



# The Yardmaster

Southwestern Michigan Division



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 – March 2024



**St. Patrick's Day March 17th**



**1st Day of Spring March 20th**

## **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 & Newsletter Editor	- 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>

## **Call for Division 9 Board Nominations**

Interested in becoming a board member? Elections are coming up in September at our annual membership meeting. We are looking for nominations for three board positions. Assistant Superintendent, Paymaster and the Trustee position currently held by Casey Bartman. If you would like to be considered, please advise either Alan Bau or Garry Johnson.



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

<b>Meetings &amp; Events</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Presenter &amp; Topic</b>
Membership Meeting & Layout Tour of Andy Keeney's layout	Saturday March 16th	Andy Keeney's 6850 Herbison Rd. DeWitt, Mi.	Layout Tour followed by an Op Session
Board Meeting	Sunday April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Alan Bau's House 2441 Hunter's run Kalamazoo	
Membership Meeting	Saturday April 20 <sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM	Kalamazoo Bridge Club	Norm Logan - Hands-on Weathering Program
Membership Meeting	Saturday May 18th	Sturgis Model Railroad Club	TBD
"Take a Ride on the Little River Railroad"	Sunday June 16 <sup>th</sup>	Coldwater, Mi.	Train Ride & Tour of the Little River Railroad shops.

**We need a head count on the number of members that are planning to attend the Norm Logan Weathering Clinic on Saturday April 20th. Please advise if you plan to attend by emailing Alan Bau no later than March 15th. [alanwbau@gmail.com](mailto:alanwbau@gmail.com)**

**March 16<sup>th</sup> – Layout Tour & Op Session –**  
6850 Herbison Rd., De Witt Mi.

The program for the day starts out with a tour of Andy's layout, followed by an Op Session on his layout.

The following is a report on the February Clinic at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club as reported by Rich Mahaney.

On Saturday, Feb 17, 2024, Division 9 had a wonderful informative meeting on Andy Keeney's model railroad layout called "The Nashville Road" and how Andy conducts operations on his layout.



Craig Rosenberger, Ron St Laurent,  
Andy Keeney,

Ron St. Laurent, and Craig Rosenberger, part of Andy's operating crew, also added in comments during the presentation. Andy started his presentation describing how his railroad layout was designed and track plan was laid out. Andy's track plan was designed for "operations", which is Andy's favorite part of model railroading. The railroad is in a space that measures about 48 ft by 56 ft.

Andy has planned out his industries and determined how many railroad cars can be delivered to each industry, the frequency of set outs and pick-ups, and the use of car cards. The railroad operates in the 1950's and is centered with Nashville, TN. Trains run north and south of Nashville. Bowling Green, KY is on the north end of the layout, Columbia, TN is at the south end. There are a number of different railroads that operate on the layout. Andy's triple deck layout will operate some 30 or more trains in an operating session. Being in the 1950's, both locomotives and diesels move trains. Andy's likes to operate his railroad during an operating session with 15 to 20 people. The railroad uses NCE throttles with its DCC system,

Andy, besides sharing a PowerPoint presentation on his railroad, it's design, it's operations and it's concepts compared to real railroads, Andy also brought samples of the paperwork that is used during operating sessions to explain and pass around. We had a nice turnout of people for the meeting and presentation at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club facilities! Thanks Alan Bau!

In March, Division 9 members are invited to learn and practice their railroad operating skills at Andy's house and operate on his layout between 10am and 2 pm on March 16th in the DeWitt area of Michigan (northwest of Lansing). Andy's home address is 6850 W Herbison Rd, DeWitt, MI. Join us on March 16th at and on the "Nashville Road". People coming should plan on bringing a lunch and fluids to drink, since the trains must keep on running, "there is a schedule to keep"! The "Nashville Road" is the Chicago, Indianapolis, Nashville and Southern Railway. More information, photos, stories and videos can be found on the internet. Thanks Andy!

The plan is the Op Session will start at 10:00AM and end at 2:00PM. Suggest that you bring something to drink and eat for lunch.

## Photos from Andy's Layout



**April 20<sup>th</sup> – Location Kalamazoo Bridge Club** – Program is a hands-on rolling stock weathering session presented by Norm Logan. Bring a couple of cars to weather. The expectations are that Division 9 will furnish weathering materials for the group. Norm makes a repeat performance as he gave a clinic on backdrops a while back. To make certain we have a sufficient amount of weathering supplies, please send Alan Bau an email no later than March 15<sup>th</sup> indicating if you plan to attend this session. Alan’s email is [alanwba@gmail.com](mailto:alanwba@gmail.com)

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** – We will be visiting the Sturgis Model Railroad Club located at 101 Jefferson St. in Sturgis, Mi. It has been a while since we visited the Sturgis club, and it will be interesting to see the progress they have made to their layout. For those that have never been to the club, they have a nice facility which is located in the Freight House behind the Sturgis Historical Museum.

**June 16<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) –Let’s Take a Ride on the Little River Railroad.** After the ride we can tour their train shops and for those that want to have lunch there is a Mexican restaurant located near the train facility.

Note that they only run the railroad on Sundays and the only Sunday they run in June is the 16<sup>th</sup> which happens to also be Father’s Day. The board voted to change the June meeting date from Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup> in order to ride the train.

Members are responsible for purchasing their own tickets.

**Ticket information & Website Link displayed below:**

June 16 FATHER’S DAY, 11 AM and 2 PM, STEAM POWERED ROUND TRIP TRAIN RIDE TO QUINCY **(We are planning to take the 11:00 AM train)**  
FATHERS RIDE FREE WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY PAYING PASSENGER TICKETS FOR ALL TRAIN RIDES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE!  
TICKETS CAN ALSO BE PURCHASED VIA PHONE AT: 517-227-5488

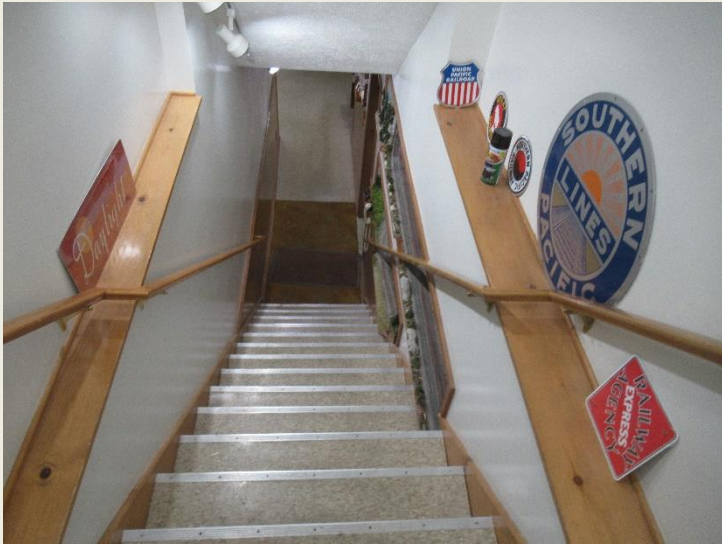
- Adults (ages 12 & up).....\$22.00
- Children (ages 3-11).....\$15.00
- Children (ages 2 & under).....FREE
- PRICES INCLUDE ALL SERVICE FEES

**Website Link** [Schedule and Fares - Little River Railroad](#)

**July & August** – Enjoy the summer. See you in September.

**September** – This is our annual meeting and the start of the new year. The plan is to hold the meeting at the Vicksburg Train Depot.

**October** – Hold on to your hats, “we are on Bruce Chubb's Sunset Valley Railroad operating session schedule for October 19, 2024. The session runs from 9am to 4pm, with a one-hour lunch break. That is the date of our regular 3rd Saturday of the month meeting.” It is my understanding that you do not have to attend for the entire day.



## 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!

### **Kalamazoo Spring Train Show**

Saturday, April 6, 2024

Kalamazoo County Expo Center

2900 Lake St.

Kalamazoo, MI

Directions: [Use Google Maps](#)

### **Event Details**

15th Annual Spring Train Show held the first Saturday of April.

### **Contact Information**

David Hayes-Moats

kaltrainshow@kalnet.net

269-267-9620

Website: <http://www.kmrhs.org/>

Division Nine will be attending the Spring Kalamazoo Train Show as part of our overall recruiting efforts. We are looking for volunteers to help answer questions from prospective members. Please let me know if you are willing to spend an hour or two at the booth.

Stop by and see you new recruiting poster which will be on display.



Did you know that the 2025 NMRA National Convention will be held in Novi, Mi. next year? Click on the link below:

[2025 NMRA National Convention – Station No.VI – hosted by the North Central Region of the NMRA \(nmra2025.com\)](https://www.nmra2025.com)

**(Local area Train Show Listing Continued)**

**Grand Rapids Spring Train Show**

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Home School Building

5625 Burlingame Ave SW

Wyoming, MI

Directions: [Use Google Maps](#)

**Event Details**

OVER 200 VENDOR TABLES \* 70+VENDORS? THOMAS THE TRAIN PLAY AREA? HUGE LEGO DISPLAY & PLAY AREA Drawing for Lionel "Thomas – The - Train" Set Free Parking \*Door Prizes\* Food Concessions Vendors with Model Trains in all Scales Books \* RR Photos \* RR Collectibles Family Fun for "Children" of All Ages

**Contact Information**

Thomas Klonowski

trainshow@grvrrc.org

8476911163

Website: <https://grvrrc.org/>

**Battle Creek Model Railroad Club Train Show & Swap Meet**

Saturday, September 14, 2024

Calhoun County Fairgrounds

720 Fair St.

Marshall, MI

Directions: [Use Google Maps](#)

**Event Details**

Several operating layouts, "hands-on" displays, door prizes. Children 12 & under free admission.

**Contact Information**

Andy Buck

andrew.buck@comcast.net

(269) 268-0910

Website: <http://bcmrrc.net/>

**The flyer for the 2024 NCR Spring Modelers Meet is on the next two pages.**





**North Central Region –  
Spring Modelers Meet  
March 23, 2024 – Sylvania Oh.**



**Sylvania Senior Center  
7140 W. Sylvania Avenue  
Sylvania, Oh. 43560**

Doors Open at 8:00AM, Clinics start at 9:00AM, Layout Tours begin at 3:00 PM

Admission is \$20 at the door. For more information on this one-day convention, click on this or any of the other links displayed here. [2024 North Central Region – Spring Modelers Meet – Hosted by the Black Swamp Division \(Div 1\) NCR NMRA](#)

Advanced registration is encouraged. Click on this link to pre-register. [Registration – 2024 North Central Region – Spring Modelers Meet \(ncnmra.org\)](#)

9 clinics are split between three rooms allowing a selection of course structures. For details click on this link. [Clinics – 2024 North Central Region – Spring Modelers Meet \(ncnmra.org\)](#) The following are confirmed at this time. Dan Lewis MMR, Fritz Milhaupt, Doug Tagsold & Brook Qualman MMR.

Layout Tours – There are nine layouts on the tour. For more information click on this link. [Layout Tours – 2024 North Central Region – Spring Modelers Meet \(ncnmra.org\)](#)

For the entire event schedule click on this link. [Schedule – 2024 North Central Region – Spring Modelers Meet \(ncnmra.org\)](#)

# North Central Region Spring Modelers Meet

Hosted by the Black Swamp Division (Div 1) of the North Central Region (NCR), NMRA



## March 23, 2024 – Sylvania OH

Doors Open 8:00AM with activities into the evening. See website for details!  
Sylvania Senior Center, 7140 W Sylvania Ave, Sylvania, OH 43560

Learn New Skills, Share Your Models, Share Techniques, Visit Layouts



**This is a Model Railroading event!**  
**Lunch options will be available on-site!**



This event is open to ALL MODELERS - NMRA Membership is not required

## SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

**Modeling Clinics** – 9 clinics on 3 tracks to choose from on a mixture of subjects presented by modelers, historians, and industry experts.

**Model Showroom** – Bring your models (finished or in-progress) of locomotives, rolling stock, structures, dioramas, or scenery. All are Welcome! The showroom is about sharing the hobby in all its many forms. Freelance and prototype welcome.

**Layouts and Displays** - Small and modular displays will be available within the main venue. Operations are planned during the morning.

**Layout Tours** - Layout tours of local layouts will be available during the afternoon and evening.

### Admission is \$20 at the door

17 and under free, all individuals 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult

All event activities (minus lunch) are included in one low price!

Advance registration is encouraged on the website at [smm.ncrnmra.org](http://smm.ncrnmra.org)

This is NOT a swap meet!



Visit our website for more information  
and event schedules  
[smm.ncrnmra.org](http://smm.ncrnmra.org)



## **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.

**Garry Johnson has two sheets of 4'x8'x2" pink foam for sale. Make him an offer, which he has indicated he is going to donate to Division 9.**

Garry also has several pieces of Peco Code 83 Flex Track for sale. Stock # SL-8300.

69 lengths of new track \$2.00 Each.

19 lengths of hardly used track \$1.00 each.

Rail Joiners 4 packets new rail joiners with 20 pieces per packet. Free to anyone buying the track.

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



## **Call for North Central Region Board Nominations**

Anyone interested in running for a position on the NCR Board?

We need to fill the following positions.

- President – Rich Mahaney is the current president and plans to run for re-election.
- Vice President
- 2 At Large Board of Directors

All terms are for 2 years and members can only serve for a total of 4 consecutive years.

Nominations close on May 1, 2024.

If you would like to serve on the NCR board please contact the Division 9 Nominating Committee Member, Alan Bau 269-501-8999. You can nominate yourself or anyone else that is interested.

**NCR  
Nominations  
Are Now  
Open**

**Kalamazoo Bridge Club** – the following was taken from the Bridge Club's website. [www.kzooobridge.com](http://www.kzooobridge.com)

## Welcome to the Kalamazoo Bridge Club



The Kalamazoo Bridge Club, the only facility in Southwest Michigan that is dedicated to the game of Bridge, is conveniently located at [648 Maple Hill Drive](#) in Kalamazoo, MI. We are one traffic light east of the Rt. 131 & West Main Street intersection.

We run six games each week which are sanctioned by the [American Contract Bridge League](#). We have lots of special events, parties and a lot of good fun for all levels of experience and skill. All of our games are scored electronically and our dealing machine allows us to [post hand records on our website](#).

We have a strong Intermediate/Newcomer program designed to help newer players improve their skills and enjoyment of the game.

While players are encouraged to come with partners, feel free to come without a partner as there is always someone to play with.

For more information please call **(269) 290-3113** or send us an [e-mail via our contact form](#).

**A new series of bridge classes is planned to start on Thursday April 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM. There are 6 - two hours sessions.**

## **Rich's Travels**

Consumers Energy has donated this old switch engine from the JH Campbell generating plant complex between Holland and Grand Haven to the Coopersville and Marne Railroad to pull their weekend tourist trains. The engine was used for years to move coal cars at the plant site.



**Rich took these pictures in Mason, Mi.**

- A and B engine GP-9
- A and B business car.
- These Adrian and Blissfield RR tracks are part of their Jackson and Lansing RR shortline.
- They also have an engine facility here.







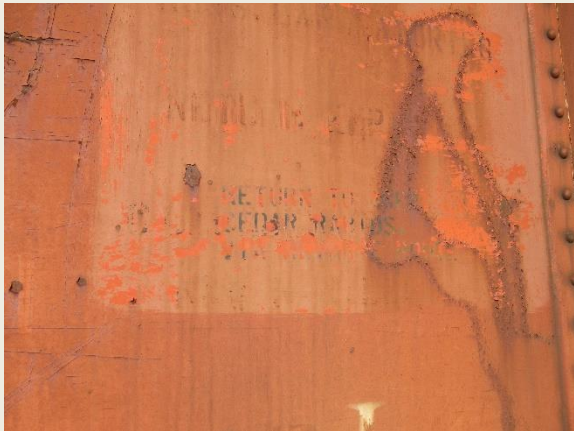


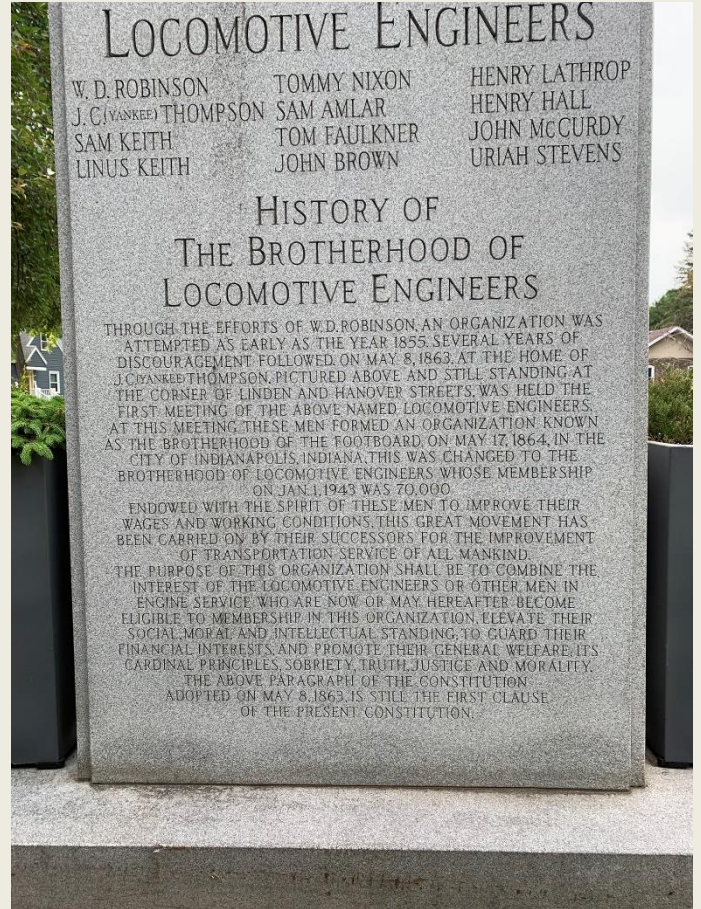
February 12, 2024



Caught a coal train this afternoon heading through Holland, MI to the JH Campbell Power Plant (north of Holland) with a fresh load of Wyoming coal. This plant is scheduled to end operations with coal in the next couple of years, bringing an end to these coal trains from Wyoming to Michigan.

Here is an old 50-foot refrigerator car sitting in a Hillsdale, MI railroad yard. Painted on it, it says, "when empty, return to Cedar Rapids, IA", in image 5298, interesting. It was built in 1945.





These photos were taken by Garry Johnson.

The question is where were these photos taken?

Submit your answers to either Garry Johnson or Alan Bau.

The answer will be revealed in the next issue.

## **Wrap-up**

Sorry that the March edition is a little later than I like. Being away for the last two weeks in February coupled with some computer issues slowed things down. I intend to get back on track with the April edition.

### **We Need Your Feedback**

- Do you plan to attend the Weathering Clinic offered by Norm Logan on April 20<sup>th</sup>? Please email me if you plan to attend. [alanwbau@gmail.com](mailto:alanwbau@gmail.com)

I didn't realize they had trains on the Hawaiian Islands, but on our recent vacation we ran across this Sugar Cane Train car sitting by the side of the road on the island of Maui.



There are lots of interesting programs coming up over the next several months. I encourage all members to join in on the fun!

Alan Bau  
Divisions 9 Scribe & Newsletter Editor  
[alanwbau@gmail.com](mailto:alanwbau@gmail.com)