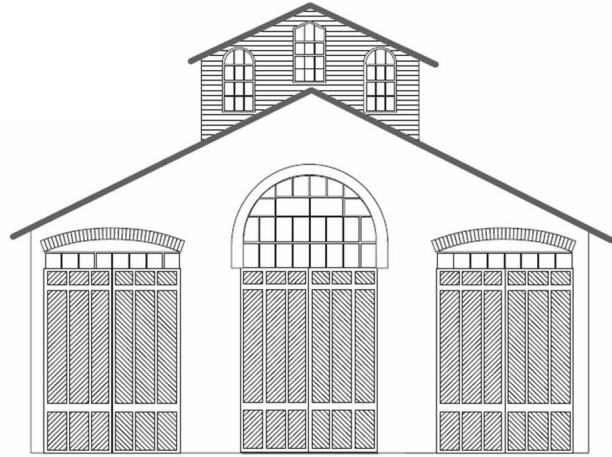


# CAR HOUSE



**August 15, 2024**

Div. 8 Website: <https://www.div8.NcrNMRA.org>

Website:  
[http://  
www.nmra.org/](http://www.nmra.org/)



## **Call to Order**

Meeting called to Order at 7:06

Recognition of visitors and MMRs

MMRs present Scott Kramer, Larry Wolohan, Bruce DeYoung

## **Presidents Page**

One of my favorite ways that I've seen people add interest to their freight trains is to model some open car loads. When I talk about open car loads, I'm talking about flat cars and gondolas and the myriad of products that the railroads transported using these types of freight cars.

One common and interesting type of loads is the shipment of bulk steel and other metals. This can be in the form of sheets or various shapes that would be delivered to a customer for use in manufacturing or construction.

While in the middle of doing some work on my own open car loads, I found a neat little tool that you can use to make sure you don't end up with a model of a 50 ton flat car with 300 tons of steel loaded on it. Below is a link to a tool that will calculate how much those sheets or shapes of steel would weigh so that 50 ton flat car loaded up with steel sheets looks "right". Just select the shape and material you are interested in, along with the dimensions you are thinking for your load, and the calculator will tell you if "We're gonna need a bigger flatcar".

Yes, I like the movie Jaws!

[Metal Weight Calculator - Steel weight calculator \(gigacalculator.com\)](http://gigacalculator.com)

Happy Modeling!!

Mark

## **No Clinic In August due to Division Yard Sale**

### **Report on 2025 Novi Nation Convention Preparations by Scott Kramer**

**Scott Kramer**, who is the 2025 National Convention Chair gave a report on the progress being made on the preparations for the convention in Novi, Mi. The registration system is up and running. Go to **NMRA2025.COM** to register for the convention. There are expected to be over 60 home and club layouts open for visits as well as 20+ operating sessions. The clinic schedule is being developed with the idea that the clinics are new and not available in existing on-line videos. Also on the website is a comprehensive list of event highlights. Check it out.

### **BUSINESS MEETING ITEMS**

**All Members** – Please check your NMRA membership cards and renew today. Insurance regulations require meeting participants be NMRA members {after three meetings}. Please stay current. You can renew at **NMRA.org**. There are so many benefits of membership, including discounts at major online retailers, information available on the website. Membership with digital delivery of the NMRA magazine is \$68 per year, \$92 with US mail delivery of the NMRA magazine.

**July Car House** approved.

**June Treasurer's report Dan Shilt:** \$3,463.28. Added \$10 in new user fees, spent \$50 on gift certificates. Approved. **Also, please check if your Division 8 Meeting support user fee has been paid. The fee is \$10 per year payable in January for 2024. A number of members that paid our user fee in 2023 have not paid in 2024.**

**Layout Tour Plans:** A flier for our November 9<sup>th</sup>. layout tours is attached. We will be visiting Tim Fisher's and Paul Young's layouts.

**Regional AP update** – Bruce DeYoung has taken over the role as Division 8 AP Chairman.

### **You Might Already Qualify**

Bruce De Young, MMR  
A.P. Chairman

As some of you know, I have recently been appointed as AP Chair for our Division. I met with Ken Chick and he did a great (and much appreciated) job bringing me up to speed on Region procedures and what has been happening with regards to the AP Program here. Just as an aside,

I held this role for many years in the Garden State Division of the Northeastern Region. I hope to have an AP Column in the Carhouse with some frequency, so stay tuned.

Since moving to Michigan and joining Division 8, I have been able to see great modeling “up close and personal” at both the Show & Tell segments at our monthly meetings and at the many layout tours we have.

On layout tours I have seen some magnificent hand laid track work that included hand laid turnouts, crossovers, and crossings. It was not only beautiful; it was functioning flawlessly.

At layout visits and at our monthly meetings, I have seen fantastic scratch built and kit-built structures, all highly detailed and tastefully weathered. It wouldn't take an “expert” to see that they would easily earn a Merit Award if evaluated.

We have other members who are into super detailing locomotives or are scratch building rolling stock. These models, if evaluated, could be used for the “Motive Power” or “Cars” certificates.

Several of the layouts would certainly earn the owners both the Golden Spike Certificate and in all likelihood, the Scenery Certificate. All that is needed was the paperwork and an invitation to set up an ‘official’ visit.

Finally, many of you have been volunteering for many tasks in the Division. Those efforts, when added up, may qualify you for the Volunteer Certificate.

You get the point. Many Division members already have the ‘wherewithal’ to get started in the A.P. Program. All that they would need to do is to fill out the paperwork and set up a date/time for a small group of A.P. examiners to come evaluate their work.

Ah, the dreaded paperwork. For some that is the big stumbling block. But it isn't really. I address that in my next column.

So, look around your modeling bench, your shelf of completed models, or your layout. I'll bet that there is something there that already makes the grade. You might already qualify for a Merit Award or even an A.P. Certificate!

**Operating Session Plans – Curt Danielewicz can be contacted if you would like to be included in future Operating Session plans.**

**Door monitor** at the church: September George Van Duyne; October Chris Dobies.  
Thanks for volunteering.

Please consider volunteering for future months. It only requires a half hour of your time. For security reasons the church door must remain locked at all times. Thanks for helping out the Division and keeping everyone safe.

### **Old Business**

- We had our first NMRA Retention Event at the live steam 7 ½ gauge at Bill Hayes' Michigan Central in Metamora. We will donate \$100 to the railroad. Planning on making this an annual event. Looking for ideas for next year,. Irv will show a few pictures of the event at the September meeting.

### **New Business**

- We have a new Facebook page accessible to non-members to be our public social media face.
- Long beach Convention Briefing.
  - Well organized convention. Everything ran very smooth and on time. Attendance was low. Only 606. Most of then people that we talked with seemed to be from out west.
  - Great prototype tours
    - Southern California Railway museum – Be an engineer on a locomotive (SW1)
    - LA Union Station. Behind the scenes, a top notch tour.
    - Travel Town and Pomona Fairgrounds.
  - A good variety of clinics, most of them were new. Video copies of clinics will be posted on the convention website but will only be made available to convention attendees.
  - Layouts were available as both bus and self drive.
  - An NMRA survey Clinic will be presented at our meeting in the future.

### **Hints and Tips**

- The Mentor/Mentee file (give help/receive help) is at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/195MkOSzClIO4pfcGtM4LcnI-sIExBw2\\_/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/195MkOSzClIO4pfcGtM4LcnI-sIExBw2_/view?usp=sharing)
- The private Clinton River Division Facebook group is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/288929175921717/>
- For those on Medicare Part D (Medicare Advantage) ask your insurer if they give you a “Grouper” discount. This can pay you for your NMRA dues.
- A presentation on the steps necessary to complete the onboarding process for NMRA Discord is on our website <https://div8.ncrnmra.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Discord-Instructions.pdf>
- Other Discord instructions are available on the NMRA website under presentations.

## Announcements

***Please notify Irv Chmielewski ([NCRDIV8SECRETARY@gmail.com](mailto:NCRDIV8SECRETARY@gmail.com)) if you would like to have an announcement posted in Car House. Provide written details***

- **The 2025 NMRA National Convention will be held in Novi, the second week in July!** More information is coming, but get your layouts in shape for open houses, prepare possible clinics and be ready to volunteer! Clinics for the 2025 Convention are being coordinated by Andy Keeney.
  - The planning committee is committed to focus the convention on giving value to attendees and the NMRA as a whole.
  - Clinics will focus on new content. There is enough time for all of us to develop a new clinic on a topic that will be of interest. Any clinic presentation could be first presented at our meeting so that it can be revised and polished for the National convention
  - Clinic/Layout and other Coordinators are included in Carhouse so please reach out if interested.
  - Division 8 Volunteer Coordinator is Mark Mincek.
- The North Central Region convention is happening in Northville, Oct 10-12. A flier is attached.
- Gratoit Valley Railroad Club is selling off there modular layout.

**National Convention 2025 Regional Contacts**

**A lot of work needs to be completed before the Nation Convention. The region has established a number of work groups that can use additional volunteers.**

**The following are the persons that you can contact to assist with the convention.**

**Chairman- Scott Kremer**

**Co-Chair and Hotel Coordinator – to be filled (Note the primary hotel responsibility is through the NMRA Meeting and Trade Show personnel)**

<b>Treasurer - Steve Harsh</b>	<b>Webmaster - Marshall Stull</b>
<b>Non-Rail - Kitty Kremer</b>	<b>LDSIG - Ron Burkhardt</b>
<b>OPSIG - Eric Smith</b>	<b>RPM Conference - Mike Skibbe</b>
<b>PR/Marketing - Jim Zinser, Barry Hensel</b>	<b>Layout Visit - Brook and Jay Qualmann</b>
<b>Op Sessions - Ken Chick</b>	<b>Prototype Tours - Bruce Wolfe</b>
<b>Clinics - Andy Keeney</b>	<b>Volunteers - Div 6 - Bill McMillan</b>
<b>Yard Sale - Greg Rich</b>	<b>IT coordinator - Jeff Higgins</b>
<b>Registration Desk - Doug Tagsold</b> dtagsoldyahoo.com	

**Positions still needing to be filled.**

<b>Bus Coordinator</b>	<b>Contest Coordinator</b>
<b>Volunteers - Div 8 – Mark Mencek</b>	<b>Merchandise - basically shirts</b>



# Division Yard Sale Fun Shopping for Stuff



## **SCHEDULES**

For more information, contact the organization listed. We do not have further details. Obviously, schedules are subject to change. Check with the venue before the event.

**Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> - Clinton River Division Monthly Meeting Troy Christian Chapel**

**Nov 9<sup>h</sup> – Div 8 Layout tours - See attached flier for more information**

### **Division Meeting**

**Live at Troy Christian Chapel and on Zoom**

**Thursday, Sept 19, 7:00 pm**

**Clinic**

**Gas Station**

**by Bruce DeYoung**

**Show and Tell**

**Gas Stations or Current Projects**

**Join us after the meeting for snacks and conversation at Leo's Coney Island,  
Walton & Livernois**

*We will send you notice of the meeting and the Discord connection a few days before the meeting. Please look in your spam folder if you do not receive it timely.*

*Don't ask, I have no idea why some providers think we are spam.*

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](mailto:nlogan114@wowway.com)  
Paul Lichau, Div 6 Superintendent –  
734-878-5390 [plichau@yahoo.com](mailto:plichau@yahoo.com)  
Mark Ellis, Asst. Chairman -  
734-536-5470 [emark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:emark@sbcglobal.net)  
visit our web pages at- [ncx24.ncrmmra.org](http://ncx24.ncrmmra.org)

## NCX - NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024 REGISTRATION FORM & INFORMATION

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	
polo shirt	3X-large	\$34	
	4X-large	\$34	
	small	\$32	
	medium	\$32	
	large	\$32	
	X-large	\$32	
	2X-large	\$32	
	3X-large	\$32	
4X-large	\$32		

**TOTAL**

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.ncmmra.org](http://ncx24.ncmmra.org)



# **Clinton River Division Layout Open House**

**Saturday, November 9, 2024**  
**1-4 PM**

**Tim Fisher** [50105 Watling Street, Shelby Township, MI 48317](#)

The focus was to build a layout in a short time with one town and one staging yard. The theme is Santa Fe in Pampa, Texas during 1944. Pampa is along the Santa Fe's Southern freight mainline and is the beginning of a double track section that extends through Amarillo to Canyon, TX. Pampa had Oil and Gas Refineries, Carbon Black Plants, and Pipeline Companies. There was a yard, wye, engine service, freight house, cattle loading, and a branch line to Clinton, OK. The model has a four-track yard, wye, a one stall engine facility, the branch, interchange with the FW&D, and 14 customers. There are more than 60 customer car spots. There are 8 staging tracks for the mainline that hold 30 car freights. Staging also has engine pockets to provide a variety of engines. The branch has two staging tracks that hold 10 car mixed trains. There are 18 sound equipped steam engines, 250 freight cars and 10 passenger cars. Control is Easy DCC.

**PLEASE NOTE: PARKING ON ONE SIDE OF THE STREET ONLY**



**Paul Young** [49667 Cranberry Creek, Macomb, MI 48042](#)

My Pennsylvania Division of the B&O RR is a fictional division operating in western Pennsylvania and West Virginia after the merging of the B&O and C&O. The railroad serves coal and industrial customers. The era is the 1940s (but with artistic license), and I run both steam and 1<sup>st</sup> generation diesel locomotives. The emphasis is on capturing the scenery of the area, and the railroad is designed for operations. My inspiration comes from my father, who was a policeman on the B&O in Pittsburgh. As a kid, I often rode the train from Pittsburgh to Detroit and Toledo to visit relatives or sometimes accompanied my father to check cars in a yard or investigate a derailment.



