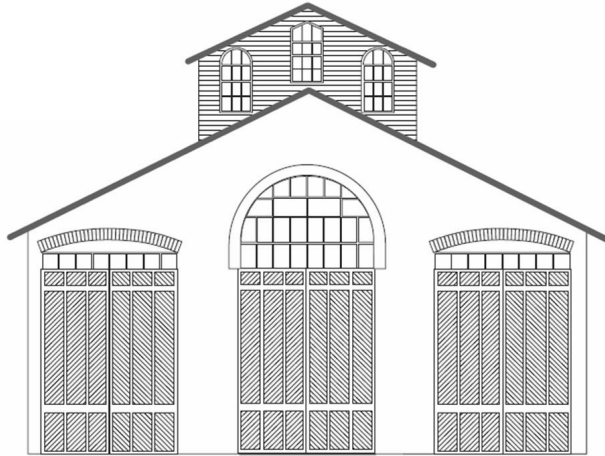


# CAR



# HOUSE

**Mar. 19, 2026**



[Div. 8 Website: https://www.div8.NcrNMRA.org](https://www.div8.NcrNMRA.org)

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



**Call to Order:** 7:03

**Recognition of visitors and MMRs in attendance:** Bruce DeYoung, Greg Rich, Dan Lewis, and Ron King

**President's Page**

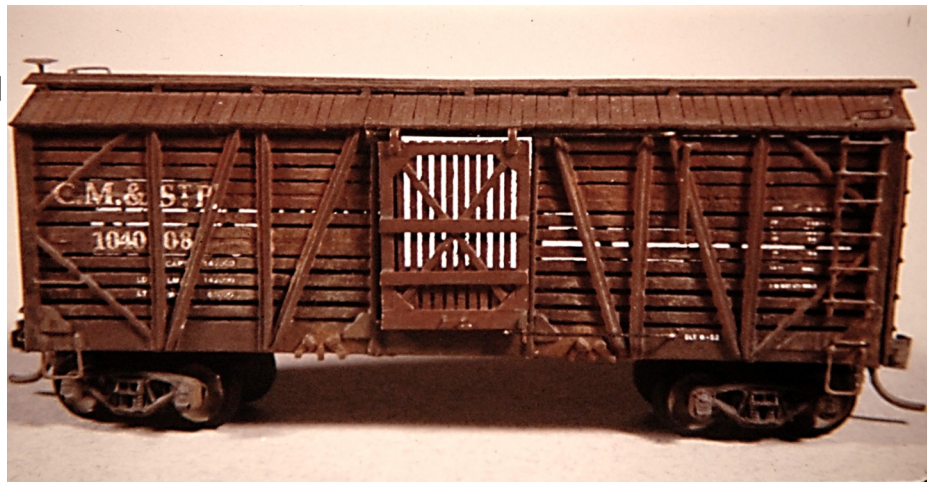
At our March meeting, we had a good discussion on layout safety following the fire that happened on Ken Patterson's layout (from What's Neat this Week). As a follow-up to that, I happened across a video from Larry Pucket that also talks about the best ways to wire your layout to keep you, your home, and your layout safe from fires. Below is the link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eij2ogoidSM>

Stay safe!  
Mark

**Clinic  
By Dan Lewis  
Scratch Build Stock Cars.**

Dan Lewis gave a clinic on scratch building an N scale livestock car. The build started with detailed plans and continued through weathering for a car that looks like it has been in use for a number of years.



## **BUSINESS MEETING ITEMS**

**Car House approved.**

### **March Treasurer's report Dan Shilt:**

Balance of 4748.96, no expenses.

- Reflects donation of \$1,500 from the James Morley Foundation. John Peters coordinated the donation.

**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.**

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.

**Regional AP update – AP Awards were presented during the meeting. Bruce Mack received a Structures Merit award**



## **AP Column**

### **Scratch Building Is An Integral Part Of The AP Program**

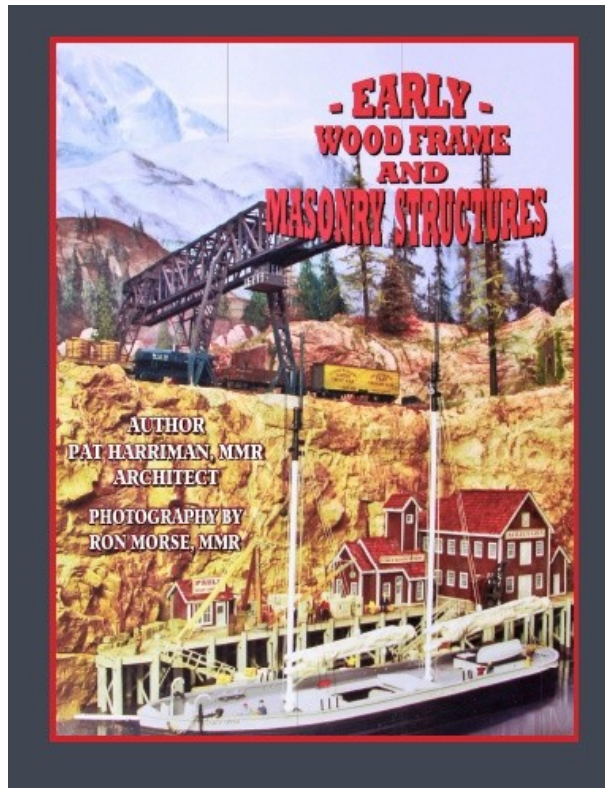
Bruce De Young, MMR  
Division A.P. Coordinator

If you get involved in the AP Program, you soon find that the skill of scratch building is required in five of the eleven AP Categories: Motive Power, Cars, Structures, Prototype Models, and Civil Engineering. The topic of scratch building deserves a book to do it justice, and there are indeed books out there on the subject. But I thought that I would start the discussion in this column, because it will dovetail nicely with the clinic on building stock cars that Dan Lewis will present at our March Division Meeting. I will, however, keep my focus this month on scratch building structures.

If you want to do further research on your own on scratch building, besides books, there are many great YouTube Videos out there on the subject, including a couple of dozen on my YouTube Channel.

When I first got started in scratch building, an experienced modeler told me that a great way to get started was to build a small Campbell Kit, or one similar from the pre-laser cut era. On those older kits, you have to cut out the window and door openings whose outlines have been “die stamped” in position, and they include loads of strip wood that you have to cut to length. Those are a few of the skills needed in scratch building.

Once you have a few of those under your belt, start by scratch building a small structure – like a small shed. Then work your way up to more complex structures. Although you can get ideas of structures you can scratch build from looking at structures in the real world, there are a number of books in our hobby that contain structure plans. One of my favorites is “Early Wood Frame and Masonry Structures” by Pat Harriman, MMR.



Once I built a few Campbell kits and scratch built a few small structures (one of which I will bring for Show & Tell at our next meeting), I wanted to scratch build a larger structure. But what to build? On my shelf of kits, were a few larger classic styrene kits that I had bought when getting back in the hobby. One of those was the Pola Pickle Plant (also sold by IHC, Model Power, Lionel, and others.) I took all the measurements directly from the plastic walls, etc., and made up my own drawings. I then scratch built an exact copy (or as close as my skills at the time would allow) out of wood. Here is the result.



This scratch build earned me my first Merit Award for structures, and really got me hooked on scratch building. I then gave the polystyrene kit to a young modeler just getting into the hobby. While building the Pickle Plant, named after our oldest granddaughter, I took good notes. I then wrote an article titled "Building a Polystyrene Classic Out of Wood", and earned my first points towards my Author Certificate.

There are many paths walked by NMRA members getting involved in the AP Program. This is a glimpse of part of mine. What will yours be?

**Layout Tours- Dan Lewis:** After four years, we will return to the layouts of Ron Griffin and Greg Rich on Saturday, May 23rd (see attached). Both these layouts are of the highest quality, and anyone who has not seen them won't want to miss this opportunity—and those who have seen them will want to visit them again.

**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](mailto:Curt48044@Gmail.com)

**Door monitor** at the church: April- John Martin; May-Greg Rich.

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 –

- Mark is putting together a group to go to the Veteran's hospital to perform maintenance of a layout. Mark is waiting on our VA contact to set a final date.
- On May 16<sup>th</sup> The NYC Historical Society is having their convention in Kalamazoo. They are allowing non-members to take part in a train trip. Trip includes train ride seat, a lunch in Hillsdale and a bus ride from the Kalamazoo Delta Hotel to Pleasant Lake for the train ride, be picked up by the bus in Coldwater Mi., riding to the mid-Michigan Railroad location to see steam engines operate on the club track and the bus ride back to the Kalamazoo Delta Hotel. The cost is \$60. Registration is now open on the NYC Historical Society web site.

## New Business

- Have a proposed plan for a Division outing/retention event this summer. It would be at the Huckelberry Railroad on August 1<sup>st</sup>. This would be part of their Train fan weekend. We would cover the cost of your admission to the village and the train ride. Cost for any companions would be 17.85 for adults, \$17 for anybody 60 and over. \$16.50 for kids 2-12 years old. That day would include tickets on a special photo excursion train ride and a behind the scenes tour of the rail facilities. There will also be layouts on display and everybody gets to take home a piece of coal. There are 3 places to get food. Food will be the responsibility of each attendee.
- Interest in moving our post meeting place? One option we haven't considered is IHOP, which is 6 minutes away. Dessert menu is very limited (cinnamon dippers and milk shakes). Open until midnight. Alternating months has been suggested.

## 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](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/>
- Also check out or web page at <https://div8.ncnmra.org>

- Fire safety. Ken Paterson's (What's neat Podcast) layout had an extensive fire. Layout should be on a master switch (either a power strip or master switch wired into the layout.) Keep fire extinguisher nearby.

## 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***

- Phil Doolittle is bringing in magazines over the next few months. They are free to anyone to take.
- See fliers at end of Car House for future events including Detroit Model Railroad Club and a number of upcoming train show/sales.
- A list of train shows is also available on the website <https://www.trainshowlist.com>
- We were informed that non-members of the NYC RR Historical Society can purchase train ride tickets for the date of May 16, 2026, for \$60.00. This gives you a train ride seat, a lunch in Hillsdale and a bus ride from the Kalamazoo Delta Hotel to Pleasant Lake, IN for the train ride, be picked up by the bus in Coldwater, MI, riding to the Mid-Michigan Railroad location to see steam engines operate on the clubs track and the bus ride back to the Kalamazoo Delta Hotel. You do not need to attend their convention or be members of their society to ride the Saturday train ride. Registration will be on the web site. No self driving, everybody rides on the buses from the hotel and back to the hotel. More details and ticket purchases are at the the NYC Historical Society website when they get all set up. Department times for the buses from the Delta Hotel west of Kalamazoo will all be listed there. The planning team is still working out all of the details.
- Jan McIntyre is moving her Dad's, Gene Kome, model railroad equipment and supplies. She would like to donate Gene's remaining model supplies to Division 8 members. This is primarily basic model building supplies and some building kits. She attended our meeting on February 19.

## Show and Tell

Greg Rich  
Central Lines Passenger Car Kit

Rebuilt from a swap-meet find to follow a GT 1886 prototype combine. Many scratched parts added including the Duck Bill Roof. Modeled to simulate a late life state around 1928.



Pierre Willermet  
Stock Car

HO wood craftsman kit.



Ron King MMR  
Stock Car an Athearn kit

A Missouri Pacific stock car. Super detailed with new couplers and trucks, Paint, Decals, and weathered.



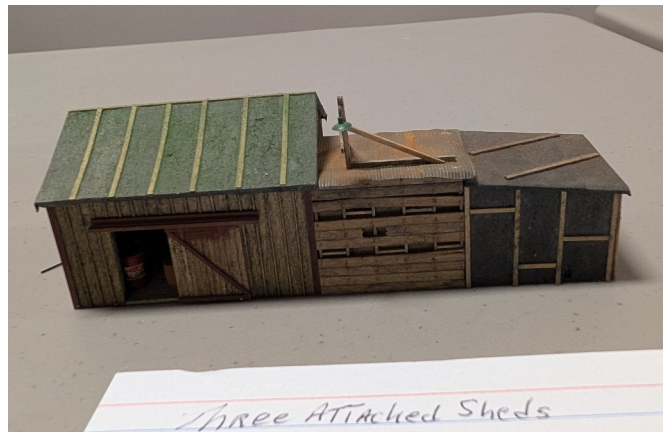
George Van Duyne  
P2K Stock Car

Mather double floor stock car. Proto 2000kit. Lettered for Gotham Stock Express.



Bruce DeYoung  
3 attached sheds

Scratch built sheds inspired by an early FOS kit.



Steve Weber  
Current Project

Campbell tool shed.



Monthly Newsletter of the **Clinton River Division** of the North Central Region of the NMRA

Gail Braman  
N-scale Meat Market

Scratch built Atlantic Meat Market from Camden, N.J.



Warren Yohe  
Stock Car

36' Old Time Stock Car, Great Northern, Built  
1904. Kit buy Roundhouse



John Jackson  
Stock Cars

#1 Hog Car from Ed Black MMR scratch built  
#2 NYC Cattle Car



Dan Lewis  
N-scale Cars

Half a dozen cars – all scratch  
built



Phil Doolittle  
Stock Cars

1- Doo Line wooden, Truss rod car. Built in the mid 70's from a Labell kit.  
2&3 – Modern RTR CN cars from BLI. One has sound module "MOOS" as it rolls. The other is double  
deck.

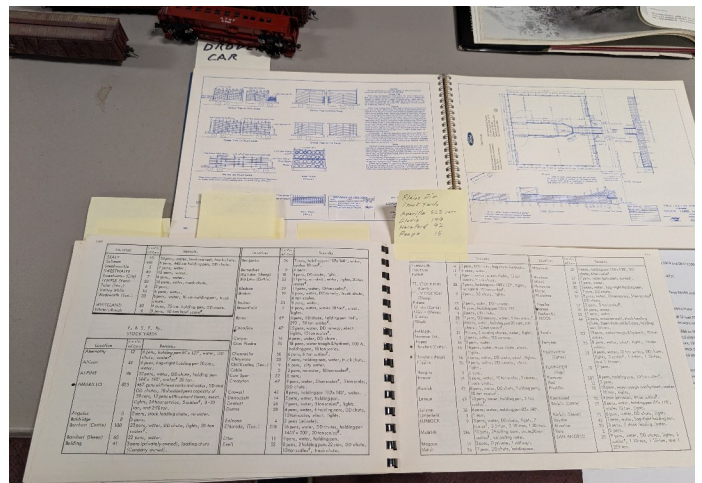


Monthly Newsletter of the **Clinton River Division** of the North Central Region of the NMRA

Tim Fisher

Cars and Books related to Stock Cars

- Three Santa Fe Stock Cars – SK-5 double deck; SK-T built 1929; and SK-U 1930. Models are Intermountain.
- Drover Car D931, a Hallmark brass nodel Built 1931, 40'9"
- Three books:
  - Stock Cars of the Santa FE Railway, Santa Fe Railway Model and Historical Society
  - Coach, Cabbage and Caboose, Kachina Press
  - The Chef way reference Series Volume one, Kachina Press



## **SCHEDULES**

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

**April 16<sup>th</sup>. Division Meeting Troy Christian Chapel**

**April 18<sup>th</sup>. Black Swamp Division(Toledo) one day clinics and train open houses.**

**Check the Hot Box (our regional publication) for more details.**

**April 25<sup>th</sup>. Detroit Model Railroad Club – Spring O Scale Gathering Operating Session. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Send email to [operations@dmrrc.org](mailto:operations@dmrrc.org)**

**October 8-11<sup>th</sup> Zeeland, Mi. Regional Convention.**

**Check the Hot Box (our regional publication) for more details.**

**Train show and other event fliers are attached**

### **Division Meeting**

**Live at Troy Christian Chapel  
Thursday April 16, 7:00 pm**

**Clinic  
Freelance  
Show and Tell  
Freelance Items or Current Project.**

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

**Division 8 Member Gary Figi is continuing to post YouTube Videos of layout**

Central Region.  
Take care: Gary A Figi • a.k.a. Train Room Gary • trainroom@gamil.com 248-563-2436



**Master Schedule • NMRA  
40 Home Layout Tours  
On My YouTube Channel  
Train Room Gary**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/trainroomgary>

**Episode #1 of 8 • January 8, 2026 @ 4PM EST**



Bill McMillan - G • 1/29th  
Irvin Chmielewski - HO  
Mike Tranquilly - HO  
Norm Logan - HO  
Bill Neale - HO  
Byrne Blumenstein • HO Scale

**Episode #2 of 8 • January 22, 2026 @ 4:00 PM EST**



Dan Lewis - N  
Jim & Louis Dennis - HO  
Norm Charbonneau - 3 Rail Scale  
Gregory Rich - HO  
John DePauw - HO

**Episode #3 of 8 • February 12, 2026 @ 4:00 PM EST**



Rad Jones - N  
Robert Stelmach - S  
Ron Gate - HO  
Steve Smith - HO  
Dick Tomlinson - O 2-Rail Scale

**tours from the National Convention**

Page #2

**Episode #4 of 8 • February 26, 2026 @ 4:00 PM EST**



Bill Bartlam - S  
Gaylord Gill - S  
Richard Harden - HO  
Michael Burgett - HO  
Saul Kalbfeld - HO

**Episode #5 of 8 • March 12, 2026 @ 4:00 PM EST**



Rick Ware - N HO O & G  
Barry Hensel - HO  
Doug Tagsold - 1/72 Scale  
Jeff Fryman - HO  
Jerry Sahagian - HO

**Episode #6 of 8 • March 26, 2026 @ 4:00 PM EST**



Jim Talbott - HO  
Jim Tilly - HO  
John Emley - HO  
Michael Finkler - HO  
Rick Lecki - HO

**Episode #7 of 8 • April 9, 2026 @ 4:00 PM EST**



Rick Norbert - HO  
Ken Chick - N  
Andy Keeney - HO  
Robert Truax - HO  
Chuck Hughes - HO  
Ken Johnson - HO  
Mark Cowles - N

**Episode #8 of 8 • April 23, 2026 @ 4:00 PM EST**



Dawn Autio & Tom Weaver - HO  
Kevin Guthrie N  
Howard Ziegel - O • City Street Cars  
Ron King - HO  
Michael Kissler - HO

## Clinton River Division Layout Open House

**SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026  
1-4 PM**

**Ron Griffin, 47549 Malburg Way Dr., Macomb, MI 48044**



Ron's Adrian and Blissfield RR is an HO scale pike of a Class III short-line operating in Lewanee County, MI. The shelf layout is set in a 26.5' x 13.5' room with a center peninsula and a helix connecting two levels. About 90% of the scenery is complete, and there is a 53" nod-under to enter.



**Greg Rich, 53372 Deerfield Lane, New Baltimore, MI 48047**



Greg Riich's Freelanced, New Baltimore & Fair Haven RR is a point-to-point with continuous run design. Running around the wall with no duck-unders, the RR is set in 1927 and occupies a space of 55' by 33'. The NB&FH was featured in the May, 2025 issue of Railroad Model Craftsman and features many scratch-built and one-of-a-kind models.