



# The Yardmaster

Southwestern Michigan Division



January 2024

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



This photo is the Pere Marquette Steam Engine # 1225, from the Steam Railroading Institute.

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## Non-Train Related Holidays & Special Events – January 2024

- **New Years Day 1/01**
- **Martin Luther King Day 1/15**



## **Editor's Comments**

We are always looking for more interesting content for the newsletter. If you have anything to offer, please feel free to send me photos, articles, ideas, comments, and anything that tickles your fancy (keep it clean) that would add to our overall adventure into the world of Model Railroading.



### **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>
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Trustee	- Casey Bartman	<a href="mailto:Casey@GR-MI.com">Casey@GR-MI.com</a>



### **Upcoming Division Nine Membership Meetings & Events:**

<b>Meetings &amp; Events</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Presenter &amp; Topic</b>
Board Meeting	Sunday January 7 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM	Zoom Meeting	
Membership Meeting & Layout Tour at KMRHS Club	Saturday January 20 <sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM	Kalamazoo Bridge Club	GR&I Part 3 – Joel Pyard Manistee & Northeastern RR – Rich Mahaney
Membership Meeting	Saturday February 17 <sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM	Kalamazoo Bridge Club - Tentative	Andy Keeney - Operations
Membership Meeting & Layout Tour of Andy Keeney's layout	Saturday March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Andy Keeney's	Layout Tour & Op Session

**Please note the recent change to the January Membership Meeting Agenda.**

## **January 20th Meeting Presentation Details**

**Location: Kalamazoo Bridge Club 648 Maple Hill Drive in Kalamazoo.**

The January 20, 2024, Division 9 meeting clinic will look at two railroads in MI. Joel Pyard will discuss more of the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad branch lines. Rich Mahaney will discuss the Manistee and Northeastern Railroad and the car ferry Manistique that sailed from Northport, MI. The car ferry also sailed from Elberta as an AA boat, Ludington as a PM boat and Muskegon as a GTW boat. Joel and Rich will also discuss how the GR&I and the M&NE had some connections.

The original meeting clinic plan was to have a speaker from the Grand Elk Railroad, but they had to cancel out due to the problem of nobody would be available, we will try again for this presentation in the future.

Following our normal meeting, there will be a layout tour of the KMRHS Club located at 9336 N. Riverview Drive in Kalamazoo.

## **February 17<sup>th</sup> – Tentative Location Kalamazoo Bridge Club**

After our normal business meeting, Andy Keeney will be making a presentation on Model Railroading Operations.

The plan is to meet at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club located at 648 Maple Hill Drive in Kalamazoo. This location is somewhat tentative at this time, as I am the only member authorized to access the facility and I will be on vacation. If this doesn't work out, I will send out a special notice to all members of a change in plans. The date and the program are firm, but the location is somewhat tentative.

Driving directions to the Kalamazoo Bridge Club are on the next page.

## **March 16<sup>th</sup> – Layout Tour & Op Session**

Layout tour of Andy Keeney's layout, followed by an Operating Session on Andy's layout. His address is 6850 W. Herbison Rd., Dewitt, Mi.



## Driving Directions to the Kalamazoo Bridge Club

**Kalamazoo Bridge Club**  
**648 Maple Hill Drive**  
**Kalamazoo, Mi. 49009**

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

We are 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. Remember to turn South off of West Main Street.

### Bill Neale

We have some sad news to report in that Bill Neale passed away in late



December. If you recall, Bill made a presentation to our club last January on some upgrades that he made to his layout.

I met Bill at the NCR Convention in Indianapolis a couple of years ago. He impressed me as not only a terrific model railroader, but a truly great person. He was friendly, helpful and knowledgeable. As the word spread on Bill's unexpected passing, there have been many tributes to Bill from across the region. Bill was an asset to us all and will be missed by many. Our condolences to Bill's family and his many close friends.

## Upcoming Train Shows

# Train Show List

The full list of shows is available here on the brand new website, which allows you to subscribe and submit your events directly. More features will be coming soon!

<https://www.trainshowlist.com>

Given that we are reaching almost 1000 subscribers every other week, please consider making a donation as part of your event's marketing budget. Please visit the Train Show List site and donate via PayPal. Thank you for your support!



## 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.



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 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Send your information to [alanwbau@gmail.com](mailto:alanwbau@gmail.com).



## Rich's Travels

### Kaleva Mi.

A person attending the NCR Division 2 meeting in Traverse City, MI today told me about this place to stop and see a train station museum on my drive home. This is Kaleva, MI. It is/was a station on the Pere Marquette Railroad on the way to Traverse City. It is north of Baldwin and south of Thompsonville. The Ann Arbor Railroad crossed the PM tracks north of here at Thompsonville. This appears to be an eastern end of the old Manistee and Northeastern Railroad. I was told this is the last painted up/lettered engine for the Manistee and Northeastern Railroad. It is on display next to this old "joint" station for the PM and M&NE Railroads. The station is actually built with angles, so it probably was along both sets of tracks.









**BNSF coal train heading north bound in Bangor, MI** this morning (12/20) for the Campbell Plant north of Holland on the CSX tracks. It had a helper engine on the end pushing. It probably picked up extra engines in Grand Junction, MI to get up the hills to Holland.





The next few pages are a follow-up to our visit to Ralph Moxley's layout.

His AA RR layout models the AA RR from Cadillac to the Elberta, MI yard across the harbor/lake from Frankfort, MI. The car ferry is docked at the Elberta Yard on Betsie Lake. Ralph had to adjust the scene to fit on his layout. Most people would not know if you had never been to Elberta before or studied AA RR books and photos. Nice layout! The car ferry opens up so you can see the rooms on board and the railroad cars on the track level.

Rich

## Ralph Moxley AA RR Layout

When Division 9 visited Ralph's layout on a tour, his car ferry was on display in Durand. Ralph let me know when it had returned and was back on his layout, so I could get some photos for our newsletter.













# Steam Railroading Institute

## Steam Railroading Institute Owosso, MI

Great place to visit and to see the train cars and train engines.

The Steam Railroading Institute is the home of the steam engine #1225, formally of the Pere Marquette Railroad. The 1225 was used in the movie "The Polar Express" as the train engine model.

I visited the Steam Railroading Institute twice this fall. From "Thanksgiving to almost Christmas" the Steam Railroading Institute runs the 1225 engine on their North Pole Express between the MI cities of Owosso and Ashley, a 75 minute ride each way.

I have known Dean Pyers, SRI Executive Director for a number of years, because for many years Dean was the "Resident Agent" for the NMRA North Central Region.



Pictured left Rich Mahaney & Dean Pyers















## **Wrap-up**

Normally there would be more content in this months edition of The Yardmaster. However, my wife (Brenda) and I have been under the weather for the last few weeks, first with Covid and then other ailments, so I decided to cut this month a little short in the interest in getting it published on-time.

Thanks to Rich Mahaney for his many contributions to this newsletter.

In the mean time, if you have any photos, especially of locomotives that you would like to appear in Yardmaster, please send them to me and I will do my best to get them included.

Hope to see you at the January Membership Meeting on Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup> at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club located at 648 Maple Hill Drive in Kalamazoo.

Look forward to seeing you at the January meeting.

Alan Bau  
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