



\$4

# THE *HotBox*

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

VOL. 64 NO. 4

WINTER 2023

## *RAILFANNING Mike Tranquilla's Burlington Pacific RR*



## *NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024 NCR Convention*

*UPDATE on  
STATION No. VI*



## *WORKING SWITCH LEVERS!*



## *NEWMAN'S OWN LAYOUT*



## *FORT WAYNE RAILS 2023 WRAP-UP*

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

## The HotBox

WINTER 2023  
Vol. 64, No. 4

### EDITOR

Barry Hensel  
43642 Lotus Dr  
Canton, MI 48188  
734-649-3056  
barry76Lt@wowway.com

Editorial Advisers  
the NCR Board



Proof Readers  
John Beres

The HotBox is published quarterly by the North Central Region of the National Model Railroad Association. Publication dates are-

SPRING, March 1    SUMMER, June 1  
AUTUMN, Sept 1    WINTER, Dec 1

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](mailto:mstull@marshallstull.com)

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

**Hello Model Railroad Season!!** Do "we" have a season? Sure! Last month, November, was National Model Railroad Month. This month, December, with the holidays approaching, is always time for model railroading. Model trains around the Christmas tree is a tradition, one I hope you are holding on to! That is how many of us got our start in this great hobby. Here's hoping your holiday train display will inspire a child or grandchild to become interested in our hobby!

**Fort Wayne Rails 2023** is over and it was very good! While I didn't really get to participate, it was great to see so many friends from all over the NCR attend the convention and train show/sale. Congratulations to the members of Division 3 for hosting a great event!

As one NCR convention closes, another starts... **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024** is now open for registrations! See all the details on another great convention, a few pages away in this HotBox issue.

As if regional conventions aren't enough to keep you busy, the NMRA National convention – **STATION No. VI** hosted by us, the NCR and all of our Divisions, is not far away in 2025. Mark your calendars now for July 14-19, 2025. See the latest report in this **HotBox**.

In the meantime, I hope this issue of the HotBox meets your expectations. Remember!!... We are always looking for article submissions. I also want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! 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 September issue, we did not have any corrections!

**FRONT COVER PICTURES-** NMRA logo, Fort Wayne Rails 2023 logo; Station No. VI logo; NCX logo; Burlington Pacific's crack passenger train

loads passengers and mail at Clinton on the HO layout of Mike Tranquilla; Switch levers that work; new layout design – Newman's Own!

**REAR COVER PICTURES-** NCX 2024 logo; History of Combo Tank Cars, Loading aggregate at Piedmont on the Allegheny and Eastern Railroad of Pierre Willermet



# NCR - NORTH CENTRAL REGION, NMRA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS



## President

Rich Mahaney 269-214-4221  
hazmatrichm@aol.com

## Vice-President

Phil Doolittle 248-375-2513  
doolittle@comcast.net

## Secretary

John Young 517-449-9063  
cdjhyoung@yahoo.com

## Treasurer

Steve Harsh  
harsh@msu.edu

## Registrar

Marshall Stull 248-817-9328  
mstull@marshallstull.com

## Directors

Dave McMullian 419-508-2206  
train.man4756@gmail.com

Scott Kremer, MMR 734-420-2314  
skremer@wideopenwest.com

Dave Capron, MMR 231-944-8576  
capron33@gmail.com

## Resident Agent

Jonathan Pulling 517-755-7599  
jdpulling@comcast.net

## NMRA Central Director

Fred Soward, MMR 502-509-2799  
centdir@nmra.org

## Model & Photo Contests

**Volunteer Needed**

## Achievement Program

Skip Luyk, MMR 616-363-3453  
ArcadiaLogger@gmail.com

## Division One- Black Swamp Div

Marshall Stull 248-817-9328  
mstull@marshallstull.com

## Division Two- Tip of the Mitt Div

Mike Cipko 231-929-8345  
mcipko@charter.net

## Division Three- 3 Rivers Div

Bob Jones 260-459-6339  
broadwaylimited15@yahoo.com

## Division Four – Grand Rails Div

Mark Baldwin 616-258-0110  
grandrailsdiv@outlook.com

## Division Five – Capital Div

Andy Keeney 517-316-5660  
hunter48820@yahoo.com

## Division Six – Motor City Div

Paul Lichau 734-878-5390  
plichau@yahoo.com

## Division Eight- Clinton River Div

Mark Mincek – 586-404-0509  
themotive@att.net

## Division Nine – SW Michigan Div

Garry Johnson 269-365-6777  
elecsprk@gmail.com

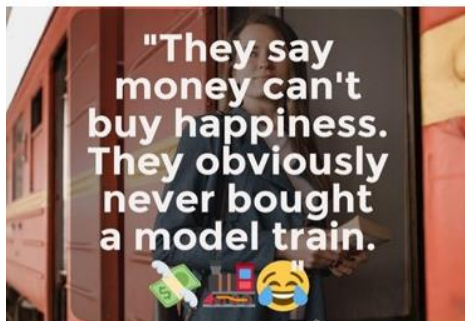
## Division Ten – Ten Wheelers Div

Wayne Wilder 989-823-3409  
bvpsrr@gmail.com

## RAILROADING "WHAT THE ????"

NCR HUMOR

P&D Hoppy Shop, which is now only online, has been posting some interesting meme's on Facebook... we thought we'd share some of them here.... enjoy!



Hello to everybody around the NCR! As I write this column today for the HotBox two things are on my mind. First there is snow in the air, which means wintertime is coming along with model railroad working time in the basement is ahead for many of us! And two, I am in the middle of six weeks in a row of model railroad meetings and conventions. These are two or one day events for six straight weekends, WOW! But I am getting lots of ideas for my own model railroad activities and seeing many friends and meeting many new people, that will become friends!

Starting off the six weeks of model railroad activities was a trip to Florida to present 12 one-hour clinics over a couple of days at the NMRA Sunshine Region Convention. But besides doing that, I had a chance to visit with model railroaders and the SSR Region leadership on their challenges in their region, as compared to our North Central Region. In addition, I had time to talk with NMRA President Gordy Robinson and NMRA Vice President Rick Coble, who were also attending. An interesting fact, because there are typically no basements in Florida, model railroads are built in home rooms, garages, buildings built in the yard, outdoor garden railroads and/or people join clubs.

Next up was the weekend in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where our own NCR Division 3 hosted a great convention! With about 90 people in attendance, the weekend was filled with clinics, layout tours, layout operating sessions, a breakfast banquet and membership meeting, one prototype tour and a large train show and sale across the street from the Holiday Inn convention hotel. Bob Jones, Division 3 Superintendent, and his crew did a great job making this convention happen for us, after the covid issues and the some of the prototype tours and some layout tours ended up being canceled for various reasons. It was nice seeing lots of model railroaders gathered in one spot to enjoy the hobby of model railroading and visit with each other. A round of applause for the Division 3 folks! Thanks also to Fred Soward, our NMRA Central Director, for joining us for our activities and his presentation at our breakfast meeting. Fred spent a lot of time talking with convention attendees during the weekend about NMRA questions. Next up for the NCR is the NCX Convention in Division 6 in Northville, MI in October 2024. Then of course the NMRA National Convention in Novi, MI in July 2025.

A past weekend included a tour of 4 "club" layouts for my own Division 9 and the Kalamazoo Train Show. The next weekend was the large Lansing Train Show. The Lansing Train Show is the largest show in Michigan each year. A round of applause for Andy Keeney and the Division 5 group and their help with the train show. Also coming up for me is attending a meeting with the NMRA Midwest Region Michiana Division in November, which has two counties in Michigan along with their "Division footprint" in Indiana. My own NCR Division 9 group regularly connects with their Michiana model railroaders for activities. There are no fences between our Regions and Divisions! Then again in a few weeks, is our next NCR Division 9 meeting with a clinic by Doug Harding on "Icing Operations in the 1950's". Doug will come to us from Iowa over Zoom and then afterwards we have a local layout tour.

I do want to thank our Division 2 members and their leader Mike Cipko in the "Tip Of the Mitt Division" for their recent work to host a day of layout tours and operating sessions in the greater Traverse City area and further north in October. It was open for attendance by all NCR members and others. I would have enjoyed attending, but I was traveling at the time. Hopefully they will try again in 2024 and more of us from "down state" can travel up and attend! There are a number of great layouts in the Division 2 area.

Thanks to Dave McMullen and his committee team for their work on updating our NCR By-Laws. Also in Fort Wayne we celebrated and congratulated Marshall Stull, NCR Division 1 Superintendent on his selection for the "NMRA Presidents Award".

Coming up, a surprise for March 23, 2024! Div 1 will be hosting a "One Day" event. See page 9 for all the details!

Another round of elections for our NCR leadership positions to carry the NCR into 2025 and 2026 are coming up. Are you interested in helping the lead the North Central Region?



***Continued next page → →***



Remember, "Be Nice" to each other, take time to welcome new (and old) people to our NMRA NCR meetings! Make them feel welcomed and included, so they will want to return and to participate in all of our railroad related activities!

Now it is time to "return to the basement" and get some model railroading work done! Happy Holidays!

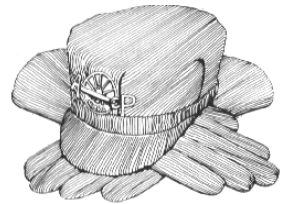
*Rich Mahaney, NCR President*

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

## **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, I appreciate their efforts very much. They continue working hard and accomplishing great things as you can see by the announcements below. *Skip Luyk, MMR, NCR AP Coordinator*



**NMRA ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER** – Robert Crocker, Div 2

**MASTER BUILDER – PROTOTYPE MODELER** – Dan Lewis, MMR, Div 8

**MASTER BUILDER – CARS** – Bruce Van Huis, Div 4

**MASTER BUILDER – MOTIVE POWER** - Dr. John Campbell, MD, Div 2

**MASTER BUILDER – STRUCTURES** - Pete Magoun, MMR, Div 2

**2023 NMRA PRESIDENTS AWARD for the NCR** – Marshall Stull, Div 1

**MASTER MODEL  
RAILROADER #746 -**  
Bruce J. Van Huis, Div 4

### **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, 8 and 10 – 734-420-0276

***kdchick@wowway.com;*** Pete Magoun, MMR covers Div 2 – 231-941-1669 ***orion@chartermi.net*** and Dorman Wilson for Div 9 - ***N8YNW@charter.net*** If you still have questions, contact NMRA AP Chairman Frank Koch at ***fjkoch@hotmail.com*** or at 4769 Silverwood Drive, Batavia, OH 45103



Marshall Stull (center)



Bruce J. Van Huis, MMR (left)



Dr. John Campbell, MD (left)



Pete Magoun, MMR (left)

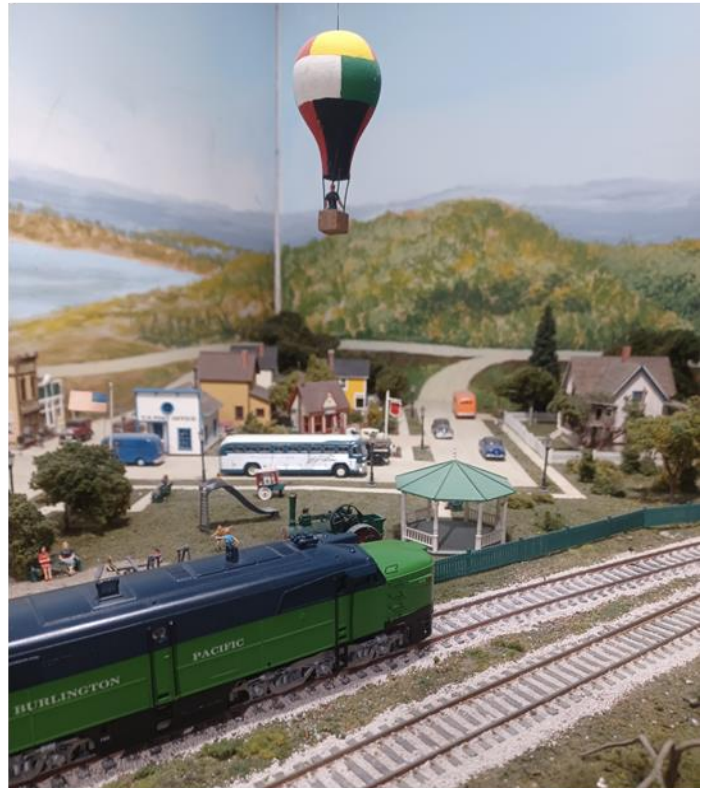


Bob Crocker (center)



# **RAILFANNING THE BURLINGTON PACIFIC RR** **NCR TRACKSIDE**

ATSF 2-6-0 #9449 awaits switching duty in front of scenery created by John Gavasso; BRC GP7 #470 switches lumber yard and brewery in West Liberty while a drunk sleeps off his problems behind the local brewery; a CNW observation stops at Cedar Bluff to let the "brass" off at the station; CNW grain train has left Scales Mound & passes by a nearby farm; Burlington Pacific's crack passenger train accelerates eastbound from Clinton under the watchful eyes of balloonists; Iowa Interstate GP10s pass over a local creek with fishermen eagerly hoping for a catch. The Burlington Pacific will be on tour for the ***NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS!***





# **RAILFANNING THE BURLINGTON PACIFIC RR** **NCR TRACKSIDE**

A boxcar is loaded with DDG and tank cars are loaded with various corn products at the Cedar Bluff Corn Refining Corp; Local 45 ton switcher passes through Clinton with a view of the Mississippi River; Iowa Interstate GP10s haul a loaded ethanol train eastbound through Wilton Jct.; Eastward looking view of the Clinton engine terminal; BP4-6-2 #655 moves a local passenger train in front of the West Liberty passenger station; UP 4-8-2 #7000 backs onto the turntable at East Liberty in front of some startling blue rock island grain hoppers





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

**NCR NEWS**

Just a quick update to keep everyone informed about the progress we are making for **Station No. VI**, the 2025 NMRA National Convention. We had a very active time preparing to make an initial effort to acquaint the model railroad world with our intentions. Byrne Blumenstein, Marshall Stull, Paul Anderson and Barry Hensel put in a great effort to prepare materials to be shown at the Texas convention and to get our website up and running with a lot of content. In addition, Byrne and John Young volunteered to take some of their convention time and man a table with our information and answer questions. Finally, Byrne gave a great speech at the Texas convention Banquet that created a lot of interest in what we intend to do. We owe all of them a big thank you. Most conventions pay people to be representatives of the upcoming convention. Doing it our way saves money and is one factor that will allow us to keep the registration cost low.



We have had a bit of a lull since those efforts. But things are moving. We now have commitments from some important organizations that will continue our process of being interesting, and inclusive. A lot of what needs to be done in preparation is to determine all that we will offer, how it all fits in the hotel and how much it will all cost.

The good news is that we have a good handle on how we will fill the hotel. Which rooms will be used for what and when. We have some great ideas about the technology that will be involved.

So, next steps are to finalize those plans for the hotel and to establish a complete budget. In particular, the budget is critical as it will support our decisions on the registration pricing.

I want to reiterate something important. Our priority, beyond putting on a great convention, is not to lose money. Our next most important issue is to understand we are not doing this to make money. Those two items create an interesting balance. As of now I believe we can achieve our registration price goals and still conclude with a reasonable surplus. The next month should solidify all of that.

That is it for now. Be patient. More will be revealed as soon as we are satisfied that we have firm commitments. I will just leave you with the teaser that you will not be disappointed.

Scott Kremer MMR

Chairman, Station No. VI, 2025

## ***STATION No. VI CALLING ALL MODULAR LAYOUTS!***

The Station No VI NMRA National Convention is coming in July of 2025. With the NMRA National Convention comes the National Train Show. The 2025 NTS will be held at the Showplace in Novi. Features we all look forward to are the new product introductions by the big line manufacturers and the model train layouts.

We are looking for Modular and Sectional layouts to display at the National Train Show. This is a three-day event, Friday through Sunday with set up on Thursday. We are putting the call out for layouts early for this event so our members have a chance to prepare for a national audience. Official sign up for layouts for the National Train Show will open in late 2024 – a year from now. That all said, if your group is interested in participating, raise your hand now. Contact John Young at [cdjhyoung@yahoo.com](mailto:cdjhyoung@yahoo.com) for further information.

## ***STATION No. VI CALLING ALL CLINICIANS!***

The Station No. VI 2025 NMRA Convention, Clinic Committee is looking for clinicians that would like to participate in clinic presentations during the National Convention. We are very interested in hearing from experienced clinicians who will be able to present a new clinic, or one that has not been widely presented and has not been presented on any of the internet social platforms. We want to be able to give attendees a variety of fresh and good quality clinics throughout the convention. Do you know of anyone that we should invite to present a clinic at our convention? We would greatly appreciate you letting us know and include their contact information if possible. If you would like to join us, please contact Andrew Keeney at [hunter48820@yahoo.com](mailto:hunter48820@yahoo.com) for further information.



# North Central Region Spring Modelers Meet

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



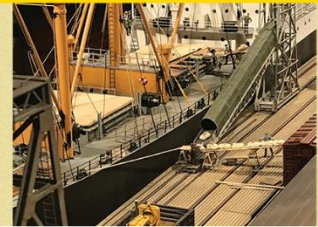
## March 23, 2024 – Sylvania OH

Sylvania Community Services Center, 7140 W Sylvania Ave, Sylvania, OH 43560

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



**This is a modelers' event!**  
**Lunch options will be available on-site!**



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

## SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

**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 displays will be available within the main venue.

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

### Admission is \$20 at the door

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

Advance registration is encouraged on the website at [smm.ncrnmra.org](http://smm.ncrnmra.org)



Visit our website for more information  
[smm.ncrnmra.org](http://smm.ncrnmra.org)

This is NOT a swap meet!



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

The 2023-24 season is rolling along and the division will be hosting a Holiday Treat for our members on December 15th in Swanton Ohio (check the website for details). January 2024 will see a return to standard meetings in Holland Ohio. Our meetings are open to guests so please feel free to stop in and say "hello". To 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.)***

WE'RE MOVING, OUR MEETING THAT IS! Future meetings will take place at 10:00 am in the Foster Family Community Health Center (formerly MCHC), located at 550 Munson Avenue, in Traverse City. "Show and Tell" is always popular and gives us a chance to see what progress members have been making. Planning for clinics is now under way for upcoming meetings. WE'VE GROWN! Division 2 now officially includes Luce, Chippewa, and Mackinac counties north of the Mackinac Bridge, along with 21 contiguous counties south of the bridge. Meetings are typically held on the third Saturday of each month. When we gather, we usually go hybrid, meeting both by Zoom and in person. 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)***

Fort Wayne Rails 2023 convention is over and was another successful convention for the region. We are now focusing our efforts on our Lima, Ohio swap meet in December. Our elections are in the books and we are looking forward to 2024 getting out into the public trying to improve the organizations membership. In 2024 will be focusing on building on several of our youth programs that we have had in place for the last 3 years that have been very successful. 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. We at the 3 Rivers Division hope you and your families have a blessed and joyous holiday season. (Submitted by- Bob Jones, Superintendent)

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

We will be having a General Membership meeting on January 13th, 2024. Attendance has been low and please if you are reading this let us know what you want to see! We are here for the members, and we need to hear from you. Please check out our website or Facebook page for the latest schedule and updates. What can the division do to make you a better Model Railroader? Let's share our ideas. For more information contact Mark Baldwin at [grandrailsdiv@outlook.com](mailto:grandrailsdiv@outlook.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)

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

Division 10 meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Chapter 77 Experimental Aircraft Association meeting room at Dalton Airport in Flushing. All are welcome to our informal meetings, contact me at [ncrdiv10@gmail.com](mailto:ncrdiv10@gmail.com) for more information. We will not have a December meeting, since most of our members will be operating the MMRHS modular train layout for Christmas at Crossroads. We would like to start off the new year with some layout visits, so if you are interested in hosting a group of modelers, please let us know. 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)

**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 started the year with a presentation by Michael Frezell, Secretary for the Lansing Model Railroad Club, on Lansing's rich rail history. Topics included interurban and early city street car lines, major railroad development, prominent depots, passenger trains, industry, current operations, and much more. For the October meeting, we moved to the First Congregational Church in Charlotte, courtesy of member Terry Davis, for a clinic on creating tree lines on a module or layout, presented by member and scenery guru John Bussard. In November, we were at Superintendent Andy Keeney's home in Dewitt to view his extensive Nashville Lines HO layout and have several mini-clinics take place on his layout. December has us back in Charlotte for a hands-on clinic on weathering structures. Hopefully you picked up some inexpensive ones at the Lansing Train Show to practice on. 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://nmrancrdiv5.com/> (Submitted by- Mark Cowles, Div. 5 Clerk)

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

The Motor City Division has completed our 45th annual FALL TRAIN SHOW & WORKSHOP where we demonstrate nearly all aspects of model railroading to the public. Our next event is in January 2024, we're hosting our 3rd annual MODEL RAILROAD SALE event at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills. We're the ONLY model RR event in January!! See the AD on page 23! In less than one year away, we're hosting 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 information is in this issue of the HotBox. Registration is OPEN!! Looking just a bit further out... we'll be part of the NMRA National convention – STATION No.VI that the NCR is hosting. 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 Nine – Southwest Michigan Division (Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and VanBuren Counties)*** For the new year Division Nine has lots of exciting activities on the schedule. We now have 2 meeting locations: The Colonial Kitchen at 330 N. Drake Road, Kalamazoo, and our newest location, the Kalamazoo Bridge Club at 648 Maple Hill Drive, Kalamazoo. Our schedule of activities for the first quarter starts off on January 20th (Bridge Club), a representative from the Grand Elk Railroad will give us an update on the railroad, February 17th (Bridge Club), Andy Keeney will be presenting a clinic on Operations, March 16th we will be touring Andy's layout followed by an Op Session. Our newsletters 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 Eight - Clinton River Division (Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair Counties)***

It's been a few weeks since the Ft. Wayne convention wrapped up, but for those that didn't make it, you missed a good time. For those that did attend, I think we all had two things in common. First, everybody that I talked with seemed to enjoy the convention. The second is that we all had participated. Too often, I hear questions about whether it's worth it to join the NMRA. Model railroading is enjoyed most by those who participate, and participation in the NMRA is no different. The NMRA does a less than stellar job of showcasing the experiences that it offers, but for those that participate, there are a lot of interesting, unique, and fun experiences. If I chose not to participate in the convention, I would have missed out on a chance to tour the home of the Nickel Plate 765, with its many restored cabooses, passenger cars, and big hook crane. Some even had a chance to sit behind the throttle and operate the resident diesel switcher. I bet you didn't do that sitting in your living room at home. My message here is to take advantage of your membership and participate in the events that are offered. Whether it be a convention, locally sponsored ops sessions, or even the division sponsored train shows, take some time to experience the NMRA. You'll be happy you did. 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/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/288929175921717/) (Submitted by Mark Mincek, Superintendent)

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.....

**ED JOPPICH** – Ed passed on Tuesday, Oct 3. He was 91 years old. Ed was born on May 14, 1932, to Katerina and Maximillian Joppich in Detroit, MI. His brothers, Herb (late wife, Rita) and Ray (late wife, Grace), preceded him in death. Ed graduated from St. Mary's of Redford High School and, while a student at the University of Detroit, was drafted into the Army and shipped to Seoul, Korea. As a staff sergeant, he worked closely with the Company Commander, receiving top-secret clearance for 8th Army planning meetings. Upon returning home from the service, Ed and his love, Edee, were married. He is survived by his wife Edee and their 5 children. Ed also had 13 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren!



Ed Joppich

Ed was an Architect and did many designs in Michigan including UofM, EMU, Michigan Tech, Wayne State, and the largest mall in Schaumburg, IL. He also did a fine art gallery on a historic site in Northport, St. Scholastica Parish Rectory in Detroit, Benedictine Novitiate in Oxford, MI and worked with the Little Sisters of the Poor to renovate their home for the aged. Ed became acquainted with Monsignor Clem Kern, pastor of Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Corktown of Detroit. Ed renovated a house for "lost men" from Skid Row in Detroit and this became the St. John Vianey Cooperative House. Ed became president of the board and worked with the residents there. Along with the cooperative house, Ed often assisted Msgr. Kern with many night "rescue" missions truly helping to save one soul at a time.

Division 6 has lost a long time member. Ed, father of past Superintendent Glenn Joppich, has been a Div 6 member for many years and participated in many of our events like the Fall Show and layout tours. Ed had a very nice size Erie RR HO layout in the basement of his condo. Ed will be missed by all.

## **2023 NCR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**NCR REPORT**

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT, NCR MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 22, 2023**

The Board of Directors of your North Central Region recognized the need to modify our By-Laws and Rule of Operation as they pertain to how elections are conducted for Regional business. The existing process relied exclusively on the publication schedule of the Hot Box for announcements of candidates, elections and ballot distribution. That process is quite cumbersome and out dated in the present world of email access. A committee was created earlier this year led by Dave McMullian to propose changes to the By-Laws and Rule of Operation. A summary of those changes was emailed to our members in early September for their review and comment. The BOD voted to accept the changes to the Operating Procedures at their meeting in early October, and the membership present voted for the acceptance of the By-Law changes at the membership meeting in conjunction with the Regional convention in Fort Wayne this past month. The changes passed by unanimous acclamation.

The basic changes allow for decoupling the election process from the publication of the HotBox allowing the information to be distributed by email instead. Balloting will also be handled by email distribution. Our hope is to make the whole process less cumbersome and get a greater participation rate in the election process. For the few members we do not have emails for, a paper ballot will be mailed to them.

The other significant change, and one the BOD hopes we won't be using, is to allow the board to simply appoint a person to an open position if they are the only candidate for an open position. This option will only be utilized if none of the races on the ballot have opposition.

These changes will be in effect for the next election cycle in 2024. Election information will be repeated in the HotBox, but may not be as timely. One concern is that we don't have email addresses for a small portion of our membership, but an effort is forth coming to obtain those email addresses. If you know you haven't provided your email address to the Region, please reach out to Marshall Stull to update that information with us.

Reporting, John Young, Secretary, NCR-NMRA



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....

Here's a couple of short and interesting video's sent to us by a friend in PA.... The first has some excellent computer graphics- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCslpuYYcQQ&ab\\_channel=FiredUpTrainsProductions](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCslpuYYcQQ&ab_channel=FiredUpTrainsProductions)

Or maybe you prefer a "commercial" for the Union Pacific:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=31R3SqXW0Sw&ab\\_channel=Runnin%27Eight](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31R3SqXW0Sw&ab_channel=Runnin%27Eight)

John Young, NCR secretary, emailed about this N scale layout in our area.... N scale WORKING coal dump!!! WOW.... [https://youtu.be/4bRfFLmFUO4?si=4aWtZLVIY7Oqx\\_k](https://youtu.be/4bRfFLmFUO4?si=4aWtZLVIY7Oqx_k)

MTH and Atlas announce shared tooling asset deal in this toy train news article. Learn more here from Classic Toy Trains. [www.trains.com/ctt/newsreviews/news/mth-and-atlas-announce-sharedtooling-deal/](http://www.trains.com/ctt/newsreviews/news/mth-and-atlas-announce-sharedtooling-deal/)

The official BNSF 2024 calendars are out and available – for FREE! Got to this website to make your request- <https://p2a.co/Dn8t5Fv>

**BTR #2-** We have received this notice - A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - Morning Sun Books will be discontinuing new printed titles after 2024. Our commitment to offering our back catalog remains as strong as ever. Nothing will change as far as older titles' availability. We will also continue to offer new digital releases in eBook format as well as Digital Reprints of older titles. We appreciate your loyal support and look forward to continuing the ride that we began almost 37 years ago. Thank you, MSB

**BTR #3- THE 17TH MICHIGAN RAILROAD HISTORY CONFERENCE** is scheduled to be held in the auditorium and atrium of the Norris Science Center at Albion College in Albion Michigan on Saturday, October 12, 2024. **Call for Papers** - There are opportunities to make presentations on various aspects of Michigan's railroad history at this conference. This is a chance for students, faculty, officials or persons interested in railroad history to share their research, experiences or interests. If interested please send a suggested title, a brief description of the topic to be covered and background information about the presenter to MRHC, Box 16235, Lansing, MI 48901 or [Michigan.Railroad.History.Conf@gmail.com](mailto:Michigan.Railroad.History.Conf@gmail.com). Presentation proposals should be submitted by March 1, 2024. Please hold the conference date on your calendars. Registration materials with full conference details will be sent out well in advance of the conference. You may contact us with any questions or comments at [Michigan.Railroad.History.Conf@gmail.com](mailto:Michigan.Railroad.History.Conf@gmail.com)

**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 –

**December 06, 2023: Program by Mr. Gary Sample**

**January 03, 2024: Program by Mr. Kris Focgle**

**February 07, 2024: Program by Mr. Byron Babbash - "Chronicles of a Michigan Railfan: Conrail in Detroit 1976 to 1999".** (Byron will have several of his books for sale at this meeting)

**March 06, 2024: TBD**

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

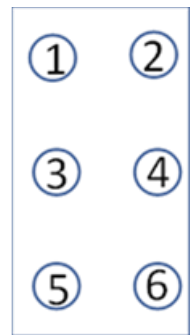
**BTR #5- SOUTHERN MICHIGAN RR Santa Trains** - The Santa Express will run on Dec 2 & 3, 9 & 10. We are currently finalizing the details and times with the planning committee. Check the website for times and ticket prices - <http://www.southernmichiganrailroad.com/> The Southern Michigan RR is located in Clinton, MI only 30 minutes west of Saline

**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.

**ELECTRIFYING HUMPYARD PURVEYANCE LEVERS** Andy Keeney, Division 5 Superintendent and owner of the Nashville Road, bought Humpyard Purveyance turnout levers for their visual realism on his layout. These levers were originally designed to function manually through a “choke cable” method of operation. Once these were installed in the yard on his layout Andy was not happy with this arrangement as it caused some reliability problems. He liked the functionality of Tortoise switch machines. How to combine the two to function together? Andy can always be relied on to toss out a good challenge! I presented a “proof of concept” design at the last NCR Division 5 meeting. Following is my completed project. By the way, Humpyard Purveyance levers are no longer manufactured although you may find some in the used or new old stock sales on railroad websites.



The first step was to wire the small DPDT switches to operate the Tortoise Switch machines. Switch machines operate by providing DC to the two outer connections on the Tortoise. By reversing the polarity on these two connections you send the Tortoise in the opposite direction. Positions 1 and 2 on the switch are your DC input terminals. To accomplish this you wire your positive lead to terminal 1 and your negative lead to terminal 2. You then connect terminal 1 to terminal 6 and terminal 2 to terminal 5. The output wires to the Tortoise are connected to terminals 3 and 4. Once everything is hooked up, throwing the DPDT switch on way will move the Tortoise in one direction and throwing the switch the other way will redirect the Tortoise in the other direction.



A holding jig was made from a scrap piece of plywood to facilitate soldering. DPDT switches are temporarily mounted with terminal sides up for soldering. We'll step through the process going from left to right.

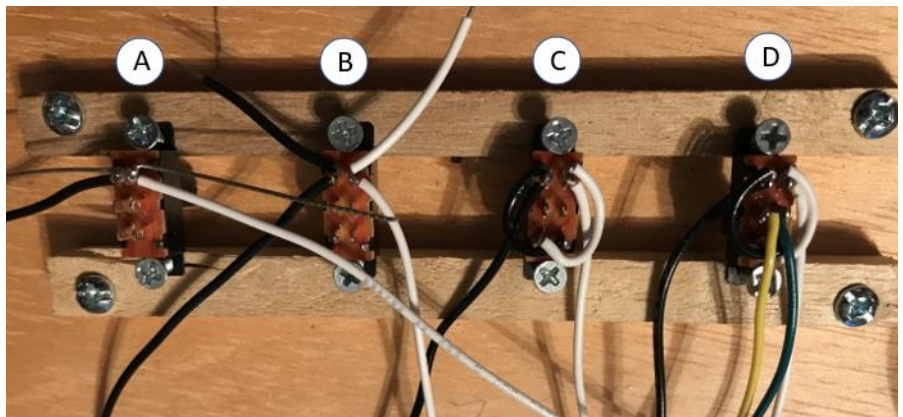
A) DC wires are stripped then soldered to terminals 1 and 2.

B) Insulation is threaded back onto the wire to prevent shorts.

C) Black wire from terminal 1 is soldered to terminal 6, white wire from terminal 2 is soldered to terminal 5.

D) Green and yellow wires are soldered to terminals 3 and 4 and will go out to the Tortoise machine.

You end up with power being provided to terminals 1 and 2, reverse capability from terminals 5 and 6, and outputs to the Tortoise on terminals 3 and 4. Due to the smallness of these switches wiring was done on the outside perimeter.





# ***HUMPYARD LEVERS*** By Ron St.Laurent, Div 5

**NCR MODELING**

Division 5 member Craig Rosenberger did a fine job on the plywood forms I used for this project. My woodshop was not up to the challenge. Humpyard turnout levers are mounted to the plywood form. Levers are numbered to match their locations in the yard.



Plywood was “plowed out” to provide room for wiring. Switches were mounted on 3/8” sticks. Sticks were through drilled to allow wiring to reach barrier strips. Barrier strips (European design) are outputs to Tortoise machines. Black and white bus wires are for DC input to the switches. Connections from the Humpyard levers to the switches was made with .032” piano wire. As the throw of the lever was far greater than the movement of the DPDT switch, and we wanted full movement of the levers, I had to bend the wire such that the wire box around the switch would engage on the top of the switch in one direction and engage the bottom of the switch in the other direction. The white plastic guide was added to prevent the piano wire from fouling the screw heads on the DPDT switches.



This project was designed to allow all work to be done off layout. All that remains is to cut out a 6 1/4” by 7 1/4” hole in the layout and mount this project from underneath and flush with the layout top surface. Provide DC to the outer terminal strip bus and route Tortoise wires to the long terminal strip and the levers will be up and running. The last picture (right above) shows the tower with levers on Andy’s layout, down from the massive passenger station complex. Nice!!



Our Prototype Page is back to "normal" with a display of (mostly) local railroading pictures. This issue of the HotBox shows some of the new CSX Heritage units that are out on the rails and could be near you soon! Photo credits, most taken from facebook - Bradley Allan Swann Seaboard unit; Larry Weedon First Responders unit and Veterans; George Emmett (Motor City Trains) CSX 50th OP Life saver, B&O, Law Enforcement and C&O units; Lee Gordon L&N unit; John Eagan C&O unit; Marc Glucksman Conrail unit





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)

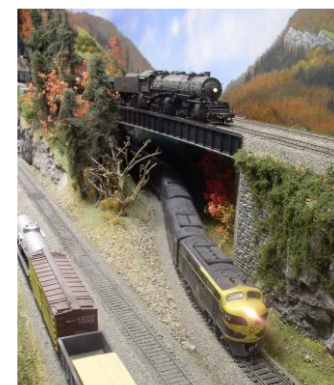
Paul Lichau, Div 6 Superintendent -

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**

**FRIDAY, October 11**

Operating Sessions by pre-register only  
Registration

NCR annual Board Meeting

Prototype Tours

Yard Sale/Model Display Room

Clinics/Workshops

Layout tours starting

Operating Sessions by pre-register only

Registration

Clinics/Workshops

Model Display Room

Layout Tours

Operating Sessions by pre-register only

Dinner & Speakers

Layout Tours

**SATURDAY, October 12**

**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!!



## THE SITE & HQ HOTEL

For the **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024** we have secured an excellent convention site – Ward Church! Here, we have lots of space and meeting rooms for clinics, registration, model displays and more. We are at Ward Church on Friday and Saturday. Ward Church is conveniently located on 6 Mile Rd just west of I-275 and Haggerty Rd.

**Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168

248-374-7400 [www.wardchurch.org](http://www.wardchurch.org)

Since our convention HQ is at Ward Church and the location is NOT at a hotel, you are free to get your best deal on any

local hotel you may want to stay at. We suggest you try trivago, priceline, orbitz or any of the online tools for good hotel rates. The hotels that are closest to Ward Church are-

Marriott Livonia 734-462-3100; Livonia Holiday Inn 734-464-1300; Best Western 734-464-0050

Note- we have NOT reserved any special prices or room packages at any local hotels.



## CLINICS/WORKSHOPS

We are planning on a full weekend of clinics/workshops at the **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024**! Starting on Friday night and continuing Saturday morning, we expect to have 20+ different clinics/workshops. Some will be presented twice, allowing you to see as many as possible. We're working very hard to get you the best and most interesting clinics/workshops we can! A final schedule of the clinics/workshops will be posted on our website and be included in your pre-convention info package, mailed/emailed to you in early September 2024, when you pre-register for **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024**!

## PROTOTYPE TOURS

We are hoping to have several tours available on Friday. We have contacts at several local businesses that use railroads to bring in or carry out goods and services, which should prove interesting to see. Pre-registration, a limit on how many people can attend and an additional charge may be required for some of the prototype tours. Information will be included in the pre-convention info package sent to all registrants in early September, when you pre-register for 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. You can find that wanted loco or boxcar by attending the **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2016**!

## LAYOUT TOURS

The SE Michigan area is a hotbed of model railroad activity and we have some of the best layouts anywhere! We should be covering all the major scales and maybe even a few obscure ones! The layouts presented for the weekend range from completed to just under construction. This will allow you to view all phases of layout construction and to learn as you ask the owners questions about their layouts. Our website will be listing some of the available layouts as we confirm them - [ncx24.ncrnmra.org](http://ncx24.ncrnmra.org). 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**!

## AWARDS DINNER & SPEAKER

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! We will have a guest speaker at the dinner too. Any modeling-photo awards will be awarded and any last door prizes given out. 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 & PHOTO CONTEST

There will NOT be a model 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 give out any NMRA Certificates, Awards and ribbons at the Saturday night dinner at the **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2016**



Structure Award Winner 2008 - John Bussard

## NCX SATURDAY DAY PASS ENTRY

For the **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024** convention, we have designed a special rate for those who have never attended a convention before. The NCX ONE DAY PASS ENTRY allows any person to register for only \$40. This will permit any person to attend any of the clinics on Saturday morning and five layouts during the afternoon. The ONE DAY PASS will **NOT** include prototype tours, operation sessions, Friday or Sunday tours, or any door prizes. It's a great way to "get your rails wet"!!

## NCX PRE-CONVENTION INFO PACKAGE & WEBSITE

For the **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024** convention, we will be mailing/emailing all pre-registered participants a PRE-CONVENTION INFO PACKAGE. This will have the schedules for the clinics, proto-type tours and operating sessions. A form will be included for you to fill out and send back in order to register for the proto-type tours and operating sessions. This Package will be mailed to you in early September 2024. Some of this information will also be posted on our website - [ncx24.ncrnmra.org](http://ncx24.ncrnmra.org)

# NCX - NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024 REGISTRATION FORM & INFORMATION

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

## REGISTRATION FEES

		how many	
on or before September 25, 2024 - NMRA member	\$65		
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. There will be NO shirts available at the convention!**

### Model Showcase Discount!!

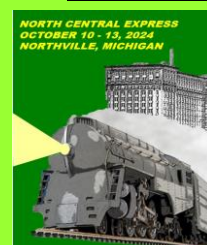
If you bring a model to display in the Showcase room, we will give you a \$5 discount on your entry to NCX-24! NOTE - you do NOT get \$5 per model!! Only ONE discount per person no matter how many models you bring. Discount to be given at Registration!

**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-

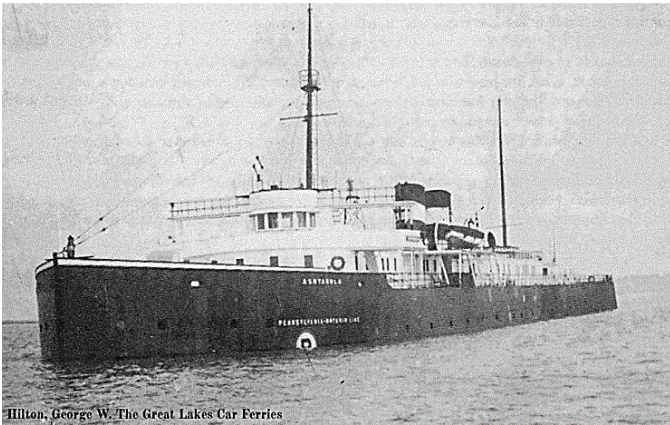
**NCX Registrar 35684 Camden Ct Farmington Hills, MI 48335**

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



## RAILROAD CAR FERRIES OF THE LOWER GREAT LAKES – part 2

And as a safety measure, she had a double bottom, an unusual feature on lake ferries. The Ashtabula had a long and relatively uneventful life until the very end. Like most ferries she had her share of scrapes in the crowded harbors and a few encounters with winter ice. Business was good for the Ashtabula up until the depression when revenues fell drastically and her schedule was reduced. World War II brought the expected boom in tonnage carried. After the war revenue fell and fewer trips were made. Dieselization of the Canadian Pacific's lines in Ontario greatly reduced the flow of coal to the north. In 1958 the Ashtabula made only 49 trips.

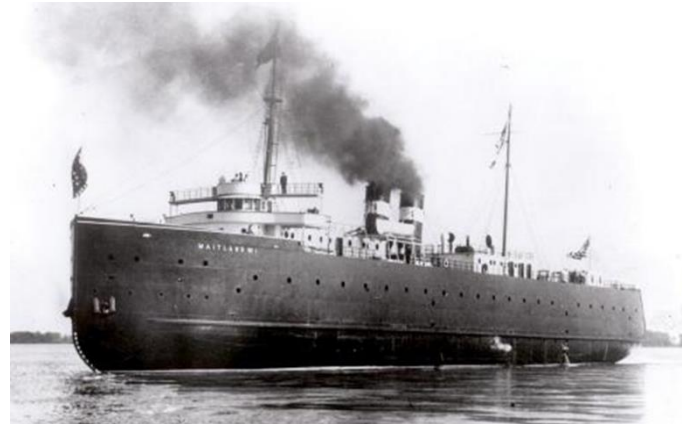


It seemed that the hard decision to discontinue service was inevitable. But on September 18, 1958 the decision was made. The Ashtabula was involved in the only serious collision of her career and sank. She was approaching her home port when she was struck by the bulk carrier Ben Moreel. Her double hull was of no help in this case. The Ashtabula sank in 27 feet of water. None of the crew were injured and all were taken off safely. With the ferry service losing money there was no alternative but to shut it down. And with that, railroad car ferry operation on the lower Great Lakes came to an end.

## TORONTO HAMILTON & BUFFALO NAVIGATION COMPANY

The Pennsylvania-Ontario Transportation Company was, by far, the longest lived of the Lake Erie ferry services. The Toronto Hamilton & Buffalo Navigation Company was the shortest lived. The

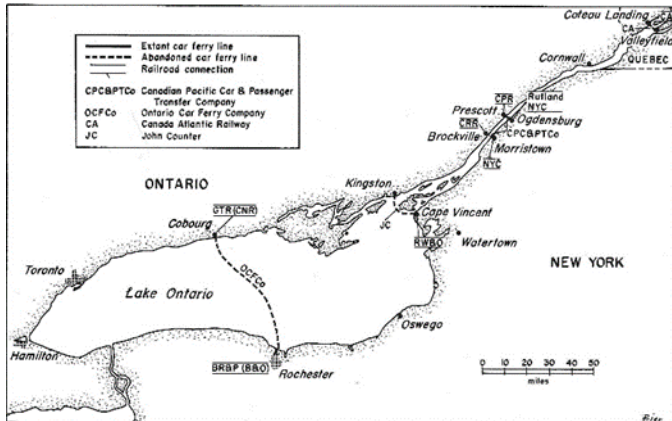
New York Central Railroad, together with its partner, the Toronto Hamilton & Buffalo, organized the operation. Service began in 1916 between Ashtabula and Port Maitland, Ontario. The major traffic was, as usual, coal northbound. The Central already had an all-rail route to the steel mills in Hamilton, Ontario, but wanted an alternate route to avoid tie-ups at the border as well as to accommodate the increased wartime coal demand.



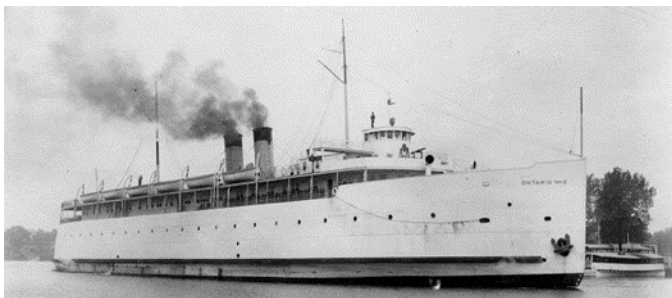
It was expected that the service would require three ferries. The first, Maitland No.1, above, was completed before the line's port facilities were ready. She was leased in the interim to the Ann Arbor for service on Lake Michigan. The Ann Arbor was so impressed with the Maitland No.1 that they bought her sister, the Maitland No.2, before she was completed. A third sister, to have been named Maitland No.3, was never started and the Toronto Hamilton & Buffalo Navigation Company only operated with one vessel. The Maitland No.1 avoided major disasters during her short career but did run aground near Port Maitland on two occasions. Business for the Toronto Hamilton & Buffalo Navigation Company was never strong and declined sooner than that of the other Lake Erie lines. The Pennsylvania coal fields which originated much of the traffic were in decline by the late 1920s. A new rail water route through Sodus Point, New York, on Lake Ontario, together with the opening of an enlarged Welland Canal in 1932 promised to take much of the Toronto Hamilton & Buffalo's cross lake shipping. Service was suspended on June 28, 1932. The Maitland No.1 was laid up serviceable for a number of years but, in 1942, was requisitioned by the War Shipping Administration.

Her engines were removed for use in other vessels and her hull was cut down to serve as a pulpwood barge. She remained in that service until being sold off the Great Lakes in 1980. She sank in the Atlantic in 1981.

## THE ONTARIO CAR FERRY COMPANY, LTD.

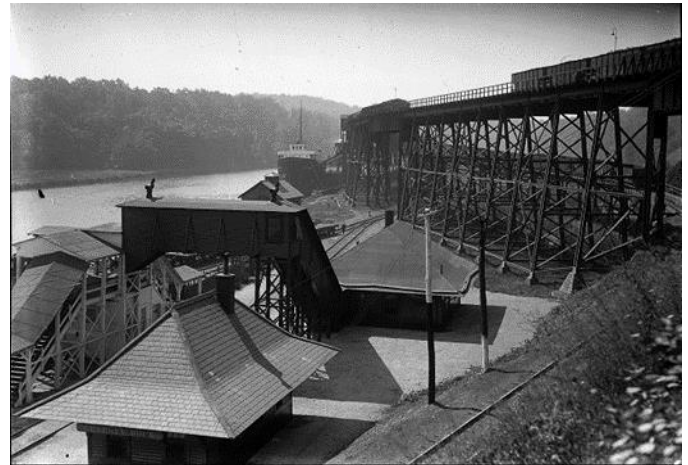


The operations of the Ontario Car Ferry Company were quite similar to those of the Lake Erie lines. The primary traffic was coal northbound, mainly for locomotives. Southbound traffic was somewhat healthier than on the Lake Erie lines but was still only a small fraction of the total. The line was established by the Grand Trunk Railway and the Buffalo Rochester and Pittsburgh Railway and was a Canadian firm, alone among the lake ferry lines, and the ferries sailed under Canadian registry. Operation was between Cobourg, Ontario, and Rochester, New York. Rochester had a much larger population than any of the Lake Erie ports and this provided the expectation of a considerable passenger business, especially during the summer.



Service began in 1907 with one vessel, the Ontario No.1. She was built by the Canadian Shipbuilding Company of Toronto rather than the usual

American builders, as the Welland Canal could not accommodate ships of her size. She had berths for 90 and passenger amenities not found on other Great Lakes ferries. She was also licensed for 1000 deck passengers. Her typical sailing schedule featured a morning passage northbound leaving around 9:00AM with the return the same afternoon. So successful was business that in October, 1915, a second ferry, the Ontario No.2, above, was put in service. By that time Ontario No.1 had made 2000 round trips.



Alone among Great Lakes car ferry lines, the Ontario Car Ferry connected with a regularly scheduled boat train. The BR&P scheduled a train from Rochester to Genesee Dock, above, approximately a half hour before sailing. The train was so successful it ran during the summer months for 33 years. By the 1920s the company had begun to develop tourist traffic, in addition to their day excursion trade. Automobiles were carried on flat cars since there was no convenient road access to their dock. Business was good and in 1929 the ferry company paid dividends of \$75,000 to its two railroad owners. But the depression was hard on the BR&P and it was absorbed by the B&O, as the Grand Trunk had previously been by the Canadian National. Traffic patterns for the Ontario Car Ferry during the wartime and post war periods were similar to those of the Lake Erie companies. From 1945 through 1949 freight tonnage dropped by almost a half with coal tonnage down by two thirds. Passenger traffic also dropped by a half. This trend alone would have doomed the service but then the Canadian government stepped in and settled the matter.



The passenger steamer Noronic had burned at Toronto in 1949 and as a consequence, the government tightened up their inspection standards for passenger vessels. The company judged it would be too costly to bring the 42 year old Ontario No.1 and 34 year old Ontario No.2 into compliance with the new standards given their reduced levels of traffic. The last trip occurred on April 30, 1950 and the two boats were scrapped shortly thereafter. The lower Great Lakes railroad car ferry operations were shorter lived than their Lake Michigan counterparts and much less known, but I hope you will agree that they were every bit as interesting.

## SOURCES

Beaver, Roy C. The Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad 1869-1969, San Marino, California: Golden West Books; 1969, LOC Catalog Card No. 73-97230  
Hilton, George W. The Great Lakes Car Ferries, Davenport, Iowa: Montevallo Historical Press, Inc.; 2003  
Rochester Museum and Science Center, Home - Rochester Museum & Science Center (rmsc.org)

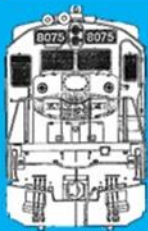
*NOTE- John Bopp is a Division 6 member and has been our "historian" for several years, giving our members interesting railroad related history lessons nearly every meeting. The HotBox will be featuring many of his lessons. Thanks John!*

# MODEL RAILROAD SALE!

Hosted by Division 6

North Central Region - National Model Railroad Association

**SUNDAY – JANUARY 28, 2024**  
**10am - 3pm**



## Costick Community Center

28600 W Eleven Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

**145 Tables of model railroad items - ALL scales!**

Door Prizes Awarded every 45 minutes! (must be present to win)

Snacks and refreshments available

Admission –

**\$5 per person over 18 years old (spouses/children under 18 = FREE!)**

**\$10 per person Early Bird entry at 9am**

**VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS FREE (WITH ID)**

Information –

**Barry or Terry 734-649-3056 (6pm-9pm) [div6trainshow@gmail.com](mailto:div6trainshow@gmail.com)**

**VENDOR INFO on back side of this flyer!**





# FORT WAYNE RAIL 2023 WRAP-UP

NCR CONVENTION

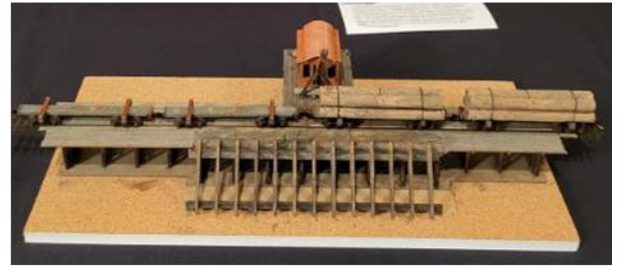
It's done... and hopefully you didn't miss it! **FORT WAYNE RAILS 2023** was our NCR convention for this year and it was great. Hosted by Division 3 and their great leadership and members, everything came off in good order and on schedule. Clinics, layout tours, OPS, model display room and even a train show/sale on Saturday. That's quite a weekend, which wrapped-up with a great Sunday morning breakfast, meeting and presentations. The numbers are – 93 Registrants, 54 Breakfast meeting attendee's, 26 model displays with 19 Merit Awards and 55 Door prizes given away with Grand Prize Rapido NYC E8 won by Dave Thornton from Div 8! We also had a perfect score of 125 by Jim Marquardt with a traction model! THANKS Division 3 for a great weekend... you did great!! Here's some photos of the weekend action... (pics by Bob Jones, Rich Mahaney and Norm Logan)





# FORT WAYNE RAIL 2023 WRAP-UP

NCR CONVENTION





## ***NEWMAN'S OWN – NEW LAYOUT*** *By John Buckley, Div 4* **NCR BUILD**

Way back in the Autumn 2022 issue of The Hotbox, I had written an article entitled the 59th Street Spur. It was about my plans to build a small switching layout on a hollow core door. Long story short, after running a few ops sessions, I was discovering that the track plan just wasn't working as I had hoped. So with a bit of hesitation, I removed all of the hand laid track, scraped the wood ties off the door and contemplated what to do next. An empty wall in my workroom gave me the idea. I cut the door in half lengthwise, bought a half dozen long shelf brackets and mounted the door on the wall studs. Success



I used 12" by 12" cork tiles for the roadbed and then covered the tiles with rattle can faux stone paints to give the surface a gravel texture.



Before I go any further, perhaps I should explain where the idea for Newmans Own started. I was looking at various track plans in Model Railroader and saw a couple for Post Cereals Plant here in Michigan. They and Kelloggs are basically neighbors down in Battle Creek. I thought that would make a dandy shelf layout. But I didn't want to just copy the MR plans. So I was eating lunch one day, and had my salad and salad dressing on the table when I happened to glance at the label. Newmans Own. That was the light bulb over my head moment. I drew up several ideas and shared them

with friend and fellow modeler Thomas Klimoski and we were able to modify them and come up with something that we felt would work. Once I had gotten the roadbed installed and painted, it was time to start laying track again. And again, I would be hand laying all the track, with the exception of the turnouts. The previous attempts to make my own turnouts was not successful, despite watching numerous how-to videos. I decided that was too frustrating and commercial turnouts would be used. But all the rest would be hand laid.



Some might think that laying down ties and spiking rail is too tedious to be enjoyable. But I felt just the opposite. Using a tie laying jig, I was able to set 2 feet of ties down at a time very quickly. Then once the ties had dried, I gave them a quick coat of rattle can brown paint, sanded the tops to level them out, which also had the added benefit of giving them a bit of weathering, and began the track laying and spiking process. I used a couple of alignment tools, along with one I made myself from basswood and an NMRA track gauge, to make sure the rails stayed true to gauge. I found the spiking went quicker than I thought and was also therapeutic. And there is no greater feeling than sitting back after spiking down 8 to 10 feet of rail, lowering your head down to track level and admiring your handiwork. It took about 2 months to get all the ties, rails and turnouts installed.



# **NEWMAN'S OWN – NEW LAYOUT** By John Buckley, Div 4 **NCR BUILD**

I tested and tested with all different railcars to make sure there are no problems before I even thought about ballasting. I had to tweak a few places because the gauge was either too tight or too loose. That just involved pulling up a spike or two and moving them ever so slightly in or out.



I use the Digitrax DCC system for the shelf layout. The shelf layout uses my old DB150 command station and an MRC power pack. But I have the new UT6 throttle with just a single panel since there is just one locomotive serving Newmans.

Newmans Own Brands uses a variety of railcars. Food grade tank cars for syrups, vegetable oil and sugars, covered hoppers for grains, flour, salt and animal feed, boxcars for receiving glass bottles, cardboard and paper and for shipping palletized food products and reefers for food products that need to be refrigerated. All together, I have 17 car spots on the layout. Not bad for being only a foot wide and just 10-1/2 feet long.

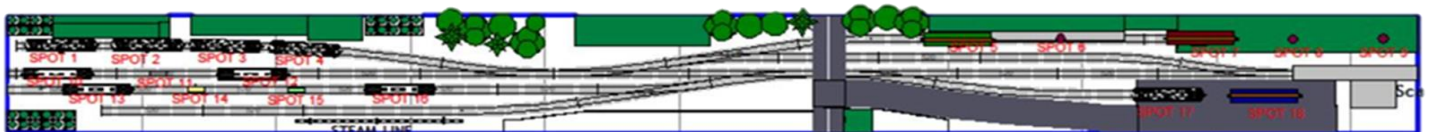


Operations have been exactly as I had hoped. Moving a half dozen cars around the layout takes, sometimes, over an hour. An hour well spent, down in the man cave, with nothing to distract me from letting my imagination run free. I should point out that the structures in the pictures are temporary. What you see in the diagram below is how everything will eventually be laid out. I will start building all the new structures this winter and hope to have everything in place by spring.

**INBOUND** - Bagged and boxed dry ingredients in Box Cars; Corn Syrup in Tank Cars (corn syrup arrives in different grades, car spot for each grade); GERN in 2 bay Covered Hoppers (GERN is an additive); Packaging material in Box Cars; Produce (apples, blueberries, etc) in Reefer Cars; Sugar and Flour in pressurized and gravity covered hoppers; Vegetable oil in Tank Cars

**OUTBOUND** - Baked goods in Box Cars and RBLs; Frozen baked goods in Reefer Cars

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS** - Any box cars used for shipments of products must be inspected and cleaned before use, so it is first spotted at the car washing and clean-out track before being sent to the shipping warehouse for loading. Each inbound product must be weighed 4 times per month, so a scale is included at the plant. Corn syrup freezes while in transit during the winter months, so it must be thawed before it can be used. The thawing is done outside on the spur with the steam lines and it usually takes 24 hours to thaw an inbound tank car. Once the cars are thawed, they are re-spotted at the proper unloading spot.





## *Train Town*

# **TRAIN SHOW & SWAP MEET**

---

**SATURDAY**

**December 9, 2023**

**10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Allen County Fairgrounds  
2750 Harding Highway \* Lima, OH \* 45804  
From I-75, take exit 125 – go east on St. Rt. 309

*Admission: Adults \$7.00*  
*Children 12 & under Free*  
*NMRA members w/ card \$5.00*

## **FEATURING:**

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| ❖ Hourly Door Prizes | ❖ Children's Activities |
| ❖ All Gauges         | ❖ HO Train Set Drawing  |
| ❖ Railfan Items      | ❖ Handicap Accessible   |
| ❖ Over 170 Tables    | ❖ Food Service          |

---

Contact: Jim Marquardt for Table Reservations / Show  
Information

Phone: 260-437-3844 Email: [jmmarq4@hotmail.com](mailto:jmmarq4@hotmail.com)

---





## **NCR OPS 2023 – B&O Lost Division by Bob Hanna, Div 3** **NCR STORY**

Ever find that your layout's operations have become routine? Same operators taking the same jobs, and doing them so well and so quickly, that the OP session is over before you know it. It has become routine. Why, you begun to think that that this is easy and anybody could do the work. Ever wonder if there is a different way to switch the industries or get the trains over the layout?

Here is a solution for that! Sign up to have your layout open for a NMRA regional convention, Operations signup, or for an Ops weekend. You have just pressed the reset button! You will be getting all new operators, most of whom may have never seen your layout before. Let's see how a new person does on those jobs! I can guarantee that your OP session won't end early! And if you watch, you will see new approaches to operating your layout. I was reminded of something Chuck White told me about an OP session he once signed up for, the regular operator was watching him and said something like "I've seen 100 ways to switch that town, and now I've just seen 101!" But to prevent total chaos, have a few of your regular operators there to help and to answer questions or you'll go nuts. On the layout, it is important to have your towns and industries well labeled. I put a schematic of the tracks and industries at each town on small cards and place them at each town. Cuts down on the questions of "Where is this or that?"

Just had an Ops session for the NCR Convention. Nine people signed up! Two of my regular operators said they would show up to help. (And boy am I glad they did!) We had new people running every job! My regular operator, Fred, helped with Grafton Yard, and Gary helped with Van Doren. Me, I sat down at VJ Tower to help keep the trains on the right tracks. As it is right in the middle of the layout I was close enough to answer questions and to hear any screams from anywhere on the layout.



On the B&O Lost Division Mountain Branch, each town has it's own little, (or big!), switching challenges. Some were handled well. Others, well, we will straighten it out later. The important thing is that we had fun! Every operator thanked me for having an OP session for them to attend. The town of Smith was blocking trains with the switching being done. Had two trains in Jonesville waiting to get through, and one of them had work to do in Jonesville. So we got creative and backed one train up so the other could do his work, and by the time he was done, the track through Smith was clear, except for a train coming down the mountain. Got that train lined into the siding at Jonesville and then the other two trains went on up the mountain.

Of course we had problems. Not being familiar with the layout, it is bound to happen. Rather than creeping up to VJ Tower, more than one train blasted through the junction before the route was lined for them. To be expected, done it myself on other layouts where I was the newbie, so no demerits for the first time. We had an interesting problem with the makeup of one train. The max train length on the mountain is 6 cars, if you want to fit into the sidings and get up the grades. But out of Grafton yard to Van Doren you can have 10 cars. So out of Grafton comes an F9 with 5 hopper cars of coal for the power house at Newburg and 5 empty box cars for the elevator at Jonesville. At Newburg, they switch out the 5 loaded hoppers, but they have to pick up 5 empty cars that need to go to the mines up on the mountain. They get to Van Doren with 10 cars with no problem so far. But max train length is 6 cars on the mountain, so which ones are you dropping at Van Doren? Chose to drop the hopper cars and take the 5 empty box cars up to Jonesville Elevator, with the GP7 Helper stationed at Van Doren pushing them up the ruling grade on the layout. (All trains 4 cars or more require a helper from Van Doren to Jonesville.) But once there, the F9 Engineer balks at hanging out the window while backing all the way down the hill. (The only turntables are at Grafton or Megantown.) So the GP7 helper takes them down to Van Doren and decides to help by bring the 5 empty hoppers back up to the waiting F9. But he stalls on the grade, so the F9 has to back down anyway to help pull them all up to Jonesville.

Needless to say, we did not get all trains ran or all cars delivered. But I saw several different approaches to operating the B&O Lost Division, some of which I plan to try in a regular OP session soon. Plus I got to share my layout with several friends, and made a few more new ones. And we had fun! That was confirmed by the guys who signed up when we got our pay, (pop & cookies), at the end of the session. Try it some time!!



**HobbyTown**  
Play Smart

21770 W 11 Mile Rd • Harvard Row Mall • Southfield, MI 48076-3718  
 P 248.864.5277 F @hobbytown.southfield E mtHobbyTown@Ameritech.net

**Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy, Inc.**

*Over 40,000 fun items for the  
ENTIRE family!!*

21714 Harper Ave.  
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080  
 p: 586.771.6770  
 f: 586.771.3207



[www.whistle-stop.com](http://www.whistle-stop.com)



**GREAT LAKES  
HOBBY & TOY**

43055 Van Dyke Ave  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
586-254-1600

**Carlton Hobbies**  
"We make hobbies affordable"

7172 Highland Rd.  
Waterford, MI 48327  
Phone: 248-599-7775  
[www.carltonhobbiesshop.com](http://www.carltonhobbiesshop.com)  
 Email: carltonhobbies@att.net

**Hours:**  
 Closed Monday  
 Tu-Th 10am-7pm  
 Fri 10am-6pm  
 Sat 10am-5pm  
 Sun 11am-3pm



**Nankin  
Hobby**

33350 W Nine Mile Rd  
Farmington, MI 48336  
248-919-0040

1480 Washtenaw Ave  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
734-961-7575

12020 Fort St  
Southgate, MI 48195  
734-250-7382



**RIDER'S  
HOBBY SHOPS**

Mon-Fri 10am-8pm  
 Sat 10am-6pm (Flt)  
 Sat 10am-7pm (GR)  
 Sun 12pm-5pm

2061 S. Linden Rd Flint, MI 48532  
810-720-2500

2055 28<sup>th</sup> Street SE Grand Rapids, MI 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  
**Please visit your local hobby shop!**

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!**



# ***NCR SCHEDULE NCR DIVISION meetings***

## ***NCR INFORMATION***

### ***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 summer (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.ncrnmra.org>

***Division Two - Tip of the Mitt*** (Northern Michigan) Our Division includes 21 contiguous northern Michigan counties, plus 3 counties in the U.P. Future meetings will take place at 10am in the Foster Family Community Health Center (formerly MCHC), at 550 Munson Avenue, Traverse City. Meetings are typically held on the third Saturday of each month. When we gather, we usually are both on Zoom and in person. To request meeting invites and our quarterly newsletter, email our Asst 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@outlook.com](mailto:grandrailsdiv@outlook.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://nmrancrdiv5.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.ncrnmra.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!

**Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays – every weekend starting November 3 to March 24, 2024** - Chi-Town Union Station Home To the World's Largest O Scale Model Railroad and Longest Model train.  
8275 Cooley Lake Rd, Commerce Charter Twp, MI 48382 Open for our 17th Season **FOR SALE!!!**  
11am to 5pm - Admission fees: Adults (18 and over) - \$6.00 Ages 5-17 - \$3.00 Kids under 5 years - FREE  
<http://www.chi-townunionstation.com/> [chi\\_townunionstation@yahoo.com](mailto:chi_townunionstation@yahoo.com) 248-613-9471

**Saturday's – Dec 9, 23; Jan 6, 20; Feb 3, 17; March 2, 16, 30** – 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](http://www.redfordmrrc.org)

**Saturday & Sunday - Dec. 2-3, 9-10; Jan. 13-14, 27-28; Feb. 24-25; Mar. 9-10, 23-24** - 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. Contact Info: 248-634-5811 [webmaster@dmrrc.org](mailto:webmaster@dmrrc.org)

**December - 2\*, 9, 10, 16, 17\*\*, 23, 27, 28, 29 & 30** - Stoney Creek Model RR Layout Display Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm 1005 Van Hoosen Rd, Rochester Hills, MI \$5 Adults, \$3 Children and Seniors Museum Members - Free! \*Visitors must pre-register to see Santa and Mrs. Claus \*\*Old-Fashioned Christmas Day - \$10 for non-members, \$8 for members Info – [www.scmrrc.org](http://www.scmrrc.org)  
[www.rochesterhills.org/museum/](http://www.rochesterhills.org/museum/)

**Saturday, December 9, 2023** - Train Town Train Show & Swap Meet Allen County Fairgrounds, 2750 Harding Highway, Lima, OH 10am-3pm \$7 adults, under 12 free NMRA members \$5 170 tables, door prizes, handicap accessible, food service, free parking Jim Marquardt 260-437-3844 [jmmarq4@hotmail.com](mailto:jmmarq4@hotmail.com)  
**SEE AD ON PAGE 28**

**December 4-7, 11-14** – Holiday Train Display - Holland Modular Train Club Zeeland MI Library 5:30pm-7:30pm **Saturday's Dec 2, 9, 16** 10am-1pm YES!, we are doing two displays!! Jack Wiest - 616-218-9361  
**December 1-3, 8-10, 15-17** – Holiday Train Display - Holland Modular Train Club South Haven – Woodhams Lincoln Showroom Friday's 3pm-6pm, Saturday's 12 noon-6pm, Sunday's 3pm-6pm

**Saturday & Sunday - Dec. 9-10 and 16-17, 2023; Jan. 20-21, 2024; Feb. 24-25, 2024; Mar. 23-24, 2024** - 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)

**Saturday-Saturday, December 16 - 31** – Festival of Trains Creekside Community Church Hall – 3686 W. South Airport Road Traverse City, MI 10am-6pm Monday-Saturday and 1pm-4pm Sundays, closed Christmas Day but open on December 24th from 10am-4pm. A swap meet will be held on Dec. 16th and 17th.  
<https://nomirrc.wordpress.com/about/festival-of-trains/>

**Saturday-Sunday, January 20-21, 2024** - Model RR Exhibit, RR Memorabilia, Toy Train Show and Sale Suburban Collection Showplace 46100 Grand River Avenue Novi, MI 48374 parking \$5  
10am - 4pm Adults \$7 (\$2 more if purchased on-site) Kids 11 and under are Free Wheelchair Accessible  
Contact Info - Great Train Show 630-608-4988 Website - <http://GreatTrainShow.com>

**Sunday, January 28, 2024** - 3rd annual Div 6 Model Railroad Sale Costick Comm Ctr 28600 West Eleven Mile Rd. Farmington Hills, MI 10am-3pm \$5 admission/wives and kids under 18 free \$10 early-bird at 9am up to 145 tables of quality model railroad items for sale! **SEE AD ON PAGE 23**  
Barry 734-649-3056 10am-8pm email- [Div6trainsale@gmail.com](mailto:Div6trainsale@gmail.com)



# **NCR TIMETABLE EVENTS!**

## **NCR AREA EVENTS**

**Saturday, February 4, 2024** - Ole Toy & Train Show Monaghan KofC 19801 Farmington Rd, Livonia, MI 11am-3pm. Admission is \$3/person \$6/family \$10/early birds (10:30am) Operating layouts, Video movies, trains tested, Free Parking, Food available. Handicap accessible.  
Contact Information: Brian Klotzer 313-255-0466 7pm-9pm only please or Greg – [club2690@gmail.com](mailto:club2690@gmail.com)

**Sunday, February 5, 2024** - SS Simon & Jude Railroadiana Show Westland, MI - SS Simon & Jude Parish Hall Bob Patterson 734-728-1247

**Sunday, February 25, 2024** - Lansing Model Railroad Club Open House 5309 Old Lansing Road Lansing, MI 48917 <http://www.lmrc.org> Noon to 4 pm Free (donation suggested) The Lansing Model Railroad Club is hosting its annual winter open house. The layout is housed in the former Grand Trunk Western Millett Depot. Parking is limited on a grass or snow-covered surface. Wheelchair Accessible Info at [www.lmrc.org/openhouse](http://www.lmrc.org/openhouse) or Michael Frezell at 517-281-2544 or email at [lmrc1953@lmrc.org](mailto:lmrc1953@lmrc.org)

**Saturday-Sunday, February 17-18, 2024** – 54th Annual Train Show and Sale Saline Middle School 7190 N. Maple Road Saline, MI 48176 Saturday 10am-4pm, Sunday 10am-3pm Adults \$7 Under 10, Free with paid Adult Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club and the Huron Valley Railroad Historical Society are hosts. 300+ tables of merchandise and displays, Food service will be available. Wheelchair Accessible  
Contact Info: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club 3487 Broad Street Dexter, MI 48103 <http://a2trainshow.com>  
Phone: 734-426-5100-Wed Evenings 734-426-0829-Answering Machine [info@a2trainshow.com](mailto:info@a2trainshow.com)

**Sunday, March 11, 2024** - Greater Toledo Toy & Train Show Owens Community College 30335 Oregon Rd., Perrysburg, OH 11am-3pm Randy Ramsey 419-215-4181 [Toledotoymasters@gmail.com](mailto:Toledotoymasters@gmail.com)

**Sunday, March 24, 2024** – 41st Mid-Michigan Model Train Show Comfort Inn & Suites 2424 South Mission St, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 Hosted by- Saginaw River Valley Model RR Club Keven Stresman 989-233-4644 [kstresman@gmail.com](mailto:kstresman@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:papasfurniture@gmail.com) [www.nworrrp.org](http://www.nworrrp.org)

**Saturday, April 06, 2024** - 2024 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](mailto:kaltrainshow@kalnet.net)

**Saturday, April 06, 2024** – 38th 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 Info – 419-569-7374 [cooperj12@yahoo.com](mailto:cooperj12@yahoo.com)

**Saturday, April 06, 2024** – Greater Grand Rapids Spring 2024 Train Show – Grand River Valley RR Club HSB (Home School Building) 5625 Burlingame Ave SW Wyoming, MI 10am-3pm \$5, 12 and under free Info: 847-691-1163 [trainshow@grvrrc.org](mailto:trainshow@grvrrc.org) <https://grvrrc.org>

**Sunday, April 14, 2024** – 31st annual Flint's R/C & Train Swap Meet Lake Fenton High School 4070 Lahring Rd Linden, MI 48451 9am-12pm \$5 admission, 17 and under \$1 Active Military ID, Scouts and Ladies are FREE [www.rcflyingaces.com](http://www.rcflyingaces.com) Bill Gerald 810-845-3007

**FORT WAYNE RAILS 2023 cars AVAILABLE!** Cars numbered 2022 are also available. Price is \$35 per car plus \$10 shipping & Handling for up to two cars. This car is unique to the NCR and is being offered to region members **for a limited time**, after which we'll go national with listings in the model railroad magazines, on eBay/Facebook, HO Swap, etc. **Get'em NOW!**  
Contact Chuck White at 260-760-1666 or [railcarman@frontier.com](mailto:railcarman@frontier.com) for payment and shipping instructions.



# 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>

## NCR HotBox PIKE ADS



"Follow the Flag"

**Operations Road Show**  
Offering instruction in realistic  
Railway Operations

<http://operationsroadshow.com>  
email: [wab2ndops@yahoo.com](mailto:wab2ndops@yahoo.com)

...to a great operating experience. Join us for a fun operating session on a large HO scale model railroad where you will learn to operate trains under timetable and train order dispatching (TT&TO).



**rails on wheels**

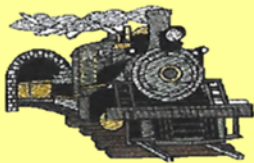
**Greater Washtenaw  
County's HO Modular  
Model Railroad Club**

See our web site for  
meeting times and locations

<http://www.railsonwheels.com>

Visitors and new members welcome!

### Lake Shore Garden Railway Club



**G Track: Standard  
and Narrow Gauge  
Scales - Garden  
Layouts & Modular  
Show Layout**

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



**DKS RAILWORKS**

SELL AND BUY MODEL TRAINS

BRASS - DIECAST - PLASTIC

RTR - KITS - BUILDINGS

ESTATES - DATED INVENTORIES - LIQUIDATIONS

LAYOUTS DISMANTLED

Contact Doug Kass: (586) 306-5306 or email: [info@dksrailworks.com](mailto:info@dksrailworks.com)  
[www.dksrailworks.com](http://www.dksrailworks.com)

YOU too, can have a Pike Ad for your railroad or club! Just email the HotBox Staff for all the details. We'll even help you design your Pike Ad. **And best of all... IT'S COOL!!**

### 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)

**Quality model railroading in  
S Scale 1:64**



**Memberships open!**

**Visitors Welcome!**

**For more information**

**we're on the web at**

[www.smsgtrains.org](http://www.smsgtrains.org) - or

Contact- [t.hawley@comcast.net](mailto:t.hawley@comcast.net)



# NCR HotBox PIKE ADS

**DETROIT AND  
PORT HURON RR**



Service on the *dot*

**TERRY & DONNA BOSSICK**  
Roseville, MI



**Calumet & Miscowauvik  
Railroad**


Michigan's Copper Country  
1913 in HO scale

Mike Sutinen Ann Arbor, MI

**Michigan  
Southern**

Serving  
*Southeast  
Michigan*

Norm Logan  
Northville, MI




Larry Wolohon  
President & Chief  
Bottle Washer

2 Rail O scale

Late 1940's  
Branchline TBD

Plymouth, MI



**LOST DIVISION  
Mountain Branch**

Operates 3rd Tues at 7:30pm


**BOB HANNA** Defiance, OH



**MICHIGAN  
LINES**

Jay and Brook Qualman | Milford, Michigan

**THE ROAD WEST**



A Division of  
NP RAILWAY

KEN CHICK  
NORTHVILLE, MI

Barry Hensel  
Canton, MI

Era- 1970  
HO Scale




**CENTRAL DIVISION**





**Grand Trunk  
Western**

**Detroit Division**  
Curt Danielewicz  
Macomb, Michigan

**COPPER VALLEY  
RAILWAY**



**JIM ZINSER**  
Dearborn Heights, Mich.



GTWHS  
PO BOX 183682  
SHELBY TWP, MI 48317

Come visit us on the 2nd floor of the historic  
Durand Union Station on Saturdays  
between 1 and 4 PM

**BLISSFIELD  
MODEL RAILROAD CLUB**



**GIANT HO SCALE MODEL RAILROAD**  
Frequent **FREE Open House Events**

109 E. Adrain  
Blissfield, MI 49228

[www.bmrr.org](http://www.bmrr.org)  
[m.facebook.com/BlissfieldMRC/](https://m.facebook.com/BlissfieldMRC/)




**COLORADO & SOUTHERN  
RAILROAD**

**CLEAR CREEK BRANCH**  
Dan Kempf  
Ann Arbor, Michigan



**Chessie System**

**Huntington Division**  
Richard Neibert  
Superintendent



**Southeast Michigan Free-mo  
Modular Group**

- International modular standard
- Free-form module designs
- Point-to-point prototypical operation
- Participate at events across the country
- Every setup is unique

Join the conversation at [semichiganfreemo.groups.io](http://semichiganfreemo.groups.io)  
or search "SE Michigan Free-mo" on Facebook.


**South Oakland County  
Model Railroad Club**

Hazel Park, MI

Meets Tues. & Fri. at 7:30 PM

**New Members Welcome**

For information Contact  
[info@socmrrc.org](mailto:info@socmrrc.org)  
[www.socmrrc.org](http://www.socmrrc.org)

**DETROIT, MACKINAC  
AND MARQUETTE  
RAILROAD COMPANY**

Saginaw Division

D.M. Mitzel, General Manager  
Oxford, Michigan



**LaRoutesdesVinRR**  
Reflections on a Classic Europe

Tony Britsky, Troy, MI [www.LaRoutesdesVinRR.com](http://www.LaRoutesdesVinRR.com)

Permit Holder:  
**National Model Railroad Association**  
The North Central Region,  
c/o Jonathan Pulling, Resident Agent  
1826 Linden Street  
East Lansing, MI 48823

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LIVONIA, MI  
Permit No. 1230



*in the next issue of THE **HotBox** –*

**MORE LAYOUT PHOTOS**

**MORE HOW-TO-DO ARTICLES**

**MORE INFORMATION**

*.... stay tuned!*

***RailFanning Pierre Willermet's  
Allegheny and Eastern Railroad***



**Combo  
Tank Cars**

**NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS  
2024 CONVENTION NEWS!**

