



The Yardmaster

Southwestern Michigan Division



June 2024

Website: www.ncr-div9.com



Featured Articles this Month:

Pages

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| • Upcoming Div. 9 Events | 2 & 5 |
| • Battle Creek Train Show | 6 |
| • Upcoming Train Shows | 7 - 9 |
| • Sturgis Visit | 10 |
| • Blissfield Dinner Train | 11 |
| • Model Railroader Magazine Update | 12 |
| • Rich's Travels | 13-23 |
| • Alan's Adventures | 24 |
| • Wrap-up | 25 |

This photo is a GP38-2 Diesel Locomotive from the Chicago South Shore Railroad.

Non-Train Related Holidays & Special Events – June 2024

D-Day June 6th



Flag Day June 14th



Father's Day June 18th



1st Day of Summer

Editor's Comments

June has special meanings to many Americans. D-Day is an important day in the history of the United States and many parts of the world. Flag day is a day to celebrate our great flag and all that it means. Father's Day is a special day for us all to remember our dads and the impact they had on our lives. Where did spring go as we welcome in the 1st day of summer.

Speaking of Father's Day don't forget to get your tickets for the ride on the Little River Railroad in Coldwater. Remember we are taking the 11:00 AM train.



Division 9 Officers

Superintendent	- Garry Johnson	elecsprk@gmail.com
Assistant Superintendent	- Joel Pyard	pyardj@comcast.net
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Trustee	- Casey Bartman	Casey@GR-MI.com



Upcoming Division Nine Membership Meetings & Events:

Meetings & Events	Date	Location	Presenter & Topic
Father's Day - "Take a Ride on the Little River Railroad"	Sunday June 16 th	Coldwater, Mi.	Train Ride & Tour of the Little River Railroad shops.
Summer Vacation	July & August	Enjoy Summer	
Board Meeting	July 7 th	Kalamazoo Bridge Club	
Annual Meeting	September	Vicksburg Train Station	Mark Tomlonson & TBD
Division 9 Board Meeting	October 6th	Kalamazoo Bridge Club	
Membership Meeting	Saturday October 19th	Bruce Chubb's Layout	Layout Tour & Op Session
Membership Meeting	November 16 th	TBD	TBD
Membership Meeting	December 21st	TBD	TBD

June 16th (Sunday) –Let’s Take a Ride on the Little River Railroad. The Board changed the date of our June Meeting from June 15th to June 16th to allow us to take a ride on the Little River Railroad. This is the only operating date in June. After the ride we can tour their train shops and for those that want to have lunch there is a Mexican restaurant is across the tracks from the Coldwater Train Station where we board. Ticket information is displayed below along with a link to their website. 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 Annual Meeting – This is our annual meeting which will be at the Vicksburg Train Depot.

We will start off the day with a normal business meeting, including the Election of Officers, 50/50 raffle, donuts and door prizes, review of upcoming events, followed by Mark Tomlonson’s presentation on the railroads of Kalamazoo County. Additionally, we are trying to find a speaker for a presentation specific to Vicksburg rail traffic.

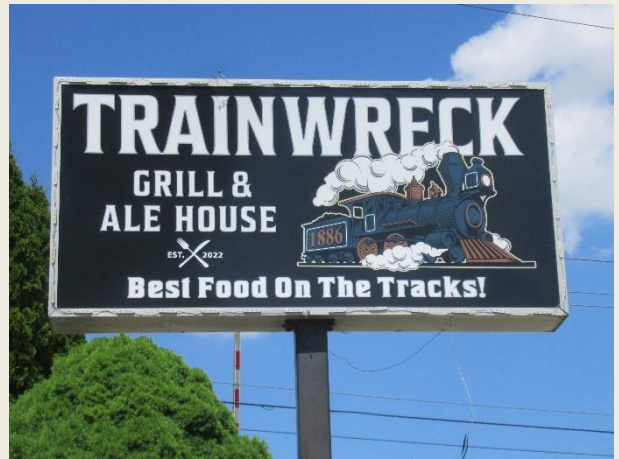
Watch your email for additional information as it becomes available.

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. See the Yardmaster March edition for a few pictures of Bruce’s incredible layout.

November - TBD

December - TBD

Little River Photos taken by Rich Mahaney



Pictured at the top - Coldwater train station and the Little River train cars

Bottom Row Left - The lunch restaurant is to the left, Coldwater train station to the right.

Bottom row Right – Notice the restaurant name

Division Nine - Annual Meeting
September 21, 2024
Vicksburg Train Depot - located at 300 N. Richardson, Vicksburg
Agenda

9:00AM Coffee & Donuts

9:30AM Business Meeting

- Officer Reports
- Election of Officers
- Upcoming Schedule of Events
- 50/50 Raffle
- Door Prizes
- Show & Tell
- Member Feedback Session
- Featured Speakers – Mark Tomlonson & TBD



Door Prizes – Gift Certificates to Rider’s Hobby Shop in Grand Rapids

50/50 Raffle Tickets - \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00. One name will be drawn with the winner & Division 9 splitting the pot.

Show & Tell – This is an opportunity to bring any train item that you would like to show off to the rest of the group. Could be a model you built, weathered rolling stock, or anything else that you think would be of interest to our group.

Feedback Session – This is your opportunity to tell us what you think about any topic related to Division 9 or model railroading in general.

Mark Tomlonson will be speaking on the history of the railroads of Kalamazoo County.

TBD – history of the railroads of Vicksburg



Battle Creek Train Show

Saturday, September 14th 2024
Calhoun County Fairgrounds
10 AM - 3 PM
Admission: \$5

Link for more details is displayed below:

[BCMRRCTrainShow2023.pdf](#)

Division Six of the
NCR- North Central Region of the
NMRA- National Model Railroad Association presents-



NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024



A MODEL RAILROAD WEEKEND CONVENTION!

**THURSDAY - FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY
OCTOBER 10-11-12-13, 2024
NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN, USA**

WELCOME to the NCR Model Railroad Convention, **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024!** The convention is being hosted by DIVISION SIX, located in Wayne and Washtenaw counties. We are planning a great weekend of model and prototype railroading, just for YOU! Please access our website for all of the important information you need to help you to decide to attend this event. As you'll soon read, we're concentrating on having fun and learning all about model railroading! All you need to do is fill out the registration page, send it in with your registration fees and you'll be part of one of the greatest model railroad events in Michigan! Visit us online and register there using your credit card and PayPal security services! Come and join us for the **MAXIMUM** model railroad **FUN**, all in one weekend!

Open to ALL model railroaders! You DO NOT have to be an NMRA member to attend!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE-

- * Event site – Ward Church, Northville, MI
- * Event shirts available pre-order only
- * Special DAY PASS entry available!
- * Online Registration available on website!
- * Banquet Dinner on Saturday evening
- * Clinics on Friday and Saturday
- * Operation sessions available Thursday, Friday, Saturday
- * NO model contest – MODEL SHOWCASE – show off your work!!
- * Get a discount for participating in the Model Showcase!!
- * Model layouts to visit on Friday and Saturday
- * Prototype tours on Friday (if available)
- * Yard Sale of new/used model railroad equipment
- * Ask the Experts (MMR's) table
- * EVERYONE welcome to attend!



For more information or questions answered, contact -
Norm Logan, Chairman –
248-444-3491 nlogan114@wowway.com
Paul Lichau, Div 6 Superintendent -
734-878-5390 plichau@yahoo.com
Mark Ellis, Asst. Chairman -
734-536-5470 emark@sbcglobal.net
visit our web pages at- ncx24.ncrnmra.org



Registration is Now Open. Click on the link below:

[NMRA- National Model Railroad Association and the \(ncrnmra.org\)](http://nmra-nationalmodelrailroadassociation.org)

NCX - NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024 REGISTRATION FORM & INFORMATION

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Name		Spouse	
Address			
City		State	
Phone		Zip	
email			
NMRA No.	Region	Div	MMR

REGISTRATION FEES

		how many	
on or before September 25, 2024 - NMRA member	\$65		
on or before September 25, 2024 - NON NMRA member	\$75		
after September 25, 2024 - NMRA member	\$75		
after September 25, 2024 - NON NMRA member	\$85		
on or before October 13, 2024	One Day Pass = \$40		

REGISTRATION - is per person for anyone over 18 years old that will be participating in the convention activities. Spouse is free if ONLY attending layout tours and/or dinner. Children under 18 years old are free for the weekend and welcome to attend convention activities with a paid adult.

Dinner - SPAGHETTI DINNER!! Everyone (including children under 18) must pay for dinner if you are attending. This also includes our Keynote Speaker and Awards presentation. **NOTE- cut-off date for dinner is October 1, 2024.**

Event Sweat shirts are cotton/poly blend, green in color with the NCX logo embroidered in color on the left side

Event polo shirts are 35-65% cotton-poly no pocket shirts, green in color with the NCX logo embroidered in color on the left side **NOTE- cut-off date for ordering shirts is September 10, 2024. There will be NO shirts available at the convention!**

Model Showcase Discount!!

If you bring a model to display in the Showcase room, we will give you a \$5 discount on your entry to NCX-24! NOTE - you do NOT get \$5 per model!! Only ONE discount per person no matter how many models you bring. Discount to be given at Registration!

ONE DAY PASS - is for Saturday only and includes all the clinics that day and 5 layout tours.

EXTRA BOARD

			how many	
Dinner per person	\$25			
sweat shirt	small	\$34		
	medium	\$34		
	large	\$34		
	X-large	\$34		
	2X-large	\$34		
	3X-large	\$34		
polo shirt	small	\$32		
	medium	\$32		
	large	\$32		
	X-large	\$32		
	2X-large	\$32		
	3X-large	\$32		
4X-large	\$32			

TOTAL

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Payment to be check or money order made out to- **NMRA DIVISION 6**

Send registration form with payment by October 1, 2024 to-
NCX Registrar 35684 Camden Ct Farmington Hills, MI 48335
ON-LINE registration available until October 7, 2024 at ncx24.ncrmra.org



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 25th of the month.

Send your information to alanwbau@gmail.com.

Thank You Sturgis Model Railroad Club

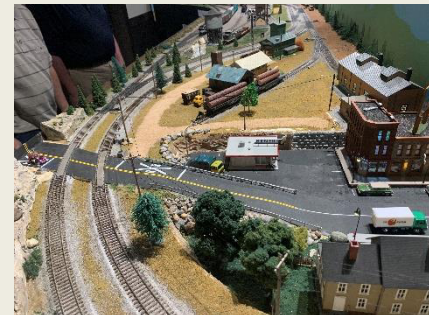
Thanks to the members of the Sturgis Model Railroad Club for hosting the Division 9 May Membership Meeting. They really have a great location and layout as depicted in this small sampling of photos. We had a great time seeing everyone again.



The above photos and the one to the left were taken by Rich Mahaney.



The remaining photos were taken by Alan Bau.



Blissfield Dinner Train



For more information on the Blissfield Dinner Train click on the link below:

<https://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/begoleforstaterrep/items/518527/?full-items=yes&flow=1106712>

Model Railroader Magazine

Thought you might be interested in this news item. You can click on the link below for the entire article.

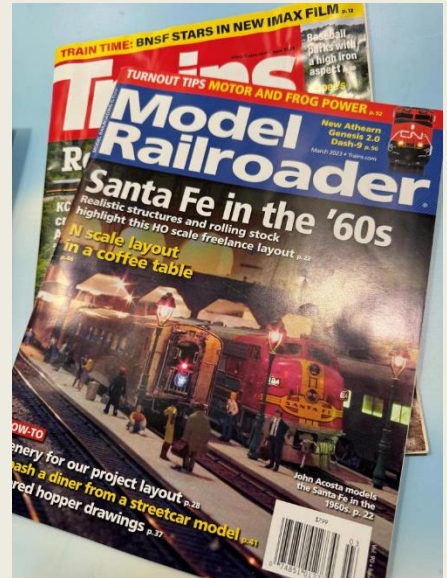
[Kalmbach Media sells Model Railroader, other magazines, to Tennessee publisher \(msn.com\)](#)

Kalmbach Media, a 90-year-old Wisconsin publisher, has sold its Model Railroader, Trains, Astronomy, and other magazines to a Tennessee publisher.

Follow-up to the above notice.

Recently I watched Ken Patterson's YouTube channel "What's Neat in Model Railroading". This was their 275th episode dated May 18, 2024. Ken had two guests on his show, David Popp from Trains.com and Craig Fuller. It is Craig's company that purchased Model Railroader & Trains magazines from Kalmbach. This episode was over 43 minutes in length with the primary focus on what is going to happen to Model Railroader magazine? Craig provided lots of information of what he expects to accomplish over the years. Without going into any details, from what I took away from his comments Model Railroader is in good hands and I am going to renew my subscription. If you want to view the video, click on this link.

[Ken Patterson's What's Neat this week in model railroading - Search Videos \(bing.com\)](#)



Rich's Travels

Saw this train on the North side, probably taking "interchange cars" to the Grand Rapids Eastern Railroad. It was north bound along Seward Ave.



West bound CN freight train, lots of hazmat, photo upper right is the first time I have seen metal billets on a center-beam flat car, it is spring UN 2067 (ammonium nitrate-based fertilizer) in a covered hopper, UN 1086 vinyl chloride in some tank cars (the same chemical that was in the tank cars that had a "vent and burn" done on them in East Palestine, OH in the NS derailment).



The photos appearing on page 14 through page 23 were taken by Rich Mahaney.

Indiana and Northeastern RR engine facility in IN. (2 pages of photos)





More IN trains - Kendallville

A new caboose for my "second lives of cabooses" presentation



Seymour, IN

Seymour, IN is between Indianapolis and Louisville on I-65. Lots of CSX and NS train traffic through here. Interesting town with a variety of history and things to see. Yes, John Mellencamp is from here, graduated from high school in 1970. Even saw and photographed some "pink houses" in town. Diamond crossing downtown where tracks cross. The old freight station in town has a display in it about.



Trains north of Louisville, KY in IN

Heading back to MI after teaching all day for NMRA MCR Division 8 in Louisville, KY. Just came into IN on 65 and there are/were train engines parked next to the highway on the east side of the road. Sun was on the right side. So, I took a few photos and thought I would send you some photos, before getting back on the highway to drive to Gobles. Enjoy!



Adrian and Blissfield RR engines in Mason, MI

Had some time after I was done with insurance inspections and meetings in the Lansing, MI area to drive down to Mason, MI to see if any red and white A&B engines were out. Got surprised to see 4 different color schemes on engines at the A&B facilities. Sorry the sun was beginning to set in the west, instead of the morning east. Two engines were in the engine house and looked like they were being repainted and were in their "primer gray" color. So red and white, blue and white and green and yellow.

The passenger car that was in Mason the last time I was there, was nowhere to be seen where it was sitting before.



On May 4th, I had some free time in Michigan City, IN at dinner time and had some time to take a few South Shore Railroad photos.



General yard photos in Michigan City, IN



Editor's Note: Notice the insignia on the car above.

I grew up near Chicago and have been a lifelong Cubs Fan.

Train engines that service steel mills near Burns Harbor IN



Alan's Adventures in Model Railroading – Volume 2

Last month was more of an introduction covering how I got back into Model Railroading and covering the last four years of activities. This month will be more of what has been accomplished over the last two years as a fresh start began.



The above locomotive is an Atlas HO GP 38-2 Chicago South Shore #2001, which I acquired from Rider's Hobby Shop in Grand Rapids.

After we were somewhat settled into our Condo, my attention turned to my new train layout. There were lots of train boxes and a few problems were discovered as the unpacking process began. There were several building structures that had some serious damage. However, my first priority was to update my track plan, which was created using the "Any Rail" software. After a few iterations building the benchwork began. Continuing to make changes to the plan as new thoughts came up. I am currently working on version #15.

Many of the elements from the original layout are included in the new one. The plan is to have both continuous and point to point running. The continuous track plan is considerably bigger and contains several spur lines, a larger yard, and a better setup to include operations. Don't know when that is going to happen, but it is in the plan.

At this point the track has been laid, but a few modifications need to be made to resolve a couple of minor problems. There have been several enhancements to the current layout that were not included in my original layout. The Power Bus has been divided into four Power Districts each with a Circuit breaker, also an NCE Power Booster has been added along with Wireless Controllers.

Other projects that are in the works include:

- Replacing plastic wheels with Intermountain metal wheels.
- Testing rolling stock for correct coupler height.
- Testing rolling stock on the new track and identifying problems that need to be corrected.
- Documenting all rolling stock using a software program titled "Yard Office."
- Fine tuning track issues and minor changes to the track plan.
- Painting rails, & ballasting track.
- Installing 18 Tortoise Switch Machines.
- Many other fun projects too long to list here.

The barn pictured here was a 3-D Printed kit that I purchased over the internet. Don't know when it will actually be on the new layout.



Hope to see you at our next Division Nine Meeting.
Until next month.

Alan

Kalamazoo Bridge Club Update

A series of six beginning bridge classes were held at the club as a way of introducing the game of bridge to new players.

In addition to club games, the Kalamazoo Bridge Club will be hosting a Bridge Tournament on June 8th & 9th. Players from all over the area will be playing in this two day tournament.

The club worked out great for the April Membership Meeting and Weathering Clinic. Hopefully we can have more hands-on clinics in the future.

Wrap-up

Things to remember:

- There are no membership meetings in July & August.
- The last board meeting for our fiscal year is scheduled for July 7th and will be held at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club.
- The July/August combined edition of Yardmaster will be published toward the end of July or early August.
- Our next membership meeting will be held on September 21st at the Vicksburg Train Depot. This is our first meeting of the new fiscal year.
- We are looking for a few of our members to step up and join the Officer's team as we begin the new year. There are three positions that are up for election. Assistant Superintendent, Treasurer, Trustee.
- We are also looking for someone to volunteer to take over the responsibilities of maintaining our website and other technical tasks. If you have the skills and are interested in this position, please contact Alan Bau 269-501-8999 or alanwbau@gmail.com. We would like to get this new position filled by the end of July 2024.

Alan Bau
Divisions 9 Scribe & Newsletter Editor
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