

The Yardmaster

Southwestern Michigan Division



July/August/September 2024 Website: <u>www.ncr-div9.com</u>



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

Non-Train Related Holidays & Special Events – August & September 2024

Senior Citizen's Day August 21st Labor Day September 4th Patriot's Day September 11th First Day of Fall September 23rd



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From the desk of the Superintendent

Greetings fellow Division 9 members

It's been a while since writing a newsletter. My wife for the past year plus had major health issues and I became her 24/7 caregiver. Life has now changed again as she has passed on. Much paper shuffling to be done but also looking forward to what lies ahead. A renewed interest in modeling and chasing trains. Our September meeting has been a blessing in that I have visited the Vicksburg Station Museum several times of late. Spending time in the station when it was active brings back memories of yesteryear. There is much railroad history in Vicksburg. It is my hope each person will have an opportunity to explore how railroads and towns came to exist. Looking forward to seeing each and every one of you at the September meeting as we ramp up going into fall.

Editor's Comments

Sorry this edition of The Yardmaster is later than I hoped. It seems like there were a lot of activities going on recently that got in the way. I will do better going forward as it is my intention to publish around the 2nd or 3rd of each month.

First of all, it's nice to see an article from our Superintendent Garry Johnson. He has a lot to deal with and we are glad to have him back.

There are a number of activities taking place over the next few months when we are hoping to get large turnouts from the membership. There are three in particular starting with our Annual Meeting on September 21st, followed by an Op Session on Bruce Chubb's layout on Saturday October 19th and the annual NCR Convention (North Central Express) starting on Thursday October 10th thru Sunday the 13th. All three of these will be covered in more detail later in this edition.



Division 9 Officers

Superintendent Assistant Superintendent Paymaster Scribe & Newsletter Editor Trustee Trustee

- Garry Johnson - Joel Pyard - Bob Lawrence - Alan Bau - Casey Bartman

elecsprk@gmail.com pyardj@comcast.net robertlawrence44@msn.com alanwbau@gmail.com - Doug Van Meter vanmeterda@gmail.com Casey@GR-MI.com

Positions in red are up for election in September.

Nominees:

Assistant Superintendent Paymaster Trustee

Joel Pyard Bob Lawrence Greg Marvin

Upcoming Division Nine Membership Meetings & Events:

Meetings & Events	Date	Location	Presenter & Topic
Annual Meeting	September 21 st 9:00 AM Set up 10:00 AM Mtg.	Vicksburg Train Station	Mark Tomlonson
Division 9 Board Meeting	October 6 th 2:00 PM	Kalamazoo Bridge Club & Zoom	
Membership Meeting	Saturday October 19 th 9:00AM	Bruce Chubb's Layout	Layout Tour & Op Session
Membership Meeting	November 16 th 10:00 AM	Battle Creek Model Railroad Club 2 West Michigan Ave Ste: B-1 Battle Creek, MI 49017	Layout Tour
Membership Meeting	December 21st	TBD	TBD

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 followed by a short history presentation by Garry Johnson on train activity in Vicksburg.

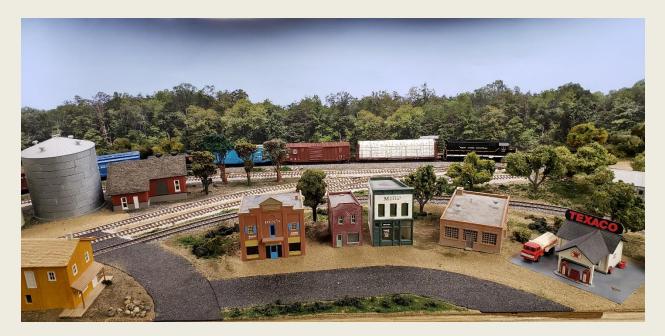
October – We are scheduled to visit Bruce Chubb's Sunset Valley Railroad for an operating session on Saturday October 19, 2024. The session runs from 9am to 4pm, with a one-hour lunch break. It is my understanding that you do not have to attend for the entire day. See the Yardmaster March edition for a few pictures of Bruce's incredible layout.

November – Battle Creek Model Railroad Club – located at 2 West Michigan Ave Ste: B-1 Battle Creek, MI 49017

The following was taken from the Battle Creek Model Railroad Club's website. This is a link to their webpage. <u>Mainline - Battle Creek Model Railroad Club (bcmrrc.net)</u>

Downtown Layout Re-Build continues...

The Cereal Belt Industrial Railroad is currently under reconstruction, and is coming along very nicely. Things are really coming together.



December - TBD



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



Meeting Agenda 9:00 AM Set up 10:00AM Coffee & Donuts 10:15AM 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 one of the hobby shops in Grand Rapids. There will be a total of 5 @ \$20 each along with the Grand Prize of \$50. Garry Johnson has also donated one of his many locomotives as a door prize. See picture at right.

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 Tomionson will be speaking on the history of the railroads of Kalamazoo County.

Garry Johnson will also present a short history of the railroads of Vicksburg. See photos on next page.



Vicksburg Train Tracks and surrounding area in the early days.

- 1. Union Depot
- 2. Freight Building & Loading Platform
- 3. **Miner's Mill**, home of Lotus Lily Flour
- Nash & Darling Manufacturers of gas engines and engine repair
- 5. Heinz Pickle Co. Salting Station
- 6. J.H. Hudson and son, Poultry and Produce Wholesalers-The Hudson's bought live poultry from area farmers, processed and shipped them. Son Charles later raised poultry for the business on his Silver Street farm.
- Vicksburg Water Work and Electric Light Plant and coal shed
- 8. **Fire Department** housing cart, horses and blacksmith shop
- 9. Vicksburg Governor Co. storage
- **10. Vicksburg Governor Co.** The Governor Co. produced

pressure regulators for the type

of steam engines used on farms before modern tractors were developed. If not controlled, steam engines could build up too much pressure and explode.

- **11.** Adams House Hotel
- 12.**R.D. Jenkinson Elevator**, warehouse and coal shed.
- 13.Jenkinson Elevator hay and grain storage.
- 14. Jenkinson Elevator coal storage and warehouse
- 15.L.R. Lawrence Coal and Coke Co. storage
- 16. Vicksburg Lumber Co. Lumber Storage
- 17.Vicksburg Lumber Co.
- 18.Lee Paper Co. The decision to choose Vicksburg as the location for a new paper mill was made for two reasons the abundance of water, and the rail connections to other parts of the country provided by the two railroads.



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!

Local Area Train Show Flyers

Flyers for the Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids and the NCR Upcoming Train Shows are displayed on the next few pages.

44th Annual Fall Train Show (No Flyer Available)
Presented by Kalamazoo Model Railroad Historical Society
Sunday October 27th 2024 between 10AM – 3PM
Kalamazoo County Expo Center
2900 Lake St. Kalamazoo MI
Map: <u>https://maps.app.goo.gl/SPWP4nrX4xEsoWUW8</u>



Registration is Open and encouraged if you want to attend the North Central Express Convention in Northville, Mi.

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



NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024

Registration is now open!!

A MODEL RAILROAD WEEKEND CONVENTION!

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

> Ward Church Northville 40000 Six Mile Rd, Township of Northville, MI 48168

For maps, hotel options and more, see our Location Page

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 a NMRA member to attend!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE-

- Operation sessions available Thursday, Friday, Saturday
- MODEL SHOWCASE show off your work and receive a discount on admission!!
- There will be modular and small layouts on display!
- Dinner on Saturday evening
- Dinner Keynote speaker,
- 30 Workshops on Friday and Saturday
- Many model layouts to visit
- Prototype tours available on Friday
- Yard Sale room to buy model railroad items
- Event shirts available pre-order only
- Special DAY PASS entry available!
- Online Registration available!
- Event site- Ward Church, Northville, MI
- EVERYONE welcome to attend!









For more information or questions answered, contact – Norm Logan, Chairman – 248-444-3491 nlogan114@wowway.com Paul Lichau, Div 6 Pres, Asst. Chairman – and visit our web pages at www.div6-ncr-nmra.com

Did you know that Barry Hensel, NCR Hotbox Editor, & Scott Kremer former NCR President recently posted videos of their Layouts on YouTube.

Barry's layout will be on the North Central Express layout tour on Saturday. October 12th.

Link to Barry's Layout <u>YTTV ST Kickoff Bundle</u> <u>Copy2C TrueView V1 DR</u> <u>None US EN 15s MP4</u> <u>VIDEO (youtube.com)</u>

Scott's layout is the Great Northern Cascade Division

Link to Scott's Layout Scott Kremer Great Northern Cascade Division Layout Tour (youtube.com)

Barry Hensel Reading Lines Tour 2024 (youtube.com)

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on or before September 25, 2	024 - NON NMRA	member		\$75	
after September 25, 2024 - NI	MRA member			\$75	
after September 25, 2024 - N	ON NMRA membe	er		\$85	
on or before October 13, 2024	4	C	One Day Pa	ass = \$40	
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at will be participating in the convention activities. se is free if ONLY attending layout tours and/or dinner.		Dinner per pe		\$25	
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r - SPAGHETTI DINNER!! Everyone n under 18) must pay for dinner if your pay for dinner if you pay for di	ou are attending.			\$34 \$34	
also includes our Keynote Speaker and Awards entation. NOTE- cut-off date for dinner is October 1.			large X-large	\$34 \$34	
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Sweat shirts are cotton/poly blend	, green in color		3X-large	\$34 \$34	
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Showcase Discount!!			2X-large	\$32	
u bring a model to display in the Showcase room, we give you a \$5 discount on your entry to NCX-24! NOTE - do NOT get \$5 per model!! Only ONE discount per			3X-large	\$32	
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DAY PASS - is for Saturday only and	includes all the			TOTAL	
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GRAND RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD CLUB THE GREATER GRAND RAPIDS FALL 2024 TRAIN SHOW SATURDAY OCTOBER 12, 2024

LOCATION: HSB, Inc. (Home School Building) 5625 Burlingame Ave SW Wyoming, MI (NW corner Gezon Pkwy & Burlingame Ave) TIME: 10am to 3pm COST: Adults - \$5, 12 and under free

OPERATING LAYOUTS:

LEGO Display & Play Area Modular Club Layouts Lionel / O Scale / On30 Scale; American Flyer / S Scale HO Scale * N Scale



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 and Layouts with Model Trains in all Scales Books * RR Photos * RR Collectibles

Family Fun for "Children" of All Ages

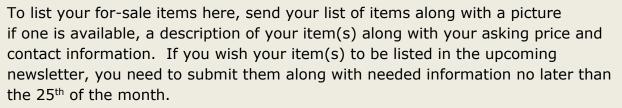
GRVRRC & WEST MICHIGAN S-GAUGERS OPEN HOUSES ON 10/26/2024 10AM - 4PM

For Additional Information:

Show Coordinator (Tom): (847) 691-1163 Or Email us at: trainshow@grvrrc.org https://grvrrc.org https://www.facebook.com/grandrivervalleytrainclub

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.



Send your information to <a>alanwbau@gmail.com.

Big Boy Cab Ride – want to take a ride on a Big Boy Locomotive? Click on this link for a short 8-minute video.

Come along for a ride on The Big Boy steam locomotive



shutterstock · 1413450587

NMRA Programs

The next few pages highlight some NMRA programs that may be of interest to you. There are links with each of the three programs if you want to find more information, you can also find these programs explained in more detail on the NMRA Website.

- **Grouper** you may want to check this one out as you may be entitled to have your NMRA Membership Fees paid for you.
- **NMRA Interchange** This is a place where you can ask questions, post events, share ideas and make new model railroading friends.
- NMRAx The NMRA's Monthly Virtual Meetup The NMRA's Monthly Virtual Meetup of model railroad presentations broadcast over YouTube Live. <u>NMRAx</u> provides an opportunity for attendees to directly interact with the presenters. There are approximately 140 sessions that date back 4 years. Follow this link. <u>NMRA ORG - YouTube</u>



Grouper

Grouper works with Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement plans to cover membership dues, so you can focus on what you love to do. Don't worry about the membership cost - it's on your health plan.

To see if your plan covers the Grouper social fitness benefit, visit <u>https://www.hellogrouper.com/NMRA</u>

This is healthcare?

Your passion for model railroad is healthcare. **Really.**

Research shows that participating in groups like the **National Model Railroad Association** improves our mental, physical, and social health. It's called "Social Fitness," and it's the perfect replica of your favorite track.



MODEL RAILROADING

Get Paid for Having Fun MEMBERSHIP DUES? WE COVER 'EM FOR ELIGIBLE MEMBERS OVER 65!

Grouper works with Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement plans to cover membership dues, so you can focus on what you love to do. Don't worry about the membership cost - **it's on your health plan**.



NMRA Interchange

The NMRA Interchange is a new place to ask questions, provide answers, post events, share ideas and make friends.

It is implemented as a Discord server and contains categories for welcoming members, a help area, the NMRA worldwide community, the NMRA Board of Directors, each of the Departments, the Achievement Program, Special

Announcing the NMRA Interchange.



Interest Groups, the basics (of modeling), the prototype (railroads), general interest groups and then each of the 17 regions. Discord also provides, free of charge, the ability to have online meetings with up to 100 people in a "room", sharing screens and up to 25 people showing their camera feeds.

When you join the Interchange Server, the "Automated Bot" will greet you with a message and some instructions on how to get your roles assigned. Without roles, you will only see #thelobby, #rules and #how-to-guides. Please spend some time in the #rules and #how-to-guides during the /onboard process while you are waiting for the email with your personal command and code to paste in.

Little River Railroad Train Outing June 16th in Coldwater

A number of us rode the 11am Little River Railroad steam train from Coldwater to Quincy, MI on Father's Day Sunday. 10 miles each way, great ride and great weather. We were able to get a dining table at the restaurant next door. The shop tour had a communications breakdown, I thought it would be between train trips, they thought it would be after 3:30pm when they were putting equipment away, but most of their equipment was in use on Sunday. But they also really did not have the workers to do it during the day. Overall, a "good day and ride"!



Travis the locomotive engineer, my contact, he is also over the engine service facilities and the manager for the Indiana and Northeastern engines, west of Ashley, IN.



Whistle when you pass through Coldwater.



Yes, really burning coal and making soot!



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Pictured below: Moving the engine to the other end to pull the train back to Coldwater

on the way to Quincy, MI







Pictured above on the right Jill and on the left Grace holding a seat for Rich.

Pictured Below: Garry Johnson & Grandson in the background, along with Greg & Kathleen Marvin.



We enjoyed the seating and rides in all of the cars. Liked the open cars so you could smell the smoke, hear the whistle and other noises as you traveled. By the way, they are looking for volunteers to help and work!



We enjoyed the seating and rides in all of the cars. Liked the open cars so you could smell the smoke, hear the whistle and other noises as you traveled. By the way, they are looking for volunteers to help and work!



Travis pictured left.

A view of the train station is on the right.

The restaurant is pictured right.



The restaurant next to the tracks, across from the train station. It used to be a Mexican restaurant, that moved out and went downtown on 12. This group moved in, great food! Dinner meals, sandwiches, salads and other stuff. Good restaurant to stop and eat at if you are passing through the area. Loved the old wooden timber construction inside of the old freight house. If you are going to do this on a train ride day, make reservations. Jill and I got lucky, and they gave us a table after waiting about 10 minutes, after telling us it would be a 45-minute wait. The menu selection and the food were really good. Prices were not bad either.

Rich's Travels (All photos displayed in Rich's Travels are taken by Rich Mahaney)

Photo top left – Grand Elk Engines switching at Kazoo Grand Elk Yard.

Photo top right - Amtrak engine west bound train from Port Huron to Chicago



Photos at the bottom - Amtrak train west bound from Pontiac to Chicago



CSX train switching cars in the Waverly Yard by Holland, MI on Wednesday, July 18, 2024



Caught this train about 5pm tonight going east bound into the CSX Waverly Yard, by Windmill Island.





Passed through Hamilton on my way home today and saw this train. Not sure if it was preparing to the Holland, MI CSX Waverly Yard or had just made the trip back to Hamilton. Engine on each end.

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August 6th

Discovered that this caboose in Bloomingdale has been moved to the south of it old position. Maybe they are going to fix it up and the train station. Both need some "love".





CSX mixed freight in Holland, MI on Tuesday 8/6/24 northbound. By the Sherman Willams plant.











August 7th

Caught a north bound Marquette Rail/Genesee and Wyoming mixed freight on 8/7/24 as it passed through Newago, MI







August 7th continued

Marquette Rail/Genesse and Wyoming northbound freight heading to Baldwin, MI coming through White Cloud, MI







Stopped in Cadillac on our trip up north to Harbor Springs, Petoskey, and Charlevoix for art gallery visits for Jill.

This display is in a park in Cadillac across the street from the old Cadilac train station (has a good restaurant to eat in)









August 7th (Hey Rich take the rest of the day off.)

These are a couple of things in Harbor Springs, that you may not know. It is related to the shay train engine in Cadillac, MI





EPHRAIM SHAY

ORIC

The many-sided house across the street, sheathed in steel plates, was built for Ephraim Shay, inventor of the Shay locomotive. Patented in 1881, the locomotive operated by a geardrive mechanism. Its great traction power and ability to operate on tight curves made it a favorite with logging and mining firms. Built in Lima, Ohio, thousands of Shays were operated by railroads throughout the world. Several were used on Shay's Hemlock Central railroad which began here and ran about fifteen miles to the north. Shay, born in Ohio in 1839, was an inveterate mechanic. He built the Harbor Springs waterworks and later donated it to the city. His firm experimented with boats and automobiles, and one winter he built sleds for the children of the town. In 1888 Shay moved to Harbor Springs, where he died in 1916.

August 9th Moving on to Buckley

These are cabooses that are on display west of Buckley, MI at site that hosts "steam" shows with farm equipment, railroad equipment and other steam powered equipment. Pretty cool event and place.







More from Buckley

This is a train that at some point goes around a loop on the property. They were replacing ties under the track when we were looking around.









Even more from Buckley

Some interesting flat car loads.







Ann Arbor RR memories at Buckley, MI.







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Had to work in the Grand Haven, MI area on Wednesday evening, so in the afternoon I stopped for a few photos of the railroad display in downtown Grand Haven, MI. The PM 1223 is the "sister" of the famous PM 1225 locomotive in Owosso, MI. They are repainting the Pere Marquette caboose since I last drove by. The old PM train station is just to the east of this area. The train tracks with a yard and engine facility ran through this area to downtown Grand Haven where there is a museum in the old train station.









<u> Alan's Adventures in Model Railroading – Volume 3</u>

It has been a busy few months and haven't had a lot of time to work on my layout. Progress was made on a few projects.

Shortly after getting back into the hobby, I purchased a sawmill kit from KMP Models. This is a really cool kit, and I was anxious to get started on building my first wood kit. After starting to build the sawmill, I discovered that this scratch built kit was beyond my skills at the time. However, trudging on and getting frustrated at my progress, I decided to put it aside and work on other projects. The partially built kit laid in a box for about 4 years. During this time my grandson was asking me how the sawmill kit was going and teasing me after my response. About a month ago, I decided to give it a go one more time with the goal of finishing it by mid-August. The reason for mid-August goal, was that my grandson would be leaving around that time for a year-long missionary trip overseas. Did I make my goal, not quite, but considerable progress was made and the only thing that remains is to add the roof.

On other projects,

- A few track problems were fixed, and the track was painted, but not weathered. I am trying different weathering techniques and colors.
- After watching several Jason Jensen videos on YouTube, I am making several changes to the placement of structures on the layout and including more details.
- There are four new projects on the drawing board.
 - Cash Mine Works Project This is a Blair Line laser-cut structure which is based on the Silver King Ore-House in Park City, Utah. Another wood project that hopefully will be considerably easier than the Sawmill.
 - Construction of a commercial area that includes several Walther's kits including Merchant's Row I & II, plus several smaller businesses.
 - Rural Farm Area includes the barn in the picture of the first article in this series. Plan is to include fences, rolling hills, fields and lots of farm animals.
 - Mountains, hills, bridges & water the plan is to create a fairly large mountain approximately 90% of the north end of the layout curving around to the West side. Early expectations are that it will be about 15 Inches high, 20 inches deep and about 10 feet in length. My hope is that it will include rock walls, lots of trees, hiking trails, a campground, at least one waterfall and probably 2 or three bridges.

I Love Toy Trains – Tom McComas

For those of you who are familiar with **Tom McComas** from the TV show "I Love Toy Trains" sponsored by TMC Trains on the RFD Network may not know that Tom recently passed away. I found the following notice on a YouTube video.

In memoriam: Tom McComas, one of the most influential shapers of the contemporary toy train hobby, died in Michigan City, Ind., on Aug. 8, 2024, at the age of 86. He left an indelible mark on the hobby, starting as an author in the 1980s and then proceeding to write and produce a vast number of introductory and advanced videos directed at every possible enthusiast, from young children to longtime collectors and operators of prewar, postwar, and modern trains and accessories. His contributions will never be forgotten.



Membership Status Report As of July 31, 2024

NMRA Membership Years Division 9 Categories		Years	NMRA Members by County Division 9				
From	То	#	Country				
0	5	6	County	# Members			
6	10	5	Branch County	0			
11	15	7	Calhoun County	6			
16	20	2	Hillsdale County	0			
		7	Kalamazoo County	17			
21	25		St. Joseph County	6			
26	30	7	Van Buren County	11			
31	35	2	Total	40			
36	40	0	TOLAI	40			
41	45	0	The table above left disul				
46	50	1	The table above left displays the number of members by how many years they have belonged to the ACBL.				
51	55	2	by now many years they	have belonged to the ACBL.			
56	+	1	The table above right dis	plays how many members live			
		40	in various counties that a				

nembers live in various counties that are served by Division 9.

Wrap-up

- Remember 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.
- Hope to see you in Vicksburg and at many of our future events and layout tours.
- Its not too late to volunteer to become a board member.

Alan Bau Divisions 9 Scribe & Newsletter Editor alanwbau@gmail.com