RAILFANNING the Layouts of Div 8 NCR-MX Preview!

FINAL NEWS!!
MAUMEE EXPRESS 2014
April 25-27, 2014

CROSSING SIGNALS/GATES AT A BRIDGE?

PLUS- RR History, Timetable, NMRA-NCR-Division News & more!
HAPPY SPRING!! Well, sort-of. Yes, this is the Spring issue of the HotBox, but like any publication, it gets written a month or two in advance. As I write this, I’m on vacation in Florida at Disney and you in the NCR are in another DEEP freeze! Plus sprinklings of snow every other day... I have been keeping tabs on you. For me, it’s not all 80’s... in fact, we’re in the same freeze area. Yes, near freezing temps even in central Florida and it’s been rainy too! Not quite the “happiest place on earth” this week. Enough of my misery, I’ll be rejoining you very soon!

The MAUMEE EXPRESS 2014 is right around the corner!! In just a bit less than 2 months, we’ll be gathering in Toledo and having a blast – clinics, layouts, operations and many friends! Are you going? I hope so!

Our Divisions go through a lot of work to put on a yearly convention for the rest of us, so they need your support. The support is financial of course, but it is emotional too. To plan an event like this and not have people support you by attending can be quite a let-down. It also makes them less likely to want to do it again. Please support Div 1 and the Maumee Express on April 25-27. See you there!

With the winter we’ve had, the cold and snow, many of us simply went into “hibernation mode” and stayed home/indoors. I know I did many days! What a great opportunity to DO some model railroading! I hope you got your share done.

Well, time to do some model railroading…
Thanks for reading… Barry

MODEL RAILROADING IS FUN!

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! Corrections for the December 2013 edition of the HotBox are - a few spelling errors here and there and few grammar issues. Hope you didn't notice.

FRONT COVER PICTURES- layouts of Steve Kellogg and Floyd Simms and convention logo; Gary Evans photo/story

REAR COVER PICTURES- 2014 NCR convention logo; Chi-Town Union Station O scale layout
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**RAILROADING "WHAT THE ???"**

_NCR HUMOR_

_NCR HUMOR_

**RAILROADING "WHAT THE ???"**

Never leave your locomotive parked in a bad neighborhood!

Public Service Announcement brought to you by Maine Coast RR

**RAILROADING "WHAT THE ???"**
In this world of 24-hour-a-day news channels, it seems like life is one continuous election cycle. Just as soon as someone is elected to something, we start hearing about who’s going run for that something next! Here in the North Central Region, it’s not quite that bad, but we too are in an election year. We choose our officers and directors every even-numbered year and they begin their two-year terms on January 1 of every odd-numbered year. In accordance with our by-laws, I have appointed four members to serve as the nominating committee, two of which are not board members. They are charged with the task of preparing a slate of candidates who are qualified and committed to fulfilling the various leadership responsibilities of the North Central Region, including the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Directors. In September, every NCR member will have the opportunity to vote on these leaders. Between now and then, I’m appealing to you to consider two things. First, will you consider running for one of these positions? Second, will you recommend one of your friends as a candidate? I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again, the NCR is the sum of its parts, and YOU are a part! Nothing gets done around here until a group of individuals band together and do it! Part of my job includes hearing a lot of criticisms, suggestions, complaints, ideas, etc. That’s all good, keep ‘em coming. But for us to really get things done, we need fresh input from different people who will not only contribute the thoughts, but also the sweat. I’ve served in various leadership capacities in the NCR and Division 1 for the past fourteen years. I’ve enjoyed what I’ve done and I’ve gotten a lot back in return. I’ve met far more people and made some great new friends that I would have missed had I not gotten involved.

So I am challenging you to serve, but I am also encouraging you to gain something new. If you have questions about the offices, the work we do, the time commitment, or whatever, please do not hesitate to call or email me at 419-878-4888 or ncrprez@hq.nmra.org. Our nominating committee chairman is Scott Kremer and you can reach him at 734-420-2314 or skremer@wideopenwest.com.

This issue of the Hot Box is your last chance to see published info on the upcoming NCR convention in Toledo on April 25-27. Maumee Express 2014 promises to be a great time for learning and sharing modeling experiences. Details can be found in this issue as well as online at the official convention website http://www.divisiononencr.com/Convention/Tol edo_2014.html. We have an excellent host hotel that is centrally located and extensively remodeled. Additional program information will be regularly updated on the website in the coming weeks, so stay tuned there. On Sunday morning, April 27, we will host the Annual Membership Meeting, which will be open to all members of the North Central Region. I will give you a “state of the region” report on what we’ve been doing and are planning to do to improve service and benefits to our members, followed by an open question and answer session. I look forward to seeing you there, and hope you will register soon.

See ya on down the line,
Dave McMullian, Pres., NCR
Washington DC (April 1) –
FRA ‘OUTLAWS’ MOLDED-ON HANDGRABS
The Federal Railroad Administration today outlawed molded-on plastic hand-grabs on all freight and passenger cars on model railroads, citing safety concerns. “The little people employed in yard, train and engine service on these pikes are being injured when they appear to reach for a hand-grab expecting it to be real wire and find out too late that it’s solid plastic,” a spokesperson explained. This effectively removes a lot of kit-built and “RTR” rolling stock placed in service before about 1999, and even a large swath of cars supplied more recently.

He went on to explain that some figures in the scale railway industry had been caught beneath the wheels of passing trains after losing their grip on a solid plastic hand-grab and had suffered scrapes, scarring, and – in some instances involving the larger scales – even visible indentations that could only be addressed with topical treatments and that in most such cases an actual cure was impossible. In at least one known case, a mishap resulted in a fall about four feet to a concrete slab. The victim was immobile and had to be scraped up with a file card. Wm. K. Walthers and other firms will be ordered to provide lists of customers who the firm had supplied with rolling stock that was furnished with user-applied hardware items as a kit. Effective immediately, pikes will have to submit paperwork documenting application of wire hand-grabs on every car placed in service. “We run our pike on our own time,” quipped another owner. “We don’t have a staff that can deal with these new regulations. And during the summer, a wheel might not turn for weeks at a time.” Frodo Proto, a Walthers spokesman, was more sanguine: “Look, everyone knew this was coming. That’s why we recently announced that all our cars would have factory-applied wire hand-grabs going forward.” One reporter, noting that many of these workers appear to have a condition not unlike rigor mortis and cannot visibly bend their hands or arms without assistance in the first place, was greeted with the retort that the law requires that little people with disabilities – including chronic severe plasticized systemic stiffness (CSPSS) – had a right to work just like other little people, even if they had no visible signs of any active organic functions. “The minute we start making exceptions, people will stop taking us seriously,” the spokesperson said.

Smaller scales and the more marginal pikes in all scales will be disproportionately affected and it might not even be practical for them to retrofit existing rolling stock with wire hand-grabs. Owner/operators have only until 12:01 AM April 2, 2014 to comply. “What are we supposed to do?” quipped the General Manager of a well-known N-scale road, “file for abandonment? The minute we do that, the right-of-way will revert to other uses such as washers and driers; you’d never get it back.” Asked how the ban might affect cars that were furnished with owner-applied hardware and/or may have no hand-grabs at all, the spokesperson explained: “Despite some vague anecdotal evidence that the process of applying wire hand-grabs leads to psychiatric illness in some people – especially in HO scale and smaller – we simply cannot allow this to stand in the way of safety. Properly secured owner-applied hardware is acceptable. But we will be going after the scofflaws that are not making any attempt to apply them – even in Z-scale.”
Here are some of the layouts that will be available for tours at the NCR convention – Maumee Express!

Clockwise-
- Dave McMullian - The Maine Lines – HO
- Jim Treadaway – Stinky Creek – HO
- David Miller –
  - Cascade Mountain Railroad - Z Scale
- Bruce Birkenkamp –
  - Holland North Western Railroad - N-Scale
- Mike Bruss –
  - Union, Santa Fe and Southern Railroad – HO

April 25-27, 2014
Here are some more of the layouts that will be available for tours at the NCR convention – Maumee Express!
Clockwise-
- Jim Lang – Denniston & Jamestown Railroad – HO
- Jim White – Bedford Falls Garden Railroad - G scale
- Jerry Sahagian – Great Northern Railway – Kalispell Division – HO
- Doug Tagsold – Terminal of Toledo – HO
- Larry Hickman – River Falls & Eastern – HO
- Mike Finkler – Pennsy’s Toledo Division – HO

April 25-27, 2014
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** - The email box has had some more interesting links for you to view.....

If you have never seen this video before, you're in for a good laugh! This must have been made back in the 50's, and it's about a guy's obsession with Lionel Trains, told by his wife! Watch out guys!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIYf489Bnl

From Norm Logan, Div 6... Pickering, Ontario is east of Toronto - A cool video of a CP Train crossing a trestle in Pickering after the ice storm they had a few weeks ago. Video's being taken by "drones" is becoming quite the thing to do and they look great!! http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBy4Yrzw4jY

Building a Steam Loco, found this the other day about building a Canadian steam loco allegedly in 1928. The video runs for about 15 minutes and is very revealing about how these things were constructed. Forget about workplace health and safety here guys, pouring nickel silver into a mold whilst standing right there...also no computers to help in design then, just the old fashioned wooden jigs and templates. And I guess a brain with a slide rule behind it. http://bangshift.com/blog/watch-a-4000hp-locomotive-get-built-by-hand-in-1928-absolutely-amazing-video.html

One last one, from Div 9 Super Mike – pictures of an NS locomotive decorated with the 2014 NMRA convention logo! Sweet!!

http://akronrrclub.wordpress.com/2014/02/02/ns-adoorns-loco-for-cleveland-nmra-convention/

**BTR#2** - HOBBY SHOP NEWS- Congratulations to Nankin Hobby on opening their 3rd location in Ypsilanti! A Welcome to My Hobby Place & Toys, a new toy store that is also carrying train supplies and the HotBox! Finally, we're sorry to see another hobby shop close – West Point Hobby was sold and tried to make a go of it, but had to close again in January. Thanks for trying Charlie!!

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

**FREE-MO OPS AT THE MAUMEE EXPRESS**

Come try your hand at operating as an engineer or conductor at the Free-mo layout at the North Central Region Convention, “Maumee Express.” Using a layout especially designed to fit the venue, we have created a unique, one time only Maumee Railroad. You can sign up for one or more operating sessions at the layout. Enjoy some operating fun without leaving the Convention hotel! Bill Gawthrop, SE Michigan Free-mo
What do I get out of the NMRA?

By Bob Hanna

A friend told me about the NMRA a long, long time ago. There was a regional convention coming up and I wanted to go with my friend and see what it was about, so I joined. The best part of the convention was the self-guided layout tours. I got to see many other people’s layouts, which inspired me to do better on my layout. And hey, guess what, they have monthly meetings just an hour’s drive from my home! I was impressed by the structured meetings, where after business was conducted, they had a show and tell, a presentation by one of the members on what they were good at, and it ended with a slide show of local railfanning of either the real railroads, or sometimes a model railroad. Wow! There were other train nuts like me in this world!

And I started getting the NMRA magazine! While some of it was over my head, the standards, etc., I still picked up knowledge which showed me why this dumb train car derails all the time. So I bought an NMRA Standard gauge, and fixed some of those cars and some track too. Now I did not have a box with several bad cars in it any more, I fixed them and they would now run reliably on my layout. Thanks! Nothing is more frustrating than when things don’t work as they should. And now, when it does work, it becomes more enjoyable. And knowing how to fix it gives me a good sense of accomplishment too.

I attended many conventions over the years, both regional and several national conventions when they were close by. Met a lot of good people through the NMRA too, and I still am. Began a round robin group where we helped each other build our layouts, and then to operate them too.

Together we formed a modular railroad club and displayed it in malls and a convention, many times over the years. Maybe someone saw it and was inspired. Joined the OP SIG recently, and am enjoying that aspect of it now by hosting monthly operating sessions on my layout. This brought me in contact with even more good friends! I go to several op sessions regularly. There are two ways to look at it, of course the host is letting you operate on his layout and there are his rules to follow, (Rule #1 comes to mind, “This is my layout”). And then, the operators are helping the layout owner to run his railroad in a more realistic manner that could never be done alone, giving him enjoyment at seeing his creation come to life. A win-win situation.

What can you put into the NMRA?

Yourself. First Join. Attend. Enjoy. Promote. I have endeavored to promote our hobby through the NMRA and by other means. Worked at several Mall setups over the years where layouts were set up for a week end in November, which is the National Model Railroad month. (In fact one of the malls we used to set up is gone now, boy I’m old!) Find those in the local NMRA that you like and invite them over. Warning! You may find yourself forming a round robin group or club which can lead to enjoyment of our hobby. While I am now out of the club, (modules got heavier each year). I occasionally setup a 6’ switching layout at a train show/flea market and let people try their hand at it. The kids may be shy, but help them and they will learn. I hear a lot about NMRA membership dying off and the young kids today have no interest in it. But if you were there and could see the children’s willingness to learn and run the train, I bet there would be more of you out there doing this. I look forward to it each time. You could too.

NMRA-NCR ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

The talented members of the NCR just keep showing their talents by their being awarded more NMRA Certificates. Congratulations to our NCR award winners!!

Master Builder – Scenery and Model RR Eng – Civil – Leon J. Bangma (Div. 4)

Assoc. Volunteer - Radford W. Jones (Div. 8)

AP QUESTIONS: If you have questions about the AP program or requirements, start with your local or Region AP manager, Larry Wolohon MMR. If you still have questions, contact Frank Koch at fjkoch@hotmail.com or write Frank at 4769 Silverwood Drive, Batavia, OH 45103.
Division One (Toledo and northern Ohio)
We meet at Collingwood Presbyterian Church, 2108 Collingwood Blvd., at the corner of Floyd Street west of downtown Toledo. Meetings are held on the 3rd or 4th Friday of each month from September thru May. The schedule is on our website at www.divisiononencr.com, where you'll also find lots of information about our activities, member layouts, and other interesting links.

Division Three (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 9 PM, in one of the board rooms. Exceptions to this schedule will be September, November and March. Any updates/changes can be found on our website: http://div3.ncr-nmra.org

Division Four (Grand Rapids and western Michigan)
Meets quarterly with other special events thrown in. For additional information contact Mark Baldwin at 616-363-1695 or baldwinmw@att.net

Division Five (Lansing and mid-lower Michigan)
Meets at 1 pm, on the SECOND Saturday of each month in the basement of the Capital Area District Library, at the corner of South Capital and Kalamazoo Streets, Lansing. www.div5.ncr-nmra.org

Division Six (Wayne & Washtenaw Counties, Michigan)
Meets at 7:30 pm, 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 (Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair Counties)
Meets at 7:00 pm, 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.com

Division Nine (Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties)
We do not have a regular meeting place yet, but as per recent D-9 BOD meeting we will start quarterly Meetings, as well as other special events/clinics. Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 10, 2014 at 1 pm at The Crew Restaurant, I-94 at Sprinkle Road. For additional and up to date information contact Michael Shirey 269-273-0468 www.div9.ncr-nmra.org https://www.facebook.com/DIV9.NCR.NMRA

Division Ten (Flint and Saginaw area)
Meets on the SECOND Wednesday of the month, at the home of member Nick Racheff, 9170 Hidden Oaks Dr. Grand Blanc, MI 48439 at 7 pm. He can be contacted at 810 695-2677, nick.b.racheff@comcast.net. www.ncr_division10.tripod.com Call 810-513-5787 (cell) to verify meeting date, time and location of meeting or directions to the meeting location. For more information please contact Don W. Westcott at dwwestcott@yahoo.com or 810-513-5787 or Jan Gromada at 810-688-4986 (hm) or 810-245-9011 (wk)

OTHER GROUPS meeting in the NCR AREA
There are over 60 different model and proto-type groups within the Michigan area of NCR. They can be found at www.michiganrailroads.com

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

SPRING 2014   the HotBox   11
**Division One (Toledo, Ohio area)**

Division One is busy preparing to host our fellow North Central Region members at the Spring convention, Maumee Express 2014. Mark your calendar for April 25-27 and register now. You can learn all about the convention and everything else we’re doing by visiting [www.divisiononencr.com](http://www.divisiononencr.com). We are working hard to add new ways to share modeling content at our monthly meetings. Our activities include Show-n-Tell (bring a model), Tools-n-Techniques (bring a neat product or idea), Pics-n-Flics (digital photos and videos), and Modelers Forum, where we discuss common topics of interest to modelers across the spectrum. We want every member to walk into every meeting wondering “what am I gonna learn tonight?”

(submitted by- Dave McMullian, Superintendent NMRA NCR Div 1)

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**MAUMEE EXPRESS 2014  APRIL 25-27, 2014  Toledo, Ohio**

*Your North Central Region convention!!*

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

At our January monthly meeting, Gary Evan’s shared his images and information of the L&N bridge over the Ohio River in southern Indiana. What impressed me was: because of the flood plain, the south approach is on a trestle over one mile long. Our meeting facility, at the restored Pennsy Passenger Depot on Baker Street, features a LCD projector. We plan to take advantage of this with Power Point Presentations, showing videos, and viewing other computer programs. We don’t need to bring ours. For Bing & Brag we viewed what members had received (or purchased) for Christmas. Our planning for the 2015 NCR Convention continues. We’ve started ordering shirts. Our new division banner should be delivered in time for our presentation at the NCR Convention in Toledo next April. We’ve approved a flyer for distribution. A sample video (promoting the convention) has been uploaded to our web site: [http://div3.ncr-nmra.org](http://div3.ncr-nmra.org). We also plan to promote our convention at the MWR’s convention in May. Plans are to also visit every division in the NCR. We’ve just been invited to Division 9 in September. Our next convention planning meeting is set for Thursday, Feb 13.

See our web site for details. We held our biennial elections at our last business meeting. The current officers were re-elected for the 2014-2016 term: President: Chuck White, Vice President: Gary Evans, Treasurer: Mark Wilson, and Secretary: Dan Metzger. Alan Bell was voted in as our Achievement Program Chair. New directors elected: Eddie Allen & Dan Brown. 2015 Convention Chair: Bill Wemhoff. Our Newsletter Editor/Publisher position remains open. Our March Business Meeting will NOT be on the Second Monday, but rather on Saturday the 1st, at 1 PM, at the Maumee Valley RR Club’s Swap, at Coliseum Bingo, 911 W Washington Center Rd, Fort Wayne, IN. Our slate of monthly Op Sessions continues. See our web site for the specifics. (submitted by- Chuck White, Superintendent NMRA NCR Div 3)

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

December's Show & Tell featured railroad and model railroad themed gifts members had received in the past, including some items that they had gifted to themselves. The clinic was presented by Pete Magoun MMR called "Jazzing Up Your Layout" featuring many ideas for adding life and interest to the layout. The group then visited Rob Venske's large, in its own building, HO scale Duluth/Superior based railroad. Show & Tell for January featured models of contemporary railroading, that is, anything post the BN merger in 1970 as well as current projects. Once again, the members were treated to several mini clinics, John Bussard on installing Rix solenoid switch machines, Norm Jolin on making trees and Andy Keeney on installing fascia mounted ground throw switch machines. We then visited Tom Weaver's HO scale Canadian Pacific layout. The Division's February meeting takes place down in Olivet, sw of Lansing where we meet at Olivet College. For the last several years, it has been traditional for Terry Davis to present a hands on clinic building a model out of wood. We'll then be visiting Bill Selleck's large N scale Wisconsin Central layout.

You can subscribe to the monthly Division 5 Journal, a 10 to 20+ page color emailed publication featuring the models and layouts of the Division. Send a request to the editor, Mark Cowles, at nkpcowles@yahoo.com to be put on the list. For more information, please see the Division 5 website: [div5.ncr-nmra.org](http://div5.ncr-nmra.org)

(submitted by- Mark Cowles, Div. 5 Clerk)
**NCR DIVISION HAPPENINGS**

**Division Four**  (Grand Rapids and west Michigan area)  
We have no report for Division 4.  (submitted by- Mark Baldwin,  Superintendent)

**Division Six**  (Wayne & Washtenaw County)  
Division 6’s annual FALL SHOW & WORKSHOP was again a success. Thanks to all that supported this event with displays and help! Member Bill Deeter won Best in Show Models for a coal dump display. We also helped about 30 Boy Scouts earn their model railroading badges! We’ll do it all again next November!  Our monthly meetings continue to be fun and information filled. Recent clinics have included scenery basics by MMR Ron King, signals by Joe Bliss and building a Reading RR Tug by Barry Hensel. Show and Tell subjects have included snow removal equipment, and our usual “what you got/bought for Christmas”.  Layout tours continue to also be a monthly hit and we try to keep them scheduled. Check the TIMETABLE page for our meeting schedule.  (submitted by Barry Hensel, Newsletter Editor)

**Division Nine**  (Kalamazoo-Battle Creek area)  
The December 4th Division meeting was our first get together since the NCR Board meeting to approve of the Division into the NCR region of the NMRA. During that meeting member Dave DuChamp gave an informative clinic about JMRI. We had three non-members and approximately 20 plus division members attend, many of which brought models for the Bring-n-Brag. This meeting was at the I-94 Denny's in Kalamazoo. Thank you very much David Duchamp for your presentation as well as the members, non-members and Denny's for your facility.  D-9 BOD has decided on the new Division Nine logo, to start quarterly meetings, tie down a regular meeting spot and purchase vendor tables at local train show in our area to help raise money for the division by selling D-9 Members items. If anyone has any donations for the division or wants the division to sell their items, please contact SUP. M Shirey. Any and all proceeds go to NMRA-NCR Division 9.  The D-9 website “The MAIN” is coming. We are making progress, adding content and editing it further. THANKS to David Simmons for your help. I have come up with the idea to attract the younger crowd into the region or division by creating a face book account. This page is "friends" with many other division and regions around the NMRA. We have an AP coordinator and that is D-9 trustee Dorman Wilson. If any D-9 members have any AP questions contact him at div.9.ap@gmail.com  Upcoming events for Division 9 are- Division clinic on layout building basics and layout tour by Steve Wood and Jim Glenn; Saturday, March 1, 2014 - 10am-3pm Richland, Michigan at the downtown Richland library and Kalamazoo Model RR Club "spring" train show on Saturday, April 5.  (submitted by Michael Shirey, Superintendent)

**Division Ten**  (Flint and Saginaw area)  
Division 10 is off to a slow start for the new year. Because of the snow and not enough parking at our regular meeting place we ended up canceling our regular January meeting. We did get in a layout tour to Lansing to see Bob Truax's Great Northern Layout. Many of those that made the trip had not seen the layout and were inspired by all the details. In February, we had the same parking problem for our regular meeting so we found a space at Christ Episcopal Church in Grand Blanc for the meeting.  We expect to be back at Nick’s house for the March meeting. Division Ten meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7PM. Our meetings are (normally) held at member Nick Racheff’s residence at 9170 Hidden Oaks Drive, Grand Blanc, Michigan. This is off Cook Road between Embury Road and Fenton Road. At each meeting: we have a short business meeting bringing everyone up to date on news of Division 10, North Central Region and the NMRA National, a “show and tell” session to share current projects, followed by a clinic or video presentation.  In addition, we have started having monthly layout tours to area layouts. Currently, we are finalizing these tour dates for the next six months. Any NMRA members that have not been able to attend one of the meetings or layout tours please think about joining us. We are a bunch of model railroaders that like to get together and share our interests in model railroading. If you have a guest that you would like to bring along, please do so. Any model railroader or anyone that would like to know more about model railroading is welcome to attend our meetings as a guest when considering joining the NMRA. We are attempting to reach all the NMRA members in Division 10. If you are not receiving our messages and would like them, please let us know.  (submitted by Don Westcott and Jan Gromada, Co-Superintendents)
WELCOME to Toledo for the 2014 NCR convention. The convention committee has been working hard to bring you a top-notch regional convention that is fun, and affordable. The 2014 NCR regional convention will be Friday – Sunday, April 25 – 27, 2014. This is the weekend after Easter. Note this is a SPRING convention this year and there will be no convention in the fall. The convention kicks off Friday morning with an NCR board meeting at the hotel. Clinics start after lunch and run into the evening hours. Most of the ops sessions will be Friday evening. Saturday will be filled with clinics and layout tours. Sunday is the awards meeting and NCR general membership meeting. The Operations Road Show in Saline will be hosting an operating session Sunday afternoon, for those who want one more activity before heading home. You must preregister for all of the off-site operating sessions. Modular layouts will be open for viewing all day Friday and Saturday, as well as Sunday morning. Sunday morning is our awards / business meeting. The meeting is free. Complimentary coffee, tea, and lemonade will be available. Awards for the various contests will be handed out. Also there will be a general NCR membership meeting chaired by NCR president, Dave McMullian. This meeting, which is mandated by the NCR bylaws is not a regular board / business meeting. Division 3 has been invited to do a short promo on the 2015 NCR convention. Also, the planning committee for the 2014 NMRA National Convention is Cleveland has been contacted and invited to be at the convention and the meeting.

THE CONVENTION HOTEL The convention headquarters is the Toledo Ramada Inn and Convention Center which is located on Secor at I-475. The hotel is easily accessible from all directions. The room rates for the convention will be $92 per night, plus tax. Contact the hotel directly to make your reservations. Their phone number is 419-535-7070. Mention the Model Railroad convention to get the special convention rate. Using the hotel's own promotional literature, “the Ramada is located off Interstate 475 at Secor Road in the heart of Toledo. Our Toledo, Ohio, hotel features thoughtful amenities to help you enjoy your stay. Free parking makes it easy to come and go. In the morning, wake up to free continental breakfast and use free Wi-Fi Internet access to check email from our enclosed courtyard. Take a dip in our indoor pool or work out in our fitness center. Kids 17 and under stay free with an adult at our pet-friendly hotel.” The hotel will be the center of convention activities, with clinics, modular layouts, the contest room, and the convention store. The hotel is centrally located, making it easy to get to all of the off-site layouts. There is a restaurant on-site, as well as a lounge area where you can sit and visit with friends old and new. As noted above, there is a free breakfast for hotel guests, however breakfast is available for non-guests to purchase.

REGISTRATION All of our advance literature indicated that electronic registration would be available. Due to circumstances beyond our control, that did not happen. A registration form is included with this article. Also, registration forms may be downloaded from the convention web site. Please note that the deadline for mailing in registrations has been moved back to APRIL 14, 2014. This allows plenty of time for the post office to deliver your registration form to us. Also note that the deadline for ordering convention apparel and coffee mugs is also APRIL 14. On site registration is available as always. This year, there is no financial penalty for registering on-site.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION For more information, contact Chairman, Fred Lux, by email- fred@fredlux.com or by phone- 419-350-9197
CONVENTION MERCHANDISE AND STORE

The convention store is where you will pick up door prizes on Saturday. It is also where you will pick up pre-ordered convention merchandise. If there are extra convention mugs, they will be for sale in the store. The store will be located in room 1116, not far from the clinic rooms. At this time, tentative hours for the store are Friday, 2 – 6 PM, and Saturday 10 AM – 4 PM. The store will handle all of the pre-ordered merchandise, as well as the door prizes. To give everyone a fair chance at the door prizes, tickets will not be drawn on Friday. Any door prizes that are not claimed by the end of the day on Saturday will be redrawn at the Sunday morning meeting.

Three-button gray polo shirts with a full color embroidered convention logo are available by pre-order only. The shirts are a cotton & polyester mix. Also available are both short and long sleeve denim shirts with the full color convention logo embroidered on them. Coffee mugs with the Division One logo on one side and a full color convention logo on the other side are also available for order on the registration form.

CONVENTION AWARDS AND NCR MEMBERS’ MEETING

Because the hotel is now providing a limited free breakfast, an awards brunch will not be held. Instead a short NCR membership meeting will be held Sunday morning to hand out contest awards, discuss current happenings in the region, and present thumbnails of upcoming events. Complimentary coffee, tea, and lemonade will be available.

FREE-MO MODULAR THREAD

There will be a Free-Mo modular layout in one of the ballrooms. The Free-Mo groups will be hosting ops sessions all day Friday and Saturday. These slots are in addition to the 30+ available slots on Friday evening. Sign-up for these sessions will be on site only. In addition to the Free-Mo layout, there will be a clinic thread devoted to the Free-Mo modular system of railroading.

NON-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

For those not attending the convention activities, shopping and a variety of restaurants are located within a couple of miles. The Toledo Zoo and the Toledo Museum of Art are within easy driving distance. Also within easy driving distance is COSI, a hands-on science center for kids of all ages. For those who like to shop, both Franklin Park Mall and Levis Commons are easily accessible by car.

OPS SESSIONS

Operations sessions fall into two major categories. As of this time, there are 4 layouts confirmed for ops sessions during the convention. A couple of more may be added if the owners can find adequate help. Three of the layouts will be open on Friday evening for sessions and one will be a Saturday afternoon session. The information for signing up for these sessions will be posted on the convention web site. This information, along with an option to send your request electronically, will be live on March 1. Because space is limited in these 4 sessions, participants will be assigned to only one session. In addition to the 4 layouts referenced above, the Operations Road Show in Saline will be hosting and ops session for convention attendees on Sunday afternoon. You may also register for the Saline session online from the convention web site. Participants who are assigned to a Friday evening or Saturday afternoon session are more than welcome to sign up for the Saline session also. Finally, two of the modular layouts at the hotel, The Dalmation Switching District and the Free-Mo setup, will also be offering ops sessions. They will handle their own sign-up on site. You can operate on these layouts as many times as you like, space allowing, and this has no effect on your eligibility to operate on one of the 4 off-site layouts, or the Operations Road Show in Saline. Also at the convention will be opportunities to try your hand at the time-saver switching displays that will be with the modular layouts. Everyone who wishes to operate should have an opportunity, either on site or off site, or both.
Maumee Express 2014  
NCR Regional Convention  
Toledo, Ohio  
April 25 – 27, 2014

General Information

Date: _____________________________________  
Name: ____________________________________  
Street Address: _____________________________  
City: _____________________________________  
State: ________________  ZIP: _______________  
Telephone: ________________________________  
E-mail: ___________________________________  
NMRA membership # _______________________  
Expiration Date ____________________________

Convention Registration

Circle the appropriate registration category and enter you total fee below

Single registration - $45.00

Family (at least one NMRA member) - $55.00

Total Registration Fees $___________

Convention Shirts (presale only)

S – XL @ $20, 2XL @ $21, 3XL @ $23, 4XL @ $24

Polo Shirt – Men’s sizes
S_ M_ L_ XL_ XX_ XXX___

Polo Shirt – Women’s sizes
S_ M_ L_ XL_ XX_ XXX___

Short sleeve Denim
S_ M_ L_ XL_ XX_ XXX___

Long sleeve Denim
S_ M_ L_ XL_ XX_ XXX___

Total for Shirts $___________

Total number of shirts ordered ______

Convention Coffee Mugs @ $6 each

# Mugs _____ Total $___________

Mail to: Maumee Express 2014, Jerry Sahagian, 2025 The Bluffs, Toledo, OH 43615

16  the HotBox  SPRING 2014
LAYOUT TOURS -
At this time, there are 19 layouts confirmed for tours in and around Toledo. Most tours will be Friday and Saturday. Actual tour times and maps for the self-guided tours will be included in the convention program booklet.

**Bruce Birkenkamp – Holland North Western Railroad - N-Scale**
Layout has over 350 feet if mainline and takes about 8 minutes to run the entire layout. Scenery is complete.

**Mike Bruss – Union, Santa Fe and Southern Railroad – HO**
Layout is on two levels and occupies three rooms with scenery 100% complete. DCC controlled for operation.

**Al Grigsby – Seneca and Scioto Railroad – HO**
All steam railroad depicting from Maumee to West Virginia. DCC with Scenery and backdrop complete.

**Larry Hickman – River Falls & Eastern - HO**
The River Falls & Eastern is a 28’ X 38’ double-decked layout modeled in late 1959. The scenery is complete.

**Steve Kellogg – Coldwater Belt – HO**
Layout is a proto-freelance version of Coldwater Kansas with ATSF, RI and MKT modeled.

**Jim Lang - Denniston & Jamestown Railroad – HO**
A 28ft by 11ft HO scale layout freelanced in the late 40's early 50's located in Eastern Ohio and Pennsylvania

**Dave McMullian The Mainlines – HO**
Based on the Boston & Maine, Maine Central, and Bangor & Aroostook construction & scenery is in progress.

**David Miller – Cascade Mountain Railroad - Z Scale**
Large L-shaped Z-scale layout with mountainous scenery, double helix and can operate 5 trains at once.

**George Presser – Toledo and Ohio Central – HO**
This layout follows the eastern route of the T&OC from East Toledo to the Ohio River.

**Bob Rude – Allegany & Wheeling - HO**
HO scale 1950 – 1960, 25’ X 21” double deck is a private road that interchanges with the C&O, B&O, NYC.

**Jerry Sahagian Great Northern Railway – Kalispell Division – HO**
Linear layout depicting the 270 miles from Havre to Whitefish, Montana and the crossing through Marias Pass

**Doug Tagsold – Terminal of Toledo – HO**
HO scale Terminal of Toledo layout models all of the railroads that served Toledo in the late 1970's.

**Jim Treadaway – Stinky Creek – HO**
Mountain railroad set in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State with Shays, Climaxes, and Heislers.

**Jim White – Bedford Falls Garden Railroad - G scale**
350 feet of track with staging in a garage. The layout will operates on DC, DCC, or battery – radio controlled.

**Mike Finkler – Pennsy’s Toledo Division – HO**
Layout models the Toledo Division of the Pennsylvania railroad from Carruthers to Toledo, Ohio.

**Floyd Simms – HO and On30**
Elm Valley Short Line is a free-lanced HO shortline that depicts timber and mining.

**Ron Gould – Toledo and Western – HO**
A freelance class 1 railroad approximately 20’ X 35’. Bench work and scenery are 100% complete.

**Terry Smith – Toledo Angola & Southern Railway – HO**
A twice around the room layout with a 1.5% grade to achieve a two-level main line 180 feet long.

**NON-CONVENTION RAILFANNING**
There are several places in and around Toledo that are great spots for railfanning. There are also places that, while they look good, the public is not welcome. The convention packet you receive will include a guide to railfanning locations in the Toledo area. Bring your camera!
CLINICS   Dave McMullian and his committee have worked hard to come up with a well-rounded selection of clinics. The clinic presenters and titles are listed below. The presentation times have yet to be set.

Chuck White- Motorcars/Railcars/Speeders
Bill Gawthrop- Free-mo 101/102/103
Jim Foster- A Philosophy of Portable Layouts
Vince Robinson- Steam Locomotive Systems
Phil Gliebe- Design of Small Shelf Layouts for Operations
Bob Blake- EduTrain 1/2/3
Phil Gliebe- Kit-Bashing HOn30 Motive Power
Terry Davis- Scratchbuilding & Constructing Kits
Gary Evans- Simplified Signaling for Modelers
Rich Mahaney- Perishable Operations in the 50s
Rich Mahaney- Quick Industries for Your Model RR
Ron King,MMR- (a scenery topic to be determined)

Some of these clinics may have been presented before at an NCR convention and some are making their first appearance in the NCR. Most clinics are self-explanatory, but we would like to highlight a couple. The EduTrain clinics are part of a new national program aimed at division officers and program leaders. Our presenter, Bob Blake, is the national leader for this program from NMRA. He is coming in to Toledo specifically to put on these clinics for NCR. Of course, you don’t have to be a current division officer or program leader to participate in these clinics. Note that this is a series, but it remains to be seen whether Bob will do a 2 or 3 clinic sequence. Another first for NCR is the 3 clinic series on Free-Mo. This goes hand in glove with the Free-Mo setup in Ballroom 4. More information about the Free-Mo presence at this NCR convention will be covered in the section about the modular layouts. As the clinics are assigned time slots, updates will be made to the Convention web site. In addition to the clinic schedule, you should also find thumbnail descriptions of each of the clinics on the convention web site.

MODULAR LAYOUTS ON DISPLAY   In addition to these listed, there will be a number of Timesaver layouts on display. Attendees will have the opportunity to try their hand at various switching puzzles.

S.E. Michigan Free-Mo - A contemporary HO scale layout following the Freemo modular design. Members from Michigan, Ohio, and Massachusetts, will be running continuous Ops on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
Northwestern Ohio Modular RR - An HO scale contemporary layout depicting various city, industrial, and rural scenes, based on no particular prototype. Members are from Toledo and the NW Ohio region.
Great Lakes HOn30 Modular Group - A narrow gauge layout representing the two foot gauge railroads that ran in Maine during the late 19th/ early 20th century. Members are from Ohio and Michigan.
Dalmation Switching District - A large HO portable layout set in 1957. The layout depicts a branch line from two yards and a switching district. Attendees will have the opportunity to operate on this layout.
Burning River N Society - An N scale modular layout depicting small town and rural areas in Ohio. Members are from the Cleveland area.
Boo Coo Module Group - An HO scale modular layout set in the 1950's to the present. A wide variety of railroads are represented on the layout. Members are from Michigan and Ohio.
Swanton Area Model Railroad Club - Two layouts will be on display, both N scale. The layouts contain a variety of contemporary scenes, with many prototype railroads represented.
Roger Jenson - An On30 layout representing a quarry operation.

CONTESTS   There will be the usual NMRA sanctioned photo and model contests. Judging will be Saturday. The Owens meeting room will house the contests and will be open for drop off and viewing Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. The contest room will be closed for judging at noon, and then reopened for viewing and pickup after the judging is complete. Because the Owens is a small room, we will not be judging modules at this convention. Photographs will be taken of the winning entries and shown at the Sunday awards meeting. Awards for contest entries will be presented Sunday morning. Rules for contest entries can be found at http://www.nmra.org/convention/contests/judgeguidelines.html
Sometimes one encounters a scene that just does not make sense at first glance. Refer to Picture 1.

This scene is looking north on the Indiana-Ohio State Line Road just west of Hicksville, OH. The railroad is the CSX main line across northern Indiana.

As one ponders why an overpass needs crossing gates, a long eastbound train dutifully shows up at 10:57 AM and rolls quickly across the deck bridge (Picture 2).

As the sound of the train fades into the distance, one hears another train idling to the east. After waiting for a signal, the westbound train (also long) makes its appearance at 11:10 AM (Picture 3)...

and shows us why the crossing gates are needed (Picture 4). Note the extra gate for the north track beyond the bridge.

As shown in the pictures, this location is in a geographic depression and this is a double-track main line. Questions answered!!

The westbound train, using the north track, is coming downgrade from Hicksville. The south track was raised to reduce its eastward climb. See Picture 5, looking east toward Hicksville.

Modeling Notes:
Have you ever built two vertically-separated parallel tracks too close to each other? It might be the perfect opportunity to model this combination overpass and crossing scene. Note the restricted height sign in Picture 6. Also note the single gate on the south end of the crossing closes before the gates protecting the north track.

Caution: If you visit this location, make sure you and your vehicle are visible to the road traffic approaching from the higher ground to the north and south. As always, no trespassing.
STEAM LOCO WHEEL WEIGHTS – PRT 2

I purchased a HO scale Hudson (4-6-4) locomotive and made a test run around the layout. Since this item is only a model of the real McCoy, it is gear driven (like a diesel) but it does have drive and side rods like a steam locomotive. As the engine races down a section of straight track I could see the boiler whip from side to side in response to the movement of the drive rods. I now understood why the Chicago Great Western had to replace the existing rail on its entire main line with heavier rail when it began using Texas type (2-10-4) locomotives.

It also made me start to think about the big counter weights that I used to see on the drive wheels on the big locomotives. I studied engine photos of the Chicago & North Western from 1848 to 1956. The oldest locomotive that I could find with wheel weights was built in 1854, but there is a note that the engine was rebuilt in 1861 and again in 1880. The photo was taken in 1880. I feel certain that this engine was built without weights and the weights were added in the 1880 rebuilding. Another photo of a locomotive built in 1859 also shows some very primitive weights, but the photo was taken in 1871. A photo taken in 1873 of a new wood burning 4-4-0 built that year shows no wheel weights. I suspect that some locomotive builders began to use wheel weights in the 1870’s and by the 1880’s all builders were using wheel weights. The wheel weights on a steam engine serve the same basic purpose on a locomotive that the weights on your tires serve when you have your wheels balanced.

This following story was told to me by a retired steam locomotive engineer and while I have no reason to doubt his tale, I have omitted all names. It does illustrate however what can happen when the wheels are out of balance.

It is the mid 1950’s and although there are many steam locomotives still in use, such locomotives are no longer being manufactured. Whenever a steam engine goes to the bone yard, it is replaced by a diesel. On a summer day a Berkshire (2-8-4) has completed its run in a major city of a particular railroad. On its approach to this major city, a stalled truck on the right of way, forced the engineer to make an emergency application of the brakes. A collision with the truck was averted, but when the engineer left his Berkshire at the engine terminal he reported 8 flat wheels to his superior.

This terminal was not equipped to repair flat drive wheels on a Berkshire. The nearest facility able to handle this type of repair work was located 152 miles away. This was late in the day so the officer in charge issued an order that the fire in the boiler of the disabled locomotive was to be removed and the locomotive was to be towed to the other facility at 7am the following morning.

Per union rules a crew to do the towing was notified at 5am to report for a run at 7am. A railroad operates 24 hours a day, but the people on duty in the morning are not necessarily the same ones that were on duty the night before. The official on duty in the morning realizes that a modern Berkshire is a complex machine that cannot be towed without a fire in the boiler, without causing damage to certain other parts of the engine that will function when the drive wheels revolve. This official issues instructions for the drive rods to be removed from the Berkshire so that the pistons and certain other mechanisms will not operate when the engine is being towed.
Removing the drive rods from a Berkshire is a time consuming job and the crew that had been called for a 7am towing job has been told to stand by. The crew leaves a phone number with the call boy and departs, but the phone number left with the call boy is a phone in the back room of a local bar. The crew is upset because they were awakened at 5am and told to report for work at 7am which they did and now they have been told to stand by for what may be another two hours, so while they are voicing their frustration against the railroad they decide to have something to wet their whistle. Now I don’t know what they had to satisfy their thirst, but I’d bet my life’s savings that it wasn’t diet cola!

Some two hours later, the crew is told to report to the ready track, where their short train is ready, a locomotive followed by a disabled Berkshire with drive rods removed, followed by a caboose. Of all the rods on the drive wheels, the drive rods are the heaviest. The counter weight that is a permanent part of the drive wheel to which the drive rod has been removed, now means that this wheel is out of balance on both sides of the engine, so the crew has been given written orders not to exceed 30mph on its trip to the other terminal.

The main line between the two terminals is designed for high speed, but it’s single track with numerous sidings. The short train that is the focal point of this story has left city A headed for city B, but any train that it may meet on any of the passing sidings will be traveling toward city A. The engineer of the short train is still upset because of the two hour uncalled for delay in city A and realizes that the main line was designed for high speed and he would like to make up for the two wasted hours in city A, so ignores the 30mph limit and settles for 60mph whenever the signals and conditions will allow it. Neither the fireman nor brakeman in the locomotive, nor the conductor and brakeman in the caboose offer any complaint.

At this point in time radio is in use on this railroad. After the tow train makes its first meet at a passing siding, the engineer of the train headed for city A pulls out onto the single track and soon discovers that the roadbed is in such bad shape that he must reduce his speed drastically and reports his complaint over the radio. The operator at the receiving end of the radio message, makes a mental note of the situation, but feels in his own mind that the engineer is making an excuse for not meeting schedule, so at the moment no action is taken.

Every time the tow train meets a train on a passing siding, the engineer of the train headed toward city A radios in a similar complaint. After several such complaints, the receiving operator suddenly begins to realize that all is not going according to plan and some higher-up the line ought to be informed. But it does take a little while to work your way up the chain of command due to people being on the phone and people being in meetings, but finally things begin to fall in place and when the crew of the tow train gets to city B and reports in they are met by certain high officials and are suspended.

I cannot report the results of what happened to each and every member of the train crew, but I can state, that the following morning certain restrictions as to miles per hour appeared all along the right of way between city A and B, track work began immediately and it required 6 months before all of the repair work was completed.

Don Watson July 22, 1988

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.

YOUR article could be appearing RIGHT HERE!! Please consider writing an article for a future issue of the HotBox!! Fame, Fortune (not really) and points toward your MMR await you when you write a HotBox article!
Hi all, Attached are a few photos that I took at Durand, Michigan in the summer of 1969. My friend Jerry Hurt and I spent the afternoon train watching there and we met two other railfans, Barry Carlson and Wendell Grove. In the top photo, Barry is on the extreme left and Wendell is on the extreme right. Jerry is in the middle with the plaid shorts. The photos depict Durand in days gone by; what a great place to train watch!

Doug N Leffler

Of course, your HotBox Editor really likes that last boxcar in the 2nd right photo! Cool!
OTHER HOBBY SHOPS in the NCR
First Place Hobbies, Bluffton, IN
Phil’s Hobby Shop, Fort Wayne, IN
The Gladieux Train Depot, Oregon, OH
Jackie’s Trains & Gifts, Erie, MI
Whistle Stop Hobby, St Clair Shores, MI
Rider’s Hobby, Grand Rapids & Flint, MI
Please visit your local hobby shop!
LINKS TO MISSING FORMS FROM CONVENTION INSERT
Cleveland 2014  Many of you have received the February issue of NMRA Magazine with the 2014 Convention insert. Because of a printing problem, three registration pages were not printed. These pages included the merchandise order forms for men's and ladies' shirts, convention cars and other items, and the Extra Fare order form for ordering banquet tickets and registering for Modeling With The Masters clinics. You can register online and purchase any of the items mentioned through the NMRA Company Store without the missing forms. For those that want to print out the forms and mail them in with payment you can print them from the 2014 Convention website: http://www.2014cleveland.org/registration.htm Completed forms and payment should be mailed to: NMRA  P.O. Box 1328  Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328

NCR DIVISION HAPPENINGS

Division Eight  (Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair Counties)
Division 8 has continued to meet on the Third Thursday of every month. At Division 8 meetings during the quarter, members have enjoyed a variety of clinics and presentations over the past three months, ranging from: The November meeting focused on a recap of the NCR Convention and the success and challenges experienced by the Convention Committee. Meeting attendees felt that overall, the Convention was a success. The December meeting featured the Division 8 annual slide show. A number of Division 8 members displayed their favorite slides to the enjoyment of meeting participants. The January clinic was given by Division 6's John Bopp. John described the evolution of the tank car from its early mid-19th century beginnings up through the early 20th century. John also display numerous examples in HO scale of this tank car evolution.
(submitted by, Bill Gawthrop, Secretary)

NCR TIMETABLE 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!

MICHIGAN RAILROAD CLUB PROGRAM LIST 11
March 05, 2014  MRC Member Jim Bradford, Movie NS 611 and SLSF 1522, Macon to Atlanta
April 02, 2014  MRC Member Andrew Waggoner, PPT “Vintage Lost & Found”
May 07, 2014  Mr.  Carl Bajema, PPT on Grand Rapids Streetcars
Meetings are held at the Henry Ford Centennial Library, 16301 Michigan Ave, Dearborn, Mich. Meeting starts at 7 pm with program starting around 7:30 pm. We must be out of the library by 9 pm. I like to have a “Newsreel” before the main program so if YOU have slides, video, digital of a current event (from a month or two ago) why not share it with other members. Contact: Kenneth Borg 3512 Merrick, Dearborn, MI 48124

Saturday, March 1, 2014  Maumee Valley Railroad Club Model Train Show & Swap
Coliseum Bingo  911 W. Washington Center Road  Fort Wayne, IN 46825
9:00 am to 2:00 pm  $5.00 Adults, $7.00 Families, age 12 and under free
Vendors, layout, on site concession stand, free parking, historical and other organizations represented
Contact Information  Richard Insley  (260)482-2203  Website  http://maumeevalleyrailroad.com

Sunday, March 9, 2013  “Ray Nikolai’s” Model Train and RR Memorabilia Show
Sponsored by- Bluewater Chapter NRHS and Society of N-scalers
Gibraltar Trade Center  15525 Racho Rd  Taylor, MI 48180
10am – 3:30 pm  $4  Children 12 and under free when accompanied by an adult.
Operating layouts, toys, railroad collectables, art, model trains all scales, food onsite, free indoor kiddie train ride  wheelchair accessible  Contact Info- John Moore 248-541-1000  Shawn Barrick 810-444-5238
NCR TIMETABLE   EVENTS!

Sunday, March 9 and April 6, 2014  Wolverine Train Club Show
United Food & Commercial Workers Hall  876 Horace Brown Drive  Madison Heights, MI 48071
10 A.M.-3:30 P.M.  $3.00 per person
Food service provided by The Madison Heights Lions Club  Contact Information- Bob Burgee 586-662-0225

Sunday, March 9, 2014  Toy Train / Collectible Show
Owens Community College (SHAC)  30335 Oregon Road  Perrysburg, OH 43551
Early Birds: 9am - 3pm General: 11am - 3pm  Early Birds: $8  General Adult: $6  Children 12 and under: Free
The Greater Toledo Train & Toy Show has moved to a larger, newer venue in 2014. Tons of exhibits, plus dealers from all over the country bringing collectible toys and trains of every kind and description. Plenty of FREE parking. Contact Information- Randy Ramsey  419-215-4181  trainmasters@bex.net

Saturday, March 15, 2014  Pere Marquette 1225 Return to Rails Excursion
Steam Railroading Institute  405 South Washington St.  Owosso, MI 48867
9:00 AM  Tickets Starting at $124.00
We are inviting you to join Railyard Productions for the "1225 Return To Rails Excursion". Tickets will start at $124.00 per person for coach seating. First class and caboose seating will also be available. There will be photo opportunities so be sure to bring your camera!  Tickets are available at www.railyardproductions.com
Contact Information  George Dines, Vice President  Railyard Productions  Phone- (517) 290-9652
Email- gdines@railyardproductions.com  Website  http://www.railyardproductions.com

Costick Community Center  28600 11 Mile Rd.  Farmington Hills, MI
10am-4pm  $5 per person, children under 12 free with paid adult
Operating layouts, railfan films, model railroad and rail memorabilia show and sale.
Contact Information- Pierre Willermet c/o Redford Model RR Club  PO Box 40225  Redford, MI 48240
email- Pierre@hbc-benefitsandeducation.com  or call 734-953-2546

Sunday, March 23, 2014  34th Annual Mid-Michigan Model Train Show
Finch Fieldhouse - Campus of Central Michigan University  Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
11am - 4pm  $4.00/person  Children under 10 are free.  Free parking.
200 vendor tables, operating display layouts in HO, N, Live steam and Lego, door prizes, raffle, clinic
Contact Information  John Thompson  989-465-6459  redwings48618@yahoo.com
Vendor table info: Dan Foltz  989-539-7956  dannydont@gmail.com

Saturday & Sunday, April 26-27, 2014  Blissfield Railroad Days and Train Show & Sale
Downtown Blissfield  110 W. Adrian St.  Blissfield, MI 49228
Model Railroad Train Show and Sale.  Blissfield Middle School  1305 Beamer Rd.  Blissfield, MI 49228
10am to 4pm  $3 ticket includes entry into four home layouts including the Blissfield Model Railroad Club’s and Doug Tagsold’s Terminal of Toledo layouts. Also includes entry into the Blissfield Model Railroad Club’s Train Show Swap Meet, and many railroad displays in downtown businesses. Also available for an additional fee is a ride on the real Adrian & Blissfield Railroads passenger train.
No Strollers  Wheelchair Accessible  Contact Information:  Joe Watts  517-682-1048

Saturday & Sunday, May 3-4, 2014  Hobby-rama – trains, planes, automobiles and more!!
Gibraltar Trade Center North  237 N. River Road  Mount Clemens, MI 48083
Saturday- 11am – 5pm  and  Sunday- 10am – 4pm
Admission $7  Children 12 & under FREE when accompanied by an adult admission
Save $2 by bringing in a can of food to benefit the Food Pantry at the Hope Center in Macomb
Over 300 dealer tables, operating train layouts, model trains, RC planes & cars, ship building and more! Family fun, hobby raffles, food court, ATM, Parking $2  Contact Info- hobbyrama@comcast.net  586-306-5306
NCR HotBox PIKE ADS

YOUR Pike Ad could here HERE!!! Contact the Editor for details!!

26 the HotBox SPRING 2014
in the next issue of THE HotBox –

MORE LAYOUT PHOTOS
MORE HOW-TO-DO ARTICLES
MORE INFORMATION
.... stay tuned!

RailFanning Chi-Town Union Station