration. Please see the [Location page](#) for lodging options.

Please be aware, The following items are not yet finalized; you'll be able to register for them at a later date:

- Modeling with the Masters clinics.
- Operating Sessions
- Make & Take clinics

We do have preliminary information on the available [Layout Tours](#) and [Clinics](#) but their scheduled dates/times are yet to be determined.

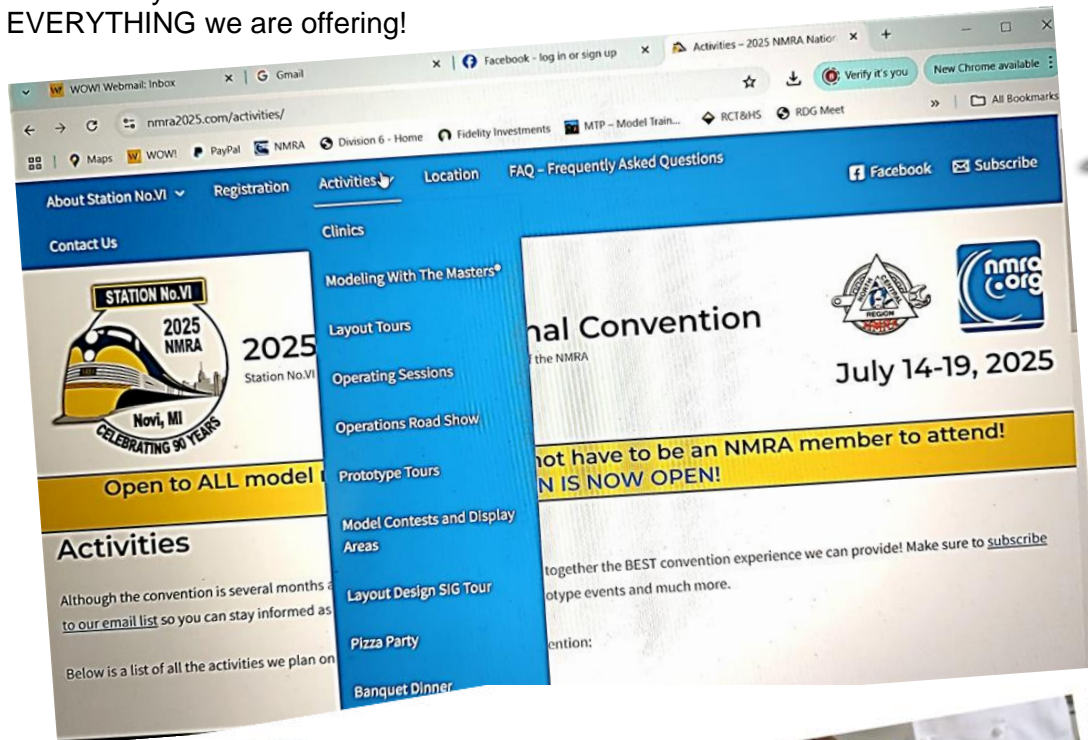
On-Line Registration Closes - July 19, 2025 @ 5:00 pm

Registration Pick-up Desk Opens at 9:00AM,
All activities start at 1 PM on Monday July 14

STATION No. VI 2025 NMRA CONVENTION!

NCR NEWS

One of the main parts of the website is the ACTIVITIES tab.... as you can see in the picture below, that is where the heart of the convention information is! Make sure you click on each sub-tab to see EVERYTHING we are offering!



Pizza Party

Friday night starting at 9:00PM!

Picture this... it's Friday afternoon, you've had a GREAT week at **Station No.VI**, the 2025 NMRA National Convention, and you're trying to figure out how to end the week with a "bang"? What comes to mind.... pizza, beer, wine, soda pop?... all of the above?! Well, we have you covered!! Sign-up for the **Friday Night Pizza Farewell Party** at the Sheraton HQ hotel!! Starting at 9pm and going to midnight (or so) we'll be serving up some great local pizza with your favorite beer, wine or soda pop on the side. All included for one low price!! Who will be there? Who might you rub shoulders with? What great conversations about the past week will be had by many... and you could be part of it all!! Sign-up to attend this great event, when you register for **Station No.VI**.

FYI, if you did not select the pizza party at registration, you can go back and add it! SEATING IS LIMITED SO DO NOT DELAY!!



Banquet Dinner

Enjoy a dinner with your fellow convention attendees. Several delicious meals will be available for your selection at the event.
Social hour: 6-7pm
Banquet starts: 8pm

No NMRA convention is complete without the closing banquet on Saturday night. Our convention, **Station No.VI**, is no different and we're offering a great banquet with an excellent guest speaker. Our banquet will take place at the HQ hotel, the Sheraton, starting with Social hour from 6:00PM-7:00PM and dinner being served at 8:00PM. Our guest speaker will start about 9PM and we will conclude the banquet with any special awards that need to be presented.



With the last Amtrak train departing Michigan Central Station in 1988, the historic structure stood abandoned for 30 years before Ford Motor Company purchased the building in 2018. Preservation architect Angela Wyrembelski will discuss the Station's extraordinary transformation process and how adaptive reuse of the historic station connects Detroit's past to its promising future.

You can be part of this amazing dinner and presentation by selecting the Banquet Dinner, when you register for **Station No.VI**.

FYI, if you did not select the Banquet Dinner at registration, you can go back and add it! SEATING IS LIMITED SO DO NOT DELAY!!



Here is information on our two main events that involve food – the Friday Pizza Party and our convention Banquet.

Clinics

Our facilities allow for us to have 8 clinics presented simultaneously throughout the entire convention. Clinics will be offered from the first day of the convention to the final day. On Monday the clinics will start at 1:00PM and run until 8:30PM, all other days, they will run 9:00AM to 8:30PM. Over the course of the convention there will be more than 200 clinic slots. Clinics are one hour in length including time for questions and answers. Most clinics will be repeated so that attendees will have at least two opportunities to catch a particular clinic.

Below is the list of clinics that will be offered. The final schedule for these clinics is still in the works so [Subscribe to our email list](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) to keep up to date!



Modeling With The Masters®

Modeling With The Masters® (MWTM) is a unique opportunity to participate in an immersive hands-on clinic where participants learn and use both basic and advanced modeling techniques taught by Master Model Railroaders®. These skills include scratch-building in styrene and wood, kit building, kit-bashing, scenery construction, and more. There are eight (8) Modeling With The Masters® clinics planned as part of the Station No.VI program. NOTE: You must be registered for the **Station No.VI 2025 Convention** and pay the required MWTM fee to attend a MWTM clinic.



Modeling With The Masters® are now available on the [registration page](#) and the [event agenda](#). Early registrants will be contacted and have the ability to add MWTM to their registrations if they desire. Make sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Subscribe to our Mailing List](#) to keep up on all the latest information. MWTM participants are required to bring their own tools as listed on the tools list for each clinic; failure to do so will hinder your ability to take part in these hands-on clinics. Each Clinic identifies the tools required to fully participate in the Clinic and will be included under each clinic description. You may bring any other tools you usually use or might find useful.

Layout Tours

Station No.VI 2025 is being planned as an unconventional convention. One of the differences for this convention is that there will be none of the traditional bus tours visit the local home and club layouts. Every day you will have the opportunity to visit around a dozen (or more) layouts in one of six geographic regions around the metropolitan Detroit area. Each layout will only be open on the designated day for its region. The advantage of this Layout Tour format is that registrants can hand pick the layouts they find interesting and visit more of those interesting layouts each day than they could by boarding a bus that visits a pre-defined set of layouts.

This page describes all the layouts that you can tour during the **Station No.VI NMRA National Convention**. Color-keyed maps and a printed list of the layouts will be available at registration. Each layout lies in a region, and the layouts in each region are scheduled to be open on the following days:

Region	Map Color	Day	Time
Central		Monday, July 14th	1pm - 9pm
Northeast		Tuesday, July 15th	9am - 9pm (check Agenda for specific hours)
Northwest		Wednesday, July 16th	9am - 9pm (check Agenda for specific hours)
South		Thursday, July 17th	9am - 9pm (check Agenda for specific hours)
West		Friday, July 18th	10am - 8pm (check Agenda for specific hours)
Near South		Saturday, July 19th	12pm - 4pm

Operating Sessions

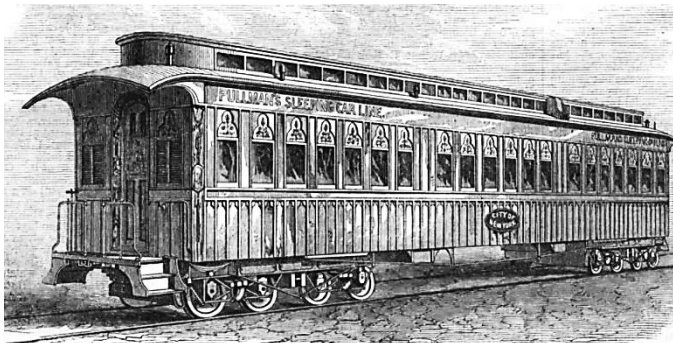
Operating sessions will be available EVERY DAY of the convention! Multiple times will be available for you to choose from. Sessions are being scheduled through [OperatingSessions.com](#). You will need to create an account at [OperatingSessions.com](#) if you do not already have one. We expect to open registration for Operating Sessions within the first quarter of 2025. Registration for Operating Sessions will close on 7/1/2025. When registration for Operating Sessions opens, we will send out notifications to everyone registered for Station No.VI. [OperatingSessions.com](#) will contain full descriptions and information on operations for each layout.

Below is a list of layouts which will be available for operations. Links to Layout Tour descriptions have been provided where available:



THE 16 WHEEL PULLMAN CAR STORY

George M. Pullman got his start in the railroad sleeping car business in 1859 when he and business partner Benjamin Field arranged for the Chicago and Alton Railroad to remodel two of their passenger coaches for sleeping car service. Unfortunately, no image of "Old No.9", the first one, is known to have survived. Early on, Pullman grew his business by ordering additional car conversions and purchasing second-hand sleeping cars. This gave him a functional fleet but without the luxury touches that would appeal to the upper crust clientele Pullman wished to attract.

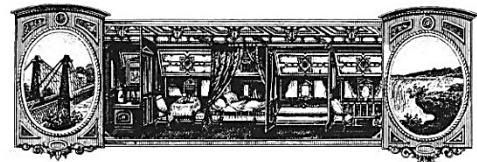
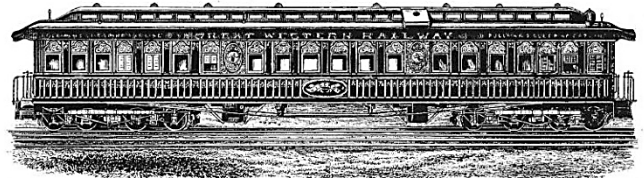


This changed in July, 1863, when Pullman and Field purchased a magnificent new sixteen-wheel palace car for service on the Alton Road. It was named Springfield, after the hometown of its builder, the Wason Manufacturing Company. No image of the Springfield seems to have survived, but the City of New York of 1867 may have been similar. It gives the appearance of a large, heavy car. It has paneled sides with a center oval, stained glass in the windows, and a round-end monitor-style clerestory roof. The Springfield, according to a contemporary description, was 58 feet long, luxuriously furnished, and rode on two, eight-wheel trucks.

These trucks, patented by C. F. Allen of Aurora, Illinois, were actually a pair of four-wheel trucks connected by a platform, or what we would now call a span bolster. They were pedestal trucks, made of strap iron with a leaf spring for each journal box, connected by an equalizing lever. The platform had a heavy side sill, with a truss rod, located outside of the trucks. The purpose of this design, according to the patent, was "to relieve the coaches from shocks and concussions, and thus afford ease and comfort

to the passengers, and also to greatly lessen the danger in passing over the curves and inequalities of the track."

Twenty-three sixteen-wheel Pullman cars were constructed between 1863 and 1869. They are discussed in the text of Ralph L. Barger's, A Century of Pullman Cars, Volume II, The Palace Cars. In this short History Lesson, we can only look at a very few of these cars.



This illustration of the Great Western Railway of Canada's Viceroy, of 1867 or 1868, clearly shows the typical features of a sixteen-wheel Pullman car. It has a broken bullnose roof, a newer style than the Monitor roof on the City of New York. The Viceroy was a hotel car. It had a small kitchen to serve only the passengers traveling on the Viceroy.

The most famous sixteen-wheel Pullman is surely Car A of 1864, better known as the Pioneer. The early Pullmans were all second-hand or converted coaches. The luxurious Springfield was a step up but it still was not Pullman's own design. By 1864 Pullman knew generally what he wanted but did not have a definite enough plan to hand over to a car builder. So, he arranged to rent shop space from the Chicago and Alton, together with a crew led by an experienced car builder. Pullman spent much time on site throughout the construction of the Pioneer, working out the details as the build progressed.

Continued next page → →



This well-known photo of the Pioneer shows it in later years, well-worn and rather ordinary looking. As built, it would have been generally similar to other sixteen-wheel Pullmans of the time.

The Pioneer was state of the art when built, but over the years it acquired the reputation of being a revolutionary, game-changing design. Much of the myth surrounding the Pioneer undoubtedly came straight from Pullman himself. The Pioneer was his favorite, his first original design, and the closest thing to a Pullman car actually built by George Pullman himself. So, in time the Pioneer became even grander, more luxurious, the car that instantly made every other sleeping car old-fashioned. It was none of that. Other sleeping car companies, and there were several, had similar cars at the time. But Pullman's was the company that swallowed up the competition and survived. George Pullman was the victor in the sleeping car wars and he wrote the history.

Washington D.C. to its final resting place in Springfield, Illinois. This web page, from the Digital Research Library of Illinois History Journal, repeats that story. It even misidentifies Lincoln's funeral car, the executive car United States, built by the United States Military Railroads in their Arlington, Virginia shops, as the Pioneer.

How could such a fable arise? Like many tall tales it does contain a grain of truth. Eight sleeping cars were added to Lincoln's funeral train on the last leg of its journey, to accommodate all the dignitaries traveling from Chicago to Springfield. Four of the sleepers were Pullmans. The Pioneer could well have been one of them though this has not been confirmed by original sources. In any case, Lincoln's body only traveled in the former executive car United States, which had been modified for that purpose by the installation of an end door to facilitate removing and returning the casket.

Hotel cars were popular in the 1860s and 1870s but eventually lost favor after dining cars were introduced. The well-known Delmonico of 1868, built in the Burlington's Aurora shops, was Pullman's first true diner.



This interior view of the Cosmopolitan of 1869, another Burlington Aurora product, hints at the sumptuousness of Pullman interiors of the time. Note the spittoons at each table.

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Showing posts sorted by relevance for query **pullman pioneer**. Sort by date
Show all posts

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

THE PULLMAN STORY: A BRIEF OVERVIEW.

The first Pullman sleeping car, the "Pioneer," was constructed in 1864. Although not an immediate success, the Pioneer received national attention when transporting President Lincoln's body from Washington D.C. to Springfield, Illinois.

WORDS | "OR PHRASES"
pullman pioneer

INSTANTLY TRANSLATE THE ENTIRE JOURNAL INTO 113 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES
Select Language

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REFERENCE REPOSITORY

Curiously, there is another myth that sprang up about the Pioneer. According to this story, the Pioneer is said to have been included in president Abraham Lincoln's funeral train and to have borne his body all or at least part of the way from

The sixteen-wheel Pullman car era was short. It began in 1863, peaked around 1868, and ended with the last of them being built in 1869. The Michigan Central Railroad was an early user of Pullman cars, many of which were built in the road's own shops. The company's annual reports list the passenger stock of the line, broken down by type, including Pullmans. The reports also include notes on the ownership, maintenance, and repair of their Pullmans. The figures in the table below, taken from annual reports, show how this one road's roster of sixteen-wheel cars generally reflects the rise and fall in popularity of the sixteen-wheel Pullman car.

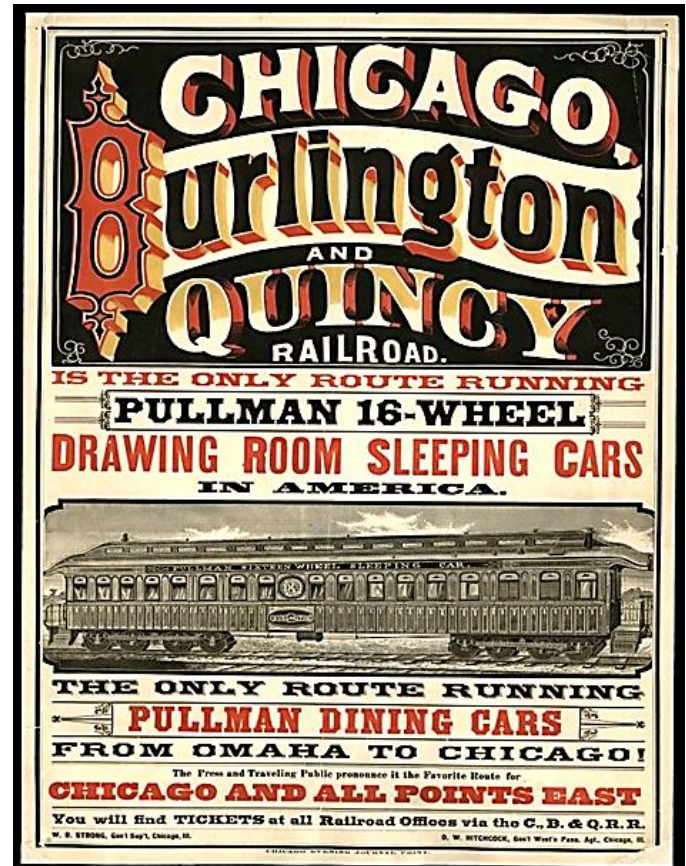
Number of 16 wheel Pullmans in service							
Year	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873
Number	4	8	7	6	6	4	0

Only twenty-three sixteen-wheel Pullman cars were built. Eventually all were rebuilt with six-wheel trucks and some, like the Pioneer, were again rebuilt with four-wheel trucks. The sixteen-wheel experiment cannot be considered a success. Rather than producing the expected smooth ride they were rough riding over poor track and they did not always take curves reliably.

Still, not all railroads were quick to abandon sixteen-wheel sleeping cars. The Burlington built them for another ten years before they, too, gave up on them.

SOURCES

- Barger, Ralph L. A Century of Pullman Cars Volume II, The Palace Cars. Sykesville, Maryland: Greenberg Publishing Company, Inc.; 1990, ISBN 0-89778-140-6
- Trostel, Scott D. The Lincoln Funeral Train. Fletcher, Ohio: Cam-Tech Publishing; 2002, ISBN 0-925436-21-6
- White, John H., Jr. The American Railroad Passenger Car. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press; 1978, ISBN 0-8018-1965-2
- Annual reports of the directors of the Michigan Central Railroad Company to the stockholders. Transportation History Collection: Railroads (umich.edu)



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!

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

CLOSET EXPANSION! Part 2 by Barry Hensel, Div 6 **NCR MODELING**

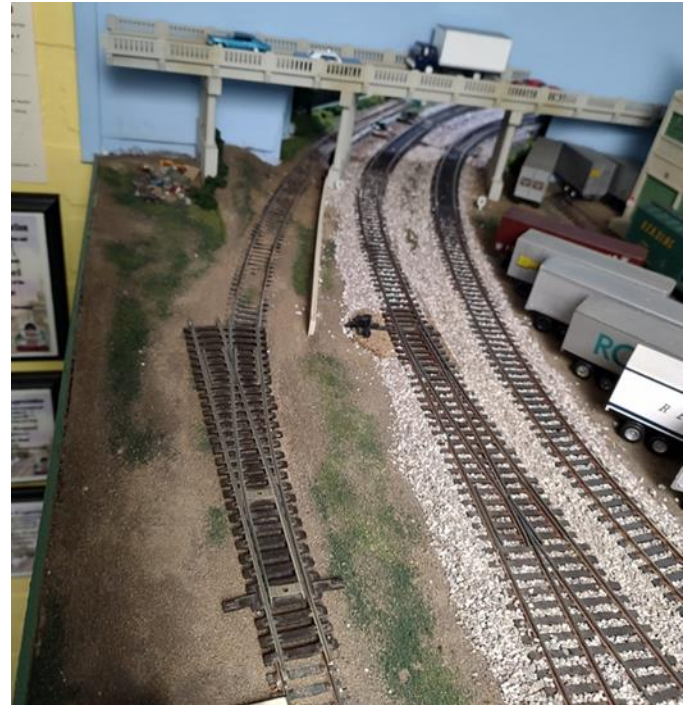
So, it's now November 2024 and I had a revelation in the middle of the night.... My Hershey operations is not "correct". Currently I have covered hoppers feeding the cocoa bean elevator. However, the cocoa beans were delivered in bags in boxcars. This needs to be fixed. However... what to do with covered hopper cars? I have two grain industries on the layout and those cars must go somewhere. Well... the Reading RR had a huge grain facility in Port Richmond! Hmm... I just "happen" to have Port Richmond on my layout... but where to put a grain elevator? Here's the revelation... let's cut a hole in the wall and expand into the closet!! Again!



OK... Where to cut a hole and go into the closet and will a shelf of track fit? Here's a spot under the highway bridge and if we clear out stuff on a closet shelf, there looks like there should be room!



A turnout on the tail track will head right to the wall on the left of the bridge support. Inside the closet, it looks like I can simply add the board for track and even have enough car clearance! NICE!!



Found a nice piece of particle board and made the new track shelf. Then removed the bridge and started the tear-out of scenery. After thinking about the one track in the closet, it would only hold 4-5 cars. That's not enough, so let's do another turnout and make it two tracks! Now I have to move the bridge support, but I have plenty of room to do that. This is looking good..... !



CLOSET EXPANSION! Part 2 by Barry Hensel, Div 6 **NCR MODELING**



Here's the other side.... first cut through the wall to find its thickness. Then through the other side into the closet and seeing how that second turnout will fit.



After cutting the hole in the wall, I was reminded that the wall was a 2x4 thick! OOPS... My shelf was not made correctly, so I had to do some trimming and make a new notch for the shelf support. It's now a bit shorter, but with two tracks on it, I should still be able to fit at least 8 cars, maybe more. The photo on the left shows how the tracks will come through from the second turnout. However, how will I secure the track on the shelf? Not really enough room for nailing it down and the particle board is very hard so I'd have to drill holes for the nails. Nope.... time for some Liquid Nails and let's glue the track down! I started gluing just the ends, then removed the shelf to work on it in the open.



CLOSET EXPANSION! Part 2 by Barry Hensel, Div 6 **NCR MODELING**

Also test fitting the bridge back in place.... again, looking pretty good!



Here's a look at the final install of the track shelf.



Doing a search of all my RDG books, then the internet, this picture was the best I could find of the Port Richmond facility. So... copy, paste, crop, make BIG and print out.... at first, I did just the main building. Then I tried making a mirror image to include some of the silos. Even got to wrap the building into the hole to help finish it off! Again... looking good!



Here's a more overall look at Port Richmond.... Hmmmm.... The grain facility was HUGE, this doesn't look as big as it should be. Let's try again and go back to just the main building.... But, did I make it to scale? Yes... Got lucky and measuring the doors at 8' tall makes it nearly scale!



CLOSET EXPANSION! Part 2 by Barry Hensel, Div 6 **NCR MODELING**

Now THAT looks BIG!!



Did some wiring, scenery redo's and testing of the track by switching cars in and out... Looking and working pretty good! Last thing to do.... Revise and/or make new train orders for OP sessions!



So once more we have proven.... There is (almost) always room for more track and operations! Or one could also say.... There is no Spare Space in the train room... just places NOT YET USED!! I hope you will find some "unused spaces" and expand your railroad and operations!



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July 14-19, 2025

We're cleaning out some files from the HotBox archives! We really have no idea who sent these, when and who the author really is.... but they're interesting! If you know who the author might be, let us know.....

While working Delray Tower, in August '71. Turbo was on a cross country tour, and it was leaving Detroit heading west. Shot from the tower window after lowering the Dearborn Ave gates.



In 1959 the neighbor lady that lived behind us asked her dad, who was a GTW freight conductor out of Battle Creek, if he could arrange for a cab ride for me and a neighbor buddy, knowing through numerous conversations with her that we were railroad enthusiasts. He replied to her that he certainly could get us into the cab of a locomotive and after settling on a date as to when it would be possible, my dad drove me and my friend Bob Savoy to Battle Creek to meet her dad. Unfortunately, 51 years later, I can't recall the gent's name, but he treated us royally, even giving us a tour of the GTW roundhouse, which at that time still had a few steam locomotives inside.



Anyway, the cab ride that he arranged was not just a short hop through the Battle Creek yard on a switch engine...he had arranged for us to ride the head end in passenger service between Battle Creek and Lansing and return! The engines that Bob and I rode were 4901 to Lansing and 4913 on the return leg. At that time, the gent had told us beforehand that the top speed was 83 mph, and that we would indeed see that on the speedo. Sure enough, there were several locations before and after the stop at Charlotte, where we hit the 83 mph mark! Wow...what a ride for a 12 year-old railfan!!

Attached is a photo of the 4901 that I took 11 years after my cab ride on the point of a WB passenger train during the stop at Charlotte. By this time, the 4901 had been repainted into the "noodle" paint scheme. At the time of my cab ride in 1959, GTW and CNR equipment was still in the green and gold colors.

P.S. As a postscript to that wonderful day on the GTW, I must mention that about two years after our ride, the gent had a heart attack while on duty as a freight conductor. He died soon thereafter and I never got a chance to see him again. However, I will always be grateful for his kindness in arranging that ride.

Subject: Saginaw to Owosso on Halloween, 10-31-10
Birth-mom Mary Lou and I took a little drive from her house in Fenton up to Midland for brunch this past Halloween Day. It was one of those dramatic Michigan autumn days with fast moving dark clouds, punctuated by brilliant, low sunshine. They don't occur all that often, and are a photographer's delight, at least when the sun's out... Stopped in Saginaw briefly, where I was treated to what can only be described as an unbelievable assortment of vintage Alco and MLW power. Lake State's (LSRC) recent acquisitions of newer EMD's have finally forced all their Alco's into retirement. Most of them are stored serviceable on the fan tracks at the old PM roundhouse in Saginaw Yard. I don't really know if the "line up" of power I discovered here was deliberate or not, but I can say without question, this is quite a remarkable scene to be found (outside a museum) in 2010.



I can remember a summer day in the late 1950's when Dad took us along to the ice house to get a half block of crushed ice to pack the ice cream freezers with. The ice house was located by the B&O and Wabash tracks and there was a good view straight down the B&O tracks, complete with smoke and a headlight from an east bound freight. We got to go over by the tracks and watch it go by while Dad got the ice. A double headed pair of Mikado's as I recall. Nice!

The Wabash had a passenger train that came through town about 8:00 in the evening each day. If we were in town, and I had been a good boy, we would park at the station to watch it. And if I had been a really good boy, Dad would let us get out and take me up to the train to count the wheels on the steam engine. Two little ones, two big ones, (drivers), and one more little one, as I recall. I could only count the ones I could see but it was one of the little Atlantic, 4-4-2's they ran on their branch line from Toledo to Fort Wayne. But sometimes it was late, and as it was getting past my bedtime, we did not get to see it.

That was the problem with the B&O Passenger train, as it came through too late in the evening. But sometimes during the summer when there was no school to get up early for, we would wait at Veteran's Park, by the tracks, opposite the station, and watch the gleaming streamline E units and passenger cars stop at the station. Once the dining car crew, all in their white uniforms, opened the side door to cool off, and I remember them waving back to us and smiling.

I vividly remember Grandpa and Grandma bringing me home and coming up to the tracks where the Wabash and B&O tracks crossed. Deatrick street and FC tower were right there, as was a Wabash steam engine switching the interchange track. Then two B&O steam engines on an eastbound freight pulled up and stopped to switch the small yard that B&O had just to the west of there. Then as we were waiting, I remember a huge double engine, "two engines built into one, Grandpa!" It (EM-1?) slowly crossed the street ahead of us and headed west on the double tracked B&O. Three trains! I was bouncing all over the back seat to watch all the trains!

When I was in the third grade, Dad arranged for us to ride the Wabash freight train from Defiance to New Haven Yard, (Fort Wayne), one Saturday. Got up in the engine, a diesel F unit by that time, and was given the choice to either ride in the engine or the caboose. Well, there was another engine I could see switching up ahead, and I couldn't tell if it was on our track or not. So I picked the safer choice, the caboose. Got to ride most all of the way, up in the cupola! When I got back to school, I was telling my friends about it when the teacher said "You know you couldn't have done all that". At the parent teacher conference the next week, she told my parents that I definitely had an active imagination, telling my class mates that I had been in a train engine and rode in a caboose. Dad spoke up said "Well I beg your pardon, but he has done all those things." The teacher apologized to me in front of the whole class the next day!

So I have quite a history of watching trains. Just last week our Division 3 of the North Central Region of the National Model Railroad Association, had a picnic lunch at the Fostoria Railroad Park, which I and several others attended. Known as the Iron Triangle, it has CSX, former B&O and C&O tracks, and NS tracks, former Nickel Plate, forming the triangle. Gone are the NYC, W&LE tracks that used to also cross there too, creating the saying that every train stops at Fostoria. Nice place to visit and the fencing keeps the kids safe and the railfans off the tracks. Check it out at www.fostoriairontriangle.com/railpark.htm .

There is even a railcam or three there.

<https://railstream.net/live-cameras/item/fostoria-oh-east-quest> .

Deshler, OH has Crossroads Park, right in the wye of B&O's tracks. It is just 30 miles east of Fostoria and a busy place too, with a picnic shelter and fire pit, but no fences, so be careful. They have a web cam too. www.youtube.com/watch?v=KM1ivV-yfo0

Continued on page 33 → →



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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 boundries 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 3rd Saturday of each month. Planning is ongoing for 2025. We also go hybrid, connecting by Zoom. To request meeting invites and our quarterly newsletter, email our Assistant Superintendent, 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 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

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 NEW website is <https://div9.ncrmra.org>

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 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 www.ohiorailtourism.org 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/ and 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!

Saturday-Sunday, 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@dmrrc.org

Saturday's - March 8, 22; April 12, 26, 2025 - Redford Model RR Club Open House 27316 Michigan Ave Inkster, MI 11am-5pm FREE - donations accepted Accepting new members! HO scale 56'x26' layout, DCC, single and double track mainlines info: www.redfordmrrc.org

Saturday & Sunday - Mar. 15-16; Apr. 19-20, 2025 - Blissfield Model RR Club Open House 109 E Adrian St, Blissfield, MI 49228 517-486-0404 <https://bmrr.org> 10am-3pm both days LARGE HO scale layout!! admission FREE (donations welcomed)

Sunday, Mar 15, 2025 - Taylor Town Train Show Taylor Town Trade Center 22525 Ecorse Rd Taylor, MI 100+ vendors. All gauges. 10am Early bird (\$10 entry), 11am - 4pm \$5 entry kids under 14 free. Vendors: \$25 first table. \$20 for each additional table. Contact Info - Mike Leland via text or call 313-955-5523

Sunday, March 9, 2025 - Greater Toledo Toy & Train Show Owens Community College 30335 Oregon Rd., Perrysburg, OH 11am-3pm Randy Ramsey 419-215-4181 Toledotoymasters@gmail.com

Saturday, March 22, May 31, 2025 - Grand Rapids Model Railroad Historical Society Open House 4040 Leland Ave NW Comstock Park, MI 11am-4pm www.gmrhs.org

Sunday, March 23, 2025 - Mid Michigan Model Train Show Comfort Inn and suites Hotel and conference center 2414 south Mission Mount Pleasant, MI Over 120 Vendor tables One large room Free parking Timed basket raffles Vendor dollar giveaways Contact Info - Mason Weisenberger Saginawrivervalleymodelrailroa@gmail.com 989-971-6020 Website: <https://www.srvmodelrailroad.org/>

Sunday, March 24, 2024 - Flag City Train Show - Northwest Ohio Railroad Preservation, Inc 12505 County Road 99, Findlay, OH 10am-3pm \$5 and 12 and under free Food service, free parking, handicap accessible Info: Mike Schroeder 419-348-1303 papasfurniture@gmail.com www.nworrp.org

Saturday, March 29, 2025 - Lincoln Park Train Club's Train Show (Buy & Swap) J.F.K. Memorial Building 3240 Ferris Lincoln Park, MI Train Show (Buy & Swap) Early Bird \$10 starting at 10 AM. Regular Admission \$5 11 AM to 3 PM. Tables \$20 prior to March 1, 2025. \$25 thereafter. Contact Info - Bob Adler 734-675-5712

Saturday, April 05, 2025 - 2025 Spring Railroad Modeler Meet Hosted by the Black Swamp Division (Div 1) Live Clinics, Layout Tours and So Much More - This event is open to ALL MODELERS - NMRA Membership is not required Admission is \$20 at the door, 17 and under free, all individuals 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult All event activities (minus lunch) are included in one low price! Advance registration is encouraged. Doors open at 8AM, Clinics start at 9AM, Layout Tours begin 3PM <https://smm.ncrnmra.org/>

Saturday, April 05, 2025 - 2025 Spring Swap Meet Kalamazoo, MI Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds Expo South 10am-3pm \$5 admission, under 10 free David Hayes-Moats 269-344-0906 kaltrainshow@kalnet.net

NCR TIMETABLE EVENTS!

NCR AREA EVENTS

Saturday, April 12, 2025 – 39th annual Train Show & Swap Meet Bucyrus Model RR Assoc. Crawford Co. Fairgrounds 610 Whetstone St Bucyrus, OH 10am-3pm \$5 admission, 12 and under – free
All scales, scenery, tools, railroadiana. Food service available
Contact Info – Jon Cooper 419-569-7374 cooperj12@yahoo.com

Saturday, April 12, 2025 - Greater Grand Rapids Spring 2025 Train Show HSB. Inc. 5625 Burlingame Ave SW 23 Wyoming, MI 10am to 3pm Adult entry: \$5 Children under 12: Free! We've got trains for sale, trains for seeing, trains for playing! All at West Michigan's largest train show! Features- Thomas the Tank Engine play area, modular layouts from local clubs, Lego Train Display, concessions, door prizes, and more! Vendor Tables available, 6ft tables at \$25 each! Vendor Set Up Friday at 7pm, Saturday at 7am.
Contact Information- Tom Klonowski trainshow@grvrrc.org 847-691-1163 Website: <https://grvrrc.org/>

Saturday, April 26, 2025 - Muskegon Railroad Historical Society. Model Railroad and Hobby Expo
Cardinal Elementary 2310 Marquette Av Muskegon, MI
Contact Information- Michael Wood 6ftwoody@comcast.net 231-670-0751

Sunday, May 19, 2025 - 43rd Annual Model Train Show
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM Durand Middle School, 9550 Lansing Rd, Durand, MI 48429

Sunday, July 6, 2025 - Model Train Day Moore Museum 94 Moore Line Mooretown, ONT, Canada
1pm to 4pm Adults \$6, Child \$3 We will be running our 6 permanent indoor layouts. We have a collection of over 30 exquisite scratch-built structures on display by Master Model Railroader Don Eastman of Sarnia, Ontario. We also have a full size Canadian National caboose (built 1914), plus the original (1893) Mooretown Pere Marquette train station. There are no sales at this show. Contact Information- Fiona Doherty mooremuseum@stclairtownship.ca 519-867-2020 Website: <https://mooremuseum.ca/>

Saturday & Sunday, August 2 & 3, 2025 - Railfans Weekend at Huckleberry Railroad, Crossroads Village in Flint, MI. More details to follow.

WATCHING TRAINS

By Bob Hanna, Div 3

NCR STORY

There is also one in Bellview, OH, 35 miles northeast of Fostoria,
<http://railfanlocations.weebly.com/bellevue-oh.html> And even better they have the Mad River & NKP Museum there too. Check it out with the family. www.madrivermuseum.org/

Now before I keep going and miss some of the many places that you can watch trains at, this shows that there are many places where you can go to watch trains. You probably know of a place close to where you live. So create some memories. Get out there and watch the trains! Even the people on my layout do it.



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in the next issue of *THE HotBox* –

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