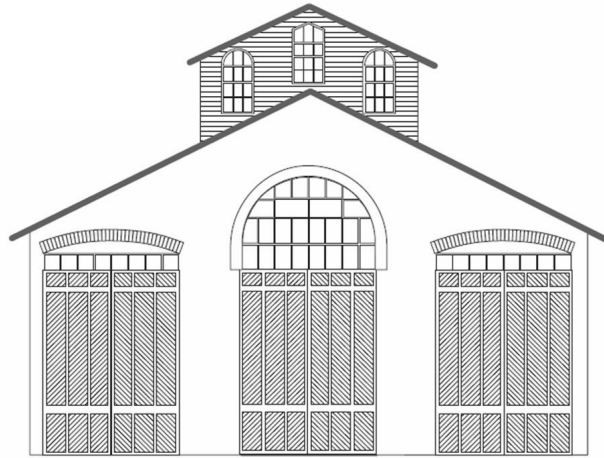


CAR



HOUSE

Aug 21, 2025

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



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



Call to Order

Call to Order: 7:02

Recognition of visitors and MMRs in attendance: Bruce DeYoung, Larry Wolohan, and Ron King

Presidents Page

I still remember from many years ago riding my bike to one of the local hobby shops and sorting through the rack of old magazines that the shop owner discounted if you were willing to live with half of a front cover. (He cut the other half of the cover off to justify the discount). On this trip, I came across an issue of Model Railroading magazine. In it was an article on how to detail an EMD GP7/9. Since that was my favorite locomotive, I just had to buy a copy of that issue minus half the cover so that I could go home and start my first locomotive super detailing project.

While I'd love to be able to tell you that I ended up with a highly detailed, award winning locomotive, in reality the locomotive is still in its original Athearn box, with a number of parts chopped off. (and yes "chopped" would be the correct word). I'll admit there hasn't been a lot of progress on my first superdetailing project in the last 40+ years. The outlook for that particular project is not great.

The good news is that this issue and lots of other issues from both that magazine and a number of others, are now available for all of us to read online, thanks to ScaleTrains. Attached is a link to that magazine archive that ScaleTrains has recently obtained the rights to. This is something that they are providing at no cost. It's a just a service to the hobbyists.

<https://magazines.scaletrains.com>

Happy reading!
Mark

Clinic

AI (Artificial Intelligence) in Model Railroading
by Bruce DeYoung

Bruce recently got started in using AI. A summary of the Clinic with photos is attached at the end of the Car House.

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.

Car House approved.

June Treasurer's report Dan Shilt: \$3043.33; Approved. Mark just recently received a check from NMRA to cover some membership retention expenses. \$200 will be deposited into our account shortly.

With the start of the new year, the membership meeting fee is due. The fee is \$10 per year payable in January. Check with Dan Shilt, he will be happy to assist.

Regional AP update – A number of AP Awards and certificates were awarded this meeting.

Irv Chmielewski - Association Volunteer



Bruce DeYoung

Recognition for work
done on Education Information



Gail Braman

Another Two Master Builder Merit Awards



AP Corner **AP Corner**

” Why Wait?”

Bruce De Young, MMR

Division A.P. Coordinator

There are a few AP Certificates that require the completion of a number of models – and some of those models need to be evaluated and earn a Merit Award. The Structures Certificate (12 models, 6 earning a Merit Award); the Cars Certificate (8 models, 4 earning a Merit Award); and the Motive Power Certificate (3 Models, all 3 earning a Merit Award) come to mind. Check out the specific requirements for each Certificate on the NMRA Website to see additional requirements – (e.g.) how many different types of models are required, how many must be scratch built, etc.

Some members think that you need to build all the required models before having any of them evaluated. That is not the case. In fact, there are some good reasons to bring one or two in at a time for evaluation. Primary among them is that the feedback you get on the first few models will help you when you build the additional models. You also will learn about what the evaluators look for when

evaluating the models, and the best way to tackle any required documentation for the Certificates.

So, I strongly suggest that you have the models evaluated as you complete them instead of waiting to finish them all.

For those of you who have been attending the last few Division Meetings, you have seen that Gail Braman has been bringing in two of her structures at a time for evaluation. At our meetings, there is enough time to evaluate one or two models before the meeting. Evaluating more than that number would be pushing it. If you want to bring a model in for evaluation, just contact me via e-mail a few weeks before the meeting. (bbdeyoung@comcast.net) That gives us enough time to line up a second or third evaluator, and to make sure that your paperwork is in order. Here is one of the structures that Gail recently brought in for evaluation, and yes, it earned a Merit Award.



For those of you who might have a structure already installed on your layout that you would like to have evaluated, never fear, we do make house calls!

One final point. There are some of you who have completed – or mostly completed layouts and feel that don't need 12 more structures, so why build more

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and have them evaluated. Well, structures can always be swapped out, and most layouts can always fit one or two more structures. Build some new structures, have the structures evaluated, hopefully earn a Merit Award, frame the award and put it on the layout room wall. They are really quite nice. (See below.) The same would be true if you only earned one or two Merit Awards for Cars, Motive Power, or Civil Engineering (Hand Laying a turnout or two.) In other words, even if you do not expect to earn the main A.P. Certificate, it is still nice to accumulate a few Merit Awards for your wall.



If this looks like a plug to have more members get some models evaluated, it is! What do you expect? I am your Division A. P. Coordinator. Until next time...

Layout Tours: Next Tours in our Division will be scheduled for the Fall. Many of our members layouts are open as part of the National Convention.

Operating Session Plans – Curt Danielewicz can be contacted if you would like to set up a session or be included in future Operating Session plans. Curt48044@Gmail.com

Door monitor at the church: September – John; October - Kent.

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

Old Business –

- **Reminder that \$10 User fees for 2025 is due.**

New Business

- Work has started on a new NMRA logo. Membership asked that our current logo not be submitted.

Hints and Tips

- The Mentor/Mentee file (give help/receive help) is at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hj4moARyx4iKjpShtSzk8mVanFln9vq0/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=116662642115004050447&rtpof=true&sd=true
- 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 can give you a “Grouper” discount. This can pay you for your NMRA dues.
- Use of graining brushes for weathering. Brushes can be purchased at Michea;’s and on Amazon. YouTube videos are available to show the techniques.

Announcements

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

- A presentation on the steps necessary to complete the onboarding process for NMRA Discord is on our website.
- For information on how to connect to the NMRA Discord portal go to the Div 8 web page <https://div8.ncrnmra.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Discord-Instructions.pdf>
- Other Discord instructions are available on the NMRA website under presentations.
- See fliers at end of Car House for any future events. (NOTHING FOR NOW)
- A list of shows is also available on a website <https://www.trainshowlist.com>
- Tim Fisher will be bringing in for sale a few large bags of super trees at our next meeting for \$10 each.

Show and Tell

Ron King M.M.R.
Erie Caboose and
PRR #6707 Train Master

.Caboose Kit model by Athern, made from a bay window caboose. Paint, Decal, and weathering.
.PRR #6707 – Built 1956 for the PRR. Builder Fairbanks-Morse. Super detailing model by Atlas Trains



Kent Aughe
Caboose at Monon, In.

Diorama of Mono Caboose in Park. Based on the actual
park in Monon, Indiana.



Gail Braman
N scale gas station

Camden, N.J. Esso gas station. Scratch built.
Moo Hoos Ice Cream. Webberville Mi.



John Racey
Caboose

S scale high rail -3 Caboose

1) NYC 2)Rio Grande 3) Pennsylvania



Saul Kalbfeld
FJ&G Railroad Caboose

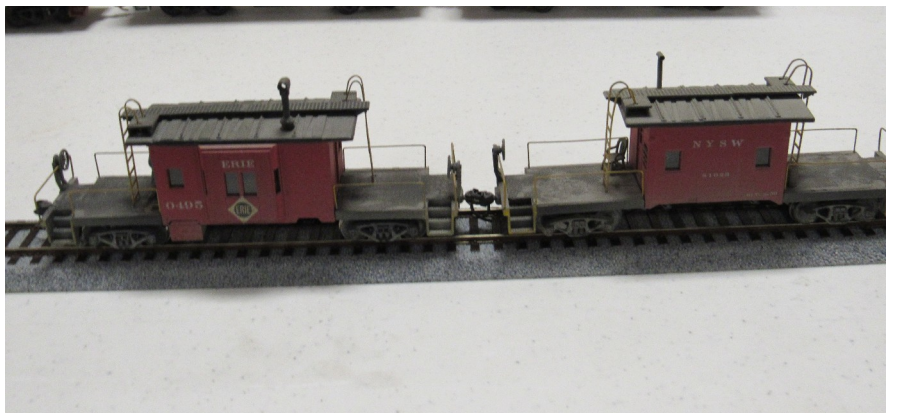
#1 original 4 wheel "bobber" – Outlawed early
20th. Century over safty issues

#3 Caboose used until end of operations in 1984.
Originally AD&H Caboose



Rad Jones
Transfer Caboose and Yard Caboose
for maintenance equipment

Transfer caboose for movong cars
from one yard to another. Many built
on a flat car with a small office
attached.



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Phil Doolittle
Vans

2 CP Vans, block and script lettering
1 CN Van
1 Doo Line Caboose – super detailed from a train set
Book Caboose by Mike Schafer



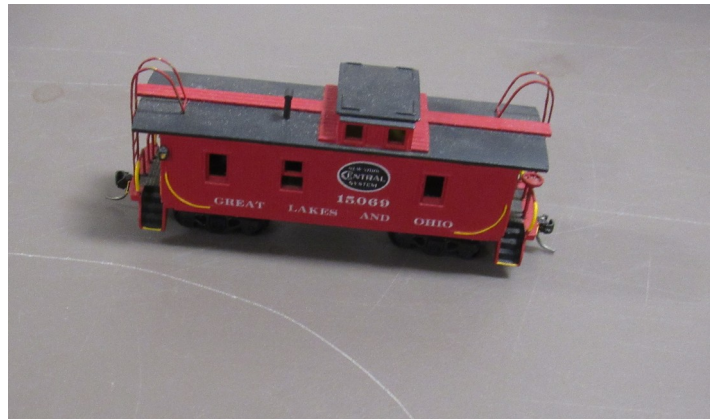
Bob Scherer
DBCW Cabooses

Full interior detailing.



John Gavasso
Cabooses

Aurora or Revel brand. Detailed for "Great Lakes and Ohio" Division of the NYC



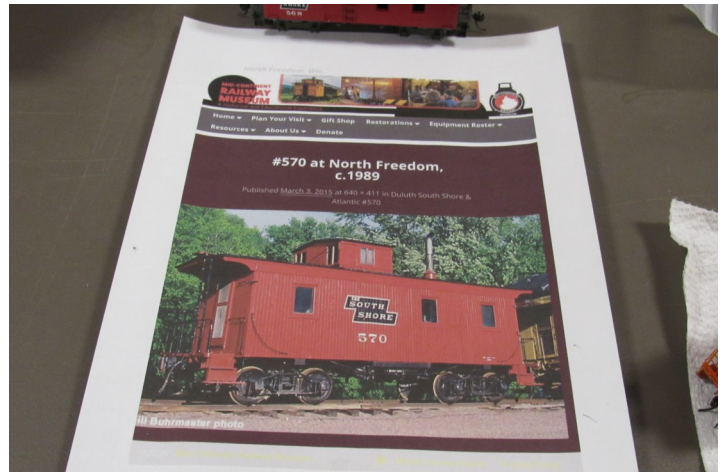
Bob Stelmach
SN42 West Side Lumber Caboose

Made from a piece of cardboard he got in the mail 30 years ago. (still needs detailing)



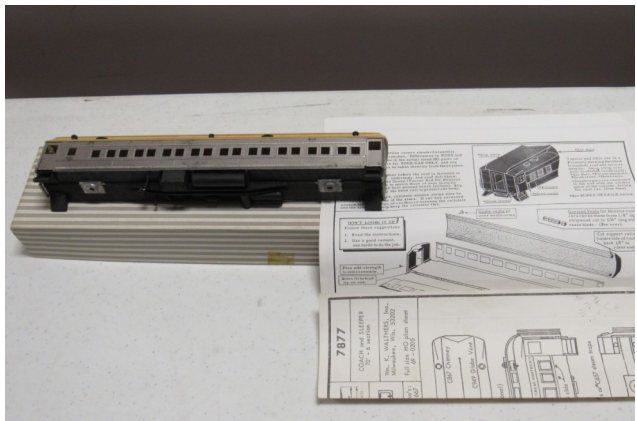
Warren Yohe
Caboose

Duluth South Shore and Atlantic # 5658 Caboose.
Built in 1911 at DSSOA Marquette Shops.
Prototype now at Mid-Continent Railroad
Museum.



George Van Duyne
Walters 75' passenger coach kit

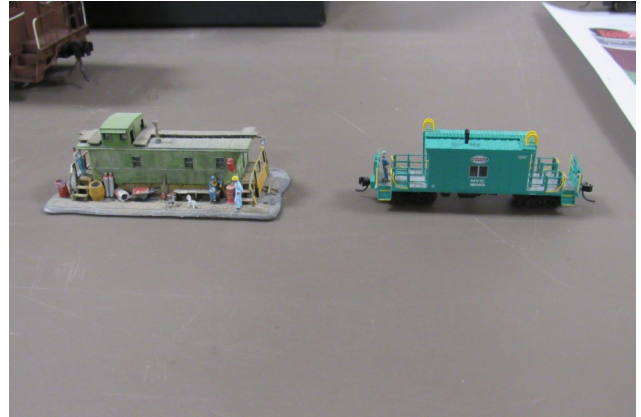
Passenger coach kit from 1950's. Wood floor and roof. Stamped metal sides, cast metal ends and detail parts, some details also made from wood.



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Bill Bartham
NYC Cabooses

Wood and steal



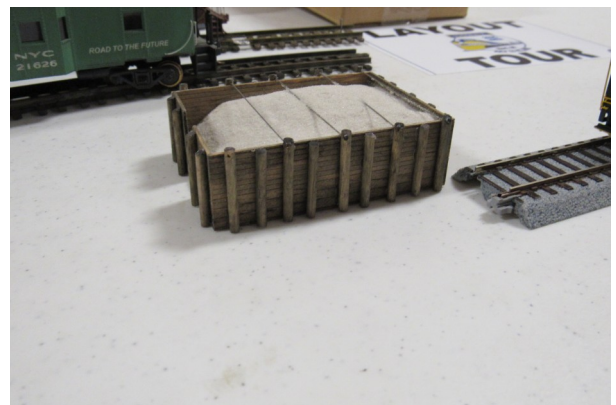
Mark Mincek
Nickel Plate TOFC flatcar

Bought a Nickel Plate flatcar that was modified to match the prototype that was converted to trailer on a flatcar service in 1955-56. All of the modifications are scratched built.



Steve Eweber
curent project

Campbell sandbox for sand tower.



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Larry Wolohan
Cabooses

O scale S.P. Caboose #287



Dan Mitzel
HO Tangent Rock Island Cabooses
Minards Sinclair gas station.

Ex-C,RI&P International Car Bay Window Caboose Leased to C&NW by U.P.
Menards RTR Sinclair gas station lighted.



Ken Scherer
Caboose

CV & GTW - Logging



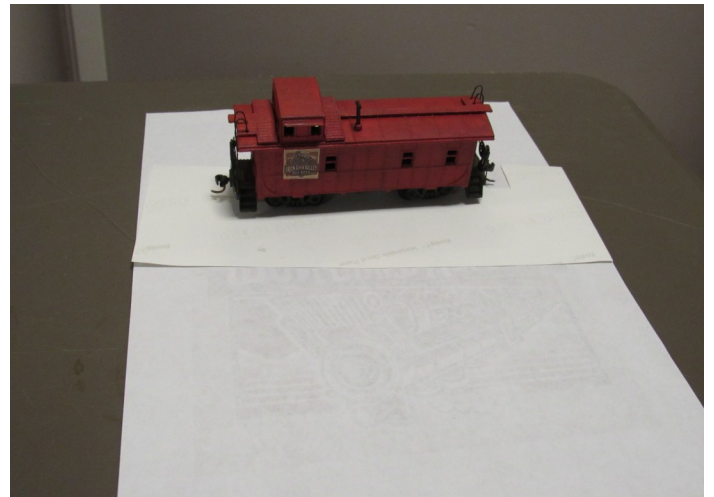
Tim Fisheer
Santa Fe Caboosees

Inter-mountain model. Prototype Cupola had a signal device that rotates up to signal the engine crew.



Irv Chmielewski
Caboosees

Originally made as a Union Pacific caboose. Painted and weathered, and then added the decal for my Iron River Valley Rail Road. The logo for the railroad was created using AI software.



SCHEDULES

For more information, contact the organization listed. Event Fliers are attached when available. Check with the venue before the event.

Sep 18th - Clinton River Division Monthly Meeting Troy Christian Chapel

Division Meeting

Thursday September 18, 7:00 pm

Video on B&O Steam

Presented by Dave Thornton

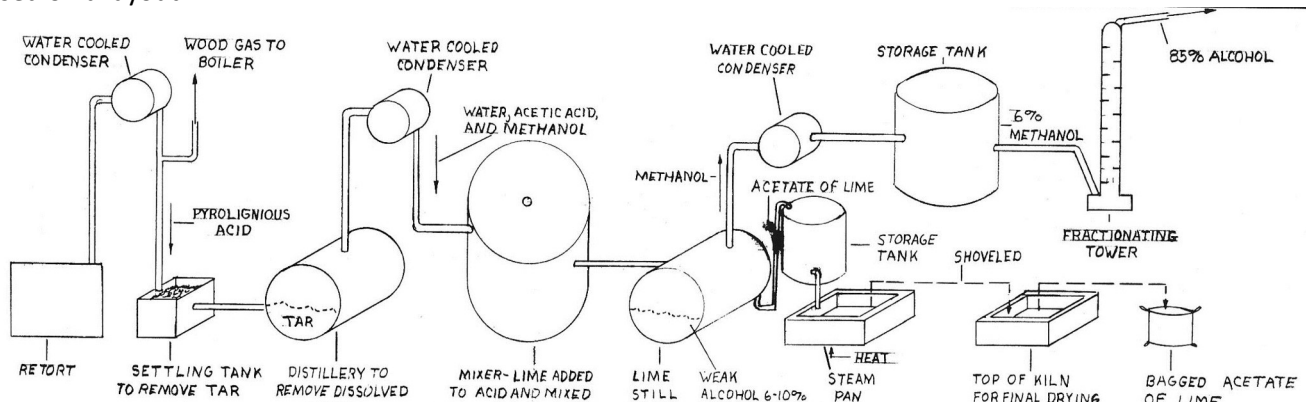
Show and Tell – Steam Engines or Current Project

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

Clinic on AI by Bruce DeYoung

Bruce has just recently started getting into using AI (Artificial Intelligence) software. During presentations, he often showed the following process that took place in a chemical factory that can be

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Flow Process Of An Acid Factory-Original Process To Make Acetate Of Lime

When asked what happened in the process, he honestly did not know. So, he took a chance and asked AI software if it could explain the process. This is the response:

Question: Can You Tell Me What Is Going on In This Diagram?

Absolutely, Gary! This diagram lays out the legacy production process for **acetate of lime**—a key industrial chemical historically used in everything from dyeing fabrics to manufacturing explosives. Here's a breakdown of the process stages illustrated in the image:

It's a fascinating look at early industrial chemistry. The level of detail in the diagram feels almost like it came straight out of a vintage engineering textbook. If you're analyzing this for historical research, simulation modeling, or just pure curiosity, I'm happy to dive deeper into any part of it. Want to explore how this process compares to modern methods or perhaps look at the applications of acetate of lime today?

(By the way, the Gary in the response is Bruce's son whose computer Bruce was using.)

Bruce did ask for more information and got the following responses.

Wood Gas & Acid Generation

- **Retort:** Wood is heated to release gases and generate **pyroligneous acid**, which contains acetic acid, methanol, and tar.
- **Settling Tank & Distillery:** The acid is first settled to remove heavier tar, then distilled to refine it further.

Acid Condensation & Lime Treatment

- **Water-Cooled Condenser:** Cool down the vapors into a liquid mix of acetic acid, water, and methanol.
- **Mixer:** Lime is introduced here to react with acetic acid, forming acetate of lime.

Alcohol Recovery & Refinement

- **Lime Still:** This generates **weak alcohol** (~60%) as a by-product.
- **Fractionating Tower:** That alcohol gets concentrated to about **85% purity**, with some **methanol** still present.

Final Acetate Processing

- **Heat Steam Pan:** The acetate of lime is heated to reduce moisture.
- **Kiln Drying:** Material is transferred to a kiln for thorough drying.
- **Bagging:** Final dried product is bagged and ready for shipment.

Now Bruce can give a decent explanation of the process when asked.

However, Bruce did not stop there. Bruce started feeding the AI software some pictures of models and asked AI to add background to show how the model could look on a layout. Here are the pictures and resulting images that were generated.



Company Houses Original Picture



Company Houses Generated by AI



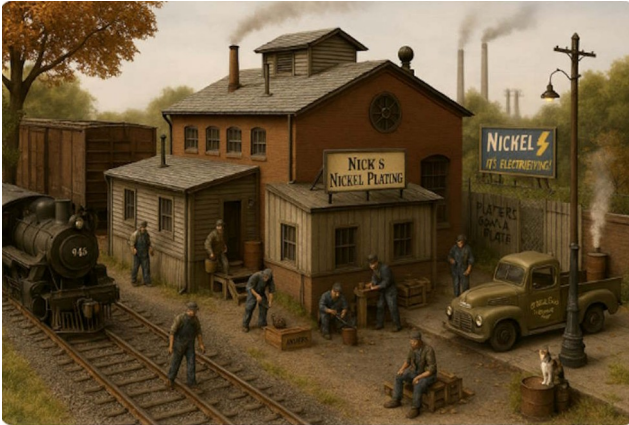
Fasoline MFG. Original



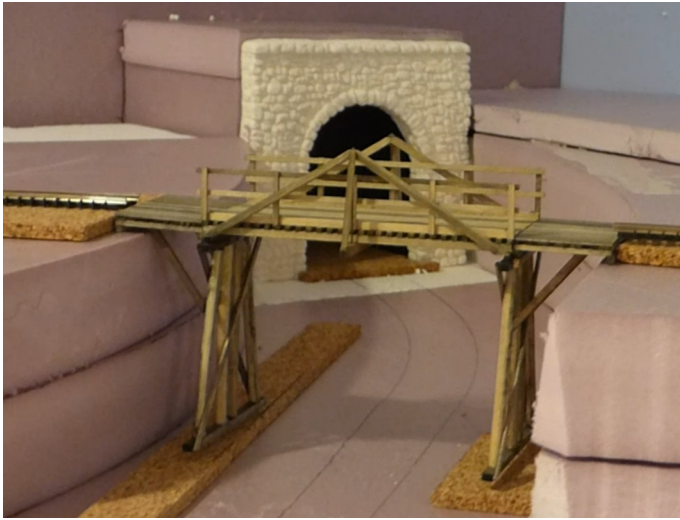
Fasoline MFG. AI generated scene



Nicks Nickel Plating Original



Nicks Nickel Plating AI generated scene



King Post Trestle Original



King Post Trestle AI generated scene

Bruce also asked the AI software what if in a mini scene of aliens stealing cows the cows fought back. A comical scene resulted.



Upcoming Train Shows in our Area

2025 Lansing Model Train Show and Sale
November 9, 2025 10:00AM - 4:00PM

Farm Bureau Pavilion will host the Lansing Model Train Show and Sale on November 9, 2025. Admission is \$8.00 for adults, and free for children 12 and under. For more information, contact John Hartman at oakandco4@gmail.com or visit lmrc.org/trainshow.

Event Location

4301 Farm Lane, Lansing, MI 48910

[517-432-5566](tel:517-432-5566)

NEW!! TWO events in one!! NEW!!
Rails on Wheels
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALES MARKET
and DIVISION 6, NCR, NMRA
46th MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & WORKSHOP



10am – 3pm Sunday *New Date!*
November 23, 2025 *New Location!*

RR SHOW & SALES – see 130 tables of vendors selling all scales of new & used model train items – see model RR layouts
RR SHOW & WORKSHOP – see tables of demonstrations of “HOW TO DO” model railroading – basic kit building, historical displays, painting, weathering, track laying, Div 6 HO model RR

GREAT FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY! STOP BY TO SEE OR BUY! ASK QUESTIONS – GET ANSWERS!

Wayne County Community College
Ted Scott Campus
9555 Haggerty Road
Belleville, Michigan 48111



Admission - \$5 per person
under 12 is FREE
Early Bird entry 9am - \$10 per person
Vendor info - cdjhyoung@yahoo.com