



THE *HotBox*

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

VOL. 62 NO. 4

WINTER 2021

RAILFANNING Ernie Barry's East Raton and Santa Fe RR



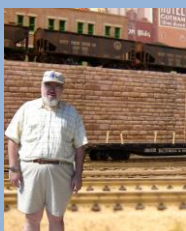
BSJ Wrap-up



READING RR CRANE TRUCK BUILD



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GET INVOLVED IN YOUR MODEL RAILROAD!



INDY JUNCTION 2022 NEWS!

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

The HotBox

WINTER 2021
Vol. 62, No. 4



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\$60 quad for a 3 year period!

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

Send address corrections to the Registrar- Marshall Stull

248-817-9328

mstull@marshallstull.com

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

Happy almost Winter, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! It's that time of the year... holidays, family and friends, here's hoping your holiday time is grand. Especially after the last year or more... I believe it's time to get together! Wishing 2022 will be a great year for us all!

As one convention ends (and it was great!) another begins in earnest! We have many updates on the **INDY JUNCTION 2022** convention in this issue of the HotBox! This is a tri-regional event and the NCR is one of the players! The website is up and registration is open. The hotel is also accepting reservations.

Word is that we'll also have a one-day event in the Fall of 2022, sponsored/hosted by Div 9 in the Kalamazoo area.

Please check out the NCR BoD meeting and NCR membership meeting reports on page 25. A special HotBox report is on page 23.

Don't forget to promote our great hobby to friends and family, especially the younger members we know. My grandson Luke loves my layout and we recently built a siding in his special area. See the article on page 5.

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



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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! We had no corrections reported for the September issue. Cool!

FRONT COVER PICTURES- NMRA logo, Black Swamp Junction logo; INDY Junction 2022 logo; MOW truck builds on the Reading Lines; Switcher upgrade; Trinidad Feed on Ernie Barry's HO East Raton and Santa Fe RR; Are you involved in your Model RR?

REAR COVER PICTURES- 2022 Indy Junction logo; Layout Journey; Crew checks on Pete Pedigo's 1/8 scale New Unionville & Western near Bloomington, IN. The layout will be open at Indy Junction 2022.

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Volunteer Needed

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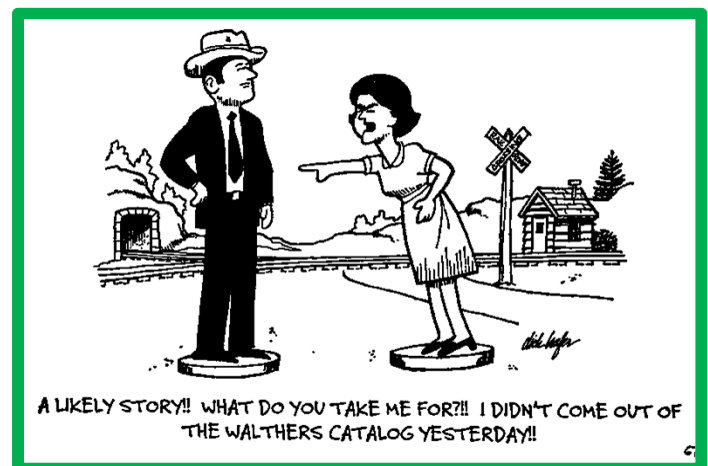
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RAILROADING "WHAT THE ???"

NCR HUMOR

From the book of cartoons – **“SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO COMPROMISE – A light-hearted look at model railroading... and model railroaders”** by Dick Hafer. *“Copyright Model Railroader magazine, used by permission of Kalmbach Media.”*



PRESIDENT'S OBSERVATION

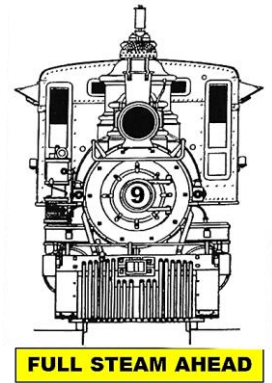
Dave Capron

For those of you that were able to attend the NCR Convention in Toledo I am sure you are happy you did. Besides the great layout tours and clinics, there were two changes that were well received and, judging by post-convention surveys, will be regulars at future NCR conventions. Both of them are already planned for next year in Indianapolis. The first was a train yard sale. The sale was open first come no bids, just pay and go. A small percentage of the sale went to the convention. Over \$4,000 was sold to happy attendees. The other very big change was all clinics were presented in the mornings and evenings. This allowed the afternoons open for layout tours and operating sessions, plus prototype tours. This change made for all driving in unfamiliar neighborhoods during the daylight hours. This also meant that at the end of your days' activities you were at your hotel and could finish the day with friends instead of driving back in the dark. A special thanks to Dave McMullian and the convention crew for a very well planned and executed convention.

At the banquet luncheon there was a record 54 AP certificates announced. The NCR also welcomed four new MMR's: Jim Macino, Scott Kramer, Brook Qualman, and James Marquaridt. Any of you that have one AP certificate know that earning seven certificates is a major commitment. Congratulate these four new MMR's when you see them. Of the tens of thousands of modelers over the years that have been NMRA members there are only just over 600 that have achieved the MMR status. Accept the challenge, get out of your comfort zone, and get the modeling done and follow up with the required paperwork. You will be glad you did and learn some new modeling techniques along the way. Yes, COVID did force us to stay in and do some extra modeling. COVID is still with us so continue your modeling and work on your certificates while staying safe.

While I am on the subject of new members, we need them! Our numbers in the NCR and nationally are decreasing every year. Christmas is coming and the trains under the tree is past history, but

could be revived. The grandkids like running our trains, but what about one of their own? And, while they are not ready for a wood craftsman kit, what about a small plastic building they can make with you and place on your layout? It all starts with one building and then a small town. What friend at work or church can you invite over to your layout and then to a division event? Show and tell, mini clinics and some simple operating is a great way to introduce our hobby. If we all made a commitment to bring in one new member this year your division and our region would double in membership next year. You all have goals for your layout, how about a goal for your division membership for next year? We can't do anything about Father Time, but recruiting new members as a short, long and permanent goal is something we all need to commit to starting now.



Speaking of conventions, there is a large article about next year's convention in Indianapolis in this HotBox edition. This will be the largest regional convention the NCR has ever presented. We started planning for this convention at the Kansas City convention in 2018. We are expecting 500 attendees so read the article and plan now to attend.

For those of you that have layouts, go flip the switch and run some trains. As we get vaccinated and our round robin operating sessions get going some are finding that letting their railroads sit inactive causes problems. For those that do not, maybe it is time to start the planning process and build one – even a small one. My first layout was the “4 x 8 layout that grows” as a Boy Scout with my dad, a hobby that continues today. Thanks, Dad.

Dave Capron, President, NCR

NMRA-NCR ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NCR AWARDS

Thanks go to Ken Chick, Jim Macino and Pete Magoun as they continue doing a great job keeping the level of AP activity in divisions 2,3, 6, 8 and 10 at a high pitch, I appreciate their efforts very much. Members of their divisions continue working hard and accomplishing great things as you can see by the announcements below. A special thanks goes to Ken Chick and Ron King for their work at the Black Swamp convention.
Skip, Luyk, MMR, NCR AP Coordinator

Congratulations go to the following:

MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR – Scott W. Pandorf Div 2

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER – ELECTRICAL – Ken Scherer, Div 8

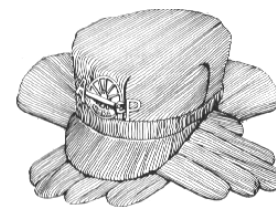
MODEL RAILROAD MASTER BUILDER – SCENERY – William Wemhoff

MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL – Jay Qualman Div6; Philip Doolittle Div8 and Mark Ellis, Div6

NMRA ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER – Scott W. Pandorf Div 2; Bill McMillan, Div 6; Kenneth Scherer Div 8; Mark Ellis, Div 6 and James H. Hockenberger, Div 6

GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD - John Campbell, MD Div 2

MODEL RAILROAD CHIEF DISPATCHER – Ronald A. Gilbert, Div 1 and Mike Bruss, Div 1



Ken Scherer



Barry Hensel (Sept issue)



Donald Bergman (June issue)



John Campbell MD

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM QUESTIONS: If you have questions about the AP or requirements, start with your Regional AP manager, Skip Luyk, MMR. Also – Jim Macino, MMR covers Div 3 - 260-693-6102

jim@icmgt.com or Ken Chick, MMR covers Div 6, 8 and 10 – 734-420-0276 ***kdchick@wowway.com*** or Pete Magoun, MMR covers Div 2 – 231-941-1669 ***orion@chartermi.net*** If you still have questions, contact NMRA AP Chairman Frank Koch at ***fjkoch@hotmail.com*** or at 4769 Silverwood Drive, Batavia, OH 45103

GET THE KIDS INVOLVED!

By Barry Hensel, Div 6

NCR PROJECT

I now have two grandkids, Luke 7 and Claire 6 months old. Luke has been introduced to my trains almost since birth and he has an extensive wooden Thomas collection. Last year he received his own Lionel set for Christmas. But, it's a great joy to have him visit and ask...

"Pappap, can we run some trains?" on my layout! He even knows how to use the DCC throttle! Well, we did a bit more than that recently. Luke has a play area on my layout and I asked him if he wanted his own siding for a hopper car. We got that done recently and he helped

install it, pounding the cork and track nails in! Here's the before and after pictures of the project.

A future model railroader?

I certainly hope so!

Let's get the kids involved!!



RAILFANNING the East Raton & Santa Fe RR

NCR TRACKSIDE

Ernie Barry's East Raton and Santa Fe Railroad represents the Santa Fe's crossing of the Sangre de Cristo mountains (New Mexico) in 1952. Ernie chose that year because of the opportunity to model the transition era when both steam and first-generation diesels were present. *below, left then right-* Reefer block arriving at Raton yard from staging; Raton Engine Service and Caboose Tracks; C&W train at Cokedale; Raton's scratch built coaling tower



RAILFANNING the East Raton & Santa Fe RR

NCR TRACKSIDE



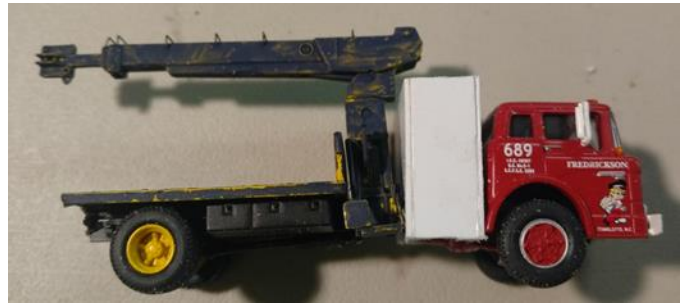
below, left then right - Kit-bashed mine at Wooten; Downtown Trinidad; Super Chief at Morley; Scratch-built mine at Morley; City Wide Coal Co. Trinidad.



RDG MOW CRANE TRUCK by Barry Hensel, Div 6

NCR PROJECT

So... Once again... Another Reading Modeler on Facebook shows off a truck for his MOW fleet. Jason Miller from Australia showed off an Athearn crane truck he had and added the RDG sign to the truck. Again, I really liked it and while these are not made anymore, I found one on the HO Swap site (former yahoo group, now an io.group) and bought it. I was going to do the same... Just put the decal on it, but also wanted to be just a bit different and paint it blue, inspired by the prototype photo I had of a crane truck.



For the bed boxes, instead of trying to craft them from styrene I turned to 3D printing! I took some measurements and using a free program called TinkerCad, I designed the boxes. A good friend with a printer had them done for me in a day and they came out very nice!



After some test fitting and trimming these boxes are near perfect! I'll have to modify the cad models so the trimming will not be necessary and I'm going to design the box behind the cab to be 3D printed as well. If someone else wants to make this truck, I can offer you these three main parts for a very reasonable price!

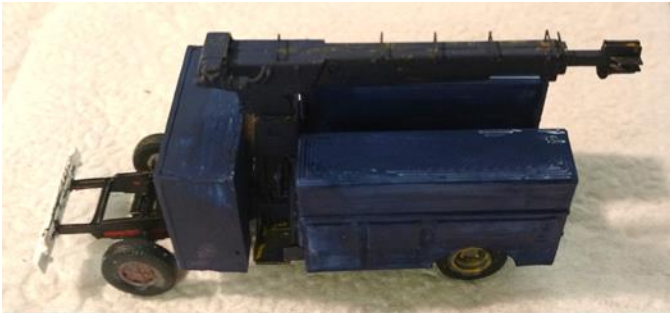
After starting to paint the truck, I remembered I had a C cab truck that I had traded for, so that one day I could make a model of this truck in the picture. SO... I decided to go full bore! Getting the C cab and cutting that truck frame, then cutting the crane truck frame, I got them glued together. Since this is under the truck, I wasn't worried about the frames looking proper, just so they could be together properly spaced. I made the box behind the cab from scrap styrene and fit it in.



RDG MOW CRANE TRUCK by Barry Hensel, Div 6

NCR PROJECT

More pictures of the build progress as painting continues. Yes, I'm brush painting with craft paints, but I think the rough look will be OK. It will make the truck look well used.



With added details, including the RDG MOW sign, here's the finished truck!!



Almost done! Have to add some details, the door sign, etc. But I'm pretty happy with the results so far! Also reassembled the box truck using the original crane truck cab. Looks fine too and is back in place on the layout.



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

The Black Swamp Division will return to normal after being completely worn out from hosting the Black Swamp Junction. There will not be a December meeting, but we are planning in-person meetings Jan 28 and Feb 25, 2022. Clinic topics on those dates are still to be determined. All in person meetings will be back at our prior location in Holland OH. For more information on the Black Swamp Division and the full meeting schedule, please visit our website at <http://www.divisiononencr.com> . (submitted by- Marshall Stull, Superintendent)

Division Two (Manistee to Iosco counties, to the Tip Of The Mitten at the Mackinac Bridge)

We are currently meeting monthly via zoom through January 2022. December and January dates are not set yet. We will have member Show & Tell, and a clinic from Chris Adams from Old Saybrook Connecticut on "Modeling the Valley Line" his prototype-based railroad set in 1947 - 1949. Our meetings are typically 2-3 hours. We follow each clinic with an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and get answers. If you are interested in attending one of our sessions send an email to superintendent.nmra.ncr.div2@gmail.com and we will include you in our next invite. (Submitted by Scott Pandorf, Division 2 Superintendent)

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

It's hard to believe 2021 is almost over and what a strange year it has been. This is the holiday season of good food, getting together with family and friends, and most of all model trains under the tree while watching the excitement of any child's facial expressions. We are putting the finishing touches on our Lima Swap meet on Dec 11 in Lima, Ohio. The 3 Rivers Division is currently working to find a new venue for the 2023 Regional Convention as our previous venue has closed due to Covid 19 restrictions. We are also assisting with organizing the March 2023 Ops weekend here in Ft. Wayne which should be a lot of operating fun. We are starting to have more operating sessions within the division as we are getting back to a new normal. The division is starting to plan events for the first half of 2022 which will hopefully be a great year of model railroading. The 3 Rivers Division hopes everyone has a Blessed and Safe Holiday Season. (Submitted by- Bob Jones, Superintendent)

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

Division 5, the Capital Division had hoped to start meeting in person back in September. Unfortunately, due to circumstances, our host, the Meridian Township Fire Dept. had to close down the meeting room that we use until at least January, so we're back to Zoom. We did move our meetings back to 1 pm on the second Saturday of the month, which had been our regular meeting date for years. Our September presenter was Bob Luzinski, with John and Tyler Hartmann regaling us with their trip out to Wyoming for a FreeMoN event and the development of FreeMo and FreeMoN, the N scale version of FreeMo layouts. The October meeting featured Ron King describing his methods for close coupling passenger cars and improving their trucks in order to prevent derailments. Bob also has done some podcasts on hobbies and the Space Shuttle, which he spent some time working on the development of. Also, the Division's Zoom meetings are available on YouTube. There will be no meeting in November due to setting up for the Lansing Train Show. You can subscribe to the 15-25 page monthly Division 5 Newsletter. Send a request, Mark Cowles, at nkpcowles@yahoo.com . For more information, see the Division 5 website: div5.ncr-nmra.org (Submitted by- Mark Cowles, Div. 5 Clerk)

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

Division 6 - The Motor City Division is back to full in-person meetings! See the Timetable page of this HotBox for our meeting schedule. We're also still doing zoom meetings – at the same time! Thus, our members have options! We hope you will join us in the format of your choice. The BIG news in our Division is that our annual **MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & WORKSHOP** was a success and our MI-Track modular railroad had a great debut. Thanks to all that attended and supported our event! We've mentioned our MI-Track railroad before, but we'll feature its design and specs in a future HotBox article. Could this be a new standard for easy model railroading? We also had a sad announcement on the passing of one of our members, Dave Kunz. See his write-up on page 12 of this HotBox. He will be missed! Our newsletter "On The Rails" and other information can be found on our website - www.div6-ncr-nmra.com (submitted by Barry Hensel, Newsletter Editor)

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

The Grand Rails Division reports that we are pleased to announce a new Division 4 Board of Directors. At a meeting held November 13, 2021 the following members were approved to assume the indicated positions: Mark Baldwin, Superintendent; William Riter, Treasurer; Tim Scott, Secretary; Ron Tennant, Director and Russ Venlos, Director. *(submitted by, Skip Luyk, out-going Superintendent)*

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

August found the Clinton River Division returning to some sense of normalcy as we had our first IN-PERSON meeting in almost a year and a half! It was great to see each other again in person. We have all learned that having a Zoom option actually provides additional opportunity to grow our reach as well as offering a convenient option to our members to participate virtually if needed and our trial run using some borrowed equipment was a success in integrating the in-person and Zoom meetings for August and September. Recently the division instituted a mentorship program for our members to register to either offer mentorship in areas of expertise or register for areas where they need help. This hopefully will foster skill growth within the division and potentially lead to more AP activity and awards down the road. To wrap up, with the investment in Zoom meeting capability for our in-person meetings, we welcome any region members that would like to participate in Clinton River Division meetings in the future, please reach out via email to Curt Danielewicz (contact info on page 3) and we'll put you on distribution for the Zoom invitation. Additionally, if you find yourself in our neck of the woods 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 web site is, <http://div8.ncr-nmra.org/> and our Facebook group is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/288929175921717/> Come join the fun. *(Submitted by Curt Danielewicz, Superintendent)*

Division Nine – Southwest Michigan Division (Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and VanBuren Counties)

Division 9 continues to be busy and offering our members a variety of meeting content. We have had field trips, layout tours and "Zoom" sessions with our meetings. For Nov, Dec, Jan and Feb, we have meetings with clinics to enjoy and learn from. Up coming clinic presenters include Doug Harding (from Iowa), Barry Hensel and Rich Mahaney. The next 4 meetings include zoom presentations to help our members that can't join us at the Colonial Kitchen Pancake House. Join us for good breakfast before our 9:30am business meeting and our clinic presentation. We meet the 3rd Sat of the month. Also Division 9 is working on plans for the fall NCR "one day" conference for Oct 2022. that we are hosting. Monthly activities begin with a business meeting, followed by either a clinic or a planned layout tour usually on the third Saturday of the month. An informal optional breakfast at 9:00 AM is also a part of our routine. *(Submitted by: Rich Mahaney, NCR Director)*

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

The 10 Wheelers of Division 10 are back in their previous meeting location at the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 77 meeting room at Dalton Airport on Carpenter Road near Flushing. We are meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month, except for moving our meeting to November 18 due to Thanksgiving, and no meeting in December. Most of our members will be involved with the modular train layout running on weekends at Crossroads Village from the day after Thanksgiving through Christmas. Visit our Facebook page or contact us at ncrdiv10@gmail.com for meeting information. Let us know if you would like us to visit. Contact Superintendent Wayne Wilder at ncrdiv10@gmail.com or 989-823-3409 for more information on attending our meetings. *(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!!

IN MEMORIAM

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

DAVE KUNZ passed away on October 20. Dave has been in assisted living for nearly 2 years and was struggling with dementia. Dave was a proud veteran of the Vietnam War and some of his health issues were related to that conflict. Dave had a very impressive O scale layout, modeling the Pennsylvania RR. He also had a collection of 60's Comet/Ford factory race cars. He was a member of Div 6 and the Detroit Model RR Club. He will be missed by all.



Dave Kunz

STUART PACKARD passed on September 15. He graduated from the University of Michigan with two majors. Stuart never lost his sense of humor- even after he had a major stroke which affected his speech. He could be serious one minute but his wit would suddenly come through when you least expected it. No matter how bad you felt, he could make you laugh. Stuart belonged to a huge number of clubs - most of which reflected his variety of interests and collections. He was a Division 8 member.




Stuart Packard

BRUCE NICHOLS passed away on November 7 at the age of 79. Bruce was on the Division 9 Board of Directors and Treasure. Bruce had been involved with Division 9 since it was started. We remember his bringing good humor to meetings, ops sessions, events, and collecting loose change donations to the treasury. He will be sorely missed. Bruce was always quick with a kind word. He was simply a good guy.



Bruce Nichols

All Aboard! 2021
Model Train Exhibit
at the
Rochester Hills Museum
at **Van Hoosen Farm**



Join the **Stoney Creek Model Railroad Club** to learn about one of the greatest hobbies in the world while using your imagination to travel the old-fashioned way and see the country and its splendor. These HO gauge trains travel high and low past countryside and cities, over bridges and through tunnels, with each module telling a different story with great care and attention paid to detail – in miniature. A camera on the engine shows the “engineer’s eye view” of the trip!

Visit www.scmrrc.org


See the trains from 12:00 - 3:00pm:

- November - 26, 27, 28
- December - 4, 11, 12, 18, 19, 27, 28, 29, 30

Cost:
\$5 Adults, \$3 Children, \$3 Seniors
Museum Members - Free!

www.rochesterhills.org/museum 248.656.4663

Rochester Hills Museum



at *Van Hoosen Farm*

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Rochester Rd. Schoenheer Rd.

5 miles 6 1/2 miles

M-59

We are located at
1005 Van Hoosen Rd.
248-656-4663

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....

NCR/Div 6 member Joe Bliss shot some video's watching some local train action -

https://youtu.be/M6iv_MR0npo <https://youtu.be/c4PSHYX8FYA> <https://youtu.be/xV1BSce8u78> All of his videos are available on his channel (both model & prototype) search for **caseyjones1950** on YouTube.

NCR Director Rich Mahaney and his wife Jill are going out to visit David Gunn's layout next June 2022 in Nova Scotia, Canada. Rich will do a live tour of the layout for a Division 9 meeting (June 18th).

www.facebook.com/rapidotrains/videos/thespectacular-layout-of-dave-gunnmmr/943479569789457

A friend of your HotBox Editor sent this link to a video on a nice Erie-Lackawanna G scale layout -

<https://youtu.be/Ng4tioQX6zE>

From Bill Dunn, friend of the HotBox Editor from Australia - Probably the best model railway video I have ever seen. English layout. Great sound (dubbed) and clear photography. <https://youtu.be/73ptRBLRqo>

Here's the link to that very large Russian model railroad, very similar to Miniature Wonderland in Germany. www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fNBILWYthQ

BTR #2- Dear NMRA NCR Division Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, News-Letter Editors, Directors, Web Masters and members in-general, The purpose of this email is to make you and your membership aware of Limited-Edition, HO scale freight cars that Cincinnati Division 7 still has available for sale/purchase. We currently have two runs still in inventory:

- * Virginian & Ohio 36' Wooden Boxcar Kits. Four different cars, liveries and road numbers are available
- * Chesapeake & Ohio 40' USRA Single-sheathed Boxcar Kits. Four car numbers are offered, two rebuilt in 1931 (1153 and 1191) and two rebuilt in 1948 (1501 and 1505).

The following link provides details about the cars as well as pricing, shipping and ordering information.

<https://www.cincy-div7.org/projects.html> There is limited inventory remaining and once they are gone, they are gone. As such, it is suggested that anyone interested contact me first via the link on the webpage, or at car-projects@cincy-div7.org to confirm availability. We thank you in advance for your support!

Paul Maciulewicz, NMRA; MCR; Cincinnati Division 7 Car Projects Chairman

BTR #3- MICHIGAN RAILROAD CLUB PROGRAM We're back!! Here is the Michigan Railroad Club schedule so far: **December 01, 2021:** Gary Sample with a Christmas program, "Hazy Shade of Winter" This will be our last meeting at Ford Community & Performing Arts Center at 15901 Michigan Ave, Dearborn, Mich. in Club Room 1. Meeting starts at 7pm and ends at 9pm ALL are most welcome! Since this is a Government facility, if you are not vaccinated you must wear a mask. Thanks for your understanding.

NOTE - Effective with the January 2022 meeting, The Michigan Railroad Club will be meeting at the Maplewood Community Center located at 31735 Maplewood in Garden City, Mich. We will meet in the Maple room which is in East wing of Building. Meetings will start at 7pm and end at 8:55pm. Here is the schedule -

January 05, 2022: East Jordan & Southern and other interesting thing by Mark Cowles.

February 02, 2022: New England Holiday, Pt. 2 by Brad Noles.

March 02, 2022 and April 06, 2022: TBA

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

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.

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

INDY JUNCTION 2022 – A NEW CONVENTION MODEL FOR A NEW ERA IN CONVENTIONS

Are your bags all packed? Are you ready to go? If so, you're a little early for the next North Central Region Convention. Next year is Indy Junction 2022, scheduled for May 18-22, 2022, in Indianapolis, Indiana - www.IndyJunction2022.org . If you're thinking that's not part of the North Central Region, you are absolutely correct. This will be a three-region event, with the Midwest Region, the North Central Region, and the Mid Central Region plus the RPM Conference, formerly known as the Chicagoland RPM (Railroad Prototype Modelers). That means four times the number of clinics to draw from for some great clinics (www.indyjunction2022.org/Clinics).

During the convention you will have the opportunity to experience the best of an NMRA Regional Convention, an NMRA National Convention, a National Narrow Gauge Convention, and an RPM Conference Meet, all in one location, at a substantially lower cost.

While neither the NMRA National Convention nor the National Narrow Gauge Convention are involved, we are using some of the features of those events for the convention.

The RPM Conference will be participating as an equal partner in the convention. All attendees will be allowed to attend all clinics – NMRA or RPM – at no additional charge. Given that this is a four-day convention, expect at least twice as many clinics and many times the variety of clinics as you'd see at a usual NMRA Region convention. The RPM Conference is also bringing display models for you to marvel at, although they will not be entered into the NMRA model contest. As an Indy Junction 2022 convention attendee, you will have free access to the RPM Conference clinics, the model display room, and the modular layout they are setting up.

In addition to the clinics described above, a Modeling With the Masters (MWTM) clinic will be led by Master Model Railroader® Sam Swanson from Mid Central Region's Division 7. The clinic will focus on weathering with acrylic paints. Unlike all other clinics, to cover the cost of materials, there will be a small additional charge to attend and participate in this make-and-take clinic. Sam is well-known for his expertise in super detailing and weathering models, so be sure to register early for this activity.

But wait, there's more! We've already told you that we're combining what you'd see at a convention hosted by any of the three host NMRA Regions plus the RPM Conference into a single 4-day event. Keep with us in this article and visit the links listed toward the end of this article for all the details.

Clinics? Layout Tours? Operating Sessions? Prototype Tours? Non-Rail Activities? Model Contests? All yes, yes, yes! Plus, a special Friday night "Friends of the Freight Car" dinner organized by the RPM Conference, the opportunity to participate in an Indy Junction 2022 T-TRAK modular layout, a Rail Yard Sale (white elephant), and more.

Layout tours will be during the afternoon – and they're ALL self-driving. You will be able to spend as much time as YOU want at each stop during each layout's available hours. No bus layout tours at this convention and no night-time driving to get to the layouts, either. All clinics that run during layout tour time will be repeated at times when there are no layout tours scheduled.

Like layout tours, most operating sessions are being scheduled for the afternoons. Because of layout owner and crew availability, and conflicts with also hosting layout tours, some operating sessions will be during the evenings. For both layout tours and operating sessions, we have some confirmed and some tentative. Be sure to check the www.IndyJunction2022.org website for a full list of confirmed layouts and for descriptions about those layouts.





Marriott East, 7202 E 21st St
Indianapolis, IN 46219



Four Full Days
Three NMRA Regions
And the RPM Conference
Three Day Train Show
One Convention
May 18-22, 2022



Clinics
Layout Tours
Ops Sessions
Prototype Tours



www.IndyJunction2022.org



RPM
CONFERENCE



INDY JUNCTION 2022 – A NEW CONVENTION MODEL FOR A NEW ERA IN CONVENTIONS

Included as part of your registration to Indy Junction 2022, at no additional cost to you, is admission to the THREE-day train show on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. When the Train Show opens on Friday, it will be open exclusively to Indy Junction 2022 Convention attendees for several hours. After that time, it will also be open to the public (with an admission charge) for the remainder of the Convention. As an attendee, you will pay nothing additional to have full access to the Train Show all three days. This event will feature as many as 156 exhibitors who will primarily be smaller but well-known manufacturers who will sell direct to you as an attendee during the train show. We will also have several modular layouts setup and running during the show.

We have two confirmed off-site tours available. First is the Whitewater Valley Railroad bus tour on Friday. This is an all-day tour to an excursion railroad that will include a 3-hour round trip train ride and a walk-around visit of the railroad's facilities at the end of the ride. Lunch will be on your own during the 2-hour layover at the turn-around point. The bus tour is limited to 40 participants and will cost \$40.00 per person, not including lunch. The second tour is of the Amtrak Beech Grove repair facility in Indianapolis on Saturday. This extremely rare opportunity tour is limited to only 20 participants. To keep the cost of this tour to an absolute minimum of \$20.00, this is a self-driving tour. The trip from the hotel to the Amtrak facility should take about 15 minutes.

The "Rail Yard Sale" is the new name for the White Elephant Sale or Company Store. This is where you will be able to sell your excess or unwanted model railroad or prototype railroad items and buy someone else's. This sale is totally separate from the train show. For both sellers and buyers, it will be available only to convention attendees. Items must be registered either Wednesday or Thursday with sales on Thursday and Friday. Seller reconciliation will be Saturday with 10% going to Indy Junction 2022. This will be a cash-only event.

Both convention and hotel registration are open now. While these are the basic convention fees, there are additional fare charges for the Friends of the Freight Car Dinner, tours, and the MWTM event:

- \$85.00 Early Registration - Opening Registration to December 31, 2021
- \$95.00 Registration - January 1, 2022, to April 27, 2022
- \$110.00 Late Registration - April 28, 2022, to May 21, 2022
- \$25.00 additional Family Member(s) Registration - any date

Indy Junction 2022 is being held at the Indianapolis Marriott East (7202 East 21st St, Indianapolis, IN 46219). This location is away from downtown and away from all Indy 500 Race preparation activities. We've arranged reasonable room rates for Indy Junction 2022 convention attendees. (\$132 per night plus applicable taxes). There's easy access from I-465/I-70. Regardless of what the hotel website shows, Indy Junction 2022 convention attendees will have FREE parking during their stay. Be sure to register for your rooms at the hotel through the link on the Indy Junction 2022 website.

The convention will be a full day longer than most NMRA Regional conventions so that we can get in all the content we will have available for our attendees. With the lower room rate and free parking, it's going to be a LOT less expensive for you to attend this convention than an entire week in a downtown venue at some other model railroad convention next year. Although you won't see a big arch in Indianapolis, spending a few days in late spring will be much more comfortable than being out in the middle of the summer, and for almost everyone in the three host regions, it will be a much shorter drive to get to Indianapolis and to get home.

Four Full Days, Three Regions plus the RPM Conference, Three-Day Train Show, One Convention. What a deal! If you're going to go to just one model railroad convention in 2022 - THIS is the one!

As always, stay tuned for more info. There are still many things in the planning stage so be sure to visit the convention website <http://www.indyjunction2022.com> and to sign up for regular updates. And also visit the Indy Junction 2022 Facebook page for more information <https://www.facebook.com/indyjunction2022>



PULLMAN SLEEPER SERVICE BEFORE THE AUTOMOBILE *continued from the September issue of the HotBox...*

C&A #19 (a no-name train) left Chicago at 12:15 AM and arrived at Peoria at 7:00 AM and carried a Pullman sleeper. Chicago to Peoria is only 160 miles, but in 1916 there was no paved roads between these two cities. C&A # 6 (another no-name train) left Peoria at 12:01 AM and arrived at Chicago at 7:00 AM and carried a Pullman sleeper.

All of the preceding operation was taking place on almost a daily basis in June 1916 on the Chicago & Alton which was not one of the nation's big railroads. If all of this Pullman sleeper activity was taking place on a small railroad like the C&A, it doesn't require much imagination to visualize the amount of Pullman sleeper activity on larger railroads, such as the NYC, Pennsylvania, B&O, Santa Fe and many others. From that point on, things went downhill in a hurry for the C&A. Each Year, there were more automobiles and better roads. By 1928, you could drive from Chicago to St. Louis or Kansas City in one day.

The through Pullman sleeper that was pulled off of the C&A train and moved to another train at a different station became too expensive for the average small railroad to handle. You could still buy a through ticket (St. Louis to Bay View), but you now had to physically change trains. The number of main line passenger trains on the C&A between Chicago & St. Louis was reduced and the remaining trains on this route carried fewer passengers.

Since the C&A route from Chicago to Kansas City was not a straight line it lost passengers to competing railroads, such as the CB&Q and the Rock Island. In 1928, the C&A took delivery from the St. Louis Car Company of a motor car and trailer with more to follow. This equipment was all that remained in the way of passenger service on the C&A west of the main line between Chicago & St. Louis.

In the summer of 1941, I got on this doodle-bug train at Ashland, Ill. The first car was the motor car and baggage, so I got aboard the second car expecting it to be a normal coach. It had coach

seats but to my total surprise it had an open platform observation at the end of the car. This was the first time in my life that I was to ride on an open platform observation car and it was a day in June and all was well with the world. I stayed on that observation platform for the whole 74 miles to Bloomington and except for a few miles, I was the only passenger on the train.

Since all of us grew up with the automobile, we are unable to fully grasp the amount of passenger trains that were running in 1916. Even if you take a railroad fan trip today, the ride is not the same because the equipment is probably 60 years old and equipment that old does not ride or perform as it did when it was younger. It's a shame that the video camera didn't exist in 1916 so some rail fan could have recorded all of that wonderful passenger train travel for us. Don Watson 4-18-94

Division 6 member Don Watson, gave these lessons nearly every month and they always entertained and informed. After Don's passing at the age of 90, his family presented them to Div. 6 and the NCR



Above-This NYC Bay City (Mich.) to Detroit accommodation train carried a New York through sleeper (last car). NYC wasn't all four track main lines and glossy streamliners. J-1 Hudson 5340 stops at Lake Orion, Mich. between Bay City and Detroit at 3.22 PM on June 3, 1949. However, on the rear of this secondary-line local train is a new all-room streamlined sleeping car which will be in Grand Central Terminal tomorrow morning at seven. You can tell from looking at this train that passenger train travel is coming to the end of the line.



Motor 2508 and trailer 2551 were built for the C&A by St. Louis Car Company in 1928. The 2508 later was converted from gas-electric to diesel; its coach section was rebuilt into a baggage compartment. Trailer 2551 had an RPO section and coach seating. When Don Watson rode this train in the summer of 1941, it was in its original form as received by the Chicago & Alton. The C&A merged with the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio in 1945. This photo was taken after the train was rebuilt by the GM&O. Two identical trains were in service until 1960.

NOTE – pictures are from the internet.



Although there were plenty of fast cars and paved roads between Chicago and New York and Boston in 1939, there were no expressways. The big airplanes in 1939 only carried 22 passengers, so the demand for Pullman sleepers between these three big cities was still high.



An eight-car Resort Special photo in 1911. The Pere Marquette Resort Special lasted until the late 30's but continually improving roads in Michigan, finally took away the passengers.

NCR DIRECTOR REPORT

Hello everybody in the NMRA NCR! Well I came through heart surgery this past August with 4 completed bypasses and am doing great! Now it is time to get started with my model railroad layout construction. AND what to do with all of the stuff I have collected! I enjoyed seeing many friends at the Toledo NCR Division One Convention in October and enjoyed the convention. It was a great move by them to put the railroad layout viewing in the afternoon from the evenings, as has been done for many years.

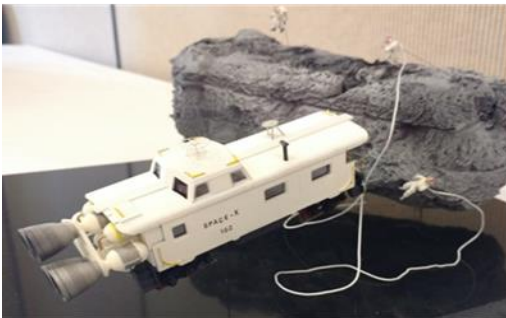
Now it is time for NCR Division 9 to begin the planning for the NCR One Day Conference which will be held in the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek area in October 2022. Division 9 was beat out by the covid on our last attempt. With the Tri-Region Convention happening in May 2022, Division 9 group has been asked to move from April 2022 to October 2022. So the planning has begun. On the Saturday of the conference, the plan is to have clinics in the morning and layout tours in the afternoon. BUT, there is now some talk to maybe have layout tours on Friday afternoon AND Saturday afternoon, because there are so many layouts to see in this area of Michigan. Most of these layouts have never been open to public viewing unless you had friends in the area or were from the area. Plus this will help avoid driving at night, trying to find home addresses on unknown roads. There might be a group dinner on Friday night. Plus Division 9 will look at operating sessions also. Stay tune for upcoming advertising over the next 10 months from the NMRA NCR Division 9 for this one or two day convention in the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek area.

Happy Holidays!! *Rich Mahaney, NMRA NCR Director at Large, Division 9 Member*

WRAP-UP BLACK SWAMP JUNCTION!

NCR ACTIVITY

Well!! That was a great weekend! Division 1 hosted the BLACK SWAMP JUNCTION convention on October 21-24, 2021 in Toledo. They had near record attendance with just over 200+ attending. And they were from more than just the NCR! Close to 25-30 participants were from states other than Ohio, Michigan or Indiana and from outside the NCR. Neat!! There were plenty of clinics, OPS sessions and layout tours. Plus, many display layouts at the hotel and at the Amtrak station down the street. There were also many door prizes and a Yard Sale area, where attendees could bring in items to sell. CONGRATULATIONS to Div 1 for hosting a great weekend of model railroading!!



WRAP-UP BLACK SWAMP JUNCTION!

NCR ACTIVITY



Below are some pictures from the great FREE-MO and G scale layouts that were on display at the Amtrak Station. THANKS to those members and groups for a fine display and addition to a great convention. Photos copied from facebook posts.



TRAIN TOWN



TRAIN SHOW AND SWAP MEET



SATURDAY DECEMBER 11, 2021

ALLEN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

2750 HARDING HIGHWAY, LIMA, OHIO

From 1-75, take Exit 125 - Go East on St. Rt. 309

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Admission: Adults \$7.00

Children 12 & under Free

NMRA members w/ card \$5.00



FEATURING:

- ◆ All Gauges
- ◆ Over 170 Tables
- ◆ Railfan Items
- ◆ FREE Parking



- ◆ Door Prizes
- ◆ Children's Activities Area
- ◆ Handicap Accessible
- ◆ Locomotive Races

Location: The show will be held in the Merchants Building located at the Fairgrounds - 1 mile East of Lima. Building will be heated with easy access.

NMRA Div 3
c/o Jim Marquardt
6905 Baswin CV

Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Phone: 260-437-3844 Email: jmmarq4@hotmail.com

 Like us on
Facebook

@3Riversdiv

You know you're a serious Model Railroader if... NCR WHIMSY

We hope you will agree that the following statements are looking at ourselves with humor in mind! There is no admittance that these statements are directed at any known individual!! Have fun reading.... *You know you're a serious Model Railroader if...*

...Every model locomotive you own is in pristine condition, while your own car can barely move under its own power.

...Being called narrow-minded is OK, unless you model standard gauge.

...You search out the hobby shop and railroad shops in every town you visit.

...Your local hobby shop is on speed-dial and you have memorized your favorite railroads emergency number.

...You're excited when XYZ announces a release of a locomotive you've been waiting on for years, but toss a fit when you buy it & discover they got the details wrong- AGAIN!!!

...Every nook & cranny of your living room and bathroom is filled with past issues of your favorite railfan and model RR magazines.

...You have the drive home from work planned out so it goes by the hobby shop, no matter how far out of the way it actually is.

...You plan all of your vacations around swap meets and NMRA conventions.

...You belong to several railway museums and actually volunteer!

...You know how to pronounce "cupola".

...You've used up all the cotton swabs and your wife's makeup and applicators to weather your freight cars.

...You immediately thereafter learn to make plaster casts out of Hydrocal using "seasoned water" to speed up the process.

...You wore a black armband the day Mantua went out of business.

...Your rolling stock inventory costs as much as your house and your slides are "priceless".

...You can always turn a conversation with relatives, friends and acquaintances into a railroad discussion.

...You have no more space on your walls for photos or railway calendars.

...Many times you have told yourself that it is 2 AM and you have to stop laying track and wiring, or get off the railroad forums cause you have to be up at 7 AM for work.

...Your dentist dreads seeing you cause he has no dental picks left (especially after you have asked him/her for the fifth time).

HotBox Special REPORT

NCR NEWS

Hello!! As your HotBox Editor, I felt that a special report concerning this publication was needed to ensure that the following news gets out to everyone and is fully understood. Thanks for your attention, support and understanding.

While it is not yet fully approved by the NCR Board of Directors, it appears we cannot escape some rate increases for the HotBox. At this time, we do not know how much the increases will be, but we're determined to make them small and hardly noticeable. The HotBox has not been profitable for many years and is now a concern. Even with some minimal increases, the HotBox will probably remain unprofitable, but by a much lesser degree. Some might suggest going to an all-digital format. That would/could decrease printing costs greatly, but not everyone wants a digital format. As your editor, I hate to push technology on people. Plus, there is a printed version commitment to our NCR life members.

NEXT... Here is a reminder that pike ads are due for renewal! If you have a pike ad in the HotBox, thanks!!, and we'll be contacting you after the first of the year. We sincerely hope you will renew your pike ad.

NEXT... The HotBox is back on-line!! Much Thanks to NCR Registrar (and webmaster) Marshall Stull for helping get this done! The past year of issues are now posted on the NCR website <https://www.ncrnmra.org/> At this time, we're not sure how many past issues we will be posting. There is an idea that we would post 3-5 years of back issues and then remove past issues as we post new ones.

LASTLY... I want to say thanks to the NCR Board of Directors for their continued support of the HotBox and myself as editor. And to you!!!, the NCR membership for your support! Please... Consider writing a modeling article for a future issue! We want and need your input.

Model Train Show

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Sunday,
Feb 27, 2022
10 am-3 pm

Admission: \$7
Age 11 & under free w/adult
paid admission



Info: Mike 586-271-6024
or mikel.j@comcast.net

Vendor tables \$25 each
Set up starts at 7 am

Register at: PackardProvingGrounds.org/Events

.....

Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site

49965 Van Dyke Ave Shelby Twp, MI 48317

586-739-4800

NCR BOD FALL MEETING RECAP

NCR NEWS

The North Central Region held a Board of Directors meeting at the recent NCR Convention. It was a quick meeting, as the Board did not want to interfere with members planned convention schedule or time.

The BoD heard updates and reports on the 2023 NCR convention to be hosted by Div 3 in Fort Wayne. They are having concerns finding a venue to hold the convention, as their original hotel closed. With the convention scheduled for October 19-22, 2023, Div 3 is sure they will find something in time! Another report was on the Tri-Regional convention INDY JUNCTION 2022. Registrations have started and said to be over 100 so far already! The hotel is also accepting reservations and it is important those attending stay at the HQ hotel! There is a room commitment that needs to be filled or paid for. All other parts of this event are going well and the website has all the information that should be needed.

A report was made by HotBox Editor Barry Hensel on the status of the HotBox magazine. While the actual publication of the HotBox is still going well, we are starting to run into a good size deficit. Publishing costs -vs- sales and subscriptions are not equaling out. The BoD will be looking at a possible increase of all fees associated with the HotBox – cover price, Pike Ads, general advertising and subscription fees.

The NCR is still seeking a volunteer to serve as PHOTO CONTEST CHAIRMAN, so if you know someone who might wish to serve in this position, please let a BoD member know.

We also had a report from Treasurer Steve Harsh and the NCR is solvent!

There were 17 BoD members attending the meeting and it lasted about one hour. Formal meeting minutes are available from NCR Secretary Norm Logan and are posted on the NCR website! The next BoD meeting will be at the Indy Junction convention in May 2022.

NCR MEMBERSHIP FALL MEETING RECAP

NCR NEWS

The North Central Region held a General Membership meeting at the recent NCR Convention, per our by-laws. It was a quick meeting held during the lunch at the convention. NCR President David Capron called the meeting to order and had some good opening comments.

AP Chairman Skip Luyk could not attend the convention (recovering from surgery) so Dave also read off a long list of NCR AP accomplishments from over the past year and a half (since January 2020). WOW! We've been busy! We had 50 individual Awards/Certificates were earned by our members. Plus, we increased our MMR count by FOUR! Congratulations to all receiving awards for your hard work and new expertise.

Dave then reviewed two By-Law changes that needed member approval. These were minor changes and after reading the new wording, both were approved without dissent. The revised By-Laws will be posted on the NCR website very soon.

There was no other old or new business to attend to and with that a motion to adjourn the meeting was made and approved.



Indy Junction
2022
MWR NCR MCR
RPM Conference

Marriott East, 7202 E 21st St
Indianapolis, IN 46219

www.IndyJunction2022.org



Four Full Days - Three Regions - Three Day Train Show
Clinics - Layout Tours - Ops Sessions - Prototype Tours

One Convention

May 18-22, 2022



CURRENT-KEEPER IN EMD NW2 by: Steve Harsh, Div 5 **NCR PROJECT**

INSTALLING A CURRENT-KEEPER IN BLI NW2

I have a BLI Paragon-2 EMD-NW2 switcher that I use for yard work. I wondered if installing a current-keeper would help avoid occasional stalling of the engine when going through one of the double-slip switches. I searched the Internet with regard to adding a current-keeper to this engine and for the BLI Paragon-2 EMD-SW7. The general consensus was lack of space to install a current-keeper, but it did not appear that anyone actually installed one.

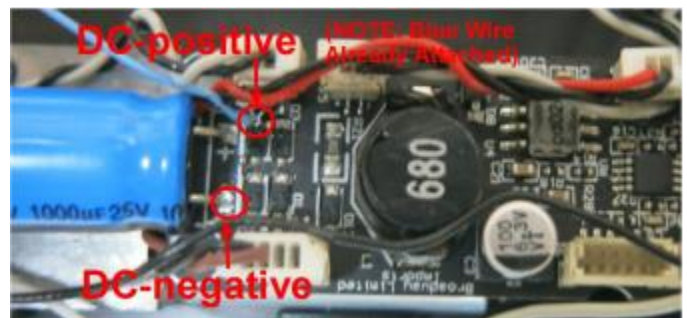
I decided to remove the shell of the engine to have a look. I first removed the two back handrails that go between the shell and the frame. Then looking at the bottom of the engine there are two front and two back tabs. I gently squeezed the shell at the front tabs and slowly pulled up on the shell and it released slightly. Doing the same for the rear tabs and the shell fully released. There is enough slack in the wiring that the shell can be set to the side.

Once inside, I observed there is a fair amount of space above the decoder at the back. Taking a few measurements, it appeared that a TCS KA1 Keep Alive (1.063" x 0.35" x 0.244") might fit and it does. The next issue was locating where to solder the wires of the current-keeper. The information of an excellent site on current-keepers (<http://www.members.optusnet.com.au/mainnorth/alive.htm>) indicated that I needed to find DC-positive and DC-negative connection points. Many decoders have a "blue-wire" connection point and that would be the DC-positive and the only thing remaining is finding the DC-negative connection. This factory-installed decoder with plug-in connections for everything did not have an apparent "blue-wire" connection point. Therefore, to find the DC-positive and DC-negative connection points will require taking DC voltage measurements using a multi-meter at the bridge-rectifier diodes. These are the four square chips located near the large capacitor. There are solder pads at the top and bottom for each of these diodes. These are shown in the photo. It is at these pads that measurements were taken.



With the engine placed on a DCC powered and circuit protected track, I searched for two solder points on the diodes that would supply +12 DC-Volts. Using a trial-and-error approach, I placed the multi-meter probes on different diode pads to eventually find a reading of +12 DC-Volts. Be careful to only touch the diode pads as accidentally touching another electrical component could damage the decoder. If I got a zero voltage reading, then both pads are positive or negative. If I had a negative voltage reading, reversing the leads yielded a positive reading. If I got a 6 volts reading, I had found one half of the rectifier circuit. When I got a positive 12 volts reading, I had found the full rectifier circuit. The pad where the positive probe of the multi-meter was located was the DC-positive and the pad where the other probe was located was the DC-negative.

Do not assume that the + terminal of the large capacitor is DC-positive as this only supplies power to the sound system and not to the motor. However, I found that the other terminal of the large capacitor could be used for the DC-negative as it shares a connection to the DC-negative on the diodes. The DC-positive and DC-negative are shown on the photo below. (NOTE: the blue wire has already been attached to the DC-positive connection point)

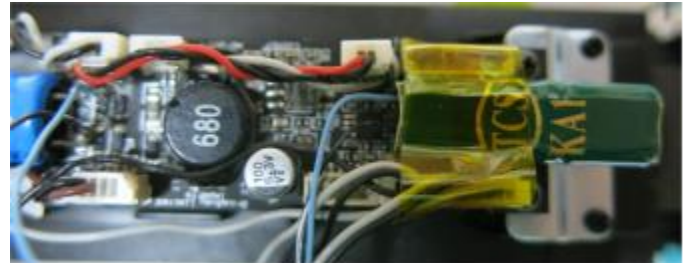


CURRENT-KEEPER IN EMD-NW2 By: Steve Harsh, Div 5 NCR PROJECT

Once DC-positive and DC-negative are found, the next task was attaching the blue wire of the Keep Alive to the DC-positive connection point and the black/white stripe wire to the DC-negative connection point. This was not for the faint-of-heart as the working space is small and the connection for DC-positive is tiny. As a point of reference, the component with 680 notation on it is 1/2" wide. Making these connections required me to use a strong headband magnifier and a solder iron with temperature control and small pointed tip. A steady hand is also needed. Realizing that the DC-positive connection would be the most difficult because of its difficult location, I started with that one. I first tinned the connection point on the diode by placing a small drop of liquid flux on the connection point and using the solder iron set to 600-F degrees to tin the connection point using a solder with 4% silver, 56% tin and 40% lead. This tinning should happen quickly. If heat is applied too long it could damage the diode. I then tinned the blue wire. Stripped off 1/4" installation, I tinned the wire with the same solder and then trimmed the tinned wire to 1/8". Using tweezers, I placed the tinned blue wire on the tinned diode and applied heat and the solder of the two quickly melted together to form a strong connection. The connected blue wire is shown in the photo on page 26.

Desiring to know if I have done any damage to the decoder, I placed the engine back on the track and everything still worked. In connecting the black/white stripe wire, I used the same process but it was easier as there was more room to work. Then it was back to track to see if everything still worked and if the Keep Alive was functional.

Everything worked and the Keep Alive kept the engine running for 6-8 inches on a section of non-powered track. The next step was securing the Keep Alive with Kapton tape. The Keep Alive was placed fairly far back to avoid contact with the larger components on the decoder board to avoid overheating issues (see photo below).



The last step was to re-install the shell while being careful to correctly arrange the wires. Once done, I have a much better running engine that does not stall on the switches. I hope you found this installation interesting and useful.



New Baltimore VFW Model Train Show
Saturday, Dec 11th 10AM - 3PM
Lemke-Blackwell VFW Post 7573

ADMISSION \$5.00 — Under 11 FREE
Call or Email For Table Rates

Info: Mikelj318@gmail.com / 586-271-0624

35011 M29 / (23 MI RD) New Baltimore, MI

Next show on January 15, Same location!

Holiday Train Display



December 2, 2021 - January 2, 2022
Thursdays and Fridays, 4-7:30 pm
Saturdays 12 pm-7:30 pm | Sundays 2pm-6 pm

Lower Level of City Hall in South Haven
FREE ADMISSION!
Toy donations accepted for Project Christmas Hope!

Visit www.wecare-inc.org
or call 269-637-4342



Are you involved in your model railroad?

NCR PROJECT

By: Bob Hana, Div 3

Sure you have a model railroad, but are you really involved in it? I am and so are some of my friends! To show you what I mean, let me introduce you to my model railroad. This is me at the town of Van Doren, where the B&O Lost Division has a small yard. Here the Mountain Branch crosses the B&O main here at VJ tower so there is usually plenty of activity for rail fans like myself. As long as I stay off the tracks, I won't get into trouble with the railroad police!



Up at the town of Smith, my friend Rick is checking out the truck at his sawmill. The sawmill is a Woodland Scenics kit that I talked him into buying at a train show. Later he built it to fit in a little triangle of land alongside the interchange with his Monroe Railway. You can see that he is involved with the layout! And he is a very good model builder too. (Rick actually worked at a small sawmill like this so he is quite involved and the details are definitely accurate!)



Howard Smith was very involved in the B&O Lost Division! It was Howard Smith who laid down the tracks at the town of Smith, which is named after him. So, it is only fitting that he should be up in the cab, running the steam engine. He also ran the coal trains on the Mountain Branch for many years. Though he is no longer active, as I told him before he moved away, there will always be a Smith on my layout. So remains the town of Smith!

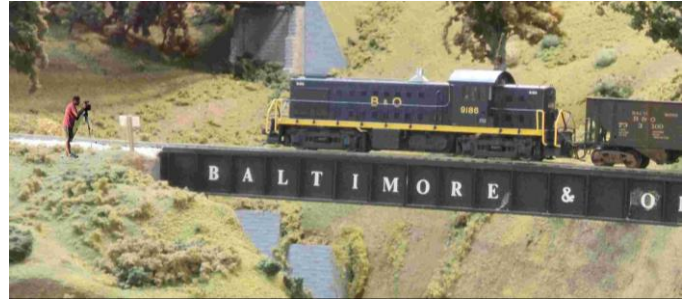


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Are you involved in your model railroad?

NCR PROJECT

Chris Wehman and I have been involved with model railroading since he and his Dad were members of the Defiance Modular Railroaders, way long ago. Chris doesn't make it over to the B&O Lost Division too often, as his passion for making rail fan videos takes him too many other places. I caught up with him at Deshler and now I have got him videoing the B&O Lost Division Mountain Branch. That's him and his camera filming an Alco RS1 taking empty hoppers up to the mines. Thanks Chris!



But sometimes it is better to ride the rails than it is to walk alongside them. So, I leave you with this last photo, taken at the station at Van Doren as the B&O's National Limited makes its scheduled stop there.

I hope that with a good digital camera and some computer photo editing software, you too can get involved in your model railroad. Just a simple cut and paste and you are there! As you can see, model railroading is a great, diverse and multifaceted hobby. Enjoy!



EASY LOCO FIX

by Skip Luyk, MMR Div 4

NCR PROJECT

The latest acquisition for my A&BR RY is this NWSL 2-6-6-2T. Originally built for the Saginaw (Oregon) Lumber Co. as their #4.



The loco has been re-motored, painted, weathered and modified for all wheel pick-up, as shown in the photo below.



Bronze wheel wipers cut from 0.006" sheet were soldered to a PC tie strip that is epoxied to the loco's bottom plate, one for each set of drivers. A very flexible wire was soldered to each strip along with the wire from the sound decoder. There is also a "keep-alive" circuit installed. The loco runs beautifully and is used where ever big power is needed.

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

We meet at Proclaim FM radio station community center at 7112 Angola Rd., Holland, OH 43528, near the Airport Highway exit from I-475/SR23 in west Toledo. Meetings are held on a Friday evening each month from September - May. During the summer (June - August) we will have field trip to a rail museum, prototype site, layout tour, etc. The exact schedule, information about our activities, member layouts, other interesting links and our monthly publication, the Train Order is posted on our website at www.divisiononencr.com

Division Two Tip of the Mitt (Manistee to Iosco counties, to the tip of the mitten at the Mackinac Bridge)

Our monthly meetings alternate between Traverse City and Gaylord or Harbor WINTERS on a Saturday afternoon at 1 PM. We meet September to May and usually have a Division Open House in August. To request meeting info and a copy of our newsletter please email superintendent.nmra.ncr.div2@gmail.com

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

Our monthly meetings are at the Baker Street Station, the iconic/historic restored Pennsy Passenger Depot in downtown Fort Wayne. The meetings are held on the Second Monday, from 7 PM to 9PM, in one of the board rooms. Exceptions to this schedule will be March, June, July- no meeting, September, December. Any updates/changes can be found on our website: <http://div3.ncr-nmra.org>

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

Meets quarterly with other special events thrown in. For additional information contact Skip Luyk, MMR at 616-363-3453 or 3165 Lost Creek Trail NE Grand Rapids, MI 49525 arcadialogger@gmail.com

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. www.div5.ncr-nmra.org

Division Six Motor City Division (Wayne & Washtenaw Counties)

Meets at 7:30pm, on the THIRD Friday of each month at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, one mile north of the I-96 Jefferies Freeway, Livonia. Division 6 meets year-round. www.div6.ncr-nmra.com

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

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

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

Meets monthly except in July and August. Monthly meeting at 10AM at the Colonial Kitchen 330 N Drake Rd, Kalamazoo MI, followed by either a clinic or a planned layout tour usually on the third Saturday of the month. An optional breakfast at 9 AM is also a part of our routine. Visitors are always welcome. For additional and up to date information contact Garry Johnson 269-365-6777 www.div9ncr-nmra.org

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

NEW- Meets the FOURTH Thursday of the month at 7 PM at Dalton Airport on Pierson Road in Flushing. We meet in the meeting room of **Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 77**, which is located in the hangar building they own. Contact Superintendent, Wayne Wilder 989-823-3409 or bvpsrr@gmail.com for directions to the meeting location. We hope you will join us for a night of fun and information!

OTHER GROUPS meeting in the NCR AREA There are MANY rail organizations in the NCR area. They can be found at www.michiganrailroads.com www.ohiorailtourism.org www.irtg.org

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

NCR TIMETABLE EVENTS!

NCR AREA EVENTS

NOTE- Events listed have been compiled from listings on www.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! **NOTE – it appears most shows are back to normal!! BUT, Please contact event organizers before you attend as “things” can change after publication.**

Sunday, December 5, 2021 - WMRC Train Show Wyoming, MI
K of C Hall 5830 Clyde Park Wyoming, MI 8am-3pm John Ruiz 616-291-5823

December 4, 11-12, 18-19, 27-30, 2021 – Stoney Creek Model RR Layout Display
Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm 1005 Van Hoosen Rd, Rochester Hills, MI
12 noon – 3pm \$5 adults, \$3 children/seniors Museum members are free
Info – www.scmrrc.org <https://www.rochesterhills.org/museum/>

Monday – Saturday, Dec. 6 through Dec. 18 - Holland Modular RR Christmas Display
Zeeland, MI - Zeeland Community Center. George. Williams 616-218-8277
Monday -Thursday 6PM - 8PM, Saturday 10AM - 1PM, Closed Sunday & Friday

Saturday, December 11, 2021, January 15, 2022 - New Baltimore Model Railroad Show
VFW Lempke-Blackwell Post 7573 35011 23 Mile Road New Baltimore, MI 48047
10AM–3PM admission - \$5, children under 11 free food available link to flyer is- <https://bit.ly/2ZWlbtv>
Info - Mike Neuendorf 860-836-0809 mikel.j@comcast.net **Flyer can be used for Dec and Jan shows!**

Saturday, December 11, 2021 – Div 3 Train Town Show/Swap Meet Lima, OH - Allen County Fairgrounds
10am-3pm, Admission: \$7, 12 and under free, NMRA member w/card \$5. Info - Jim Marquardt 260-437-3844

Saturday, December 18 – Friday, December 31, 2021 - Festival of Trains
Traverse City, MI - 322 Sixth Street Paul Delange 231-377-7333

Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 11-12, 18-19, 2021 - Blissfield Model RR Club OPEN HOUSE
109 E Adrian St, Blissfield, MI 49228 10am-3pm no reservations.
ADMISSION IS FREE, however, your donations are needed and appreciated. Go to- <https://bmrr.org/>

Saturday, February 5, 2022 - Ole Train Show K of C Hall 19801 Farmington Rd Livonia, MI
Info - Brian Klotzer 313-255-0466 (7-9pm)

Sunday, February 6, 2022 - Buy & Swap Railroadiana Toys & Trains
SS Simon & Jude 32500 Palmer Road Westland, MI Noon-4pm \$2 per person, \$4 family,
Early Bird \$15 per person after 11am Food & Drink available Contact Info – Bob Patterson 734-728-1247

Saturday-Sunday, February 19-20, 2022 – 52nd Annual Train Show & Sale
Saline Middle School 7190 N. Maple Road Saline, MI Ann Arbor Model RR Club/Huron Valley RR Hist Soc
Saturday 10am - 4pm, Sunday 10am - 3pm Adults - \$6 Under 10, Free with paid Adult
Food service available. Wheelchair Accessible Info: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club 3487 Broad Street
Dexter, MI 734-426-5100-Wed Evenings 734-426-0829-Answering Machine <http://a2trainshow.com>

Sunday, February 27, 2022 – Packard Proving Grounds Model Railroad Show
49965 Van Dyke Ave, Shelby Township, MI 48317 10AM–3PM admission - \$7, children under 11 are free.
food available contact info - Mike Neuendorf 860-836-0809 mikel.j@comcast.net

Sunday, March 13, 2022 - Greater Toledo Toy & Train Show
Owens Community College 30335 Oregon Road Perrysburg, OH 43551 Randy Ramsey 419-215-4181
10AM – 3PM \$6 per person KIDS 12 and under are free! Early birds \$10 at 9am

Saturday, March 26, 2022 - Great Train Show Novi, MI - Suburban Collection Showplace

It's Alco RS time!! Found this collection of pictures in the HotBox archives. We hope you enjoy these classic locomotives! *Left, down-* 3 images by Bruce Curry- Detroit and Mackinac 468 and 466 at Bay City MI; D&M 466 and 975, Cheboygan MI; D&M 975, Alpena MI in September 1976. 15th St. in Detroit, view looking RR west from the Bagley St bridge, from K. Borg. *Right, down-* All images by Steven Kindschy... Michigan Northern RS2 1501, Traverse City MI; Michigan Northern 1617 (in CNW paint), Cadillac MI, October 1977; Michigan Northern 2037 (in Southern colors), Traverse City MI, Feb 1977; GB&W 307 switching car ferry "Viking", Kewaunee WI, Jan 1978



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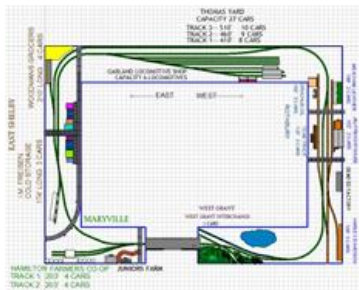
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MORE INFORMATION

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