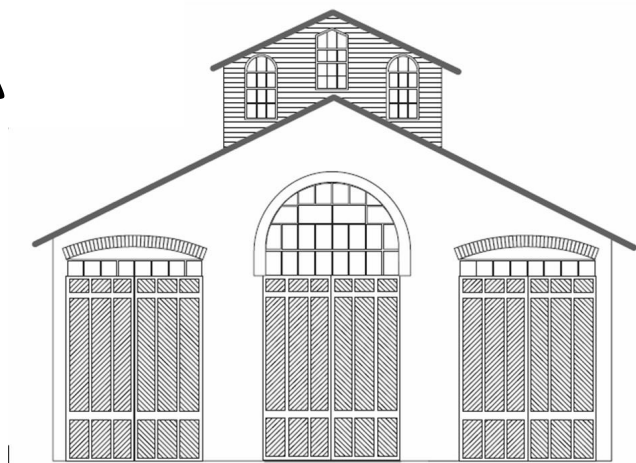


CAR



HOUSE

July 16th, 2026



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

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



Call to Order: 7:02

Recognition of visitors and MMRs in attendance: Bruce DeYoung, Ron King, Larry Wolohon, Dan Lewis, Greg Rich and Jim Zinzer

President's Page

On Saturday, August 1st, many of the Division Members, along with their significant others, participated in our annual event to encourage continued membership in the NMRA, and more importantly, to get together and have a great time. I could see by the many smiling faces throughout the day that we certainly succeeded in having a great time. This is an example of how fun the NMRA can be and how participating can add so much enjoyment to this wonderful hobby. I'm going to close with a few pictures. More can be found on the Division Facebook page.

Thanks again for everybody's participation!
Mark



Clinic
Southern Michigan Railroad Pictures
BY Dave Rigittko
Presented by Tim Fisher

Dave Rigittko was into operations and had a DCC layout. He also had a hobby of taking railroad pictures, probably thousands of pictures. He would go out east to Pennsylvania, but would also take pictures all over Southern Michigan. He was a member of:

- Penn. Railroad Tech and Historical Society
- Friends of the East Broad Top
- Southeast Michigan Model RR Operation Group
- and, the NMRA

Tim got Dave's photo collection and a first batch of 400 of his photos are already on the NMRA web site, thanks to Tim's efforts. At July's meeting, Tim presented 80 pictures that have not been posted to the NMRA. The pictures were mostly from southern Michigan. A number of members were able to comment about the locations where the pictures were taken.

BUSINESS MEETING ITEM

Car House approved.

April Treasurer's report Dan Shilt:

Balance of \$4,483. No expenses. Collected \$30 in user fees and withdrew \$50 for our copy of the church door key.

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.

Layout Tour Plans- Dan Lewis- made available handouts with information about August tours. Dan's N scale layout and Jim Botsko's O scale layout will be available. Flier attached.

Regional AP update – Bruce DeYoung – Not Present

AP Column

Division AP Activity And The First New AP Certificate in 40 Years

Bruce De Young, MMR

Division A.P. Coordinator

Since my last column, I processed the Association Official Certificate for Curt Danielewicz and visited Phil Doolittle's Layout with Steve Weber to evaluate some hand laid turnouts. I will present Curt his certificate when I receive it back from National.

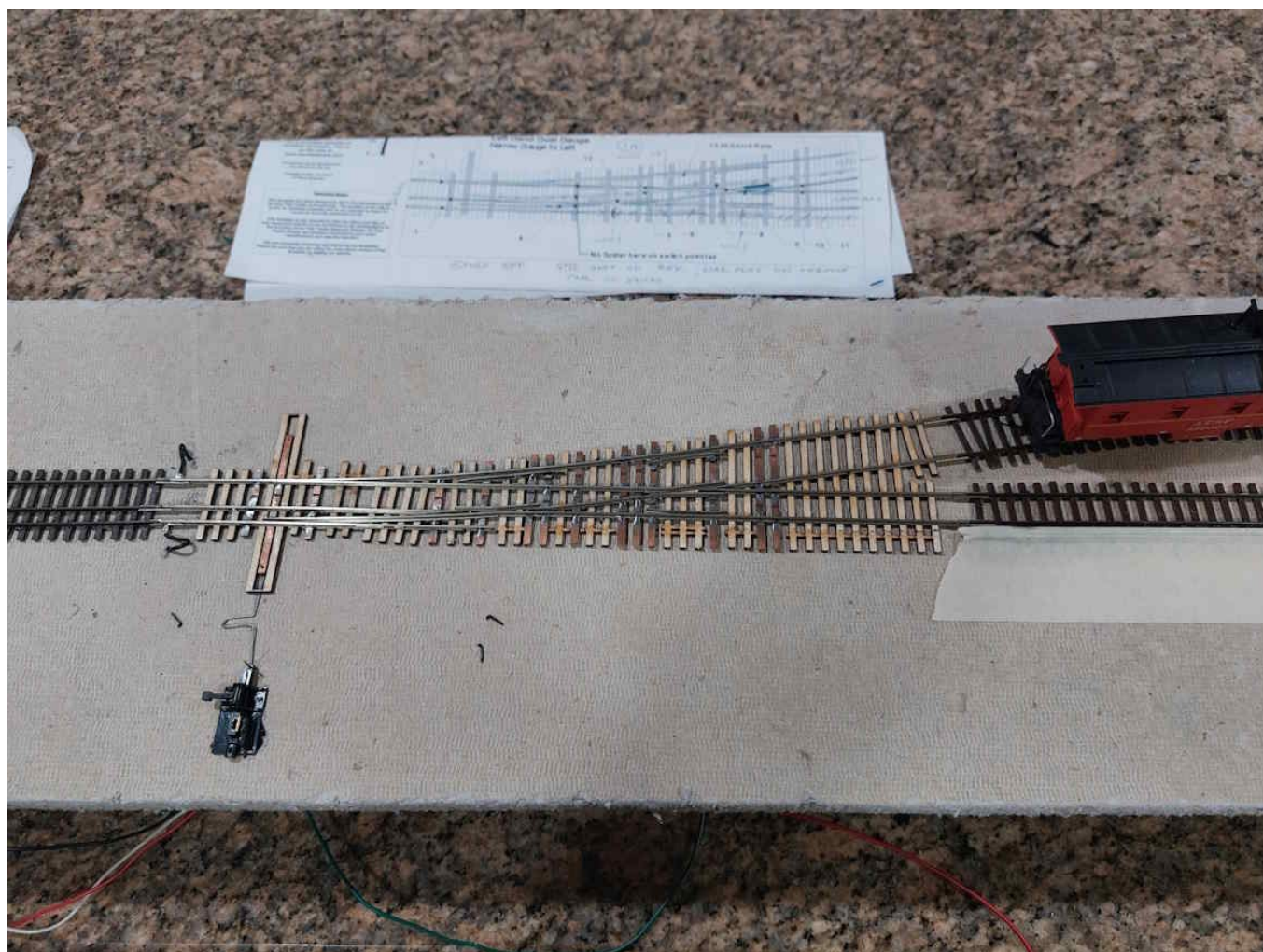
The Civil Engineering Certificate has a number of requirements that Phil Doolittle is still working on, but he had hand laid more than enough turnouts that a separate layout visit to evaluate those made sense.

One Merit Award is issued for a group of three different hand laid track items if they meet the evaluation criteria, which Phil's did. The three different track components that Steve and I evaluated were: a standard HO gauge turnout, a standard HO gauge crossover, and an HO/HOn3 gauge separation turnout.



You can see the crossover against the backdrop, right behind a nice kitbashed background structure that Phil made.

Here is the gauge separation turnout. There are quite a variety of different types of gauge separation turnouts, and this one has dual gauge trackage coming in from the left, and standard gauge separating to the left while narrow gauge separates to the right. Nicely done, Phil!



New AP Certificate Approved at This Year's National Convention

Below is the motion that was passed, with a description of the new AP Category. Master Builder-Modular Railroading will go in the Settings category with Scenery, Structures, and Prototype Models. Like the Prototype Models Certificate, the new certificate has some overlap with other AP certificates. It will take a few weeks before the requirements, evaluation form, and SOQ is posted on the NMRA website. In the meantime, if anyone wants to see a copy of the Evaluation Form or the SOQ Form, you can e-mail me at bbdeyoung@comcast.net

The Motion:

That the NMRA BOD approves the NMRA AP Manager recommendation to add to the Achievement Program certificates an additional certificate for **Master Builder** –

Modular Railroading.

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Modular Railroading Achievement Program (AP) Certificate is to recognize individual model railroaders who demonstrate integrated excellence in the design, construction, operation, and public exhibition of modular model railroad sections (modules).

This certificate evaluates a modeler's ability to successfully combine multiple disciplines — trackwork, electrical systems, scenery, structures, and operations — within the unique constraints of portable, interoperable, standards-based modular railroading. It recognizes not isolated components, but the holistic execution of a functioning modular system suitable for repeated public operation.

To avoid duplicate credit with the Scenery certificate, scenery evaluated under this certificate may not also receive credit for the Scenery Achievement Program certificate.

B. REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the Certificate of Achievement in Modular Railroading, the applicant must:

1. Construct and complete a minimum of three (3) operable modules conforming to an established modular standard (e.g., NMRA, T-TRAK, NTRAK, Free-mo, Free-moN, or similar).
2. The modules must have a minimum total size of 44 sf for O scale, 32 sf for S scale, 24 sf for HO scale, 12 sf for N scale, 9 sf for Z scale, and 5 sf for T scale. Minimum square feet required for other scales are based on the ratio between that scale and 24 sf in HO scale.
3. Each module must include:
 - a. Standards compliant electrical and physical interfaces at connection points (connections between the member's module(s) and adjacent modules of others adhering to the same standard).
 - b. Operational trackwork
 - c. Reliable mechanical and electrical performance
 - d. Complete scenery and backdrop if appropriate to the module standard used.
4. Modules must be displayed and operated successfully at a minimum of three (3) separate public exhibitions or NMRA-sanctioned events within a two- year period.
5. Merit Requirement: Each module must earn a minimum score of 87.5 points out of 125 using the Modular AP Merit Scoring Matrix. The evaluation considers each of the three (3) required modules as a stand-alone body of work, emphasizing conformance to the relevant standard, the integration of the scene depicted within the module, its reliability, and craftsmanship.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Module Construction (25 points) - Quality of framing, rigidity, surface preparation, joinery, durability for transport, and overall workmanship.
2. Trackwork, Standards Compliance & Operation (30 points) - Alignment, geometry, turnout performance, standards compliance at interfaces, operational smoothness, and reliability under public operation. Mainline track conformance is critical as a failure to meet standards on this affects all attached modules. Use of flex track or hand-laid track beyond required interface sections is encouraged and rewarded.
3. Electrical Systems & Control (20 points) Power distribution, wiring practices, connector and wiring type choice, strain relief, lighting circuits, control logic, sensor systems, sound systems, and operational reliability across multiple setups.
4. Scenery, Terrain & Scene Integration (20 points) - Realistic terrain shaping, drainage and slope, landform transitions, ballast application and blending, ground cover, vegetation, scenic textures, and effective treatment of module edges and seams, particularly across adjoining modules representing the same scene.
5. Structures, Details & Animation (20 points) - Quality, placement, provisions for durability, and integration of structures, bridges, roads, vehicles, and visual storytelling elements. Includes mechanical and electronic animation such as moving machinery, vehicles, smoke or steam effects, sound-equipped scenes, IR- or sensor-activated features, and other dynamic elements. Scratch-built, kit-bashed, or modified elements and well-integrated animation receive higher consideration.
6. Presentation, Documentation & Public Readiness (10 points) Professional appearance, clarity of documentation, educational labeling where appropriate, and evidence of successful public exhibition and operation.

6. Statement of Qualifications: The applicant must submit a Statement of Qualifications including documentation of the modules. This documentation must include:

- Written description of design intent, construction methods, and operational purpose
- Copy of the standard to which the modules were constructed.
- Wiring diagram for each module
- Minimum of five (5) color photographs of each module
- Verification of public exhibition (Record and Validation form)
- Evaluation form signed by three (3) qualified AP evaluators

With the number of Modular Railroaders we have in the Division, I believe we will have good interest in this new certificate.

Layout Tours - Dan Lewis: Two Layout Tours are now scheduled for August 15. Dan Lewis in Rochester Hills and Jim Botsko in Troy. Flier is attached.

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: August-Ken Sherer

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 purchased our tickets for the Huckleberry Railroad outing on August 1st. Total came to \$633.25. We will get a \$200 contribution from the NMRA. Payments to Dan Shilt are due from others ordering more than one ticket.
- The village opens at 11 am. The photo op train ride leaves at 4 pm. Need to be lined up at least 20 minutes in advance.
- They are looking for clinicians for the Zeeland Regional convention.

New Business

- Tim Fisher presented an idea on train show recruitment. He and a few others will be refining the idea for fall train shows.
- Announcements – Irv Chmielewski – Please provide announcements to Irv.

Hints and Tips

- 3M Safety Tape basis for tar and gravel roofs.
- 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>

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.
- Barry Hensel will be selling model train products out of his house. He will be OPEN on Thursday, August 13, 20, and 27, 2026. 10am-7pm at 43642 Lotus Dr Canton, MI 48188
- A list of train shows is also available on the website <https://www.trainshowlist.com>

Show and Tell

Phil Kenyon
Michigan Railroads

N-scale C&O E8 + passenger
coach



John Jackson
Southern Michigan Railroads

3Boxcars: 50' Lenawee County –
General freight
50' Great Lakes Express –
(2007 National)
50' Wolverine Express –
(1978 National)
2 covered hoppers 34' Hillsdale County
&Huron Cement – Dedicated Cement
cars
1 Flat 50' Detroit & Mackinac
– with Ford Tractors.



Dave Thornton
Current Project

Kit Bashed Tank Car

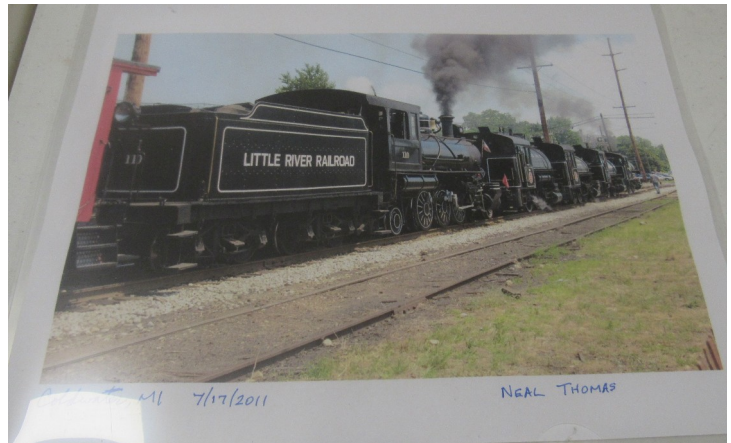


Monthly Newsletter of the **Clinton River Division** of the North Central Region of the NMRA

Neal Thomas

Steam Locos in Picture at Coldwater, Mi.

Rear Loco restored by Terry Bloom and Family.
Terry was a Farmer Work Associate.
(Recently passed away)



Greg Rich

1922 Hudson (scratch built)

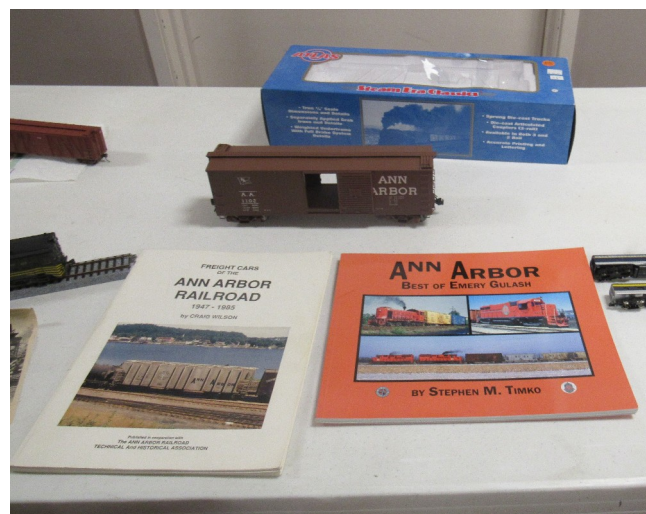
Scratch built 1922 Hudson 4 passenger
coupe.
Model made of copper.



Larry Wolohon

Michigan R.R. Stuff

"O" scale Ann Arbor Boxcar
Ann Arbor Freight Cars 19437-1980
Ann Arbor R.R. by Emory Gulasm



Ron King MMR.
Erie motor Car #5012

A model of Erie Motor Car by Overland
Mode #5012 built by EMD in 1931
Paint, Decals, and Weathering by Ron
DCC and sound installed.



Dan Lewis
Irv Schultz Honorary Car

N-Scale by Microtrains
Irv was MMR 146



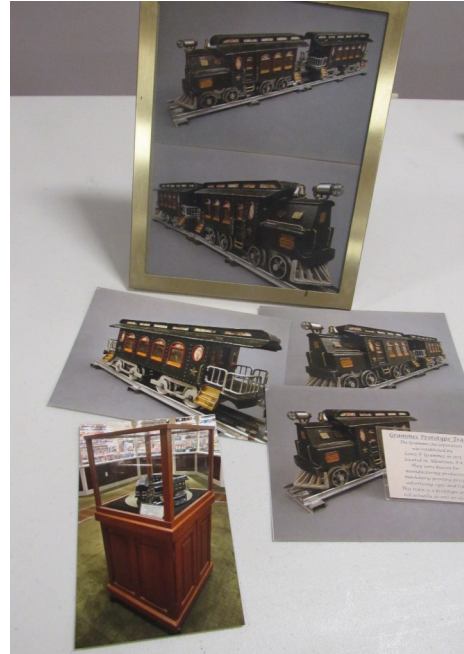
Gary Williams

Grammes Train @ TCA Museum in Strasbourg, Pa.

Photos of donated train arriving after 18 months.

Grammwes train is an early 1900's prototype

Standard gauge, combine Loco and two passenger cars



Gale Brahman

Camden Nj. Liberty Bottle Factory

Complete Scratch built, paper model

Liberty Bottle factory



No Show and Tell
slip



No Show and Tell Slip



SCHEDULES

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

August 20th. Division Meeting Troy Christian Chapel

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

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

Train show and other event fliers are attached when available.

Division Meeting

Live at Troy Christian Chapel

Thursday August 20, 7:00 pm

Clinic

by Dave Thornton

Signature Freight Cars

Show and Tell

Signature Freight Cars or current projects

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

Clinton River Division Layout Open House

**Saturday, August 15, 2026
1-4 PM**

Jim Botsko 3850 Woodman Dr., Troy, MI 48084



Based on the Southwest & Redstone Branches of the Monongehela Division of the PRR in the late 1940s, this O scale pike represents the single-track line running south from the Pittsburgh division at Greensburg, through Youngwood Yard and Connellsville, to Redstone Jct. and on to Brownsville. All the power is still steam, though a few diesels are showing up. Track and scenery are complete. There is 380' of mainline, over 80 switches, and more than 40 industries. The layout area is 23' by 47'.



Dan Lewis 3760 Samuel Ave., Rochester Hills, MI 48309

This N scale railroad is based on the MILW's North Montana Line in 1953-4 running northwesterly from Harlowton through Lewistown to Great Falls. Scenery is complete in an 18' x 24' area with many scratch-built and kit-bashed structures. Featured in most of the major railroad magazines, the pike has 115' of mainline, 122 turnouts, and runs on Easy DCC.

