



The Yardmaster

Southwestern Michigan Division



September 2023

Website: www.ncr-div9.com

Annual Division 9 Membership Meeting

Saturday September
23rd



Kalamazoo Bridge Club
648 Maple Hill Drive

Lots of Activities & Loads
of Fun as we celebrate
Another Anniversary for
Division 9





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Non-Train Related Special Events

Labor Day – September 4th



Patriot's Day – September 11th

First Day of Fall – 23rd



Editor's Comments

We have a lot of events scheduled for the start of the new Division Nine fiscal year. Starting off is our annual Membership Meeting. This edition of the Yardmaster has a lot of information on the activities scheduled for our Annual Meeting. Be sure to mark this day on your calendar and plan to attend. We also have three layout tours scheduled in October, followed by a clinic by Doug Harding in November and one by Joel Pyard in December.

Note: The September meeting will be held on Saturday **September 23rd** (This is a change in date) at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club located at 648 Maple Hill Drive in Kalamazoo. There are detailed driving instructions contained within this newsletter.



Division 9 Officers

Superintendent	- Garry Johnson	elecsprk@gmail.com
Assistant Superintendent	- Joel Pyard	pyardj@comcast.net
Paymaster	- Bob Lawrence	robertlawrence44@msn.com
Scribe & Newsletter Editor	- Alan Bau	alanwbau@gmail.com
Trustee	- Doug Van Meter	vanmeterda@gmail.com
Trustee	- Casey Bartman	Casey@GR-MI.com

Note: Elections are coming up in September. The positions in red are up for election.



Upcoming Division Nine Membership Meetings & Events:

Presenter	Date	Location	Presentation Subject
You will find more information on the next few pages	September 23rd NEW Date	Kalamazoo Bridge Club 648 Maple Hill Drive, Kalamazoo, Mi.	Annual Business Meeting, Board Elections & Other Activities
Board Meeting	October 1 st 2:00 PM	Kalamazoo Bridge Club 648 Maple Hill Drive, Kalamazoo, Mi.	
Membership Meeting 3 Layout Tours in Grand Rapids	October 28th NEW DATE		
Membership Meeting	November 18th	"Ice and Icing Operations"	Zoom clinic with Doug Harding
Membership Meeting	December 16th	GR&I Part 2	Joel Pyard

Annual Membership Meeting

Mark September 23rd on your calendar and make plans to attend the Annual Membership Meeting of NMRA–NCR–Division 9. We have lots of new and interesting programs on the agenda. Know of anyone that is involved in model railroading or even thinking about the hobby, but not yet a NMRA member? Bring them along, share a donut and a cup of coffee and have a great time.



Meeting Agenda

Time	Description	Details
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Coffee & Donuts View For-Sale & Display Tables	
9:15 AM – 9:30 AM	Welcome Election of Officers	Garry Johnson Joel Pyard
9:30 AM – 9:45 AM	History of Division Nine	Jim Glenn
9:45 AM – 10:30 AM	Achievement Program Judging of Diorama	Dorman Wilson & Alan Bau
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Show & Tell	
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Break	
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Learning Clinic	Rich Mahaney
12:00 – 12:15	Door Prizes 50/50 Raffle	Bob Lawrence
12:15 PM – 12:30 PM	Member Feedback	Alan Bau

Driving Directions

Kalamazoo Bridge Club
648 Maple Hill Drive
Kalamazoo, Mi. 49009
Phone # (269) 290-3113



The Kalamazoo Bridge Club is located on the **lower level** of the West Main Place Shopping Mall at 648 Maple Hill Drive in Kalamazoo, Michigan, 49009.

Located near the Rt. 131 and (M43) West Main Street interchange. Exit Rt.131 onto West Main Street (Exit 38) going eastbound, turn south at the first traffic light (Maple Hill Drive) and drive to the south side of the West Main Place Mall which will be on your left, turn east and drive down the short hill and turn left (north), to suite # 648.

Maple Hill Drive is located between The Texas Corral Restaurant and Long John Silvers.



Maple Hill Drive



The Kalamazoo Bridge Club is located in this mall. **In the back on the lower level.** This picture is behind Long John Silver's on West Main Street.

NOTE: If you plan to use GPS to find the Kalamazoo Bridge Center, you need to be aware that some GPS don't recognize Maple Hill Drive south of West Main St.

September Annual Meeting Details

Mark September 23rd on your calendar and plan to attend our Annual Membership Meeting to be held at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club 648 Maple Hill Drive in Kalamazoo. In addition to electing officers, we have added many programs to the agenda. Bring your spouse, a friend or anyone interested in trains.

- **Show & Tell** - modelers can bring in items they have modeled to share with other members. Display tables will also be available for members to display their modeling endeavors.
- **Division Nine History** - Jim Glenn will present an overview of the efforts involved in establishing Division 9.
- **Achievement Program** - review and judging of a model to give members a better understanding of what is involved. Dorman Wilson will be judging a diorama that I have modeled for my layout. This should be interesting! FYI – Part 7 of A Travelogue Through the NMRA’s Achievement Program (The Cars Certificate) can be found in the NMRA Magazine September edition on pages 16 – 23.
- **Layout Tours and Clinics** - A look into what is being considered for layout tours and clinics for October through the end of next year.
- **Clinic Session** - Rich Mahaney will also be presenting one of his newer clinics.
- **For Sale or Giveaway Items** – Have any excess model railroading items that you would like to sell or give away? Please make sure you have your name and the price clearly marked on each item. Division Nine takes no responsibility for any items that are being offered. See the For-Sale page in the newsletter for items that Marilyn Holm has offered for sale.
- **50/50 Raffle**
- **Door Prizes**
- **Member Feedback** – This session allows our members, guests, etc. to express their thoughts and ideas on model railroading as it relates to Division Nine.
- **Coffee & Donuts**

The meeting will start around 9:00 AM and end around 12:30PM.

We would like to thank the Kalamazoo Bridge Club for allowing us the use of their facility. This Kalamazoo Bridge Club affords us the space and greatly reduced external noise that we need for this meeting. There is plenty of close in parking, with no steps to enter the facility.

Upcoming Membership Meeting Details – provided by Rich Mahaney

October 28, 2023 - Division 9 Meeting

Due to the NCR Fall Convention in Fort Wayne, IN, the Division 9 meeting has been moved from the third Saturday in October, to the fourth Saturday in October. Oct 21 to Oct 28 by the Division 9 Board. FYI – Division 4 has been invited to join us.

On October 28th, Division 9 will be travelling to view three Grand Rapids area railroad club layouts, meeting at the first club at 9am on Saturday morning. The first stop at 9am will be at River Bend Model Railroad Club, which is the home of the Superior Northern Railroad. Division 9 last visited this layout under construction in the fall of 2019. The club is located in the basement of the Sunset Manor Nursing Home in Jenison, at 725 Baldwin Street. Enter the Nursing Home through the door marked F. Just inside the building, you will find an elevator that will take you down to the basement, follow the signs in the hallway to the model railroad club. You will pass a bathroom on the way to the club. Door F is on Baldwin Street side of the building under a covered entrance, there is plenty of free parking in the parking lot. The Superior Northern Railroad is an HO layout and crosses the Upper Peninsula of the State of Michigan involving several railroads moving iron ore, timber, and other loads. This is a two-level layout using metal benchwork. I estimate our visit to last about an hour before we head to the second layout.

The second layout on the tour is the Grand River Valley Model Railroad Club, which is located at 2405 Porter Street SW in Wyoming, MI. We should be arriving around 10:30am. The club is actually hosting an open house this Saturday from 10am to 4pm, which is perfect for this stop for us. The Grand River Valley Club is a multi-scale club with layouts built by members in HO scale, N scale, garden scale, S gauge, and whatever else the members have an interest in. The Grand River Valley Club is also the sponsor of the Oct 14, 2023 Train Show, at the HSB in Wyoming and is the producer of "The Train Show List", that is emailed to many people about train show dates and locations in MI, IN and OH. We will enter the building Byron Center at the back of the building. I estimate we should be heading to our third layout around 11:30am. I would recommend a "drive through" fast food lunch on the way to the third layout.

We should be arriving at our third layout around noon time. Our third layout is the Grand Rapids Model Railroad Historical Society (GRMRHS) (more commonly known as the Pere Marquette layout or club), which is located at 4040 Leland Ave NW in Comstock Park, north of Grand Rapids. Get off highway 131 by the White Caps ballpark and head back south on West River Dr to the park, the club is located in the building on the backside of the Dwight Lydell Park. After you get on West River Dr, there is a McDonalds and a Speedway gas station if you need anything on your way to the club. The Pere Marquette Railroad Club has been modeling the Pere Marquette Railroad on a large two-level HO layout across the state of Michigan including going all of the way north to Traverse City and Petosky. Visitors will recognize scenes and towns across central and west Michigan all of the way down to St Joseph, MI, as trains travel on to Chicago that came from Detroit. There is a

large area involving Wyoming and Grand Rapids, MI. The GRMRHS was the host for the 2012 NMRA Convention.

Don't forget to visit Grand Rapids area hobby shops in Grand Rapids, Wyoming, and Grandville on your own travel time before heading home.



Upcoming Train Shows

To encourage our members to support local area train shows the following are within reasonable driving distance from Kalamazoo.

Dates	Event Name	Location
Sep. 16	Battle Creek Train Show	Calhoun Co. Fairgrounds, 720 Fair St., Marshall, MI. See Flyer on Page 10
Sep. 23	Mt. Clemens Train Show	Louis Social Hall 39140 Ormsby St., Mt. Clemens, Mi.
Oct. 14	Greater Grand Rapids Fall Train Show	Wyoming, Mi. HSB, Inc.
Oct. 15	32 nd Annual Chicago Railroadiana & Model Train Show & Sale	Kane County Fairgrounds, 525 Randall Rd., St. Charles, Il.
Oct. 19-21	2023 NCR Convention	Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. Fort Wayne, In. Fort Wayne Rails 2023 – 3 Rivers Division (ncrnmra.org)
Oct. 21	Fort Wayne Model Railroad Show and Swap	Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. Fort Wayne, In.
Oct. 22	Taylor Town Train Show	Taylor Town Trade Center, 22525 Ecorse Rd. Taylor Mi.
Oct. 29	KMRHS Show and Sale	Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds/Expo Center
Nov. 5	Lansing Model Train Show & Sale	MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing, Mi.
Nov. 18	Grand Rapids Model Railroad Historical Society Open House	4040 Leland Ave NW, Comstock Park, Mi. 49321
Nov. 18	Maumee Valley Model Railroad Show & Swap	Classic Cafe Catering & Event Center, 4832 Hillegas Rd. Fort Wayne, In.

You can click on the above link for more information on the NCR Fort Wayne Convention. There is also a copy of the Convention flyer on the next page.

NCR 2023 Convention in Fort Wayne, In.

Click on this link for more details.

[Fort Wayne Rails 2023 – 3 Rivers Division \(ncrmra.org\)](https://www.ncrmra.org/fort-wayne-rails-2023)

ANNOUNCING
NCR 2023 Convention
Oct. 19 – 22, 2023



Make plans to attend the 2023 NMRA North Central Region Convention that will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The convention, hosted by the Three Rivers Division will include events for the whole family as well as access to the [2023 Fort Wayne Model Railroad Show and Swap](#) which will be held on Saturday 21 October at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum (conveniently located across the street from the convention hotel). Hope you can join us for this fun filled weekend!

Bob Jones, Div. 3 Superintendent

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

[CLINICS](#)

[OP SESSIONS](#)

[MODEL DISPLAYS](#)

[PROTOTYPE TOURS](#)

SPECIAL EVENTS

[2023 Fort Wayne Model Railroad Show & Swap](#)

Visit [www//div3.ncrmra.org/fort-wayne-rails-2023](https://www.div3.ncrmra.org/fort-wayne-rails-2023) for additional details and updates

Battle Creek Train Show

And Swap meet at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds

September

16th

2023

10:00AM – 3:00PM



Several operational layouts, including
“Hands on” Displays, vendors, door prizes, food,
unlimited FREE parking, and FUN!
Children 12 & under can register to win a Train set.
Information contact Andy Buck (269) 268-0910
Visit our website: <http://www.bcmrrc.net>
Calhoun County Fairgrounds, 720 Fair St, Marshall, MI

Admission: Adults & Teens - \$5

Children Under 12 Free

But Wait, There's More!

You're Invited to our Open House at the Battle Creek Model Railroad Club!

September 30, 2023 from: 10:00AM – 2:00PM

Admission is FREE

We're located in Downtown Battle Creek at #2 West Michigan Ave., Suite B-1

Parking is in back off of State St. Just follow the signs to the entrance.

For Sale Items Do you have an excess inventory of cars, supplies, etc. which are just taking up space and most likely will never be used? You can list these items here and try to sell them, so you can buy more train stuff.



Marilyn Horn has the following "N" scale items for sale. She also plans to have more "N" items for sale at the September Annual Membership Meeting.

Contact Information: 269-268-9772, email address is jimmarilynholm@charter.net

**Shorty container ship 26" long by 4" wide with containers. \$75
Roundhouse and turntable \$50**



To list your for-sale items here, send your list of items along with a picture if one is available, a description of your item(s) along with your asking price and contact information. If you wish your item(s) to be listed in the upcoming newsletter, you need to submit them along with needed information no later than the 25th of the month.

Send your information to alanwbau@gmail.com.



Membership Status Report – by Alan Bau

As of 1/1/2023 we had 36 members.
Our latest information from NMRA has us at 36 members.

*Thank
You*

*For Renewing
Your Membership
in the NMRA*

Question of the Month – September

Do you plan to attend the Division 9 Annual Membership Meeting on September 28th? Come alone or bring a friend or two, maybe three?

General Question on Question of the Month

The participation level on responding to the question of the month is a little disappointing. The question for September is should we continue with the Question of the Month in future newsletters?



Pictured to the left is Gordy Robinson NMRA President along with newly elected NCR President Rich Mahaney

Train Room Decorations

Looking to buy some decorative items for your train room? Rich Mahaney found a place in South Haven that has some items in their shop that you may find interesting. See note from Rich.

I found these items on sale at the antique center for sale between highway 40 and South Haven on highway 43. It is the place with two old antique fire engines in the front yard. The yellow signs have price tags of \$80 each on them. The cross bucks are more expensive. I just thought I would share if people are looking for wall decorations for their railroad room.



The following articles & pictures were taken by Rich Mahaney on one of his recent trips.

On Friday Aug 18th, before I attended the NMRA Board of Directors meeting on Sat at the NMRA Convention I spent some time along the railroad tracks north of Fort Worth at Saginaw, TX. This is a place where at one time railroad tracks from the RI, UP, ATSF, FW&D all crossed. The "diamonds" are gone now, but the track plan is interesting when you look at track maps. There are a number of large elevators in the area for agricultural products and processing. Great BBQ restaurant across the street from the old Saginaw train station for a takeout dinner meal while train watching. Thanks to Ed Chapman for directing me to this location!

There are three rail cars parked on display next to the old train station which is now the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce offices.

Rich Mahaney





On Sat morning before the NMRA Board Meeting, I drove past the Grapevine, TX tourist railroad which runs for 21 miles between Grapevine and the Fort Worth Stockyards. The city of Grapevine owns and operates this railroad.





The Fort Worth Stockyards are a great place to go visit, eat, drink, buy Western clothing and boots and get rowdy! This is the home of Billy Bobs "Honkytonk Bar" (largest in the world) and famous from the movie "Urban Cowboy". Bud and Sissy - John Travolta and Debra Winger from 1980.

It was 108 degrees both days I was in TX.

These elevator views were taken by Rich Mahaney in Saginaw, Texas.



These elevator views were taken by Rich Mahaney in Saginaw, Texas.



The photos were taken by Rich Mahaney.

AARR Train Museum in Shepherd, MI



AARR equipment



Clair Union Railroad Train Station in Clare, MI

Clair Union Depot – track sides



900 feet to the west is the track diamond where the train station sat next to the AA and PM tracks

Clare Union Depot model in the museum showing the unique angle for the station and tracks





Maynard Mitchell took this picture of one of his impressive scenes on his model railroad. Incredible detail.

Wrap-up for another month

This edition of the Yardmaster starts another year for Division 9. We are confident the new year will bring us more terrific clinics, outstanding layout tours and lots of new modeling friends.

Remember to set your calendar for the September 23rd annual meeting.

Alan Bau