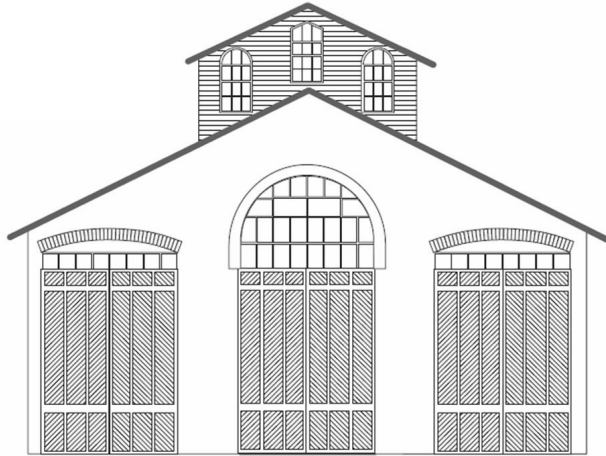


CAR



HOUSE

April 16, 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

My message for this month focuses on some upcoming events, along with a link that was requested when I showed my C&O baby triple hopper resin kit build at show and tell.

First, if you haven't heard about it, I invite you all to our 2026 Division outing (a.k.a. the NMRA retention event). All of our Division 8 members are welcome, along with their families. This year, we will be going to the Huckleberry Railroad on August 1st for their Railfan Day. The day includes a ticket on a special photo excursion train ride, a behind the scenes tour of the railroad facilities, admittance to the village, and a souvenir piece of coal to take home. The division will cover the cost of the division member(s). Any additional family members are very much welcome but you'll have to cover the costs. The cost for additional family members is \$17.85; \$17 for anybody 60 and over; and \$16.50 for kids aged 2-12. There are three places where you can buy food in the Huckleberry Village, or you can bring a picnic lunch.

At our May meeting, there will be a signup sheet to attend our outing. Please make sure you sign up. If you cannot make the meeting, please send an email to me at themotive@att.net. **Do not send me an email if you sign up at the meeting.** We don't want to overbuy tickets.

My second announcement is a request for clinicians at the upcoming Regional Convention to be held Oct 8-10 in Zeeland Michigan. Attached is the information for those that would like to be a presenter. Also remember that giving clinics can count toward becoming a Master Modeler!

Lastly, during my show and tell last month, there was a request for the Resin Kit

Builder Groups IO link. The people on this forum are super helpful, and their postings are a great source of both information and inspiration. Here's the link: <https://resinfreightcarbuilders.groups.io/g/main/topics>

There's lots of opportunity to have some fun here, so take advantage!
Mark

Clinic
By Bruce DeYoung
Introductory Techniques for Weathering

Bruce's presentation was one he developed for EduTrain. A full copy of the presentation with full presentation notes can be found on the NMRA website.

BUSINESS MEETING ITEM

Car House approved.

April Treasurer's report Dan Shilt:

Balance of 4,393.12. Collected one user fee; Wrote check to the church for use of their facility for \$373.

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 – Bruce DeYoung - A number of certificates are being processed.

AP Column

The Structure Certificate: “One of the six types must be a bridge or trestle”

Bruce De Young, MMR
Division A.P. Coordinator

If you are working towards the Structure Certificate, you must construct 12 structures, at least 6 different types of structures must be included, one of which is a “bridge or trestle”. That last requirement will be the focus of this column.

The bridge or trestle need not be scratch built, it does not have to be one of the 6 earning a Merit Award, does not even need to be evaluated. It does need to be more than the Atlas styrene truss bridge. So, your choices are either build a kit or scratch build a bridge of your own design. Nice kits are available in styrene, wood, or even metal. I’ve built bridge kits offered by Hunter Line and Campbell and they have turned out fairly nice. I recently finished the Campbell Covered Bridge in fact.



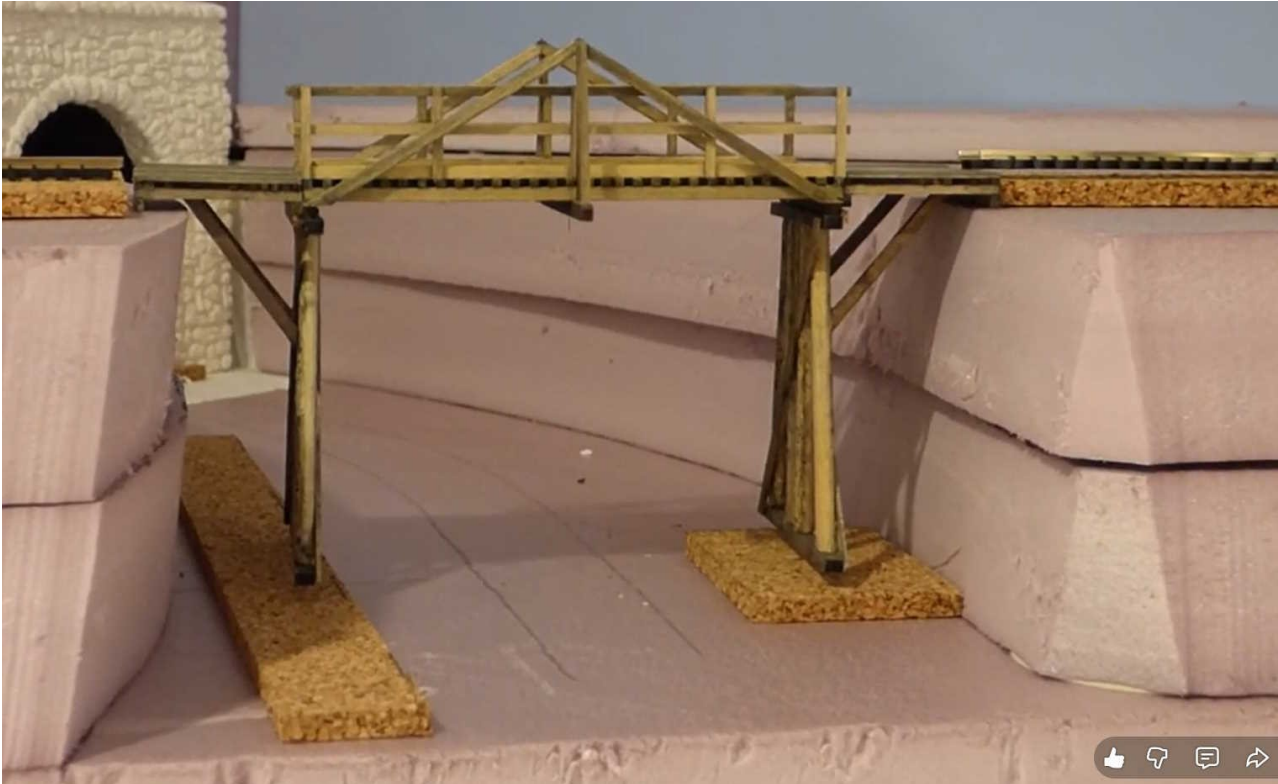
If scratch building interests you, a simple King Post Bridge is an easy project. I've built a few and did a "how-to" video on one of them. If you are interested, here is the link to that video:

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

Here is that bridge in place. (That neat little Mantua Loco was a gift from John Jackson.)



Also quite recently, I took another scratch-built King Post Bridge from my old layout – in fact the bridge that I used for my Structure Certificate – and used it to span a gap approaching a tunnel that I was building. The gap was too wide for the bridge, so I added some ‘approach timbers’, built two bents, and made it into a “bridge/trestle Combo”. Waste not, want not.



Speaking of trestles, they can be spectacular structures spanning long distances like this one on Bob Hamm's old HOn3 layout.



Or, they can be a lot more modest – like a small trestle serving a coal dump. If you make all the bents the same size, like in this photo that I took at a garden railroad located at the Texas Transportation Museum, placing it in a scene is a lot easier.



Over the past few weeks, my modeling project has been a curved trestle that will sit at the end of a view block mountain on the upper deck of my layout. I'm almost done with the build and will start the scenery before our next meeting.



Building a bridge or trestle can be a nice change of pace from structure building – and a necessary one if you want to earn your Structure Certificate. Why not give one a try.

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

Door monitor at the church: May-Greg Rich; June - John Jackson.

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. Date is being finalized.
- On May 16th 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.
- We have scheduled a Division outing/retention event this summer. It would be at the Huckelberry Railroad on August 1st. 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.
- The proposed gathering at the IHOP after our meeting has been canceled. The IHOP has changed their hours and will not stay open late enough. Speculation is that the change was because of construction of Rochester Road. We will revisit this after the construction concludes.

New Business

- The regional Board meeting is scheduled for April 17th. Mark will report out at our May meeting.
- NMRA is taking a template approach to running things. Mark will be filling out the survey showing how close we are to the Division template.
- They are looking for clinicians for the Grand Rapids Regional convention in October. We will include the sign up sheet in the meeting Minutes. (See Attachments)

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/>
- Also check out our web page at <https://div8.ncrnmra.org>
- Use your cell phone camera to read the small print on rail cars you are purchasing.

Announcements

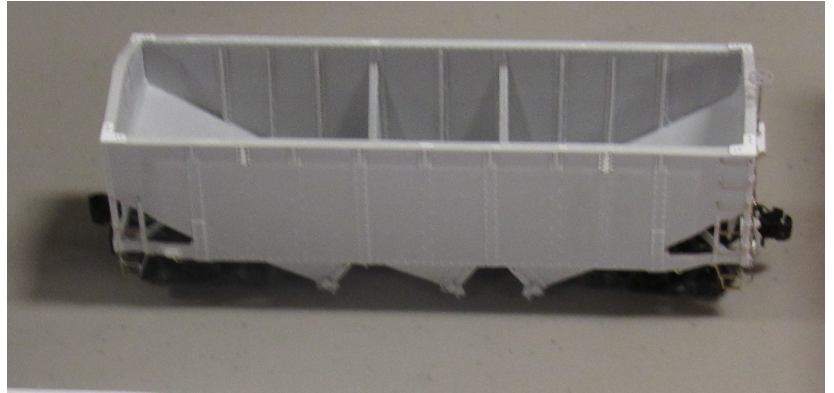
Please notify Irv Chmielewski (NCRDIV8SECRETARY@gmail.com) if you would like to have an announcement posted in Car House. Provide written details

- See fliers at end of Car House for future events including any upcoming train show/sales.
- A list of train shows is also available on the website <https://www.trainshowlist.com>

Show and Tell

Mark Mincek
C&O Baby Triple Hopper

Mark bought his first resin car build. It is a C&O baby triple hopper. He added extensive detailing to make it prototypical.



Bob Stelmach
Interurban Passenger car Conversion

S scale car was assembled using 2 O scale Testors San Francisco cable cars. Details and lettering to come.



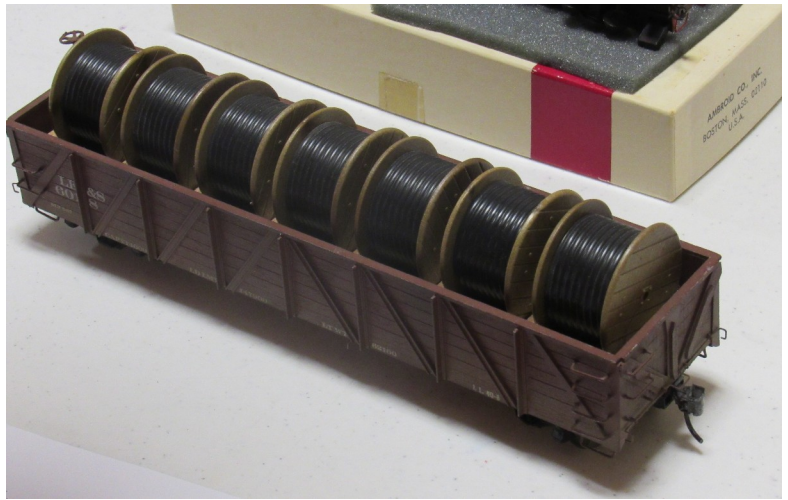
Greg Rich
Free Lanced RR Boxcars

4 Free Lance Boxcars:
2 for New Baltimore and Fair Haven RR
2 for Clemens Mtn. RR



Dave Thornton
Freelanced Freight Car

O scale scratch built Lake Erie & Southern
(LE&S) composite gondola



Phil Doolittle
Latest Project

Two of 12 2-bay hoppers from Train Miniatures of Illinois kits. Will haul quartzite on his Doo Line railroad. Kits were very hard to assemble – needed much modifications. Loads, decals, and weathering to follow.



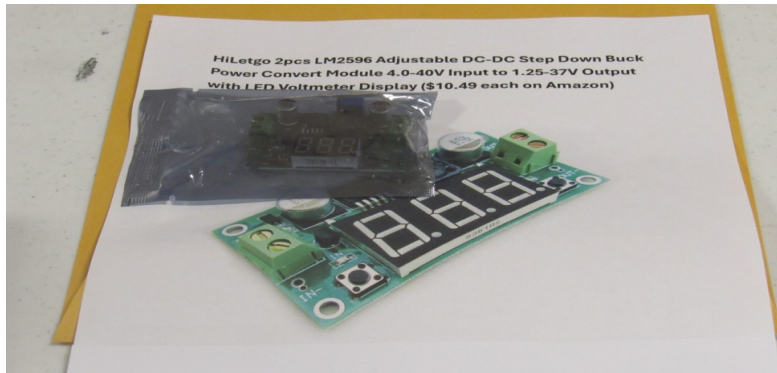
Dan Lewis
Lewiston Hide & Fur.

Free-lanced based on a real structure but no photos.



Neal Thomas
AC to DC Converter & Monitor

For use on his HO Free-Mo modules



George VanDuyne
Nickle Plate Wood Caboose

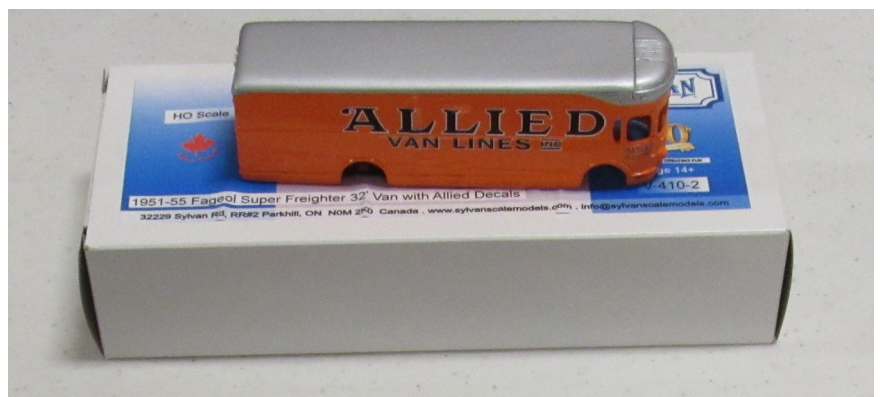
Built from an Ambroid kit from the 1950's or 60's

Lettered with Microscale decals



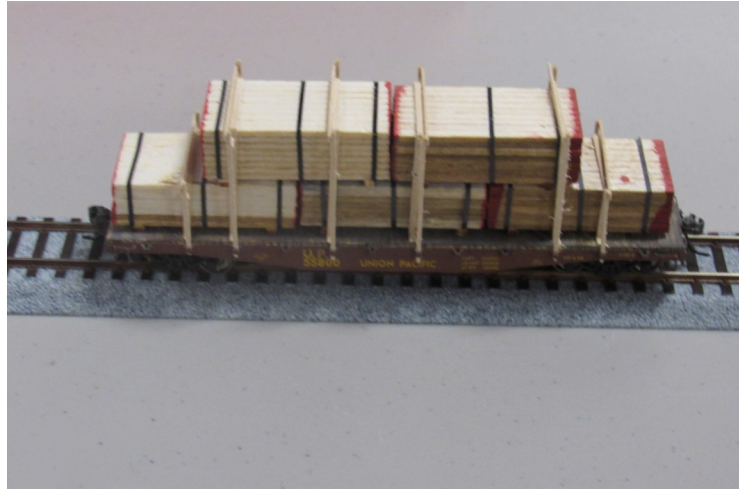
Perry Bilotta
HO scale resin kit

Sylvan Models Fageol Super Van



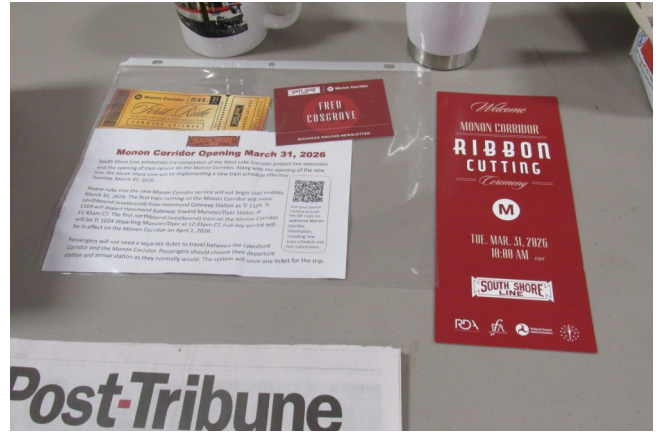
Ron King MMR
U.P. 40' flatcar

Current project U.P. flatcar with load of lumber.



Fred Cosgrove
New South Shore Information

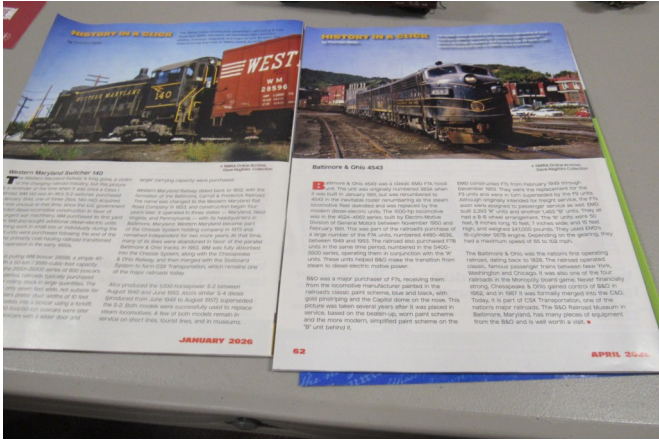
Information on the new South Shore Line between Hammond & Dyer, Indiana. He attended the opening and road on the first train.



Also, Electric Railway Clubs of Florida - Mug and thermos cup



Show and tell form not submitted for the following



SCHEDULES

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

May 21st. Division Meeting Troy Christian Chapel

May 23rd Division Open Houses see attachedment below

October 8-10th Zeeland, Mi. Regional Convention.

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

To submit a Clinic see attached

Train show and other event fliers are attached when available.

Division Meeting

Live at Troy Christian Chapel

Thursday May 21, 7:00 pm

Clinic

by John Siebert

Building His Layout

Show and Tell

Scenery related or Current Project.

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



GRAND RAILS
2026 NMRA - NCR REGIONAL CONVENTION
Hosted by Division 4
October 8, 9 & 10, 2026 – Zeeland, Michigan
Clinician Information Sheet



First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Region/Division: _____
Phone (home): _____ Phone (cell): _____
Title of Clinic: _____

If a multi-session clinic, total number of sessions: _____ (also submit a separate sheet for each session)

Description of Clinic
(Maximum of 1200 characters)

If your clinic has been presented earlier, how many times, at what level (division, region, national, on-line), when was it last presented and has it been recently updated?

Times: _____ Highest Level: _____ Last Presented: _____ Updated (Y/N): _____

Clinic Type (check all that apply):

____ Power Point Presentation ____ Live Demonstration ____ Software Demonstration ____
____ Group Discussion-Sharing ____ Make-and-Take ____ Other (_____)

For scheduling purposes, are you available (Y/N) Oct 8 _____ Oct 9 _____ Oct 10 _____ and are you available for presenting in the morning _____, afternoon _____ or evening _____.

Other Information:

- All clinics are 60 minutes in duration including Q/A.
- If your clinic is selected, we will be contacting you to determine your audio-visual needs.
- Deadline for submitting the form is **March 31, 2026**.

Send completed form by email or post to :

Dave Capron
12201 Pudunk Ave.
Greenville, MI 48838
email: caprond33@gmail.com

Office Use:

10/27/25

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 Rich'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.

