



THE *HotBox*

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

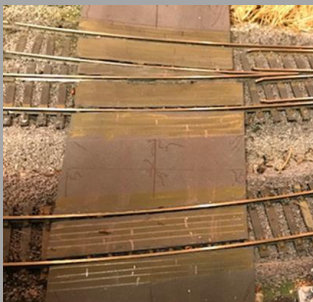
VOL. 62 NO. 1

SPRING 2021

RAILFANNING Jim Zinser's COPPER VALLEY RAILWAY!



The BLACK SWAMP JUNCTION 2021 NCR CONVENTION

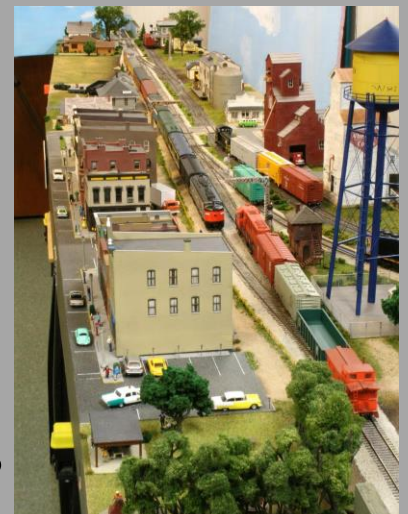


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The HotBox

SPRING 2021
Vol. 62, No. 1



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

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

The HotBox is available online at-
www.ncr-nmra.org

All material, articles and advertising must be submitted to the Editor. All material should be electronic, preferably MicroSoft Word or Powerpoint. Pictures should be in Jpeg format and color. Material can be emailed or sent via US Mail on cd-rom. Materials will not be returned, unless return postage and envelope are included. Material submission deadline is FIVE weeks before publication date.

Business ads-

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business card \$10 per issue or \$35 per year -or- free business card for exchange of websites and/or sales of HotBox

Pike ads- \$15 small, \$30 double and

\$60 quad for a 3 year period!

NCR Division Event ads- FREE

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

Send address corrections to the Registrar-

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

HELLO!! Happy New Year!! Here's hoping we'll have a good, normal, year in 2021. So far... it's looking... OK?! Unfortunately, events are still being cancelled, but with vaccines, regular life is hopefully returning. That means that group meetings could return soon, gathering of friends to run an OPS session or work on layouts and even family gatherings! Please keep the faith and let's go forward soon.

With events in mind, this issue of the HotBox has the latest updates and plans for the NCR 2021 Convention – The Black Swamp Junction! I hope to see you there, I'm planning on it!!

With this issue of the HotBox, we welcome the new Board of Directors and our new President, Dave Capron! Thanks to Scott Kremer for the past 4 years of leadership and Scott will continue as a Director. Also new on the Board is VP Phil Doolittle, Welcome aboard! Looks like we've got a good group of leaders for the NCR! There is also an overview of the recent NCR Board meeting, just pages away.

GOOD for us!! We've had a near explosion of AP certificates and awards! Great!! (and I have to get going on a few too!) See all the great news on page 5.

Well, time to do some MORE model railroading... and that's always a good thing!! 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 December 2020 edition of the **HotBox** are - none that we are aware of.

FRONT COVER PICTURES- NMRA logo, Black Swamp Junction logo; Rubber Fiber Roads; Free-Mo module; Members projects; Copper Valley RS 3 485 heads south after picking up cars in Copper Harbor and Mohawk on the Copper Valley Railway of Jim Zinser, MMR

REAR COVER PICTURES- 2021 Black Swamp Junction Logo; Air Brake Rules by David Vinci; A C2 freighter Irish Rose is loading potatoes at the Searsport pier on Dave McMullian's HO scale layout, "The MaineLines"

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RAILROADING "WHAT THE ???"

NCR HUMOR

"This is the way" ... the success of the Mandalorian series has spawned some interesting images.....

Me waiting for my train
order to arrive.



When someone lets me operate on their
layout for the first time



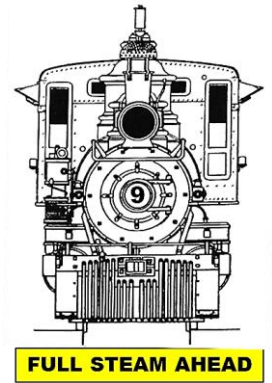
PRESIDENT'S OBSERVATION

Dave Capron

Greetings and welcome to 2021. It seems like 2020 lasted more than a year as we waited for it to go away. Now that 2021 has arrived and COVID and its effects are still with us, what will we do with the time available to us? It looks like the three main events that model railroaders enjoy most - conventions, swap meets, and round robin operating sessions – will still be postponed for a while longer. Some swap meets and train shows are in the process of being rescheduled around the region and across the country. To temporarily replace local operating sessions, many have found a regular substitute in Zoom meetings. While they do not permit much actual operating, they have actually benefited many groups getting together. A normal op session that might take 4-6 hours including drive time can be reduced to 2-3 hours, thereby permitting more regular attendance. Speaking of drive time, the bad weather, rain, ice, and snow does not hamper or cancel sessions. Zoom sessions are great “show and tell” opportunities to display what each modeler has been working on. It may be car weathering, structure building, or layout track work/scenery. Normally these show and tell events were only occurring at monthly division meetings, but now, with Zoom, they can happen every week. I’m sure that your round robin operating sessions had the occasional out of town visitor. With Zoom these visitors can come not only from other divisions, but from anywhere geographically.

While there are many downsides of the effects of this virus, the extra time on our hands can and should be a positive in our hobby. Ours is a hobby of time consumption. One of the reasons there are not more layouts is because it takes time and lots of it to build a layout. This pandemic has forced most of us to spend more free time at home. No matter what size layout you have there are so many things that you can be doing. If you haven’t considered participating in the AP program, I encourage you to take advantage of this extra time to get involved. You may not be interested in pursuing the MMR program, but awarding yourself a certificate of achievement has other effects. Once you choose your favorite area you may want to challenge yourself in an area out of your comfort zone and learn new techniques in modeling.

As I go on layout tours, there are so many of them that deserve the “Golden Spike” certificate that would recognize the owner’s achievement. This is a start in the AP program. I encourage you superintendents to work with the modelers in your divisions to look at the “GS” and help them choose an AP certificate to concentrate on. The pandemic is going to be here for a while and there is a lot of modeling time that could be utilized towards a certificate or two.



Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank you for the opportunity and privilege to serve as the NCR president. All of the workings of the NMRA I truly believe occur at the division level. The most important job of the region is to support the divisions. When you think about the region, the regional convention is what comes to mind first and foremost. That is why the NCR BOD started a convention manual to see that each year we offered a convention that had high standards and consistency no matter what division it was located in. This year’s convention in Toledo will be special because it, like so many others, was canceled last year due to COVID. We are all looking so forward to attending clinics, layout tours, and op sessions. All of these are second place to seeing our modeling friends in person again versus the Zoom meetings. It has been two years since being able to say hi and chat with those friends we have made over the years. Next year the tri-regional will permit making new friends at an event that very well may be the future of regional conventions.

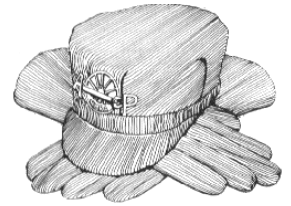
So, make plans now. Choose that one certificate to work on, and go run some trains. As my chosen logo shows, it is time to go full steam ahead. Also, I would personally like to thank Scott Kremer and David McMullian for their help during my recuperation.

Dave Capron, President, NCR

NMRA-NCR ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NCR AWARDS

We have had a lot of activity since my report in the last Hot Box. Thanks go to Ken Chick and Jim Macino as they continue doing a great job keeping the level of AP activity in divisions 3, 6, 8 and 10 at a high pitch, I appreciate their efforts very much. Congratulations to all and Thank-You for participating in the NMRA Achievement Program! *Skip, Luyk, MMR, NCR AP Coordinator*



Congratulations go to the following:

MODEL RAILROAD CHIEF DISPATCHER – James Marquardt, Div 3

MODEL RAILROAD MASTER BUILDER – CARS – James Marquardt, Div 3 and Scott Kremer, Div 6

MODEL RAILROAD PROTOTYPE MODELER – Brook Qualman, Div 6

MODEL RAILROAD VOLUNTEER – Jay Qualman, Div 6

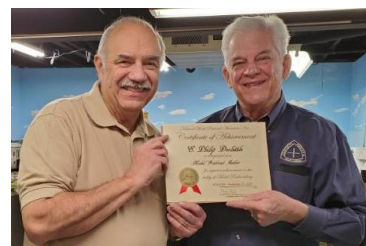
MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR – Jay Qualman, Div 6 and Phil Doolittle, Div 8

CONGRATULATIONS!!! We have three more new MMR's in the NCR!!

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER # 665 Brook Qualman, Div 6

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER # 667 Scott Kremer, Div 6

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER # 670 James Marquardt, Div 3



Left to right... Brook Qualman Prototype Modeler; Scott Kremer Master builder cars; Phil Doolittle Author; Larry Burke Structures and Scenery



Left to right... Brook Qualman MMR; Scott Kremer MMR; Jay Qualman Author and Volunteer

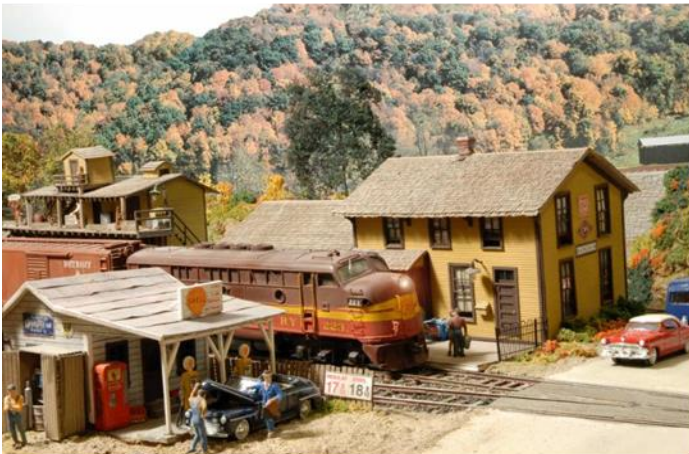
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM QUESTIONS: If you have questions about the AP or requirements, start with your Regional AP manager, Skip Luyk, MMR. Also – Ken Chick covers Div 6, 8 and 10 – 734-420-0276 or kdchick@wowway.com Jim Macino covers Div 3 - 260-693-6102 or jim@icmgt.com

If you still have questions, contact NMRA AP Chairman Frank Koch at fjkoch@hotmail.com or write Frank at 4769 Silverwood Drive, Batavia, OH 45103.

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

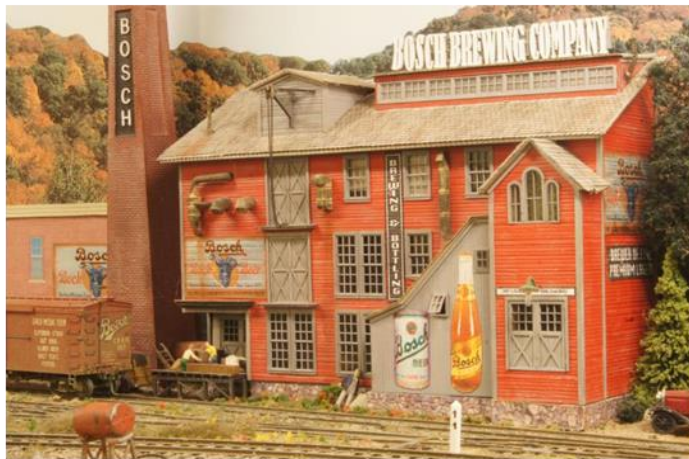
RAILFANNING the COPPER VALLEY RAILWAY **NCR TRACKSIDE**

Jim Zinser, MMR has been model railroading for many years and has a great HO scale railroad. Let's go trackside and see the action! *Left, down, then right* - A Copper Valley 2-8-0 pulls into the engine service facility at Hancock; Copper Valley F3 223 stops for orders at the station in Hancock; The Milwaukee Road's Copper Country Limited heads north to Copper Harbor while Soo Line GP9 553 pulls a string of freight cars south toward Hancock Yard; Ima Lumber in Houghton is a busy place on this sunny fall afternoon in 1954; A salesman heads out to sell some radio advertising time to local Houghton/Hancock businesses; Jack Bauer's 24 Hour Dinner is a popular spot for a Houghton cop in need of his daily doughnut.



RAILFANNING the COPPER VALLEY RAILWAY **NCR TRACKSIDE**

Left, down, then right - A DSS&A switcher leaves a boxcar on the interchange track at South Shore Junction just before sunset; A worker who has had one-to-many of his employer's products at lunch gets ready to attempt the front steps into The Bosch Brewery; Car buffs gather to admire the just-out 1955 Chevy convertible parked at the pumps of The Griffin Girls Texaco Service; A partial view of the engine service area of Hancock Yard; A Soo Line F3 stops barely in time to clear the way for a fire emergency situation; Some strange pod-like objects are being delivered to the Houghton Theater. Are they some kind of movie promotion gimmick, or something far more sinister? (photos by Dan Lewis, MMR and Jim Zinser, MMR)



NCR BOARD MEETING REPORT

NCR NEWS

The NCR Board gathered, electronically via ZOOM, to hold a Board of Directors meeting on December 9th, 2020. Most of the Board members were present, along with several of the Division Superintendents and a few others. Here is a brief report on that meeting, based on the official Minutes of the meeting.

This is the first meeting in a year because of Pandemic. We had an election, however, the elected Pres. Dave Capron has had health issues. Because of that he has backed out of duties for 6 months of this coming year. Motion by Rich Mahaney, 2nd by Bill McMillan: that Dave McMullian to be temporary NCR President for Dave Capron for 6 months. **PASSED UPDATE!** – As you have seen and read, Dave Capron is doing much better and has decided he can complete his duties as NCR President.

Treasurer Robert Baird decided after the election to resignation. Steve Harsh was suggested as a replacement by Andy Keeney to be the new Treasurer of the NCR. Motion by Rich Mahaney 2nd by Andy Keeney that Steve Harsh be the new NCR Treasurer. **PASSED**

Dean Pyers, NCR resident Agent reported that Certification of member forms is due to be sent in by NCR with membership numbers and information from our Divisions.

Barry Hensel, Editor of the HotBox reported that he cannot download the December Hotbox to the NCR website. Paul Marsden will be replacing David Simmons and will be working on a NEW NCR website. Scott Kremer to send the NCR BY LAWS to Scott Pandorf to put on the NCR website. By the end of this month the HOTBOX will be on the new NCR website.

Several convention reports were given....

Rich Mahaney reported that the Div 9 “ONE DAY EVENT” this spring will not be given this year. This was due to the closing of the church to events with State of Michigan pandemic rules.

Dave McMullian reported on the Convention to be held in Toledo at the Radisson OCT 21-24, 2021. The convention will have a Maritime/Rail theme in conjunction with the National Museum of the Great Lakes. They are looking to combine with FREE MO to expand attendance for this convention. The format for the convention will be EVENTS and LAYOUT TOURS during the day and CLINICS at the Radisson at night. If you bring a model to display you may win your convention fee back!

Div 3 reported that the 2022 Convention will be held in Fort Wayne Oct 14-17. Layouts during the day and clinics at night.

Scott Kremer reported on the Tri-Regional convention slated for APRIL 2022: With Dave Capron not able to help with the convention, Scott will take his role for the convention. A major concern is that the NMRA as moved the NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION to Sept. 2022 Discussion of how this may impact the Tri Regional convention. The Goal of our Tri-Regional convention was to be 350 – 500 in attendance. We hope to include the “NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW” with this convention, as well as a “White Elephant” Sale – not a silent auction. This Tri-Regional hopes to be the model of the “New Convention” for the future.

Outgoing NCR President Scott Kremer finished the Zoom meeting with a thank you to all NCR board members for their support and their willingness to always work together for the good of the NCR and its Divisions. The next Board Meeting is to be at the NCR Fall Convention in Toledo.

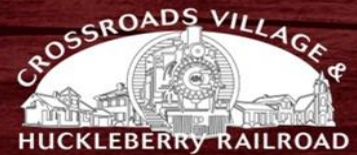
NCR DIVISION HAPPENINGS

DIVISION INFORMATION

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

The Grand Rails Division is pleased to announce that division member Joe Sibley has begun publishing a new quarterly division newsletter called the Manifest. His first issue was last quarter and received good reviews. He is currently working on the next edition to be out soon. Like everyone else we are anxious to be able to get together locally but many are participating in the great zoom meetings presented by other divisions. Please visit our website and our Facebook page. *(submitted by, Skip Luyk, Superintendent)*

2021 RAILFANS WEEKEND



August 7-8
10am - 6pm

The only train of thought at Crossroads Village this weekend is the romance of the rails. Our featured rail history lesson will cover the illustrious Huckleberry Railroad and its historic railcars. This is the only time of the year that you can tour the railroad shop. During the tour you will see the tools and the toil it takes to maintain the celebrated steam locomotives.



Railfans from around the country will revel in the lore of Huck history through model train layouts and historical rail interpretations.

Each featured railcar on display this weekend is rich with rail history and can only be seen at the Village. So get away, right away and discover some of our nation's rail history this weekend at Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad.



This once-a-year event is co-sponsored by the Mid-Michigan Railway Historical Society and Genesee County Parks.

6140 Bray Rd.
Flint, MI 48505

Saturday and Sunday

August 7-8

10am - 6pm

**GENESEE
COUNTY
PARKS**



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

The Black Swamp Division is meeting “virtually” via Zoom every month. Our meetings feature clinics with broad interest and a Show’n Tell session when members can share what they have been working on. We publish our monthly newsletter, the Train Order, online and are working to expand modeling content with each issue. We are also busy planning and preparing to host the 2021 NCR convention, so watch the Hot Box for news and updates. Our Zoom meetings are generally on the fourth Friday of each month at 7 PM, with the “room” open at 6:30 for fellowship. We welcome any and all members from other Divisions! Follow our Division website for progress and activities at <http://www.divisiononencr.com>. Each issue of the Train Order is posted on our website, it will include the Zoom link for the upcoming meeting. (submitted by- Dave McMullian, Superintendent)

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

We are currently meeting monthly via zoom until the Pandemic eases. Because everyone is zooming from home, we have moved our meeting times to 10:00 AM on Saturday mornings, which seems to be working. Our meetings are typically 2 – 3 hours long and consist of Division Business followed by any opportunity for show and tell (we encourage a maximum of one or two member layout tours via video per session). Following that we have one or more clinics that are either in-person or pre-recorded video. We follow each clinic with an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and get answers. Subject matter this fall has already been: Quick Ways to Weather your Car Fleet; Details Make the Difference. Upcoming clinics include making water, using JMRI Decoder Pro, Occupancy Detection, and LED Lighting. If you are interested in attending send an email to superintendent.nmra.ncr.div2@gmail.com and we will include you in our next invite. (Submitted by Scott Pandorf, Division 2 Superintendent)

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

With the world of traditional model railroad meetings still not occurring, except as “Zoom meetings”, Division 9 is going try and do some joint meetings this spring with the “Michiana Division”, which is part of the Midwest Region. Each group will host two meetings with one common presenter. Michiana will host the March and April meetings, Division 9 will host the May and June meetings. Business meetings for each group will occur before or after the clinic at 10:30 am on the third Saturday of the month. The Michiana Division is in the far southwest corner of Michigan. So, two Divisions from two different Regions will work together with their Zoom meetings. Because model railroaders want to get together and restaurants have reopened, the Division 9 meeting will be working from a local restaurant, so members can get together there and others will be participating from home. We will receive the Zoom meeting signal and then will project the presentation on a large screen. So, join us from home, or join us for breakfast and stay for the meeting and clinic. The best of all worlds! Division 9 meets monthly except the months of July and August. Monthly activities begin with a business meeting, followed by either a clinic or a planned layout tour usually on the third Saturday of the month. An informal optional breakfast at 9:00 AM is also a part of our routine.

(Submitted by: Rich Mahaney, NMRA NCR Director at Large)

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

The Motor City Division, continues to meet twice a month using ZOOM as a meeting format. We meet twice because one night is not enough time to get all of our activities complete. For meeting one, we do show & tell, history lesson and announcements. For the second meeting we do clinics and more announcements. There is always lots of BSing and general conversations on both nights, which makes it fun. We’re hoping that as restrictions start lifting that those of us building MI-Track modules can get together and do some testing of this system. We’re looking forward to returning to in-person meetings... just have no idea when that can happen. We did also learn of several members who passed in December and we’re saddened by their passing and loss of friendship. The clinics for our Modeling 101 series and the clinics from our monthly meetings are being recorded and can be seen on the Division 6 web Page. Our newsletter “On The Rails” and other information can be found on our website - www.div6-ncr-nmra.com (submitted by Barry Hensel, Newsletter Editor)

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

In the 3 Rivers Division we are still working on getting our first zoom meeting going. We have had several members that have worked on projects towards getting certificates toward their MMR of which 2 of our members completed their MMR. We hope all stay safe and healthy. *(submitted by- Bob Jones, Superintendent)*

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

The Capital Division (5) has had a major meeting change. We have moved our Zoom meetings from the second Saturday of the month to the second Monday of the month, from 7 pm to 9 pm. Apparently, some model railroaders like to watch college football and basketball as well as do model railroading. So far, this has worked out well for us with a good attendance. In addition to our members, we've had visitors from other Divisions and some of our members have joined the Zoom meeting held by other Divisions in the Region. The major down side of not being able to meet in person has had a minor up side in allowing us to interact with other Divisions. Our recent get togethers have included clinics, by among others, Mark Cowles on how railroads and their environment, and thus model railroad operators, use names so that everyone knows where they're at and one on weathering cars by Bill Neale, Ground Throws by Andy Keeney, Lighting Structures by Steve Harsh and a tour of Jeremy Brown's layout. Check out **youtube capital division ncr nmra** to see the clinics. In addition, if you haven't seen them, Capital Division member Brooks Stover has had articles in the December and January issues of Model Railroader and the February issue of Railroad Model Craftsman. You can subscribe to the 15-25 page monthly Division 5 Newsletter. Send a request, Mark Cowles, at **nkpcowles@yahoo.com**. For more information, see the Division 5 website: **div5.ncr-nmra.org** *(submitted by- Mark Cowles, Div. 5 Clerk)*

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

Division 10 began 2021 with a virtual meeting in January using Go To Meeting provided by one of our members. We will continue with online meetings at 7:00PM on the 4th Thursday of the month. Many members have submitted project pictures and descriptions for our "What's On Your Workbench?" emails that are forwarded to all members. I have been sending out articles from previous Hotbox issues for "Flashback Friday", and I am always looking for more articles. Some of our members have been working with Crossroads Village and planning events with the Huckleberry Railroad for Railfans Weekend this summer. We will continue to meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, meetings will be determined by current quarantine practices. Contact Superintendent Wayne Wilder at **ncrdiv10@gmail.com** or 989-823-3409 for more information on attending our meetings. *(submitted by Wayne Wilder, Superintendent)*

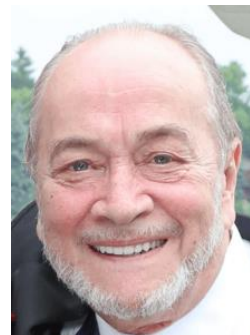
Division Eight - Clinton River Division (Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair Counties)

Clinton River Division continues to hold Zoom meetings hoping vaccinations will put the COVID-19 plague behind us and we'll be able to return to our host facility, Troy Christian Chapel. Our Zoom meetings have had lively discussions and interesting Show and Tell sessions highlighting members' recent projects, or whatever is the theme of the month. Our newsletter, The Car House, continues to feature photos of the Show and Tell items, thanks to the efforts of Secretary Kent Aughe and the members who send photos to him for publication. In December, our clinic was by Phil Doolittle about the philosophy, design and start of his new model railroad, "The Doo Line". This home railroad is using his existing Free-mo modules incorporated as a removable feature, so they may continue to be used at Free-mo setups, as well as being the centerpiece of the home layout. In January, Mark Mincek entertained the membership with an account of a trip he took in 2019 to the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore, ride the WM Scenic Rail Road and the Cass Scenic Railroad, and get a personal tour of Howard Zane's fabulous Piedmont Division. The February meeting focused on Pullman sleeping cars. CRD will have held board elections in February and Curt Danielewicz will have returned to the office of Supervisor. The full official CRD new board of directors will be revealed in the June Hotbox. We'd be happy to increase the attendance at our meetings, the third Thursday of each month, and not just with Clinton River Division members but any NMRA members in NCR or beyond. If you want to join us, shoot an email to me, Phil Doolittle (contact information on page 3) and I'll send you the Zoom invitation. Our web site is, **http://div8.ncr-nmra.org/** Come join the fun. *(Submitted by Phil Doolittle, Superintendent)*

IN MEMORIAM

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

PATRICK JAMES MUCCI, age 73 of Macomb, passed away on December 3, 2020. Patrick was born on March 28, 1947 to Patrick and Rose Mucci. He grew up in East Detroit and graduated from East Detroit High School. He honorably served in the U.S. Army for the Army Mapping Service, Washington D.C. He was a self-made entrepreneur who owned and operated many businesses through the years, including multiple Little Caesars franchises. His heart and soul live on in his flagship business of 46 years, P&D Hobby Shop. He was a die-hard Detroit Red Wings and Tigers fan, and he loved watching the March Madness college basketball tournament. He worked a lot, yet always made time for friends and family, like his annual fishing trips to Ludington, model railroad shows, and never missed a family gathering. Everywhere he went he made people smile. He will be deeply missed.



Pat Mucci

LARRY WILLIAMS, age 81, passed away on December 15 and was a member of Div 6. Larry used to regularly attend the Div 6 meetings and gave presentations on his many works that he had finished month to month. He had not attended the past few years due to problems seeing at night preventing him from driving. On September 29, 1987, he married Lydia R. Johnson in Toledo, OH and she survives. Larry retired from Ford Motor Company, Ypsilanti plant in 1992 where he worked in skilled trades for 30 years. He enjoyed jewelry making, wood working, stamp collecting and he collected and made model trains. Larry was a member of the West Suburban and Ann Arbor Stamp Clubs.



Larry Williams

BRUCE CADDY, age 70, passed away on Dec 18th. Bruce was a long time local rail photographer and modeler. Bruce was born in Detroit, Michigan to William and Martha Caddy. He was one of two children. Beloved husband to Pamela Caddy. Anyone that knew Bruce well, knew that he loved trains, spending time up in Mercer, Wisconsin, red licorice, and appreciated a good carpentry tool. He was a beloved woodshop teacher for 24 years and volunteered on the railroad at Greenfield Village on the weekends.

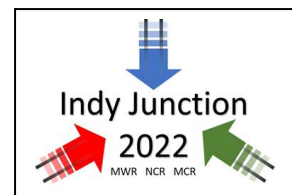


Bruce Caddy

JIM GIRA, who passed away suddenly on Dec. 18th was also member. Jim will be missed greatly as he attended meetings and the Fall Show very regularly! Was was a big American Flyer fan with some Lionel mixed in. Jim was also a member of SMSG – Southeastern Michigan S Gaugers and attended many meets and shows with their modular layout. Jim was a motorcyclist and also involved in a group that repaired and restored bicycles for the disadvantage children.

INDY JUNCTION – Tri-Regional Event

There is a new and exciting event coming in 2022! Three NMRA Regions have combined efforts to create – **INDY JUNCTION 2022** !! The Mid-West Region, North Central Region (that's US!) and the Mid-Central Region have been working on this event/convention for about 1.5 years already. Indianapolis is centrally located to these Regions and thus became the site for this event. Plans are to have clinics, tours and a train show all included in a 4 day weekend. This event is planned for May 2022.



Here is where your news items, rumors, and gossip of just about anything in the Model Railroading hobby can be reported. Whatever it is, send it to us and we'll let everyone else know!

BTR #1- We did get a few links to share, so we're passing these along....

Passed on to us by NCR Secretary Norm Logan, who got it from friend Brian Everett - Great video of NYC in the 1940's <https://youtu.be/GbDH9BboBUE>

Div 6 member Dave Jakubiec passes along this link.... Steam Encounters in Ontario - July 1954 by Ian Wilson <http://ianwilsonauthor.com/blog/encounters-july-1954>

WOW!! NCR member Bruce Ernatt emailed this out to many other RR friends - The final version of the video done on John DePauw's EJE. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMZ76LSeqrY&t=1498s>

BTR #2- NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION CANCELED

It is with regret that we inform you, in case you haven't already heard, but the 2021 National Convention – RAILS BY THE BAY has been cancelled. Slated to run from July 4th – 11th and was to be held in Santa Clara, California, plans are to have some sort of online activities! Stay tuned to the NMRA website for more information. The National Train Show, which is separately planned and operated, also is canceled.

BTR #3- MICHIGAN RAILROAD CLUB PROGRAM

It is with regret that we inform you that the Michigan Railroad Club meetings and presentations are suspended, for the foreseeable future. With the current Covid restrictions on gatherings, we simply cannot hold our meetings. Thanks for your understanding. For any other questions please contact: Kenneth Borg 3512 Merrick, Dearborn, MI 48124

BTR #4- Special Announcement! MTH HO and S scale bought by Scale Trains!

Announced at the online Amhurst Train show, was that Scale Trains has purchased the HO and S scale tooling from MTH products. It was said that the tooling will be used to bring new products to market, but that locos would be powered by Scale Trains motors and ESU sound systems. No word on MTH O scale tooling or products.

BTR #5- CONGRATULATIONS!! Seems the NCR membership did some sizable contributions in recent issues of Model Railroader magazine! In the past three months, articles and photos have been published from Brooks Stover, Greg Waskowsky, Doug Tagsold; Larry Burke and Jim Matuszak. Of special note was that Doug Tagsold was the focus of Tony Koester's editorial in the March issue! Congratulations to all on their publication! We also understand that Brook Qualman has a great article in the NMRA magazine!

Ed note – *Model Railroader is the only magazine your Editor subscribes to. I'm sure other NCR members have had articles published in other magazines. Please let us know when these occur, so we can give them credit too. Thanks!*

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

HotBox PIKE AD – RENEWAL

We have a very nice collection of PIKE ADS in the HotBox! It's a great bit of fun to promote your railroad and a bit of extra support for the HotBox and the NCR. And it's such a low cost... only \$15 for a three year ad.

Looking through our records, it's hard to believe that three years have passed and everyone is up for renewal.

HOWEVER.... with approval from the NCR Board of Directors, we're going to give everyone an extra year!!

Because 2020 was a difficult year and everyone's budgets were a bit strained, this seems like a good thing to do! Enjoy your extra year... we'll contact all Pike Ad owners next year for their renewals. **THANKS!**

And by-the-way.... we have room for 2-3 NEW ads!! Let's do one for your railroad!!



NCR 2021 Convention

Hosted by the Black Swamp Division



Oct. 21-24, 2021

Radisson Hotel at The University Of Toledo
3100 Glendale Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614

Join us in Toledo Ohio as we celebrate the enjoyment of Model Railroading. Toledo has a long and strong history of railroading, being served by 20+ railroads during the 20th century. The theme for this year's convention is Rail Marine to coincide with Toledo's historical role as a major port on the great lakes.

This year's convention will be hosted within the Radisson Hotel at the University of Toledo. The hotel is an all inclusive hotel/conference facility with large meeting areas. A special room rate has been negotiated so you can relax and not worry about travel. Ample space has been provided for display rooms, clinics and on-site layouts.

On-line and mail-in registration is available! Early bird registration is only \$55 if you register before September 1, 2021. Do not forget to sign-up for our special mailing list even if you have not registered yet. As the event date draws closer we will be publishing regular updates on new clinics, layouts and other event news.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

CLINICS | OP SESSIONS | LAYOUT TOURS | PROTOTYPE TOURS

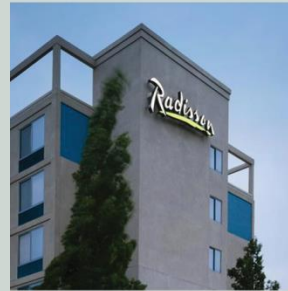
www.divisiononencr.com/2021



ACCOMMODATIONS

This year's convention will be hosted within the **Radisson Hotel at the University of Toledo**. The hotel is an all-inclusive hotel/conference facility with large meeting areas. Ample space has been provided for display rooms, clinics and on-site layouts. Many popular attractions are within five miles, including the Toledo Zoo & Aquarium, and downtown is just a 15-minute drive away.

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Phone: +1 (419) 381-6800
E-mail: rhi_UTOL@radisson.com

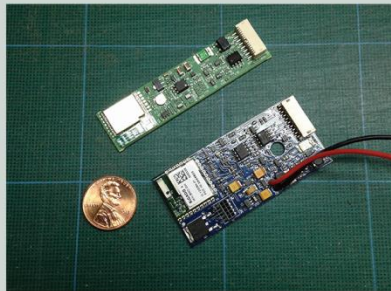


CLINICS

New clinics and topics are in the works for this year's convention.

We have made it a goal to only have clinics which are new or subjects which have not been seen in at least two years. Even with this lofty goal, the list of clinics continues to grow, and new clinics will be added right up to the convention. Make sure to sign-up for e-mail updates to stay in tune with the changes.

The theme for this year's convention is Rail Marine. This coincides with Toledo's historical role as a major port on the great lakes. Toledo has a long and strong history of railroading, being served by 20+ railroads during the 20th century. Clinics are planned to reveal the rich history of the Rail Marine interface and the NW Ohio/SE Michigan areas railroads.



LAYOUT TOURS

Many layouts from North West Ohio and South East Michigan will be available with a great variety of subjects, settings and timeframes.





MODULAR LAYOUTS

The conference will have small and modular layouts available for viewing within the conference. Some of these layouts will include operations running live during the conference. These layouts will include:

- Small and Micro Layouts
- Modular Club Layouts
- Free-mo Layout



OPERATIONS

Several layouts are already set aside for operations. If you are interested in attending any ops sessions, make sure to check the Operations Box on the registration form. As the conference nears you will be contacted with a list of available Op Sessions to choose from.



PROTOTYPE TOURS

The theme for this year's convention is **Rail Marine** so this year's signature tour will be the National Museum of the Great Lakes. This coincides with Toledo's historical role as a major port on the great lakes. The museum has several displays related to the rail industry and the museum will be doing a special presentation just for our convention.





Black Swamp Junction

NCR 2021 Convention

October 21th - 24th

Radisson Hotel at The University of Toledo

3100 Glendale Ave, Toledo, OH 43614

Hosted by the Black Swamp Division (Division 1)

Website: divisiononencr.com/2021

email: div1ncr@outlook.com

Registrar Phone: 614 937 7209

Registration Form

Registration Name: _____ Name on Badge: _____

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Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

NMRA Region: _____ Division: _____ NMRA ID No: _____ MMR No: _____

<p>One Registration form per registrant.</p> <p>Email is preferred way to correspond.</p> <p>Email address will be used only for convention business.</p> <p>Non-paid family members can purchase lunch on Saturday.</p> <p>Young people under the age of 15 can participate free if accompanied by a paid adult.</p> <p>Luncheon reservations orders need to be received by 9/15/2021.</p> <p>Polo shirts need to be ordered by 9/1/2021 to guarantee delivery at the convention.</p>	<p>Registration</p> <p>Early Bird NMRA Member (by September 1st, 2021) \$55 _____</p> <p>Early Bird Non-NMRA Member (by September 1st, 2021)..... \$65 _____</p> <p>NMRA Member (after September 1st, 2021) \$65 _____</p> <p>Non-NMRA Member (after September 1st, 2021)..... \$75 _____</p> <p>Day Pass (Circle: Friday Saturday)..... \$40 _____</p> <p>Spouse (Badge Name: _____)..... \$0 _____</p> <p>Registration Subtotal..... \$ _____</p>		
	<p>Extras</p> <p>Luncheon Buffet (1:00 PM Saturday)..... \$20 \$ _____</p> <p>Polo Shirts - Short Sleeve wo/Pocket Circle Color: Stone Cool Gray</p> <p>Enter Qty: S___, M___, L___, XL___ \$30 \$ _____</p> <p>Enter Qty: XXL___ \$32, 3XL___ \$34, 4XL___ \$35..... \$ _____</p> <p>Short Sleeve w/Pocket and Long Sleeve available at divisiononencr.com/2021/register.html</p> <p>Extras Subtotal \$ _____</p> <p>Grand Total (Registration + Extras)..... \$ _____</p>		
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Check here if interested in operations</p> <p>Those interested in Ops will be contacted at a later date with available options and scheduling information</p>		

Make Checks Payable to:

"Division 1 NCR NMRA"

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Send Completed Form to:

NCR 2021 Convention
Attn: Paul Marsden
1530 S Marblewood Dr
Marblehead, OH, 43440

TIES AND BALLAST

It was Christmas 1925 and I was three years old, but would be four by the end of the coming April. Under the Christmas tree, to my great joy, I found an O gauge American Flyer train set. It included an electric locomotive (of the type used in New York City where steam locomotives were prohibited) three passenger cars, 8 pieces of curved track, 4 straight pieces of track, one transformer and one clip-on mechanism with wires to connect the transformer to one section of track.



At age three, I had never seen a model railroad, so I thought my layout was the greatest. At the time, we lived in a 3 flat apartment building in Berwyn, Illinois and it was required that I dismantle my fantastic layout and put all the parts back in the big box before my Dad came home from work.

The apartment building in which we lived was at the northern end of a long city block. We did not have a car at this time, so my Mother would take me with her whenever she went to the store. The stores were on 22nd Street (later to be named Cermack Rd in honor of the Chicago Mayor who was fatally wounded in an attempt to assassinate the newly elected Franklin D Roosevelt). 22nd street was the southern end of our block. To get to 22nd street on foot we had to cross the Douglas Park “L” line which ran at ground level in Berwyn and was protected by crossing gates. As we walked across the “L” tracks, I could see all of the ties underneath the rails. 22nd street was an unusually wide thoroughfare with opposing traffic separated by a double track street car line on a private right-of-way. As we would walk across these street car tracks, again I could see all of the ties supporting the rails. I soon began to wonder why my pieces of track only had three ties per section.

When my Mother realized how much I enjoyed my railroad equipment, she made it an annual event each December to take me to the Loop store of Marshall Field Co. The 4th floor was the toy department and the big seller in those days was electric trains. In the 1920’s, Lionel, American Flyer and Ives produced two sizes of trains – standard gauge (about the size of G scale) and O gauge, still the same as today’s O gauge. There was also a company called Buddy L that manufactured standard gauge railroad equipment. This equipment was not powered electrically, but push-pull by the owner, but much closer to scale than Lionel, American Flyer and Ives. The layouts on display at Field’s were my wildest dreams come true!

In 1928, my Dad bought his first car (a used 1926 Dodge) and taught my Mother to drive. But my Dad never used the car to go to work and although I had a half mile to go to school, my Mother never used the car to take me to school or go to the store. In 1930, when business began a serious downturn, my Dad sold the car and had the phone taken out and didn’t get another car or phone until 1938.

During the 8 year period, we used foot power or public transportation and during those days, whenever I had occasion to walk somewhere alone, I made it a point to walk along the railroad tracks if it was at all possible. During these walks, I would make it a point to verify things that I had heard or read about. I learned that mainline rail was heavier than rail used on industrial sidings. Mainline rail had tie plates, but sidings didn’t always use tie plates. Welded rail was not common, (normally used only at street crossings) and the rail joiners used to connect two pieces of rail together varied widely from railroad to railroad. Some plates only required 4 bolts, most used 6 bolts and a few railroads used 8 bolts. During these years of walking alongside the various railroad tracks, I learned several things not to do. The Aurora & Elgin Interurban line ran at ground level using a live and exposed third rail for Power. Many times I witnessed young boys walk the third rail like a tight rope. I also saw boys walk toward an oncoming train and wait until the last second to jump out of the way. Although I was called “Chicken Little”, I always told myself I was just a selfish railfan who wanted to be around to see the next train go by.

In 1930, the Chicago Great Western Railroad ordered a fleet of Texas type (2-10-4) steam locomotives. These were the largest locomotives ever used in the Chicago area. A locomotive that size with 10 drivers on a fixed frame is hard on the track. The CGW soon discovered that it needed to replace its main line rail with heavier rail and new ties and I applied for and received the job as sidewalk supervisor. While performing this vital job, I quickly learned that new, creosoted ties look black, while old ties look a muddy brown.

This prompted me to do more research. Some of the early railroads did not use ties, but used good sized rocks that the track workers buried in the ground (stone sleepers was the name used). This method looked very good on paper. A big stone should last forever and the rail was spiked to the rock using a track gauge so that the two rails and stone sleepers were the proper distance apart. That worked well until the following spring, when the melting snow and spring rains came. The earth that is hard in the winter comes soggy in the spring, but this melting process does not happen at the same time in all places. Although the early locomotives were extremely light by today's standards, they were certainly heavy enough to push a big rock out of line when it's resting in soggy ground. But what happens if the rock on the left is in soggy ground but the rock on the right is resting on frozen ground? If the rock on the left moves even an inch either way, the track is out of gauge and the next car derails. The stone sleeper idea soon bit the dust and wooden ties were an improvement because even if a tie moves both rails are spiked to the same tie.



Photography came into being just before the Civil

War and the building of the Union Pacific Railroad, that linked the east and west coasts in 1869 was well photographed. When you study the ties in those photographs and think of ties as we picture them today, you cannot believe your eyes. Every tie seems to be a different shape. Most are wooden poles split in half down the middle and laid on the ground with the flat side facing up. One picture will always remain in my mind. A bent pole had been split in half down the middle and both pieces used as ties, but placed under the rail adjacent to each other and the two ties looked like a set of parentheses. The Union Pacific had laid track in unpopulated and unindustrialized territory, and the builders used most any kind of lumber that could be found. No ballast was used in those days.

When the railroads came to the United States in 1830, the industrial revolution was just beginning and growth was very slow. The Civil War speeded up the industrial revolution and the growth of the railroads. Although labor unions were born during the Civil War no strikes took place until 1877, 12 years after the end of the Civil War. Prior to this time, labor and material were very inexpensive. Ties, rail and labor were inexpensive and with rare exception the largest locomotive in use was the 4-4-0 which was a light weight engine and did little damage to the roadbed. The strike lasted 10 days and spread to nearly every railroad. The big trouble happened at Pittsburgh, where persons were killed, a hundred locomotives and two thousand cars destroyed, and many buildings burned. Railroads quickly rescinded the pay cuts that had caused the strike, but in general the strike was broken. Many of the participants were fired, jailed, or placed on black lists. A nervous peace was re-established.



Pictures are from the internet.

Part 2 in the next HotBox!

NCR MEMBERS PROJECTS

NCR PROJECTS

Ron King, MMR reworked an AHM depressed center flat car and added a detailed transformer load



Ron Tennant from Div 4 reports that on the State of Michigan Northwest Railroad Franchises has installed a control panel to locate all controls for each of the interlockings that previously had been spread around the system.



John Jackson from Div 8 sends along this photo of the first of two towers for the Detroit, Woodbridge and Birmingham RR (DWBRR) This is a Walther's Cornerstone Interlocking Tower for Potomac Yard.



Gaylord Gill recently completed a mostly scratchbuilt S scale bar & grill, using materials from The 1-Kit by Bar Mills.



Div 6 Secretary Ed Beamish has been adding foliage to his N scale Pere Marquette RR layout!



NCR member David Cook has over the last 5 years acquired six HO Ambroid passenger cars that needed rebuilding with much TLC. Pictured below are two cars that he has now completed.



NCR MEMBERS PROJECTS

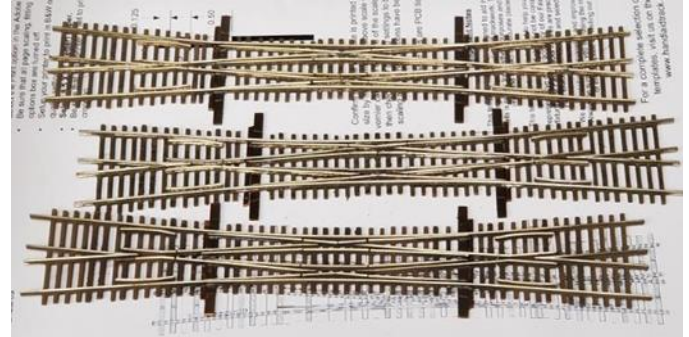
NCR Secretary Norm Logan's recent project was to put on signage, detail and weather the J. D. McLaren elevator on his Michigan Southern layout



Benchwork progress for two yards is happening on Connie Xenakis's HO layout with assistance from Terry Kosmas. Both are Div 6 members.



AP assistant Ken Chick, MMR has some double slip turnouts to install in Billings yard on his N scale layout, the Danforth, Hadley & Northern RR



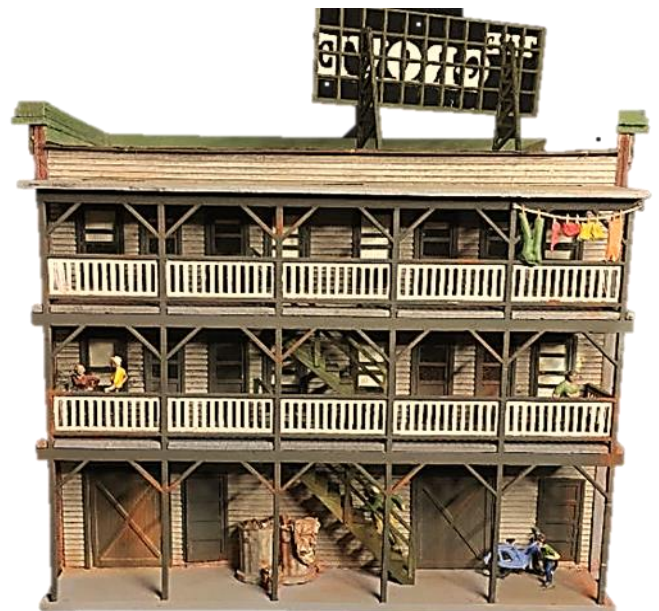
Div 1 Superintendent Dave McMullian with a photo of a recent project. It's the Saybrooke Lighthouse from Crow River. It includes a lighting circuit that realistically simulates the rotating beacon.



Modeling tip: I sprayed the cast metal dog with flat white Krylon, then "painted" it with Pan Pastels using those fuzzy little micro brushes. It made the colors blend softly.



Deb and Don Houston from Div 4 are working on "The Grove" Apartment building

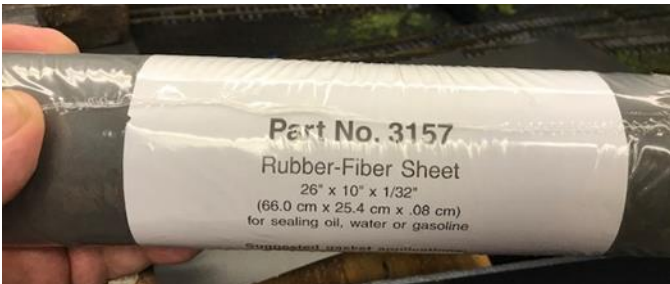


Thom Post from Div 4 is working on the McCabe Lumber Co. Planing Shed kit.





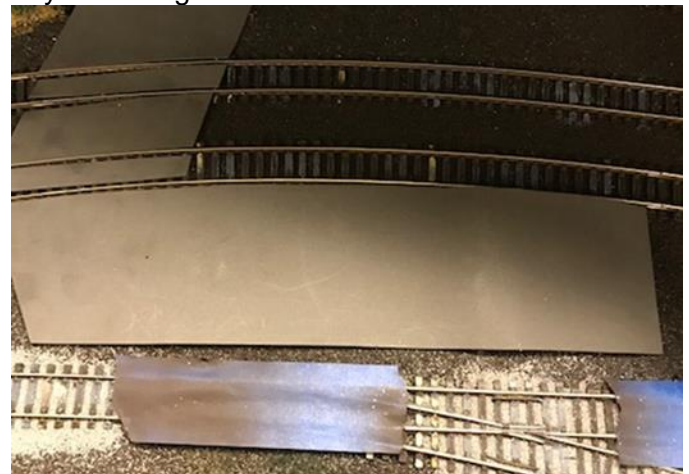
This is the way I make roads for my HO layout. The use of Rubber Fiber sheet is an easy way to fit an asphalt road, large pad or parking lot onto any size or scale layout. The easy part of this material is that it cuts to size with scissors.



The Rubber Fiber package can be purchased at most Auto supply stores. There are two colors Black and Gray, get the Gray. You will also need some Tacky glue, AC, Scissors, a paint pen in a light brown (rail brown) color, a short ruler, a pencil and some small weights.



Start by figuring out the length and how wide roads, and another pads or parking areas are. Unroll the Fiber sheet and cut the length of the road and cut any other larger areas.



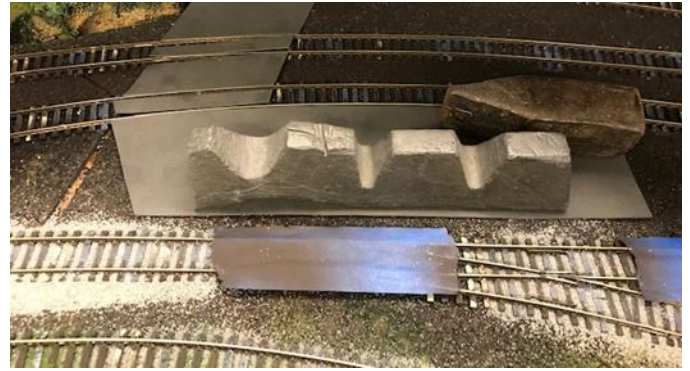
Take the large piece of sheet for the parking area and place it over the rail that it will butt up to. Take your finger and press hard on the railroad track rail and this will make an imprint on the Fiber sheet.



STEP A - Then take you scissors and cut on the line that the rail pressed onto the Fiber sheet. This should match the rail shape.



STEP B - To install this piece, put the TACKY GLUE ON FIRST on the back and set aside. Next run a bead of AC on the ties that the Fiber sheet will butt up to. Carefully turn the Fiber sheet cut out over and line up the cut side with the rail and press into the AC and down on the TACKY GLUE. Use Weights to hold down the edge of the Fiber sheet to the rail and the TACKY GLUE to the deck.



This(*) and (**) is the technique that is used to install all the pieces of the roads and pads. To cut out the road: first cut the full length of the road. Next place the edge of your cut out road on the farthest away rail. Press on the near side to make cut line. Go back to **step A**. You may need to trim a bit more off so that the flanges on the wheels of the rail cars do not derail when passing over. Go back to **step B** to install. Do this for each piece of the road.

If you wish to have wood pieces up to the rails on the road, I use this technique: Use a ruler and a paint pen with a light brown color. (I like the Rail Tie Brown from Micro Mart) Make two straight lines parallel to the rail on both sides of the track.

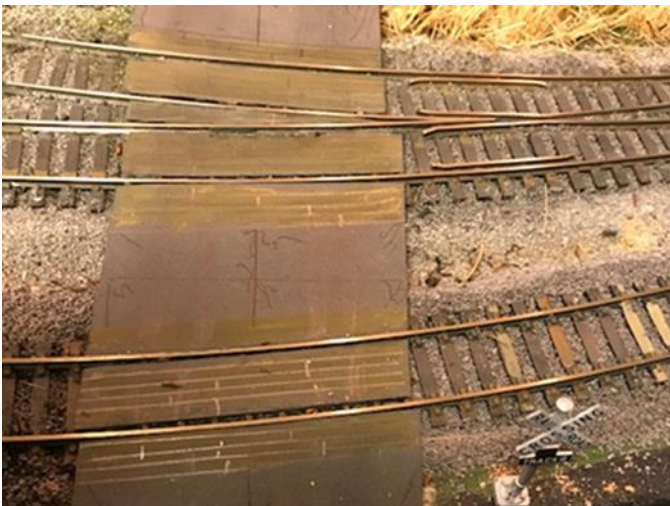


Let this dry for an hour. Then using a ruler and a pencil, draw two lines on each side of the track to make long boards. Then take your pencil and draw the ends of the short boards. With this technique there is no fitting wood to your grade crossing.

continued next page → →



If you have put in the planking on the rail, let's go to the next step. For this you will need a black ball point pen (NOT BLUE). We will begin putting in the spacers in the road, the cracks, and potholes. Take your ruler and begin drawing a line for the middle of the road. This can have wiggles in it as this may be tar lines. Also do this to your parking areas and pads. Next look at the road where heavy trucks will go around corners or slam down on edges and break up the road. Take a little AC and put it on your finger and spread it to make large pot holes.



Making roads this way also helps in going over complex track and switch areas.

Finish the look by using the ball point pen to make more cracks in each square. Then dust up the roads with light brown and gray chalk or dirt to take the new away. Look at the roads to get more details to add.



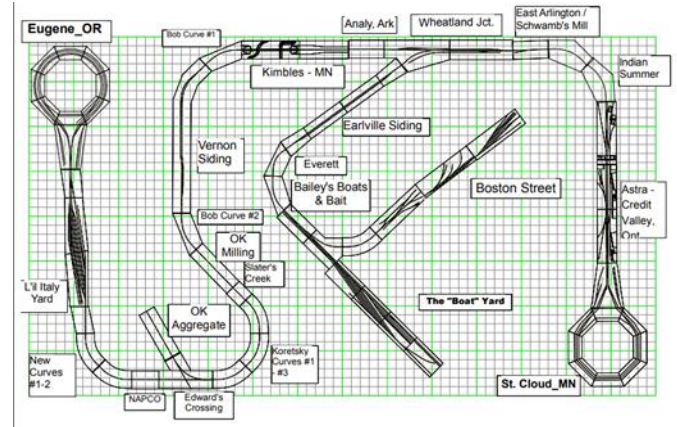
I hope this technique will help you lay in large and small parking areas and roads. Road are a great way to break up long stretches of track and gives the engineer something to use the engine horn for.

WHAT IS FREE-MO?

By: Phil Doolittle, Div 8

NCR PROJECT

Want to do something a little different with your model railroad hobby? Be part of something big? Build something small? Run longer trains? Explore an era, railroad, or location different from what you've been concentrating on for years? Travel? Meet new people? Have we got a deal for you! South East Michigan Free-mo is looking for you! What is South East Michigan Free-mo you ask? Well first I'll stress that it is NOT limited to just model railroaders in South East Michigan, then I'll explain a bit about Free-mo. SE MI Free-mo started in Division 8 about a decade ago, and got stuck with that name, but considers all of the North Central Region its home, and welcomes participation by Free-mo modelers from anywhere.



You can find out more about Free-mo by visiting these sites:

For the standard itself, history, and FAQ visit the official site <http://www.free-mo.org>

For photos of large set-ups visit <http://cvfreemo.ca/Pictures.htm> and explore recent years. These were in Ontario, and modules from SE MI Free-mo were included in many of them.

Join the main Facebook Group <https://free-mo.groups.io/g/main>

Join the SE MI group www.facebook.com/groups/semichiganfm/



Free-mo stands for "freeform modules." It is an HO modular railroad activity that differs from most in that trains run point-to-point instead of being constrained in a closed oval. As such, modules can be any length and any form including curves and branch junctions, not just straights or 90 degree corners. The standard defines the module endplates, track height, and electrical connections but not the length or shape of modules. Trains running of Free-mo emulate purposeful operations rather than continuous running. Free-mo modelers sometimes strive to model actual prototype scenes, but always strive for prototype-like plausibility.

Free-mo layout setups are usually open to anyone with a compliant module (subject to the space available) so building a Free-mo module is a ticket to involvement with modelers all over North America. SE MI Free-mo members have participated in setups at Crossroads Village near Flint, at regional and national conventions, at train shows and at private setups in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Ontario, as well as more distant forays to Syracuse, NY and Springfield, MA.

SE MI Free-mo is a small group at present. Growing membership will enable group cooperation on such projects as building a yard and a return loop, and arranging occasional layout setups within the North Central Region. If you would like to get involved or find out more, contact either Marshall Stull (mstull@marshallstull.com or 248-817-9328) or Phil Doolittle (doolittle@comcast.net or 248-375-2513).



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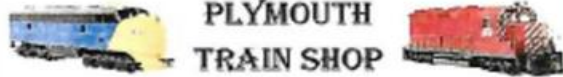
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Sat 10am-5pm
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OTHER HOBBY SHOPS in the NCR -
Whistle Stop Hobbies & Crafts, Decatur, IN
Phil's Hobby Shop, Fort Wayne, IN
The Gladieux Train Depot, Oregon, OH
Rider's Hobby, Grand Rapids, MI



Mon-Fri 10am-8pm
Sat 10am-6pm
Sun 12pm-5pm

2061 S. Linden Rd Flint, MI 48532
In Lincor Plaza at Corunna Rd.
810-720-2500

If you have a story about a local hobby shop giving you over the top service, let us know!!

THANK-YOU to our hobby shops for your support by selling the HotBox in your stores!

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

We normally meet at Proclaim FM radio station community center, 7112 Angola Rd., Holland, OH 43528, near the Airport Highway exit from I-475/SR23 in west Toledo each month from September through May. However, during the Covid pandemic, we are hosting online meetings each month via Zoom. The schedule is posted on our website at www.divisiononencr.com, where you will find lots of information about our activities, member layouts, and other interesting links. Our monthly publication, the Train Order, is also posted on the website.

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

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

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

Our monthly meetings are at the Bake Oven Inn, the iconic/historic restored Pennsy Passenger Depot in downtown Fort Wayne. The meetings are on the second Monday, from 7 PM to 9PM, in one of the board rooms. Exceptions to this schedule will be posted on our website. Updates/changes can be found on our website. No meeting, July- no meeting, September, December. Any updates/changes can be found on our website. [/div3.ncr-nmra.org](http://div3.ncr-nmra.org)

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

Meets quarterly with other special events on the second Friday of the month. For additional information contact Skip Luyk, MMR at 616-363-3453 or 3165 Lost Creek Tr. arcadialogger@gmail.com

Division Five Capital Division (Lansing and western Michigan)

Meets at 1pm, on the SECOND Saturday of the month in Okemos. We meet September to May. For additional information contact the Supervisor for the Capital Division at www.div5.ncr-nmra.org

Division Six Motor City Division (Wayne and Lapeer Counties)

Meets at 7:30pm, on the THIRD Friday of the month at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI. Division 6 meets year-round. www.div6-ncr-nmra.com

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

Meets at 7:00pm, on the THIRD Thursday of the month between Rochester and Livernois Roads. Division 8 meets year-round. www.div8.ncr-nmra.org

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

Meets monthly except in July and August. Monthly meeting at 10AM at the Colonial Kitchen 330 N. State St. For a planned layout tour usually on the third Saturday of the month. Visitors are always welcome. For additional and up to date information contact the Supervisor at 269-365-6777 www.div9ncr-nmra.org

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

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

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

With the Covid-19 restrictions and requirements, most NCR Division meetings have been cancelled or moved online. We suggest you check on the Division website to see about their meeting schedules.

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

See the next page for captions on these local photos! (didn't have room here and wanted bigger pictures!)



We could do the usual winter scenes of railroading, but we have enough cold and snow around, so why add on to it! Let's look at something different... foreign power and/or Heritage locomotives! Yes, these have all been in the NCR area and were photographed locally. Here's what we've had running the local rails..... *Left, down then right....* NS Reading RR heritage in Oakwood Yard; NS Penn Central heritage in west Detroit; Indiana & Ohio units at Flat Rock yard; BNSF pumpkin units in Plymouth; CN British Columbia heritage in Lang Yard Toledo; UP units heading toward Delray – Veterans Salute and standard; ILL Central unit and the CP Grand Trunk heritage unit both at Delray; NS Pennsylvania heritage in Oakwood yard; Kansas City Southern unit at Delray. The RDG photo is by HotBox Editor, Barry Hensel. All other photos by George Emmett, local railfan!

NCR DIRECTOR REPORT

NCR NEWS

So how can covid 19, a death in the family, staying home more and having extra time at home be good for a model railroader? An interesting question. I started my model railroad layout years ago at my house in Gobles more than 9 years ago, benchwork, added railroad cars and engines to my collection, but I am always so busy with work and travel not much work got done on it as I promised. Well, a death in our family caused Jill and I to rethink the space we were living in at our house, we were also home for the month of Nov 2020 with the Covid and were thinking about remodeling part of our house and we hired some people to help. So, after working with Jill on the idea of remodeling the house (yes, it cost me new carpet in three rooms, wall painting in three rooms, purchasing some new furniture and TV's, moving furniture around and Jill getting herself an "art room/project room" room in the house), I now have the full basement to work in. So, I have a friend coming to help me raise the bench work to 48 inches, I have another friend that is coming to help install 12 LED lighting panels in the drop ceiling in the basement (the railroad level in the house) and I now have new storage space to store boxes of railroad cars and engines. So, I am off and running on the rebuilding model railroad layout. This layout starts with the Great Northern Railway with a fake city in WA called "Empire". It will involve transporting produce from the west to the east in the late 1950's. I will provide comments on the project from time to time. I am going to be taking photos, so I can create a clinic on building this layout.



Rich Mahaney, NMRA NCR Director at Large

NCR TIMETABLE EVENTS!

NCR AREA EVENTS

NOTE- Events listed have been compiled from listings on www.trains.com, website for Model Railroader magazine. If you have an event you want listed, it's FREE, but information must be submitted to the Editor at least 45 days in advance of our publication dates! **NOTE – with current covid-19 policies and possible restrictions, all events are subject to cancellation or change of dates! Please contact event organizers before you attend. We have tried to confirm these events, but "things" can change after publication.**

Sunday, March 7, April 4, 2021 - Trains and Trades Show - All Scales
New Baltimore Trade Center 35248 23 Mile Rd New Baltimore, MI
10am-4pm FREE admission Food/refreshments available Steve Gawracz 586-273-7900

Sunday, March 21, 2021 - NWORRP Train Show
Findlay, OH - 12505 County Road 99 Mike Schroeder 419-348 1303

Saturday-Sunday – August 7-8, 2021 - Crossroads Village & Huckleberry RR Railfan Weekend (see ad pg 9)
10am-6pm Flint, MI sponsored by Mid-Michigan Railway Historical Society & Genesee County Parks

NCR HotBox PIKE ADS



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Detroit, Michigan**

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Saturday 10am – 1pm

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!
For information contact:
Shawn Barrick (President)
shawnb426@yahoo.com
Facebook page: Society Of N-Scalers Detroit



Chessie System

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The
NoWhere Line
working to be
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Operations on 4th Thursday
except Nov. and Dec.
<http://div3.ncr-nmra.org/layouts/nowhere-line>
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NCR HotBox PIKE ADS

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info@socmrrc.org
www.socmrrc.org

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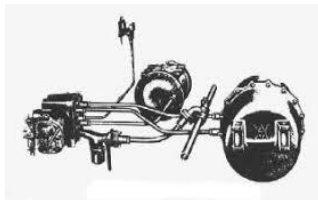
MORE LAYOUT PHOTOS

MORE HOW-TO-DO ARTICLES

MORE INFORMATION

.... stay tuned!

**NEW 2021 NCR
Convention News**



**AIR BRAKE
RULES**

**RailFanning The "MaineLines"
of Dave McMullian**

