RAILFANNING DIV 6 LAYOUTS

OPS X-FACTOR! part 2

NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2016 IS HERE!!

NCR VOTING TIME!

ALCO’s in Michigan!

MORE TRAINS FOR MODEL RR OPS part 2

PLUS- RR History, Timetable, NMRA-NCR-Division News & more!
Hello again!! Seems like we just “talked” a bit ago... we do this every 3 months! I hope you enjoy our talks... pictures... and information.

It’s election time!! Yes, the national news is just filled with election coverage and please, DO VOTE in November! However... we also have NCR elections for you in THIS issue!! See pages 4-6 for the candidates and the official voting ballot. Please respond to this chance to set your NCR on a path to success! Thanks to the candidates for their willingness to run for these positions and keep the NCR moving forward! Let me say Congratulations to Dave on a great term as the NCR President! Dave has been a great NCR president and we’ll miss his great sense of fair play, keeping us on track and humor. Thank-You for your great service!

Hopefully you had a chance to get to the NMRA Convention in July. My best friend John and I did the day trip on Saturday to the National Train Show. I felt it was a good show, lots of manufacturers and good vendors. I did spend some money and was able to try to get donations for the annual Reading RR Modelers Meet I am also involved with. It was a good trip, nice drive and good to see many NCR members at the event!

If you missed that convention, there is still a chance for you to take in a similar and great local event – the NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2016! This is your NCR annual convention and it’s happening next month – October 6-7-8-9, 2016. The NCX is hosted by Division 6 – The Motor City Division, in the Livonia area! See the updates on this event on pages 13-15 in this issue of the HotBox!

And one other event promo I must do.... the annual Div 6 FALL SHOW & WORKSHOP will be here on Sunday, November 27th! This is the Sunday after Thanksgiving, so bring the whole family over for a model railroading good time! See the flyer in this HotBox for details.

With the NCX convention fast approaching... I have to get the Reading Lines – Central Division ready for tours.... 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! The corrections for the June 2016 edition of the HotBox are - minor grammar and spelling! We’re getting better!

FRONT COVER PICTURES- NCX logo; OPS X-factor! part 2; Ted Pilchak HO Erie-Lackawanna Mahoning Div; Bill Neale, MMR PRR Panhandle Div; Richard Harden C&NW Peninsula Div.; NYC Alco lash-up in Michigan

REAR COVER PICTURES-  NCX 2016 logo; Scott Kremer GN Cascade Div; Grand Rails 2017 logo
NCR - NORTH CENTRAL REGION, NMRA
OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

President
Dave McMullian 419-878-4888
Davemcmullian@earthlink.net

Vice-President
Scott Kremer 734-420-2314
skremer@wideopenwest.com

Secretary
Bill Neale 248-477-7875
wneale@mi.rr.com

Treasurer
Robert Baird 734-665-6408
Baird3990@aol.com

Registrar
David Simmons 734-436-1164
aarailfan@gmail.com

Directors
Glenn Joppich 734-464-6004
steambigot@yahoo.com

Skip Luyk 616-363-3453
heluyk@yahoo.com

Jay Qualman 248-676-0234
jayqualman@yahoo.com

Resident Agent
Dean Pyers 586-979-7319
dpyers@aol.com

NMRA Central Director
Peter Magou MMR
231-941-1669
centdir@hq.nmra.org

Photo Contests
Howard Andrews 734-728-4697
hwandrews@wowway.com

Achievement Program
Larry Wolohon, MMR
734-454-4816
Larrywolohon@comcast.net

Division One – Black Swap Div
Jim Lang 419-874-6962
jlang@buckeye-express.com

Division Two – Tip of the Mitt Div
Dave Capron 231-271-3352
dcglnrr@gmail.com

Division Three – Three Rivers Div
Bob Jones 260-459-6339
broadwaylimited15@yahoo.com

Division Four
Mark Baldwin 616-437-9851
mbaldwin@taskadvisors.com

Division Five – Capital Div
Andy Keeney 517-316-5660
hunter48820@yahoo.com

Division Six – Motor City Div
Mark Ellis 734-421-2673
emark@sbcglobal.net

Division Eight – Clinton River Div
Phil Doolittle 248-375-2513
doolittlep@comcast.net

Division Nine
Frank Zajac 269-598-7107
ssw819@gmail.com

Division Ten – Ten Wheelers Div
Don Westcott 810-513-5787
dwwestcott@yahoo.com

RAILROADING "WHAT THE ???"

Here’s an OOPS that hopefully gets caught before a bigger OOPS happens!

This is a heavily used mainline, hence the large ballast and concrete ties. Not sure what the rail size is, but anything that breaks 6 times is pretty worn or weak!
As the Summer draws to a close, I’m looking forward to doing a lot less yard work and a lot more model railroading! Attending the NMRA National Convention in Indianapolis in July, I picked up a lot of new ideas and techniques. And now we’ve got our own NCR Regional Convention right around the corner October 6-9. I’ve seen reports on some great things Division 6 has in store for us, and I really hope you will attend! I don’t know where we can find more model railroad info, fun, fellowship, and value than a regional convention. You’ll find everything you need to know about the event later in this edition of the Hot Box, so check it out and get on board!

Don’t forget that we’ll have our annual membership meeting during the Saturday night banquet at the convention. This is an opportunity for you to hear about what’s being done to improve the NCR’s services to its members and what we are working on for the future. We will also open the floor for your ideas, input, and questions, so mark the meeting on your calendar too. Speaking of the future, the current project I am most excited about is the development of standards and guidelines for our regional conventions. Historically, our hosting Divisions have presented some terrific conventions year after year, but there are many things we can do to make the process easier and the results better. Since every convention committee includes members who’ve never done this before, we can provide them with detailed directions on things like registration, website, promotion, tour planning, clinic programs, banquets, etc. There are online tools we can provide so that all the processes don’t have to be "reinvented" every year. We have expertise to reduce financial and legal risks and assist with contracting. Ultimately, as we move forward using these standards, we can upload reports and easy-to-use data that are readily available to our Divisions so they can see the measurable results of prior conventions. So far this Summer, a great deal has been accomplished in establishing the written framework for the standards and guidelines. Teams of your leaders are tweaking and fine-tuning the details, and this project will have top priority at our Fall board meeting. I’m going out on a limb here by hoping we can have most of the project ready for Divisions to use early next year. If you’ve got some suggestions or critiques regarding the way we do conventions in the NCR, now is the perfect time for you to drop an email to me, your Superintendent, or another officer. We believe that YOU are the NCR, so we welcome all the input we can get! You’ll see all our contact info at the beginning of every Hot Box.

See ya on down the line.....

Dave McMullian, President, NCR

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**OFFICIAL BALLOT for NCR ELECTIONS 2016**

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Per our NCR operating rules, ballots **MUST** be postmarked by **OCTOBER 15**. You can cut this out of your HotBox, or make a copy of this ballot and mail that in. Send all ballots to-

**NCR Registrar - David Simmons** 630 Louise Dr. Ann Arbor, MI 48103

**VOTE NOW!!!!**
It is time for semi-annual NCR elections! Our President, Dave McMullian is term limited and not eligible for re-election. Your NCR candidates are listed below....

**PRESIDENT - Scott Kremer**  
Model railroading is fun and that’s what is most important. Part of that is meeting new people, learning new things and when you have the opportunity giving back. I have had the pleasure and the satisfaction of serving as the NCR Vice President for the last two terms. Working under the leadership of Dave McMullian I am proud of the two new Divisions and Division of Choice, which are just two of the things that we have accomplished. For those that know me you are aware of my passion about the NMRA and my concern for its future. The opportunity to serve as the President of the NCR will give me a better chance to talk and work with others from around the country to try to insure that the NMRA will continue to be there for you in a way that meets your needs. I believe that a bottom up approach is important and I will try my best to represent your interests and concerns and to communicate those issues to those that will determine the future of the organization. As for background I have been involved with the NMRA long enough that I don’t remember exactly how long but over 40 years. I enjoy working on my layout based on the Great Northern in the Cascades. I am a big fan of Time Table and Train Order operation but love any kind of op session. I have completed five of my Achievement Certificates and hope to complete my MMR soon. In addition to being a life member of the NMRA I am also a member of the Midnight Pocatello Yardmasters and belong to the Great Northern Railway Historical Society.

**VICE PRESIDENT - Dave Capron**  
My model railroading started in the 1950s when my dad and I built a 4 x 8 “railroad that grows”. Things got packed up while I went to college but in the early 70s I observed a Kadee Coupler demo in the Frandor Hobby Shop in Lansing. My thoughts were immediate - we can really operate now. A new layout was started the next week. My current layout is a double deck 850 foot mainline that keeps 15 operators very busy for three hour operating sessions using those Kadee Couplers. We started a round robin of three layouts, The Little Finger Group, about 25 years ago, but something was missing, the NMRA was a long ways away. Yes, we could journey to division meetings and regional conventions, but the driving distance of 3-5 hours was a deterrent. With the help of our NCR President, Dave McMullian, and Central District Director, Pete Magoun, MMR, we created our own division. With the **Tip of the Mitt**, we brought the NMRA up north. Being elected Div 2 Superintendent gave me the opportunity to serve on the NCR BOD. This has given me a great insight into the workings of the NCR and its leadership goals. This position of vice president could be compared to my experience as Pres-Protem of the village council of Suttons Bay, MI. One of the expectations of being an MMR is service to the NMRA. Continuation on the NCR BOD will permit me to be an ambassador for this great hobby in a leadership role. I look forward to serving as an officer and meeting as many of you as possible at the NCX Convention. So stop me in the hall or come and say hello at a clinic. There are many great aspects of this hobby, but the NMRA members are the best. Thank you for your vote of confidence.

**SECRETARY – Bill Neale**  
The NMRA has been a part of my life ever since I joined, many years ago. The NMRA has provided fellowship, fun, and structure to my model railroad hobby. Lately, I have the privilege of “giving back” to the NMRA by serving as a regional officer. I served two terms as a director at large, and one term as secretary. I am running again for the office of Secretary, with the thought that I can provide support and assistance to those who are going to lead the region for the next couple years. The primary task of the secretary is to take accurate and complete minutes during the board meetings. Many of you have been able to visit my railroad at various open houses and such over the years. I am building an operating layout in HO scale, representative of the PRR Panhandle in 1939. I find the research and artifact hunting almost as much fun as the model building. I enjoy all aspects of the hobby, (except wiring), and find great pleasure in layout planning and writing articles for various publications. I am also a member of the Midnight Pocatello Yardmasters and belong to the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society.
TREASURER – Bob Baird  
I am originally from Ohio. After World War II, my family moved to Downey, California. In 1953, we moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to be near my grandparents. I call Ann Arbor my home. After high school, I served three years in the US Navy, and was stationed 2½ years in Japan as a Communications Technician. Returning to Ann Arbor, I attended Eastern Michigan University for 14 years of night school to earn a degree in Accounting. Then I added on three more years to receive an MBA in Finance. Mary, my wife, and I have two daughters, Julie and Kathy. They live out of state, they are married, and they each have two of our four grandsons. My working career was primarily with Detroit Edison. While attending night school, I was in customer service, answering phone calls and working on the customer counter. After graduating from EMU, I commuted to Detroit, working primarily in accounting related functions. After 32 years with DTE, I took an "early retirement" in 1996 . . . for 2 days . . . Saturday and Sunday. On Monday, I went back to work for 9 more years, as a contractor to DTE (that adds up to 41 years). Baird is Scottish and I am a member of the Clan Baird Society. For many years, every time I would hear the bag pipes, there was a calling to go to Scotland. In 1990, Mary and I took our first trip abroad and it was to Scotland. Scottish people are thrifty (not cheap) and this serves to further qualify me for Treasurer. Also, I am a candidate for District 55 (Ann Arbor Township) of the Michigan State House of Representatives. I have been a fan of model railroading for many years. Problem was that there are three criteria for model railroading: (1) Time, (2) Money and (3) Space. As a kid growing up in California, I had all kinds of Time, but homes in California do not have basements and do not lend themselves to Model Railroading. And being quite poor, I had no money. Now, my basement looks like a hobby shop with all the shelving of Model Railroad Kits. I have the space. But there is no layout. All is in reverse order and I never seem to find the time.

DIRECTOR - Jay Qualman  
It has been my pleasure to serve a two-year term as a Director for the North Central Region (NCR) and to work with the other talented and dedicated board members. In this role, I have also benefitted from meeting and interacting with a cross section of NCR members. These interactions have provided first-hand insight into the important issues and challenges that lie ahead for the region. Action on such issues is well under way and, with your support, I look forward to continuing to address them and serve the NCR for the next two years. As personal background, my involvement continues with several railroad and community historical societies, most directly the Milford Historical Society in our hometown. I am a member of the NMRA (20 years), the Motor City Division (Div. 6), and the Midnight Pocatello Yardmasters weekly operating group. In addition, my wife, Brook, and I continue to work on our Michigan Lines HO layout, which is featured in the 2016 NMRA Calendar. We are also preparing for our layout tour and the clinics we will give at the North Central Express 2016 Convention in October, hosted by our Motor City Division.

DIRECTOR - Rich Mahaney  
I have been involved with model railroads and trains since about 5 years old when that first “Christmas train set” arrived. The railroad and trains interest was further instilled and reinforced in me by my grandfather that would take me down to the train tracks in the Grand Rapids area to watch trains with him, and it has never left. I have been interested in modeling the Great Northern in an HO layout and the railroads that interchange with it, between the state Washington and the Midwest as the GN moves perishables in the late 1950’s. I have been a member of the NMRA for a number of years and severed as the superintendent of the Eastern Iowa Division (Cedar Rapids, IA area) during 2007 and 2008. I am probably most known for my model railroad and railroad related clinics and photography that I have presented in a number of states. I have taught for all of the NCR Divisions and enjoy all aspects of model railroading and touring other model railroader’s layouts of this great hobby. I am interested in working with all NCR Divisions on projects, conventions and regular meetings to increase the membership and participation by people of all ages that have an interest in railroads and model railroads. I live on the west side of MI in Gobles, near Kalamazoo and South Haven.
For our tours this month, we’re looking at many of the model railroads that will be open for tours during the NCX-2016 convention! Left-down: Howard Andrews HO traction Detroit United Railways; Jay & Brook Qualman HO Michigan Lines; Jim Zinser, MMR and the HO Copper Valley RR.

Right-up: Richard Murphy HO Canton Western RR; Tom Kosta HO GNE-Chicago Division; Mike Tranquella HO Burlington Pacific
Left-down: Ken Chick, MMR N Danforth, Hadley & Northern; Neil Allen and the Henry Ford Village RR Club in HO; John & Tanya Emley HO Soo Line Latta Sub
Right-down: Chris Stark N Colorado & Seattle Railroad; Milt Moore, MMR HO Gibraltar Railroad; Ron King, MMR HO Erie Railroad
Recap – Bruce the Carman is the deciding factor to see if your train leaves the yard! Last month, we got the ALL OK from Bruce! Additionally, there are other cards: These cards start other operations and range from a disruption such as 15 minutes to replace an air hose to OUT OF SERVICE. Working with the other members of the railroad team will break the sameness in the operations pattern as you deal with the new problems and situations.

You can find cartoons like this on line or make photos yourself using POWER POINT. It’s just a easy old fashioned flash card system. Have them printed on card stock. When I make up the deck, there are more “OK, YOU ARE GOOD TO GO” (90%) than “RIP 3rd CAR FROM ENGINE – DRAGGING EQUIPMENT”. (10%). This way the OPS session doesn’t come to a “crashing halt” by this procedure. The CARMAN testing is just an occasional “bump in the road” to the flow of traffic.

There is a deck of BRUCE THE CARMAN cards at each Yard. There is also a designated RIP track and service area for engines and cabooses. This creates the need for Box cars (parts, barrels of lube) tank cars( fuel) cover hoppers (dried sand) and gons ( scrap parts, couplers, wheels) to be switched into these areas in a timely way.

We have used CAR CARDS and SWITCH LISTS for years, but somehow we’ve failed to build in the daily issues involved in actual railroad operations, namely dealing with maintenance and real life foul ups. Including the need to respond and rectify these issues in our OPS sessions will add enjoyment, challenge and a sense of reality to our operations. Adding BRUCE the CARMAN, and his part of the operation, will complete the routing and maintaining of all the equipment on your railroad. I hope you find this adds more FUN to your operations.

Norman A. Logan, Michigan Southern Railway
NCR NMRA Div 6

HotBox BONUS – there will be a pdf file on the NCR website with full size card images!!
**NCR DIVISION HAPPENINGS**

**Division One - Black Swamp Division** *(Toledo and Northwest Ohio area)*

We will commence the new program year on September 16 after a Summer break. We have a wide variety of clinic activities, both live and video presentations. We place a great deal of emphasis on member participation at our meetings, with several activities that enable folks to share models, ideas, and images. We also have a roundtable discussion each month on a topic of interest regardless of gauge, era, or prototype. Last Fall, we embarked on a new project to study and share what we know about operations. We’re having monthly meetings at different layouts to study one particular aspect of ops, then practice what we’ve learned. Each month the host shares his layout plan, ops interests, and problems/issues, then we all pitch in with ideas. The attendance at these ops meetings has averaged almost half of our active membership, so we’ve obviously hit on a popular subject. We also incorporate some ops-related activities and teaching during our monthly Division meetings. Our goal is to help more layout owners establish operations and increase member participation in ops activities throughout the Division and Region. For regularly updated info on our schedule, meeting info, and directions, visit our website at [www.divisiononencr.com](http://www.divisiononencr.com) *(submitted by- Dave McMullian, Super)*

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

As you all know the farther north you travel the shorter the summers get. Therefore the members of Division 2 have been enjoying their outside environment. We have been looking toward September and this fall. We have Yard Events and our semi-annual Division meeting planned to get the model railroading season started. Pete Magoun, Scott Pandorf, David Zolnierek and myself traveled to Indy for the convention. It was an all around fabulous week. David Zolnierek came out of the contest room with the "Fun and Games" award for the best use of people on his Christmas diorama. This is one of the few ‘special’ awards that was well deserved. Remember the open invitation if you find yourself up north for color tour. Give me a call and we will arrange a layout tour or two. See you all in Livonia. Give us a call if you will be vacationing up north this Autumn, we would love to do some layout tours with you. *(submitted by- David Capron, Superintendent)*

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

Division 3 will be working on Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badges on Oct.15 & will hopefully be able to entice some newer younger members to our organization. We are still actively working with our Public Access TV on producing a video about Model Railroading in our area. We also will be doing several Public Relations Events in the upcoming months to promote our organization. We are putting the finishing touches on two Timesavers to use at upcoming PR Events as they tend to draw crowds of people wanting to operate trains. We will be working on getting the membership numbers up & meeting with the new members from the 6 counties we acquired from the MCR in July. Looking forward to the North Central Express in October. *(submitted by- Bob Jones, Superintendent  NMRA NCR Div 3)*

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

Division 5 had a well attended trip to Howell to visit the Ann Arbor depot, the GTW caboose being restored by the local Historical Society, Howard Ziegel's O scale trolley layout and Mark Cowles' N scale bedroom sized layout, things have been on Summer hiatus. The only activity until September is a field trip to the Steam Railroad Institute in Owosso and the Durand Depot. In addition to prototype activity, both locations also have model railroads. The Division's next scheduled get together is on September 10 at the Lansing Public Library. You can subscribe to the monthly Division 5 Journal. 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, NMRA NCR Div. 5 Clerk)*

**Division Six – Motor City Division** *(Wayne & Washtenaw County)*

At Division 6, we are your hosts for the next NCR Convention – **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2016!!** We are working hard to give you the best convention possible. Check-out all of the convention updates a few pages from here. The **MOTOR CITY DIVISION** holds monthly meetings all year long. Our recent meetings saw clinics from several members, our summer swap meet and planning for our annual **MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & WORKSHOP** event. This is a “how to do” train show!! Come with questions and get answers!! See the flyer also in this HotBox. See the TIMETABLE page for our meeting schedule. *(submitted by Barry Hensel, Newsletter Editor)*

10  the HotBox  AUTUMN 2016
**NCR DIVISION HAPPENINGS**

**Division Four**  (Grand Rapids and west Michigan area)

From Division 4, the 2017 convention committee is making good progress, look for a Division meeting announcement soon.  *(submitted by, Mark Baldwin, Superintendent)*

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

It’s been a quiet summer here in the Clinton River Division.  The river keeps on rolling and the monthly meetings keep on happening, but summer has its way of lowering the intensity of model railroad activity.  But never fear, we’ll be here on the third Thursdays of every month (summer included) and we’ll have interesting activities, presentations, conversations, and models to see.  Come on out to Troy Christian Chapel on the south side of Long Lake Road, between Livernois and Rochester Road.  Help us ramp up the activity to model in the fall and all year long.  All NMRA members are always welcome, no matter what division is your home.  You can find out more at our web site:  [http://div8.ncr-nmra.org/](http://div8.ncr-nmra.org/)  Remember, third Thursdays, 7:00 pm.  Come join the fun.  (And join us for dessert at Big Boy after.  Yum.)  *(Submitted by Phil Doolittle - Superintendent)*

**Division Nine**  (Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and VanBuren Counties)

Division Nine continues to meet on the fourth Saturday of the month at 8 AM except when a holiday interferes (Memorial Day currently) at a local restaurant for breakfast followed by a brief business meeting and our program for the month.  Our April meeting featured a visit to the HO layout currently under construction of member Greg Stonerock.  The May activity featured a trip to Grand Rapids to operate on the “O” Scale layout of Bruce Van Heiss and later the “HO” Scale layout of Tim Verberg.  Our June meeting featured an informative Lecture-Video presentation by Galesburg Historian Keith Martin on “The Orphan Train” in Southwest Michigan.  Division Nine is off in July and August.  Monthly meetings resume in September.  *(Submitted by Frank Zajac, Superintendent, Division 9)*

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

The 10 Wheelers have had an active summer, with a shop visit and ride on the 7-1/2” gauge Michigan Central Railroad in July.  Many of our members are busy in August, with Railfan's Weekend and Thomas the Train at Huckleberry Railroad and Crossroads Village.  Our meeting attendance is growing and we are looking for a larger meeting location in the Flint or Genesee County area.  If you know of a good meeting location please contact us at ncrdiv10@gmail.com.  Any questions can be answered by calling Division 10 Superintendent Don Westcott 810-513-5787 or Nick Racheff 810-265-0748 *(submitted by Wayne Wilder, Chief Clerk)*

**NCR HELP REQUEST**

Hello Barry, My name is David Johnson, recently I received a gift from a dearly departed friend of mine. I wasn't sure who to contact, but it seemed like starting with the HotBox might be a good place. I have in my possession a MOW car numbered X-105 from a A.T.S.F. work train that used to sit on my friend (and mentor)'s layout. The accompanying certificate and ribbon are what led me to the NCR. It is a Certificate of Award to Morris Hovingh dated October 9th 1971 completed at Grand Rapids (MI) Signed. R.L. Badyma (I think). I was wondering if there was any more information about the car and certificate available. Thank you, David  davejohnson188@gmail.com

If any NCR member has any information, please contact David directly, Thanks!
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 had some more interesting links for you to view.....

Ken Skopp, Train Show Coordinator for the Grand River Valley Railroad Club has produced a train show list for events in MI, Ohio and IND. This list is now on their website:  [www.grandrivervalleyrrc.org/shows](http://www.grandrivervalleyrrc.org/shows).

Had several emails concerning signals that are being replaced along local railroads. For those of you who think about these things, dig this stuff!  [www.railroadsignals.us/signals/cpl/index.htm](http://www.railroadsignals.us/signals/cpl/index.htm)

**BTR#2-** MICHIGAN RAILROAD CLUB PROGRAM

- **September 07, 2016**  Dan Maners with a program on interlocking towers.
- **October 05, 2016**  MRC Member Mark Cowles with a slide program.
- **November 02, 2016**  Open projector nite. People can bring a short program of their material.
- **December 07, 2016**  MRC Member Steve Sobel with another Great Christmas program.

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

**BTR#3-** JUST announced – Caboose Hobbies to close as owners retire. Here’s the web page with details- [http://www.caboosehobbies.com/catalog/index_brief.php](http://www.caboosehobbies.com/catalog/index_brief.php)

**BTR#4-** The Mid-Continent Region (of NMRA) is offering as its current car project a set of six 40’ wood refrigerator car kits lettered for the St. Louis Refrigerator Car Company. The cars are produced by Accurail and include trucks and Accumate couplers. Car numbers in this set are 4265, 4317, 4280, 4302, 4894, and 4836 and unique to this project. St. Louis Refrigerator Car Company was established in 1878 by Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company to transport its products across the US. At its peak about 1920 the reefer fleet was made up of over 5000 cars. The build date on these cars is 10-42. The cars are priced at $25.00 for one car, $24.50 each for two cars, $24.00 each for four cars and $23.00 each for all six cars. Shipping is USPS flat rate based on the number of cars ordered. To order contact:  [www.mcormra.org/Regional-Car-Kit.php](http://www.mcormra.org/Regional-Car-Kit.php)

**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!

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**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!!

**Merit Awards** - Tim Verburg C&O #614 for Scratchbuilt Steam Locos, 1st place

- David Capron  Hermosa Creek Bridge for Scratchbuilt Structures, Honorable Mention

**Association Volunteer** - Bruce VanHuis (Div. 4)  **Gold Spike**- Andrew L Keeney (Div. 5)

**Model RR Eng and Master Builder - Cars** - David Capron Div. 2)

**MASTER MODEL RAILROADER #576** - David Capron (Div.2)

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  [fkoch@hotmail.com](mailto:fkoch@hotmail.com) or write Frank at 4769 Silverwood Drive, Batavia, OH 45103.

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12  the HotBox  AUTUMN 2016
WELCOME to the NCR Model Railroad Convention, **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2016**! The convention is being hosted by DIVISION SIX, located in Wayne and Washtenaw counties. We are planning a great weekend of model and prototype railroading, just for YOU! Please read through this flyer-application for all of the important information you need to help you to decide to attend this event. As you’ll soon read, we’re concentrating on having fun and learning all about model railroading! All you need to do is fill out the registration page, send it in with your registration fees and you’ll be part of one of the greatest model railroad events in Michigan! OR visit us online and register there using your credit card and PayPal security services! Come and join us for the **MAXIMUM** model railroad **FUN**, all in one weekend!

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE**-
* Operation sessions available Thursday, Friday, Saturday
* FREE bag of model railroad “stuff” to first 200 registered
* NO model contest – MODEL SHOWCASE – show off your work!!
* Get a discount for participating in the Model Showcase!!
* All-you-can-eat Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday evening 5pm-7pm
* Dinner Keynote speaker, Art Single, Board President Blissfield Railroad
* 20+ Workshops on Friday and Saturday
* 30+ model layouts to visit
* Prototype tours available on Friday
* Door Prizes awarded Friday and Saturday
* NMRA Photo contests and Awards
* Silent Auction Fund-Raiser for Charity!
* Event shirts available pre-order only
* Special DAY PASS entry available!
* Online Registration available, see website!
* Event site- Ward Church, Livonia, MI
* EVERYONE welcome to attend!

For more information or questions answered, contact -
Norm Logan, Chairman – 248-444-3491 nlogan114@wowway.com
Mark Ellis, Div 6 Pres, Asst. Chairman - 734-421-2673 emark@sbcglobal.net
and visit our web pages at- www.div6-ncr-nmra.com

Open to ALL model railroaders! You do not have to be a NMRA member to attend!
ALL ABOARD! THE SCHEDULE

Here is our proposed schedule for the NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2016 model railroad convention-

**THURSDAY, October 6**  Operating Sessions by pre-register only

**FRIDAY, October 7**  Registration 10am-10pm

NCR annual Board Meeting 11am  Operating Sessions by pre-register only

Prototype Tours  Model Display Room open 11am-9pm

Clinics/Workshops starting at 5:30pm  Layout tours starting at 6pm

**SATURDAY, October 8**  Registration 7:30am-12 noon

Clinics/Workshops from 8am-2pm Model Display Room open 8am-3pm

Layout Tours starting at 12 noon  Operating Sessions by pre-register only

Dinner & Speakers 5pm-7pm

**SUNDAY, October 9**  Layout Tours starting at 11am-5pm

THE SITE & HOTELS

For the NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2016 we have an excellent convention site – Ward Church! We are at Ward Church on Friday and Saturday. Ward Church is located on 6 Mile Rd just west of I-275 and Haggerty Rd

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church  40000 Six Mile Road  Northville, MI 48168  248-374-7400

www.wardchurch.org  Since our convention HQ is at Ward Church and the location is NOT at a hotel, you are free to get your best deal on any local hotel you may want to stay at. The hotels that are closest to Ward Church are- Marriott Livonia  734-462-3100; Livonia Holiday Inn  734-464-1300; Best Western  734-464-0050

NEW UPDATES!!!...

Greeting to our North Central Region of the NMRA. Time to get that registration in! We need to send you a OPS Sign up sheet. DONT BE LEFT OUT. The crew spots will be limited, so get your registration form in SOON! Once pre-registered, you will receive the sign-up form for OPS and other items!

Got an idea for a building and want to scratch build it? Come to Lynn Wells Paper structures clinic. Ready to put in that scenery? Come to MMR Bill Neale’s Scenery Strategy Clinic. Do you have to make a million trees? Learn how to make model trees in Bill Deeter/ Barry Hensel’s Tree Clinic. With 20 clinics, this regional will be a block buster of ideas and will get you off center to start that layout, model or detailing that you have been waiting to do.

What?, need to see some layouts to get fired up? We have 41 layout display and home layouts in all shapes and sizes. From 25x25 to Jay Qualman’s 200x75. From plywood centrals to Ron Kings amazing detailed Erie Railroad layout. (Not to be missed!) Go online to our web site: www.div6-ncr-nmra.com to see previews.

What you should be doing is getting a model ready to bring for the Showcase room. If you bring a model you get $5 off your registration! Crazy right? Well, we know you’re good and we want to see it all. So bring a model and be part of the fun. This is NOT A CONTEST. Yes we will have the folks to do AP stuff. However, the Showcase room is just that. BRING IT! OK….don’t wait. Send in the registration or go online. It’s going to be a great time with your friends. See you there! Norm Logan – Event Chairman NCX16

### LAYOUT OPERATING SESSIONS

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### North Central Express 2016 - Clinic Schedule

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**NCX - NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2016**

**REGISTRATION FORM & INFORMATION**

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**REGISTRATION FEES**

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

**Dinner** - ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT spaghetti!!!

Everyone (including children under 18) must pay for dinner if you are attending. This also includes our Keynote Speaker and Awards presentation.

**Event T-shirts and Sweat shirts** are pre-shrunk 100% cotton, red color with the NCX logo embroidered in color on the left side.

**Event polo shirts** are 50-50% cotton-poly no pocket shirts, red in color with the NCX logo embroidered in color on the left side.

**NOTE:** cut-off date for ordering shirts is September 10, 2016. There will be NO shirts available at the convention!

**Model Showcase Discount!!**

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

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

Send registration form with payment by October 1, 2016 to:

*NCX Registrar 42167 Ridge Road West Novi, MI 48375*

ON-LINE registration available at www.div6-nrma.com

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*Model Showcase DISCOUNT = $5 (only 1 discount per person, not per model!!)*

**TOTAL**
MY 3-RAIL TRACK CLEANING CAR

By Bruce Van Huis
I have a basement size 3-rail layout and I was having problems with cleaning my track. I have several long tunnels and a number of areas that are very difficult to reach and clean. I was in need of something to clean the difficult areas. I am not sure where or if I had seen this approach but here is what I designed and built. I started with a standard 3-rail car and added the cleaner. The following shows how I completed my 3-rail cleaning car.

Photo 1 shows a view of the finished cleaning car as I assembled it.

My first step was to travel to my local scrap yard. There in the scrap barrel I found several pieces of aluminum that I thought would work. I purchased the pieces for under $5 and headed to my work shop. I wanted something wide enough and long enough to cover the entire track with a little extra overhang. The following are the measurements of the parts I decided on.

Parts needed:
One each, Aluminum.
- 1/4 x 1 x 4 inches
- 1/4 x 2 x 4 inches
- 1/8 x 2 x 4 inches
Two each, shoulder bolts, 1/4 x 1 inch some cars require a 1/4 x 1 1/4

Drill and tap the 1/4 x 2 x 4 with a number 26 drill and tap for 10-24.
Drill the 1/4 x 1 x 4 with a 17/64 drill. If the 17/64 is a little tight you may have to enlarge to a 9/32 drill.
Drill the 1/8 x 2 x 4 with a 3/16 drill.

One car drying chamois cut into 2x5 strips.

Photo 2 shows a view of the parts I used. I started by cutting the scrap aluminum I had purchased into the proper size pieces. I then clamped all three parts together and drilling 2 number 26 holes in them. This would allow me to tap the first 1/4 x 2 x 4 inch part.

I then drilled the 1/8 x 2 x 4 part with the 17/64 drill bit. The last part was then drilled with a 3/16 drill bit and then I used epoxy to glue it to the top surface of my car. After the epoxy had set I just had to drill thru the car and the job was finished.

Photo 3 shows the cleaning car with the top removed. One can see how the shoulder bolts and the cleaning pad are utilized.

I have made several of these cleaning cars for my friends and I have been using two of them for over 5 years now with no problems. I usually get double life out of my cleaning pad by turning them over once they are dirty.

I hope my idea starts you thinking of how you may make one for your railroad. Please feel free to make whatever improvements you can on my design.

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

16 the HotBox AUTUMN 2016
TRAIN TOWN
TRAIN SHOW
AND
SWAP MEET

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 17, 2016

ALLEN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
ST. RT. 309 EAST LIMA, OHIO
I-75 EXIT 125 from the South; 125 A from the North

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Admission: Adults $5.00
Children 12 & under - FREE

FEATUREING:

◆All Gauges
◆Railfan Items
◆140+ Tables
◆FREE Parking
◆Toy Trains
◆Operating Layouts
◆Food Service
◆Handicap Accessible

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.

CHUCK WHITE
P.O. Box 944 • Van Wert, OH 45891
567-259-3340
railcarman@frontier.com

MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & WORKSHOP

Sunday, November 27, 2016 11am-4pm

LEARN HOW TO DO & ENJOY MODEL RAILROADING! This is NOT a sale or swap meet!

SEE DEMONSTRATIONS on power systems, scenery, kit building, structure building, backdrops, wiring, track laying tips, & basic building techniques.

ALSO SEE historical displays, video tape shows and operating model railroad layouts! Refreshments available.

ASK QUESTIONS of National Model Railroad Assoc. Master Model Railroaders—we have FOUR!! Get answers to your modeling questions!

PARTICIPATE IN a raffle for many prizes of model railroad items and an open model railroad model & photo contest (rules on back of flyer).

GREAT FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY! STOP BY FOR A VISIT, ASK QUESTIONS, GET ANSWERS!

MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & WORKSHOP is located at the LIVONIA SENIORS BUILDING

ENTRY FARE: This year, everyone is FREE!!!
RAILROAD HISTORY  
by Don Watson  

More on types of trains for your OPS sessions....

FAST MAILS AND SLOW MILKS
The glamorous Fast Mails and the workhorse milk trains have all but slipped into history in North America as movement of mail, express, and milk migrated to trucks or to truck trailers or sealed containers hauled on high-priority freights. (Certain Amtrak trains now handle limited amounts of mail, though). Mail, express, and milk trains were close relatives of the passenger train. They served both long-distance and short-haul routes and rated first-class status in most operating timetables, and they sometimes carried passengers.

Mail-and-express trains were a special breed, and their appearance was all business with a capital B: No. 57 on the Milwaukee Road, No. 27 on the old Great Northern, No.7 on the Santa Fe, and many others. Mail-and-express train consists included just about every kind of head-end car known to railroading: baggage cars, RPO's, storage cars (and combinations thereof such as baggage-RPO cars or baggage-storage cars), and express box cars. Aboard RPO's, employees sorted mail and readied periodicals and parcels for unloading. Storage cars were usually coupled on either side of the RPO's so that clerks could move stored sacks of mail to the RPO's for sorting. Mail and express that did not require sorting enroute was placed in sealed express-box or baggage cars.

FREIGHT TRAINS
Freight trains are the backbone of the railroad industry, so it's no surprise that freight trains are also the focal point of activity on most model railroads. But how many modelers simply couple a string of freight cars to a locomotive, call it a freight train, and highball it out of the yard? Like passenger trains, there are several types of freight trains, and each has purpose and character.

HIGH-PRIORITY FREIGHTS
Call them what you wish- red ball manifests, "hotshots," or just fast freights. They are the aristocrats of the freight business. They carry goods that must reach their destination within a certain time, often food products or other perishables. They maybe reefer trains full of fruit, lettuce, or meat, or they are TOFC (trailer-on-flat car or piggyback) trains, trailers loaded with food products or UPS packages and express items. High-priority freights also transport manufactured items that have time value as auto parts that have to be in Detroit to meet line schedules.
RAILROAD HISTORY

GENERAL MERCHANDISE FREIGHTS
Many shippers are more concerned with economy than speed when shipping products such as steel, lumber, and chemicals that industries must receive on a consistent but not necessarily on a daily basis. Such products can be shipped on merchandise freights. These freights usually make major yards on their route so that cars can be reclassified into other trains if necessary.

DRAG FREIGHTS
Drag freights are high-tonnage trains. They usually a large number of cars loaded with low-value commodities and their motive-power requirements are minimal because speed is not essential. Coal was the most prevalent commodity found in drag freights in the days of steam (in early 1940's bituminous coal accounted for nearly 30 cent of the freight handled by American railroads), still important. But there are other types of commodities such as stone, scrap metal, and some ores.

UNIT TRAINS
Unit trains are a great asset in today's modern market where efficient, large-quantity transport and are key competitive factors. Unit trains consist of a type of freight car loaded with but a single type of dedicated (often under contract) to one customer. By special nature then, unit trains bypass classification yards because all cars have a common point of origin and destination. There are many types of unit trains: unit coal trains, grain trains, ore trains, and even unit garbage trains.

WAY FREIGHTS
The way freight often is the first and link in the chain of movements that sends a freight from one end of the country to another. Way distribute cars from main yards-the cars through freights-to sidings of on-line customers, team tracks, or freight-station platforms. Conversely, way freight also relays cars from these locations to yards where they can be sorted into outbound freights. Some way freights wander off the main line to branch lines, while others may be "captive" to a branch and service it exclusively. In the latter situation (which is common to long branches), the branch way freight transfers cars to and from mainline way freights or through freights at the junction point with the main line.

CONSISTS
Freight train consists are not nearly as structured as those of passenger trains, but there are some prototype guidelines we can follow when assembling our scaled-down freight trains:
* Tank cars containing volatile liquids should not be placed immediately behind the locomotive(s).
* Avoid placing empty flat cars at the head end of a long, heavy train.
* Stock cars and ice-cooled refrigerator cars (rarely found present-day) should be placed toward the front of a train for expediency in switching.
* Some railroads require loaded auto-rack cars to be placed a specified number of car lengths back in the train to prevent damage to autos from locomotive fumes, and cinders.

Years ago way freights often carried a box or in which less-than-carload (LCL) freight was dribbled on and off at stations by the crew, but this practice virtually disappeared in recent years. Train type may dictate consist. High-priority and drag freights usually don't have the variety of car types found in general merchandise trains and way freights. Also, high-priority freights quite often are shorter than general merchandise trains. Unit trains, of course, and in some cases drag freights, carry only one type or at least similar types of cars. Train and yard crews often block (that is, group cars according to destination or switching conditions) during assembly for over-the-road movement. Blocking may require extra work in the yards, but it makes switching easier and faster along the way.

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.
ALCO's in Michigan... Sounds like it should be a book or movie title! We found these interesting photos in the HotBox archives and thought they would make a nice photo spread. Enjoy....!

Top-right: Detroit and Mackinac 468 at Bay City; top-left: Detroit and Mackinac 977 at Tawas right-center: Michigan Northern 1553, Cadillac  All images by Bruce Curry in July 1978

C&WI 253 leased to WAB or C&O working at the Boat Yard, Detroit, MI 12-29-64 (C. H. Geletzke, Jr, photo)

Saginaw on Halloween, 10-31-10 - Lake State's (LSRC) recent acquisitions of newer EMD's have finally forced all their Alco's into retirement. Most of them are stored serviceable on the fan tracks at the old PM roundhouse in Saginaw Yard. Now, I don't really know if the "line up" of power I discovered here was deliberate or not, but I can say without question that this is quite a remarkable scene to be found (outside a museum) in 2010.  photo passed on via email, author unknown
GRAND RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD CLUB

FALL 2016 TRAIN SHOW

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2016

LOCATION: HSB (Home School Building), 5625 Burlingame Ave, Wyoming, MI 49509 (NW corner Gezon Pkwy & Burlingame)

TIME: 10 am to 3 pm Vendor set up 7am

COST: Adults - $5 Kids - under 12 free

OPERATING LAYOUTS:
LEGO Layout (with play area for children)
Thomas the Train layout for children
G scale, On30, S Scale (American Flyer)
HO Scale, N Scale, Z Scale

* 210+ Vendor & Display Tables * Food * Door Prizes
* Free Parking* Drawing: “Thomas the Train” Train Set
* Family Fun for Children of All Ages

Grand River Valley Railroad Club OPEN HOUSE
Saturday October 29, 2016 1pm to 4pm
NW Corner Porter Ave SW & Byron Center Ave SW Wyoming, MI

For additional information:
Ken Skopp - Train Show Coordinator  Jeff Anderson - Club President
H: 616-667-9680 C: 616-254-7305  616-304-2875
kwskopp@gmail.com  grandrivervalleyrrc.org
OTHER HOBBY SHOPS in the NCR
Whistle Stop Hobbies & Crafts, Decatur, 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, MI
Division One  Black Swap Division  (Toledo and Northwest Ohio area)
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 Two  Tip of the Mitt  (Manistee to losco counties, to the tip of the mitten at the Mackinac Bridge)
Our two annual division meetings will rotate between the two locations. We are currently scheduling Yard activities in both Traverse City and Petoskey. For more information, contact David Capron, Superintendent.

Division Three  Three 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 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 616-437-9851 or mbaldwin@taskadvisors.com

Division Five  Capital Division  (Lansing and mid-lower Michigan)
Meets at 1pm, 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, September to May with additional activities added for the AUTUMN. 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 (Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties)
We are having monthly activities with a meeting and presentation alternating with a Layout Tour. We meet at a restaurant at 8:00am and then either have the meeting or depart for a layout tour, usually on the 4th Saturday of the month. For additional and up to date information contact Paul McGinnis 269-963-0149 paul.mcginnis@sbcglobal.net www.div9.ncr-nmra.org https://www.facebook.com/DIV9.NCR.NMRA

Division Ten  Ten Wheelers Division  (Shiawassee, Genesee, Lapeer Tuscola, Sanilac and Huron Counties)
Meets on the SECOND Wednesday of the month, at the home of member Nick Racheff, 9170 Hidden Oaks Dr. Grand Blanc, MI 48439 at 7pm. He can be contacted at 810 695-2677, nick.b.racheff@comcast.net. Call 810-513-5787 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

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

How about writing an article on your latest modeling project!
At the HotBox, WE NEED AND WANT YOUR ARTICLES!!
**NCR TIMETABLE EVENTS!**

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

**Saturday, September 17, 2016**  
3rd annual Hastings Train Show  
by the Battle Creek Model RR Club & Iron Rails Model Railroad Club  
Barry Expo Center  
1350 N M-37 Hwy  
Hastings, MI 49058  
10am-3:30pm  
$5 under 12 free  
Operating layouts including a “hands on” Thomas the Train layout, displays, vendors, door prizes, food, unlimited free parking and fun!!  
Contact info- Brad Miles  
269-953-9171  
[magichb@aol.com](mailto:magichb@aol.com)  
[www bcmrrc.net](http://www bcmrrc.net)

**Saturday, September 24, 2016**-  
6th annual Mt. Clemens Michigan Train Show  
St. Louis Social Hall  
39140 Ormsby St.  
Mt. Clemens, MI 48036  
10am to 3pm  
$3 per person, $5 per family, children under 12 free  
Food & Refreshments on site, Barrier Free Access, Free Parking, Hourly Door Prizes, Operating Layouts  
Contact Information- Carl Hikade  
586-463-5184  
[cdhikade@juno.com](mailto:cdhikade@juno.com)  
or Joe Hiestand  
586-924-0499

**Sunday, September 25, 2016**- Ford Model Railroad Club Train Show  
St. Sebastian School Gym  
3850 Merrick, S. Dearborn Hgts., MI 48125  
11am to 4pm  
$3 per person, $6 family  
Food and Refreshments available, Barrier Free Access, Free Parking, Operating Layouts, HO and O gauge  
Contact Information - John Sanchez  
313-268-8598  
[sanchezart@aol.com](mailto:sanchezart@aol.com)

**Sunday, October 9, November 13, December 18**  
Wolverine Train Club Show  
United Food & Commercial Workers Hall  
876 Horce Brown Drive  
Madison Heights, MI 48071  
10am-2pm  
$3 per person under 12 is free  
Door Prizes Every Hour, Free Parking, All Gauges of Trains, Food and Refreshments Available  
Website- [www ttoswolverine.org](http://www ttoswolverine.org)  
Food service provided by The Madison Height Lions Club  
Contact Information - Bob Burgee  
586-662-0225

**Saturday, October, 15, 2016** – Train Show  
Grand River Valley RR Club  
Wyoming, MI  
See ad on page 21

**Sunday, October 30, 2016** - 37th. Annual Gigantic Train Show and Sale  
Kalamazoo Model RR Hist Society  
Expocenter Building on the Kalamazoo County Fair Grounds  
10AM to 3PM  
We have Operating layouts, A Hands-On Children's Layout, RR hobby clinics, over 175 Vendor tables and tons of train and RR memorabilia in every scale. There will be Door Prizes, Free parking, and MORE!!!!  
Contact Information-  
David Hayes-Moats  
269-344-0906  
[kaltrainshow@kalnet.net](mailto:kaltrainshow@kalnet.net)

**Sunday, October 30, 2016**- Trainorama by the Redford Model RR Club  
Costick Community Center  
28600 11 Mile Rd  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336  
10 AM to 4 PM  
$5 Adult Free - under 12 yrs old with adult  
model trains in all scales, railroadiana, rr videos, model railroading clinics, modular railroad layouts, layouts for kids to run free, food service, Wheelchair Accessible  
Contact Information –  
Pierre Willermet  
36123 Roycroft Street  
Livonia, MI 48154  
734-953-2546 or [pwillermet@gmail.com](mailto:pwillermet@gmail.com)

**Saturday-Sunday, November 5-6, 2016**  
Gratiot Valley 2-Day Train Show & Sale  
Gibraltar Trade Center North 237 N. River Road Mount Clemens, MI 48083  
Discount Coupon at [www.gvrr.org](http://www.gvrr.org)  
Admission Good for both Saturday and Sunday  
One of Michigan's largest model railroad hobby events a two day expo! Over 400 Dealer Tables; Door Prizes; Lots of Operating Layouts; Free Kids Train Set Raffle; Free ’How-To’ Modeling Clinics Wheelchair Accessible  
Contact Info - call 586-468-4877. Website - [http://www.gvrr.org](http://www.gvrr.org)
Saturday, November 12, 2016 - Trains in the Park
St. Robert Bellarmine School Gym 27201 West Chicago Road  Redford, MI 48239
11am - 3pm $3 per person, $6 per family vendors tables $12
Food & Drink available, Clean Restrooms Contact Information - Brain Klotzer 313-255-0466  7pm-9pm

Saturday-Sunday, November 12-13, Thanksgiving weekend Nov 25-27; December 3-4, 10-11 2016
Detroit Model Railroad Club Open House 104 North Saginaw St. Holly, MI 48442
Noon - 5PM  Adults - $5, Seniors (65+) - $4, Children (5-18) - $2, Children under 5 – Free
See several O scale trains in operation, over a 350 foot double track mainline and several branch lines.
Contact Info: 248-634-5811  webmaster@dmrrc.org

Sunday, November 13, 2016  Lansing Model Train Show and Sale  Hosted by Lansing Model RR Club
Michigan State University Pavilion 4301 Farm Lane  East Lansing, MI 48824  www.lmrc.org
10 am to 4 pm  $6 adults, free children under 12 yrs and scouts in uniform  Wheelchair Accessible
over 500 tables of model trains, railroad collectibles, toys, operating layouts, how-to demonstrations, and more!
Contact Information - Dennis Morley  989-723-2870  DJMorley0604@hotmail.com

Saturday, November 19, 2016  Maumee Valley Railroad Club Model Railroad Show & Swap
Coliseum Bingo 911 W. Washington Center Road Fort Wayne, IN 46825
9am to 2pm $5 Adults, $7 Families, ages 12 and under free  http://maumeevalleyrailroad.com
Vendors, layout, on site concession stand, free parking, historical and other organizations represented
Contact Information - Maumee Valley Railroad Club, Inc. P.O. Box 314 Harlan, IN 46743-0314

Sunday, November 27, 2016 - Railroadiana Toys & Trains
SS. Simon & Jude Church Hall 32500 Palmer Road Westland, MI 48186
Noon-4pm $2 per person, $4 family, Early Bird $15 per person after 11am
Food & Drink available  Contact Information - Norm Swope 734-595-8327

Sunday- November 27, 2016  38th annual Division 6 Fall Model Train Show & Workshop
Livonia Senior Center Five Mile Rd and Farmington Rd, Livonia, MI  Website- www.div6-nr-crmra.com
11am – 4pm  $4 per person over 17 years old, under 17 FREE  wheelchair accessible
THIS IS NOT A SWAP MEET – SEE demonstrations on all aspects of model railroading!! Power systems,
scenery, kit building, railroad history, operating layouts, Boy Scouts Merit Badge program, food-refreshments
available; raffles every 45 minutes, model contest! Come and get your model railroading questions answered!

Sunday, November 27, 2016 - Rails on Wheels' Annual Southeast Michigan Model Train Show and Sale.
Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road Ann Arbor, MI
10 AM to 3 PM  $4, children under age 12 free with an adult. Early Bird - $10/person (8–10 AM)
A family-friendly event featuring operating train layouts, a Lego layout display, plus a train kids can run. Over
100 tables of scale and tinplate model trains, railroad and train-related books, videos and photo for sale, too.
Food available and free parking.  Contact Info: Walt Trancygier  trancywj@gmail.com  734-552-4581

Sunday, December 4, 2016 – 32nd annual Train Show West Michigan Railroad Club
American Legion 179 2327 Wilson Ave SW Grand Rapids, MI 49534
10am-3pm  $4 adults children 12 and under FREE
Free parking, Door Prizes, Operating layouts, Refreshments
Contact Information-  Rob Brown  616-299-2298 Wmrrc@sbcglobal.net

Saturday-Sunday, December 3-4, 2016 - Model Railroad Exhibit, Railroad Memorabilia, Toy Train Show and
Sale  Allen County War Memorial Coliseum 4000 Parnell Avenue  Fort Wayne, IN 46805
10am - 4pm  Adults $7 ($2 more if purchased on-site)  Kids 11 and under are Free
Hundreds of tables of new and used trains for sale at discounted prices; new product displays; operating model
train layouts; free modeling workshops and clinics; activities for kids and more!  Wheelchair Accessible
Are YOU attending the NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS?? Why not?? ALL are invited!! NMRA membership NOT required!! Send in that registration NOW!!! Tell and bring your friends!!!
in the next issue of THE HotBox –

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

FIRST NEWS for 2017 NCR Convention

RailFanning
Scott Kremer’s Great Northern

Post NCX-2016 NEWS