



# The Yardmaster

## Southwestern Michigan Division



July - August 2022

Website: [www.ncr-div9.com](http://www.ncr-div9.com)

### Division 9 Officers

Superintendent	- Garry Johnson	<a href="mailto:elecsprk@gmail.com">elecsprk@gmail.com</a>
Assistant Superintendent	- Joel Pyard	<a href="mailto:pyardj@comcast.net">pyardj@comcast.net</a>
Paymaster	- Bob Lawrence	<a href="mailto:robertlawrence44@msn.com">robertlawrence44@msn.com</a>
Scribe	- Alan Bau	<a href="mailto:alanwbau@gmail.com">alanwbau@gmail.com</a>
Trustee	- Doug Van Meter	<a href="mailto:vanmeterda@gmail.com">vanmeterda@gmail.com</a>
Trustee	- Casey Bartman	<a href="mailto:Casey@GR-MI.com">Casey@GR-MI.com</a>

**The Yardmaster** is the newsletter published monthly by Division 9, North Central Region of the National Model Railroad Association.

**Submissions:** Please send articles, news items, inquiries, photos and comments to the Editor of **The Yardmaster**, **Dave Vinci** [dj.vinci@frontier.com](mailto:dj.vinci@frontier.com), **by the 1st of the month** for inclusion in the current month's edition.

### From the Desk of the Superintendent

Greetings to fellow Division 9 members

Well, we're in the hot dog days of summer. In times past I would retreat to my layout room and chill out. No such happen this year as the proposed train room is under house construction finishing up basement walls insulating and drywalling which has been on hold for the last three months as a result on my knee replacement. Knee rehab is going well. Hopefully September I be back at basement finishing. I'm so look forward to commencing on starting benchwork and track laying. In the mean time I've been watching U-Tube videos on modeling structures (Jason Jensen Trains) and detailing scenes and structures (Boomer Diorama: The Immersive Railroad) along (Luke Towan) all very skilled modelers.

The other day I saw two eastbound CN trains parked on the main and siding just west of Battle Creek no place for a westbound train to pass. Apparently waiting for a westbound to arrive in the Battle Creek yard most unusual.

-- Garry Johnson

## **Editor's Comments**

Greetings from your newsletter editor. This is our 2-month issue of **The Yardmaster** that we publish as we have no membership meetings in July and August.

As always, if any of you would like to try your hand at creating an article for the newsletter, please try and write one. It can be of any size or maybe just a photo of your latest project. How about a tip that you think other modelers could benefit from? Thanks again, to those folks who have submitted articles and photographs to the newsletter. This newsletter will only be as informative and entertaining as you, the membership, make it.

I feel that it is time for someone else to take over as Editor/publisher of our Division 9 newsletter, The Yardmaster. I will continue in this position through the end of 2022. If you are interested in this position, please contact me [dj.vinci@frontier.com](mailto:dj.vinci@frontier.com), or any Board member. Thanks, Dave Vinci

## **Achievement Program**

To see the requirements for AP awards see the NMRA website, or talk about the The Yardmaster program, contact our Division AP coordinator, Dorman Wilson at [N8YNW@charter.net](mailto:N8YNW@charter.net)

## **Membership Meetings & Minutes**

### **NMRA NCR Division 9 Membership Meeting Minutes**

**June 18, 2022**

#### **In-Person Attendees**

Garry Johnson

Rich Mahaney

Joel Pyard

Bob Lawrence

Bob Provost

Chuck Peterson

Alan Bau

Location: Colonial Kitchen – Drake Rd. Kalamazoo, Mi.

Meeting was called to order by Gary Johnson at 10:01 AM

#### **Zoom Attendees**

Dave Vinci

#### **Officer Reports**

**Superintendent's Report – Garry Johnson** – Nothing new to report. Garry passed a tool he recently acquired and asked the group to identify what it was. It was a tool to fix Athearn coupler covers. The following description comes from the Micro Mark website. It is titled Bulls Eye Jig, item # 85315 and sells for \$16.95, but don't forget to include our NMRA discount of 15%.

### **Drill Jig For Repairing Sagging Couplers On Athearn Cars**

Use this 'Bulls Eye' jig to drill an accurate #50 hole in the exact center of the coupler box pin for installation of a cover retaining screw. After drilling, tap the hole and install a #2-56x1/8 round head machine screw to tighten the box lid and eliminate coupler droop. Includes machined brass drill guide, six screws and instructions.

**Assistant Superintendent's Report** – Joel indicated there was nothing new to report.

**Paymaster's Report** – Bob Lawrence reported that the balance in checking account remains at \$940.16. and our new checks have arrived.

**Scribe's Report** – Alan Bau reported that our annual election of board members is coming up at the annual meeting in September. The following positions are up for election: Assistant Superintendent (Joel Pyard), Paymaster (Bob Lawrence) & the Trustee position currently held by (Casey Bartman). Anyone wanting to volunteer to become a board member should contact either Garry Johnson or Alan Bau.

**Yardmaster Newsletter Editor** – Dave Vinci reported despite not meeting in July & August, there will be a Yardmaster newsletter issued in late July or early August. Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures, etc. that may be of interest to other modelers.

#### **Old Business:**

**October Convention** – Rich Mahaney updated everyone on the status of the 2-day convention. All clinic presenter slots have been filled. Rich is now working on photos of the layouts that will be on the tour. We need volunteers to lend a hand on several different tasks. Look for more detailed information in the coming months.

#### **New Business:**

#### **Upcoming Division Nine Schedule:**

##### **Membership Meetings:**

**July & August – no meetings scheduled**

**Annual Meeting** - Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> in Hartford at the West Michigan Railroad located at

**Board Meetings:** Normally we meet quarterly, however with the upcoming convention in October, we decided it was necessary to meet monthly. All meetings are on Sunday at 2:00PM.

**July 10<sup>th</sup>**

**August 7<sup>th</sup>**

**September 11<sup>th</sup>**

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>**

Next meeting is scheduled for Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> at the West Michigan Railroad.

Rich Mahaney recommends that we meet at 10am at the transfer facility east of Hartford off the Red Arrow Highway, near the Van Buren County Fairgrounds.

The transfer facility is known as the Paw Paw River Trans Load facility and is located at 59 1/2 St and the railroad tracks and is north of the Red Arrow Highway.

It is located behind the Meachum Family Farms warehouse located on the Red Arrow Highway east of Hartford, before you arrive at the Van Buren County Fairgrounds. You can see the railroad cars from the Red Arrow Highway.

The area is a dirt lot which could be muddy.



Video Presentation of David Gunn's layout followed the business meeting. Unfortunately, due to extenuating circumstances we were unable to see a live zoom layout tour of David's layout. Hopefully we will be able to reschedule this down the road.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:49 AM -- Respectfully Submitted - Alan Bau

**There will be no membership meetings in July and August 2022.**  
Our next meeting will be in September 2022. This will be our Annual formal meeting as well as the election of officers.

## **N.M.R.A Northcentral Region, Division 9 SW Michigan Division Re: Minutes of the Meeting of the Board 8 August 2022**

Seven members of the board of Division 9 of the Northcentral Region of the NMRA gathered via Zoom for a regularly scheduled meeting to primarily address the upcoming October Clinic that will be hosted by the Division. Those members were:

- Superintendent Garry Johnson
- David Vinci
- Joel Pyard
- Pay Master Bob Lawrence
- Jim Glenn
- Rich Mahaney
- Casey Bartman

A general sentiment of a speeding recovery was made to Joel for his recent medical problems.

Superintendent Garry Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M. He reported on a contract with the River Church. They do not believe that a formal contract is necessary. They have estimated a cost of \$300 for the Saturday usage of their facility. Superintendent Johnson will attempt to finalize that figure and details next week.

The central topic of discussion was an email sent today from Rich Mahaney concerning the upcoming clinic. Three attachments were included with the email, which are attached. Rich reported that flyers have been distributed to hobby shops in the Region and that there will be notice of the Clinic in the Hot Box to be published in the next several weeks.

Rich went on to inform that his current work is centered on finalizing presenters for the clinic and preparing a flyer with details concerning layout tours and op sessions. Discussion was made concerning how to assign attendees to op sessions. The plan is to finalize that detail in September or October.

Rich expressed his desire that we have 100 attendees for the Clinic. He felt confident that we should reach between 50 and 70 guests.

Some discussion was carried out concerning the need for member volunteers on the Friday and Saturday of the clinic. On Friday, we will need a member at each location to register attendees as they arrive. It was felt that we will need to be ready to greet attendees by 3:00 P.M. at Jim Glenn's home.

Superintendent Johnson discussed screens for clinic presentations. The current plan is to use sheets taped to the wall. An attempt will be made to see if the Region has screens that we can use.

David Vinci stated that he felt that it was time to pass the publication of the Division Newsletter on to another editor/publisher. He informed the board that he will continue in that role through the end of 2022. The board thanked him for his years of service in that role and wished him good luck in working on his layout in his extra time.

As of the time of publication of these minutes, four guest have registered for the October Clinic via the web site, they are:

- Garry Johnson
- Alan Bau
- Daniel Mitzel
- Casey Bartman

Respectfully submitted Casey Bartman Acting Secretary of the Division 9

## **September Election of Officers**

Three of our officer positions (current office holders have agreed to run again) are up for re-election. If you wish to run for an office nominations will be accepted from the floor at the September meeting. The positions are as follows:

### **Assistant Superintendent** (Joel Pyard)

- a. shall oversee the membership registry of the Division, validating membership qualifications.
- b. shall design, plan and execute Division activities
- c. shall conduct official Division functions in the absence of the Superintendent, conducting meetings in adherence to The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, Fourth Edition.

### **Paymaster** (Bob Lowrance)

- a. shall oversee financial business of the Division, to include, but not limited to, collection of monies, distribution of monies as approved by the Board.
- b. shall maintain the financial records of the Division.
- c. shall ensure all financial reporting paperwork is filed with State, Municipal, and Federal agencies as required by law.
- d. in the event that the Division needs a checking account, the treasurer shall establish such account, and each check must be signed by the Paymaster and the Superintendent to be valid. One additional Director shall be on the account to sign checks in the event that either the Superintendent or Paymaster is unable to sign a required check.

### **Trustee** (Casey Bartman)

- a. shall serve as representative at large on behalf of the membership
- b. shall assist any other Director as needed.

If you wish to run for one of the offices, please contact Garry Johnson or Alan Bau.

## **Prototype Photos**

The other new feature we want to add to **The Yardmaster** are some photos of the prototype railroads that run (or ran) through the counties covered by Division 9. Those railroads (in no particular order) include: Grand Rapids & Indiana; Pennsylvania; Michigan Central; New York Central; Penn Central; Pere Marquette; Chesapeake & Ohio; Grand Trunk; Canadian National; Conrail; Norfolk Southern; Amtrak; Chicago, Kalamazoo and Saginaw; Grand Elk; etc.



WB Amtrak at CN/CSX diamond by East Lasing, MI 6-28-2022  
R. Mahaney photo

So if you have some photos you've taken or have permission to submit for publication, please send scans of them to your editor for inclusion in our Prototype photo section. If you need help with this, contact Your editor.



WB Amtrak CN/CSX diamond by the East Lasing, MI 6/28/2022

R. Mahaney photo



WB - CN weed sprayer, rented from BNSF? at East Lansing, MI 6/28/2022  
R. Mahaney photo



WB - CN weed sprayer, (rented from BNSF?) at East Lansing, MI 6-28-2022  
R. Mahaney photo



CN/CSX diamond by East Lasing, MI 6-28-2022 R. Mahaney photo



WB CSX at the CN/CSX diamond by the East Lasing, MI June 28, 2022 R. Mahaney photo



WB - CN, long hazmat train at the CN/CSX diamond by the East Lasing, MI 6/28/2022 R. Mahaney photo



EB - CN - friendly crew, even played a song with their horn as they came by at the CN/CSX diamond by the East Lasing, MI 6/28/2022 R. Mahaney photo.

Next month we will be meeting at the West Michigan Railroad Co in Hartford, Michigan. (See the note on page 4) Here's a little preview of that railroad:



Reporting Marks: WMI  
 Local: Hartford, Michigan  
 Dates of Operation: 1995 to date  
 Track: 4ft 8 1/2" – Standard gauge  
 Length: 4.23 miles  
 Headquarters: Saugatuck, Michigan  
 Connecting railroad: CSX Transportation (Hartford, MI)

West Michigan Railroad Co.

The **West Michigan Railroad Co. (WMI)**,

a wholly-owned subsidiary of Pioneer Railcorp, operates 4.23 miles of track in the Hartford, Michigan area. The railroad's principal commodities are frozen foods and canned goods.



CSX switching out cars with the West Michigan Railroad at Hartford, MI May 10, 2022 R. Mahaney photo



West Michigan RR 2022 Hartford, Michigan

OCTOBER 2022 MODEL RAILROADING CONVENTION – KALAMAZOO/BATTLE CREEK, MI AREA

The NMRA NCR Division 9 is hosting a Model Railroad Convention over two days (OCT 28/29, 2022) which will include layout tours, clinics, a special dinner and hopefully some operating session, all of this is over a Friday afternoon through Saturday time frame. The location is in the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek area of Michigan. The Kalamazoo Model Railroad Club will be hosting their annual fall train show and sale on the Sunday (Oct 30) of that weekend if you would like to attend that also. A weekend of railroading activities. Hotel selection in the area is on your own. Registration location(s) on Friday will be announced after you register, registration on Saturday will be at the location where the clinics are being held from 7:30am to 12:30pm. The Saturday registration location and the clinics will be at a facility called The River Church, which located at 517 Walbridge, in downtown Kalamazoo. The building is northeast of the Kalamazoo Amtrak Station and backs up to the train tracks.

Oct 28, Friday afternoon, there will be layout open houses from 4pm to 6:30pm. You must have a paid registration and convention badge to see the layouts. Registration for the convention will occur at the first layout on the tour.

Oct 28, Friday evening, there will be a gathering of model railroaders for dinner at Clara’s Restaurant in downtown Battle Creek starting at 6:30pm. You need to reserve a spot for this event and dinner will be ordered off the menu with individual bills. Who knows what might be scheduled for education, entertainment and fun!

Oct 29, Saturday, at the River Church, registration from 7:30am to 8:30am and time to visit with other model railroaders. Free donuts, coffee, and soft drinks!

Oct 29, Saturday, 8:30am, 9:45am and 11am. 12 clinics will be presented between four different rooms.

Oct 29, Saturday, Lunch on your own. Then more model railroad layout viewing 1:00pm to 4:30pm, maybe operating sessions on Saturday evening.

More information will all be posted on The NMRA NCR Division 9 website, including information about paying with credit cards for registration and Friday registration sites. The Division 9 website address is -

<http://ncr-div9.com/conventionForm.php>

Registrations at this time can be check or money order made out to NMRA, NCR, Division 9. Cut off the registration form below and mail it to Division 9 Superintendent and Convention Registrar Garry Johnson, 371 32<sup>nd</sup> Street N, Springfield, MI 49037.

Registration fees in US Dollars only: Pre-registration of \$25, late registration fee is \$30 on or after September 1, 2022. Yup, send them in now and save some money!

For more information or question contact Rich Mahaney at 269-214-4221 or [rcmahaney@gmail.com](mailto:rcmahaney@gmail.com).

-----REGISTRATION FORM/Cut off and send to Garry, at the address above-----

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NMRA Number \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested or planning to attend the Friday, Oct 29, 2022 dinner at Clara’s in Battle Creek, the cost of dinner will be on your own YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in attending operation sessions on Saturday evening? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ More information will follow in the future as these get set up.

## Division 9 Calendar for July 2022

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 BOD zoom meeting for Oct 2-day conv. 2:00 pm	11	12	13	14	15	16 <b>No Division 9 Meeting</b>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## Division 9 Calendar for August 2022

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 BOD zoom meeting for Oct 2- day conv. 2:00 pm	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 <b>No Division 9 Meeting</b>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			