



# The Yardmaster

Southwestern Michigan Division



October 2024

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



The above picture is from Bruce Chubb's Layout.

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

### Columbus Day October 9th



### Halloween October 31st



## **From the desk of the Superintendent**

Greetings fellow Division 9 members

It was great to kick off the fall season with an exciting, fun-filled and information packed meeting at the historic Vicksburg Michigan Railroad Depot Museum. Thanks to a presentation done by Mark Tomlonson I learned how rail traffic actually came into being in Kalamazoo County and the impact on the county. Our second guest speaker was Leah Milowe Vicksburg Depot Museum Curator who shared insight on the relationship between the railroads of Vicksburg and the community. On my part it was great to revisit memories of growing up and spending time sitting in the station many years ago. My grandfather who handled shipping and receiving at the papermill would have me tag along as he went about doing his job. Eventually, I was allowed to set in the inner office of the station dispatch. Wow! Plus, as a kid I was allowed to key in a message on the telegraph key. This is where my fascination with trains began.

Thanks Grandpa!

In reflecting, I've grown to appreciate all who take part in sharing their vision, insight and experience to help make this a wonderful hobby called model railroading Looking forward to visiting and operating on Bruce Chubb's layout. I've had the opportunity to visit twice, but now to actually operate on the layout. Members, take this opportunity not only to visit but view and operate on a world class layout.

Garry Johnson  
Superintendent NCR Division 9

## **Editor's Comments**

Let's welcome Greg Marvin to our board of directors as a Trustee replacing Casey Bartman.

Also welcome Tony Vacha to our board of directors as our new Website Manager.

We all need to give a big thank you to Casey Bartman for his efforts on the board and creating the Division 9 website. Casey as many of you know moved to South Carolina last year. We will miss his many contributions to our organization.



## **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	Greg Marvin	<a href="mailto:sr@earthworkslawnandlandscape.com">sr@earthworkslawnandlandscape.com</a>
Website Manager	Tony Vacha	<a href="mailto:CKRHandler@aol.com">CKRHandler@aol.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	October 6 <sup>th</sup>	Kalamazoo Bridge Club & Zoom	
Membership Meeting	Saturday October 19 <sup>th</sup> 9:00AM	Bruce Chubb's Layout	Layout Tour & Op Session
Membership Meeting	November 16 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM	Battle Creek Model Railroad Club 2 West Michigan Ave Ste: B-1 Battle Creek, MI 49017	Layout Tour See note below
Membership Meeting	December 21st	Kalamazoo Bridge Club	Rich Mahaney – Clinic on Old Era Equipment

Note: After the meeting at the Battle Creek Model Railroad Club in November, the plan is for anyone interested in seeing Garry Johnson's layout to stop by his house to get a firsthand look at the progress he has made.

## **Bruce Chubb Operating Session & Layout Tour**

Our October 19th Membership Meeting promises to be extra special as we will be travelling up north to Kentwood to take part in an Operating Session on **Bruce Chubb's famous Sunset Valley Layout.**

Dave Poplawski has supplied us with the following information.

**Bruce's address is:**

**3902 Wilton Dr SE  
Grand Rapids, MI**

**It is tradition to break for lunch around noon-ish and head over to the Mr. Burger restaurant a few minutes away, usually for about a half hour. Most go there, some get a little tired of Mr. Burger and go elsewhere, and on occasion some just stay at Bruce's and skip lunch.**

**I can't think of anything special to tell them, other than you don't have to be there exactly at 9am nor stay until 4pm. We have people dropping in at all hours in between and staying for varying lengths of time.**

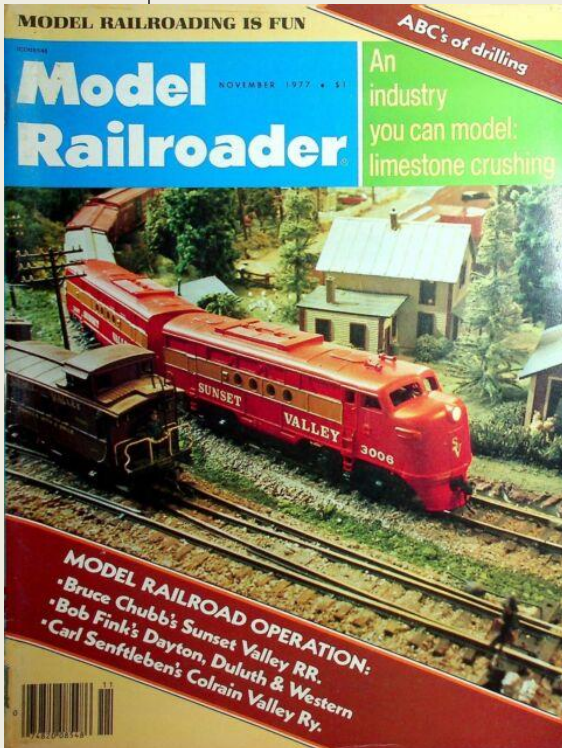
**Upon arriving enter through the door on the right side of the garage to go to the basement. Starting time is 9am. Lunch is bringing your own, go out for lunch and come back or?**

**To see video of Bruce's layout click on the link below:**

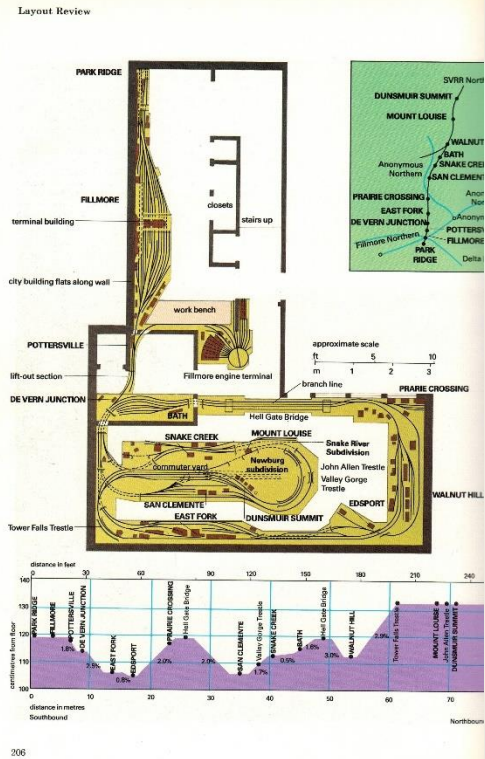
**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9UHYmFOOI0&pp=ygUcc3Vuc2V0IHZhbGxleSBtb2RibCBYYWlscm9hZA%3D%3D>**

**The following link is a history on the development of the Sunset Valley Railroad.**

**[MRH video featuring Bruce Chubb's Sunset Valley \(youtube.com\)](#)**



A few pictures of Bruce Chubb's layout, found on the internet.



For more information on Bruce Chubb and his Sunset Valley Railroad do a search on Sunset Valley Railroad, get a cup of coffee and sit back as it will take quite a while to read and view everything that is available.

## 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).

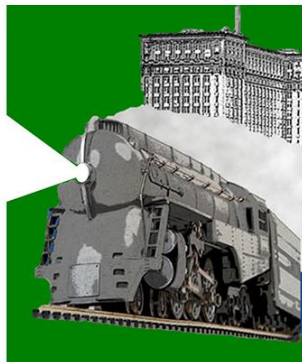


# NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024

*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](mailto:nlogan114@wowway.com)  
Paul Lichau, Div 6 Pres, Asst. Chairman –  
and visit our web pages at [www.div6-ncr-nmra.com](http://www.div6-ncr-nmra.com)

# 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

on or before September 25, 2024 - NMRA member	\$65	how many		
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

		\$25	how many	
Dinner per person				
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		
	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](http://ncx24.ncrmra.org)





**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**

**GRVRRRC & WEST MICHIGAN S-GAUGERS**

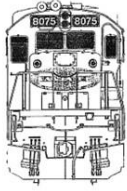
**OPEN HOUSES ON 10/26/2024 10AM - 4PM**

**For Additional Information:**

Show Coordinator (Tom): (847) 691-1163

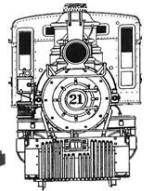
Or Email us at: [trainshow@grvrrc.org](mailto:trainshow@grvrrc.org) <https://grvrrc.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/grandrivervalleytrainclub>



# 4th Annual MODEL RAILROAD SALE!

Hosted by Division 6  
North Central Region - National Model Railroad Association



**SATURDAY – JANUARY 25, 2025**  
**10am - 3pm**



## 2142 Community Center

7526 Grand River Ave, Brighton, MI 48114

**NEW Location!!  
MORE Tables!!**

**189 Tables of model railroad items - ALL scales!**  
**Door Prizes Awarded every 45 minutes!** (must be present to win)  
Food available – FREE parking

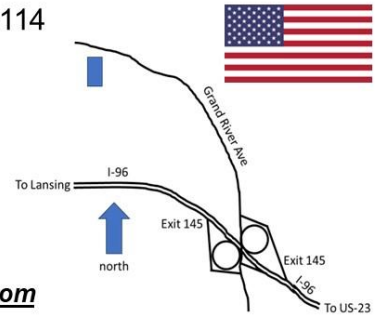
Admission –

**\$5 per person over 18 years old (spouses/children under 18 = FREE!)**

**\$10 per person Early Bird entry at 9am**

**VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS FREE (WITH ID)**

Information – Barry 734-649-3056 (6pm-9pm) [div6trainshow@gmail.com](mailto:div6trainshow@gmail.com)



# 4th Annual MODEL RAILROAD SALE!

Hosted by Division 6  
North Central Region - National Model Railroad Association

**SATURDAY – JANUARY 25, 2025**  
**10am - 3pm**

## 2142 Community Center

7526 Grand River Ave, Brighton, MI 48114

**VENDOR INFORMATION.....** HELLO!! Welcome to the 3rd Annual MODEL RAILROAD SALE, hosted by Division 6 of the NCR/NMRA.

Here is the info you need to be a vendor at our event....

- \* Vendor tables are \$25 each. Tables size is 30" x 8' long. There is no limit to how many tables you can buy. **We now have 189 tables!!**
- \* Tables are assigned locations on a first registered-first get system. Please note any special requests below and we will do our best to accommodate you.
- \* Set-up will start at 7:15am on Saturday, January 25, 2025. \* All vendors will sell from behind your table.
- \* There will be one chair per table. Extra chairs may be available. \* There will be FREE donuts and coffee for vendors only, from 7:30am-9:30am
- \* We are doing an Early-Bird sale at 9am-10am for the public. You are free to sell at that time, or not. Doors open to the rest of the public at 10am-3pm.
- \* **NEW!!!** – Vendors are **NOT** allowed to have **ANY food** at their tables!! Food must be consumed at tables just off to the side of the sales area. Water is OK. This new policy will be **STRICTLY** enforced. Violation will result in not being allowed to return to this event!! You are still allowed to bring your own food, but you **CANNOT** eat at your table!!!
- \* There is a café/deli on the upper floor of the building for food purchases.
- \* Cancellations for table fee refunds must be given by Wednesday, January 15, 2025. No refunds if notified after that date, unless we can resell your tables.

Please send this form with your payment, check or US Postal money order.

Make out to – **DIV 6 NCR NMRA** Send to – **Div 6 Model Railroad Sale 43642 Lotus Dr Canton, MI 48188**

**EXHIBITOR AGREEMENT** – Vendors will be responsible for any injuries or loss to themselves or their property. They expressly release DIVISION 6 and it's members from any liability and agree to indemnify and hold DIVISION 6 and it's members harmless. Signing this agreement means you have read all of the facts above and agree to them. If for any reason the SALE is cancelled, refunds will be issued asap. Electricity yes  no

SIGNED- \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL REQUESTS

## Member Feedback

There are several issues that the Board would appreciate your feedback.

**Bylaws:** At our last meeting we discussed a few possible changes to our existing bylaws.

1) Making the Paymaster and the Website Manager appointed positions rather than subject to elections every two years.

Every time there is a change in the Paymaster position we have to change the signatories on our checking account. This would seem to be a rather simple process, but it is far more complicated than it would seem.

Related to our new Website Manager, which is a new position, it seems to make sense for this to also be an appointed position as there is quite a bit of specific technical knowledge that is required to develop and maintain a website.

**Website:** The board is pleased to officially announce that Tony Vacha has agreed to take over the responsibility of developing and maintaining the Division 9's Website. [www.ncr-div9.com](http://www.ncr-div9.com).

We are working on a plan to move the website to a more permanent host and taking a fresh look at the content.

If there is anything specific that you would like to see on our website, please contact Alan Bau with your ideas.

## **Future Membership Meetings:**

Recently the board has developed an outline for future Membership Meetings.

The new guidelines are to alternate meeting agendas as follows, which would be on a three-month cycle.

Month one – The agenda for inhouse membership meetings, most likely at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club, will include a short business meeting followed by an in-house or video clinic. These sessions will also include a Zoom link for those members that are unable to attend in-person.

Month two– Layout tours which could be out-of-town. Most likely for layout tour or Operating sessions, there will be no business meeting, unless there is something of importance to discuss with the members present. Most likely there will not be a zoom link available for out-of-town layout tours.

Month three - Layout tours of local layouts. Again, there will not be a business meeting unless there is something of importance to discuss and no zoom link available.

After the third month, the rotation starts over. Months two & three could be in reverse order if it makes more sense.

The main reason for separating in-house business meetings and local layout tours into separate sessions, is to hopefully increase participation in local layout tours. In the past, visits to local layout tours after an in-house membership meeting were not as well attended as we had hoped.



## **Destination MMR: A Travelogue through the NMRA's achievement**

**Program** Part 9a (pages 18 – 26) in the August Issue & 9B (pages 14 – 23) in the September Issue of the NMRA magazine. This series of articles goes through the efforts of Cinthia Priest as she endeavors to become an MMR.

## Annual Meeting Summary

- Election Results: Greg Marvin and Joel Pyard were elected by unanimous vote. It was also announced that Tony Vacha has agreed to serve as our new Website Manager.
- Rich Mahaney reviewed the upcoming schedule of events.
- Vicksburg Train Depot: Leah Milowe Leah Milowe, Vicksburg Depot Museum Curator made a presentation on the history of the Vicksburg Train Museum.
- Mark Tomlonson presented history of Southwest Railroad Activity; a list of his presentation topics is listed below.
- Garry Johnson presented a history of the railroads of Vicksburg.

### Mark Tomlonson's Presentation Topics:

1. 1916 Travel by Train – what it was like to travel back when train travel was at its peak (60 minutes)
2. Cars on Rails – How your car got from the factory to your garage (60 minutes)
3. Interurbans/Streetcars of Kalamazoo This can be a one hour presentation on streetcars, a one hour presentation on interurbans, or a two hour combination of the two.
4. Lay and Lane: The Transportation Kings of Kalamazoo. (60 minutes)
5. Railroad Jobs: What the Men and Women Working on the Railroad Did All the Live-Long Day (60 minutes)
6. Model Railroading – an introduction to the hobby (20 minutes)
7. The Railroads and Interurbans of Richland MI (60 minutes)
8. The Railroad History of Kalamazoo County (60 or 120 minutes)
9. Railroad Standard Gauge and How it Got There: Why the Romans are Getting Way Too Much Credit (60 minutes)
10. Railroad Stations in Kalamazoo County (40 minutes)
11. The Railway Post Office 1860-1977 (50 minutes)
12. Steam Locomotive Technology: How the Choo-Choo Got Its Choo. (60 or 120 minutes)
13. Volkswagen: The History of a People's Car (60 minutes)

Mark Tomlonson

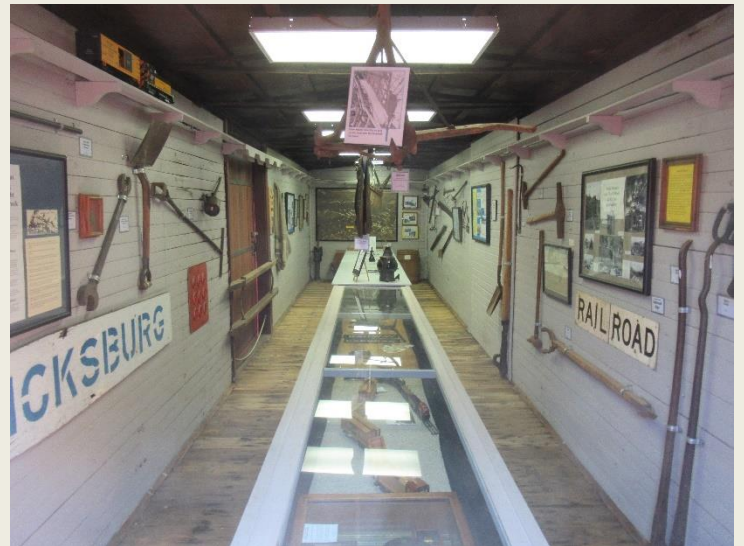
Tomlonson@yahoo.com

269 343-7137

At the conclusion of the meeting, door prizes 5 - \$20 gift certificates and 1- \$50 gift certificate for Rider's Hobby Shop in Grand Rapids were awarded and the 50/50 raffle was held. Door prize winners were Marilyn Holm, Greg Marvin, Rich Mahaney, Jim Glenn, Dick DeVisser, Tony Vacha & Mark Tomlonson. The 50/50 Raffle winner was Jim Glenn.



Photos taken by Rich Mahaney on our September annual meeting at the Vicksburg Train Depot.



Pictured above: Left is a view inside the Caboose and pictured right is a view inside the box car.



Featured Speaker – Mark Tomlonson  
Along with Jim Glenn



Pictured above left to right. Dick DeVisser,  
Chuck Hart from Michiana Division, Bob  
Kline, & Joel Pyard. Pictured on the  
computer screen is Dave Vinci, who was  
attending via Zoom.



Pictured above left to right. Jim Temple for  
the Michiana Division, Doug Van Meter, Bob  
Lawrence and Alan Bau



Pictured above is Garry Johnson & Bob  
Lawrence.

The pictures on the following pages were taken by Alan Bau

Below left and going clockwise: Jim Rosewarne, Leah Milowe, Rich Mahaney, Garry Johnson & Mark Tomlonson.

Pictured right: Joel Pyard, Garry Johnson & Rich Mahaney



These pictures & on the next page were taken from inside the Vicksburg Train Depot







More Train Pictures of the Cars on display at the Vicksburg Train Depot



# Rich's Travels

Short freight train delivering loads of lumber (2 cars) in the Holland, MI industrial park



## Lumber Company

Interested in adding a lumber yard to your train layout? Here are some pictures and tips from Rich Mahaney on his recent visit to lumber yard in Zeeland.

Here is a couple of photos of a lumber company in Zeeland, MI that receives new lumber by railroad flat car. for modeling you would need offices and storage of lumber (both inside/covered storage and outside storage in the yard area). Walthers would have kits to help build a facility like this for your layout.



## West Michigan Railroad Update:

The West Michigan Railroad/Hamilton Northwestern Railroad is expanding services in Fillmore, MI (just south of Holland and east of M40) with a new "transloading" facility along their railroad tracks between Holland and Hamilton.

They can load and unload railroad cars at this location. They are looking for customers. See the photos.

This is like their facilities and work east of Hartford, MI.

This could easily be built on a spot on your model railroad and would add a new industry for you to service. Best thing is that it could take many different kinds of railroad cars depending on what is being brought in or transported out. That would be up to your imagination (and your business marketing skills).

Rich Mahaney



This is another piece of equipment to use in loading or unloading.

## Weathering Tips from Bob Chaparro

The information on the next two pages are a couple of tips on weathering, that Bob Chaparro forwarded to Rich Mahaney.

### Tool For Weathering Wood – Furniture Marker

I decided to try this marker for giving strip wood and dimensional scale lumber that old, weathered look where the wood turns gray.

It works pretty well. It's easy to apply and dries quickly. Fine grain wood may need two applications.

Bob Chaparro

Moderator



## Weathering Tool: Distress Oxide Pad

This is something new (to me) that I've started to use in my weathering efforts.

It is an ink pad saturated with rust oxide ink. I use a brush to absorb the ink and apply it where needed.

It dries almost immediately.

This is available from Ranger Ink, US-based manufacturer that produces and sells art and craft supplies:

<https://rangerink.com/search?q=distress+oxide+pad>

They have quite a bit of alcohol ink in small dispenser bottle as well.

Ranger Home Page:

<https://rangerink.com/>

I have no connection, personal or financial, with Ranger.

Bob Chaparro



## Alan's Adventures in Model Railroading Volume 4

Since the last report, I have spent more time working on my layout and having a lot of fun in the process. Much of that time was spent on scenery projects. The farm area was covered with real dirt, a cow pasture, pig pen, corn and wheat fields were added along with a gravel road. Remaining tasks on the farm project include, installing fences around the cow pasture and pig pen, adding a small pond, finishing the ground cover and adding other small details.

My next project was to begin work on a housing development. This included adding seven structures, two retaining walls, ground cover, sidewalks, roads, a small circular park, and some trees. Next steps will be to add more ground cover, some plants & trees and at least two scratch-built privacy fences, along with other details.



My final current project was building a commercial section which includes a gas station, Walther's Merchants Row I & II, a few other buildings a passenger depot and a freight depot. The structures are in-place, and an asphalt road added. The road needs to be finished, ground cover added along with plantings and other small details.

It is my hope to finish these three areas by the end of October?

### Wrap-up

Thank you to Leah Milowe and everyone associated with the Vicksburg Train Depot for allowing us to use their facilities for our annual meeting.

Final note is to remind everybody to make the trip to Kentwood to view and operate on Bruce Chubb's layout on Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup>. This opportunity doesn't come along often, so don't pass it up. See you there!

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