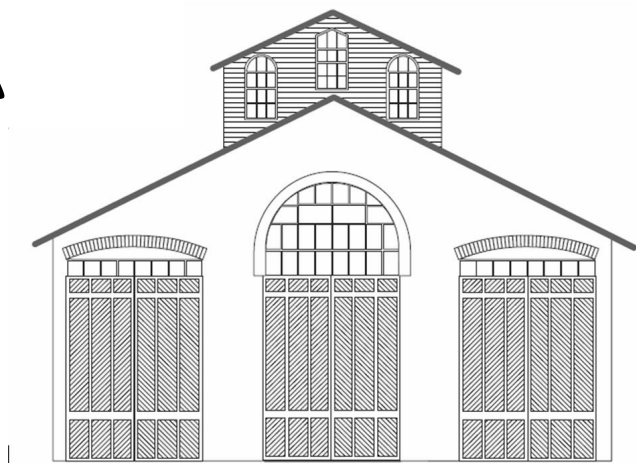


CAR



HOUSE

August 20th, 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, and Larry Wolohon

President's Page

As a follow-up to Dave's interesting clinic on signature freight cars, I'm passing along a nice resource for modeling freight cars (and a few cabooses) that were built by Pullman. In addition to it's famous passenger car business, Pullman was also a major manufacturer of freight cars from 1902 to 1982, and built some of the most iconic freight cars in history. The site is set up in alphabetical groupings by railroad name. Hopefully, this will help you with some future modeling projects. Below is the link.

<https://pullman-lib.smugmug.com/search/?n=Pullman-Lib&scope=node&scopeValue=XGgwL4&c=photos&q=pullman#c=galleries>

Looking forward to seeing everybody at the September meeting!

Mark

Clinic
Signature Freight Cars
BY Dave Thornton

A presentation of photos of different styles of freight cars built and used by railroads. The presentation showed the difference that allowed you to tell the owning railroad even if the car was not painted. In the presentation were the different box cars of the Pennsylvania and The New York Central railroads which made up a large portion of the freight cars in operation in the United States. Cars from other railroads were also shown.

BUSINESS MEETING ITEM

Car House approved.

April Treasurer's report Dan Shilt:

Balance of \$3,973.877. Expenses included cost of member retention event at the Huckleberry Railroad.

The membership meeting 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 now \$50 per year.

Layout Tour Plans - Dan Lewis- The August Layout tours at Dan's N scale layout and Jim Botsko's O scale layout were well attended.

Regional AP update – Bruce DeYoung –

A merit award as a Model Railroad Engineer was presented to Phil Doolittle for a #6 Gauge Separation Turnout



AP Column

What is Conformity?

Bruce De Young, MMR

Division A.P. Coordinator

At our last Division Meeting, Steve Weber, Lary Wolohon and I arrived early to evaluate one of Steve's scratch-built structures. At the risk of making embarrassing Steve, I want to say that this was a beautifully built model. Everything was plumb and square; it had neat, tight corners; no glue was showing; no finger prints in the window glazing; totally scratch-built; nice details, including many that were scratch-built. You get the idea. Here is a shot of that model. By the way, Steve added those battens one-by-one – they are not scribed siding. And the gutters and downspouts are details not often added by modelers.



To continue, the model earned 105 points – a very respectable score, and well above the minimum 87.5 score needed to earn a Merit Award. This is Steve's fourth Merit Award for Structures.

I want to use Steve's model and his documentation to focus on the "Conformity" sub-category of the model evaluation process. Conformity counts for a maximum of 25 points out of the 125 possible points that a model can earn.

So, what is conformity? Here is what the NMRA has to say:

Conformity Category Overview

Conformity evaluates **prototype practice**—whether a model is logically built and accurately replicates a specific prototype.

1. **The Core Question:** Is the model logical? If built full-size, would it do the intended job?

The next question is how does the modeler address the Conformity issue in his/her documentation? The answer is that the modeler writes a few sentences talking about how the model was built ‘consistent with prototype practices’, and then includes either a set of plans/schematic drawings, or a prototype photo of the same (or similar) structure, piece of rolling stock, or locomotive, etc. See below, and particularly the note in bold at the end.

Documentation Requirements

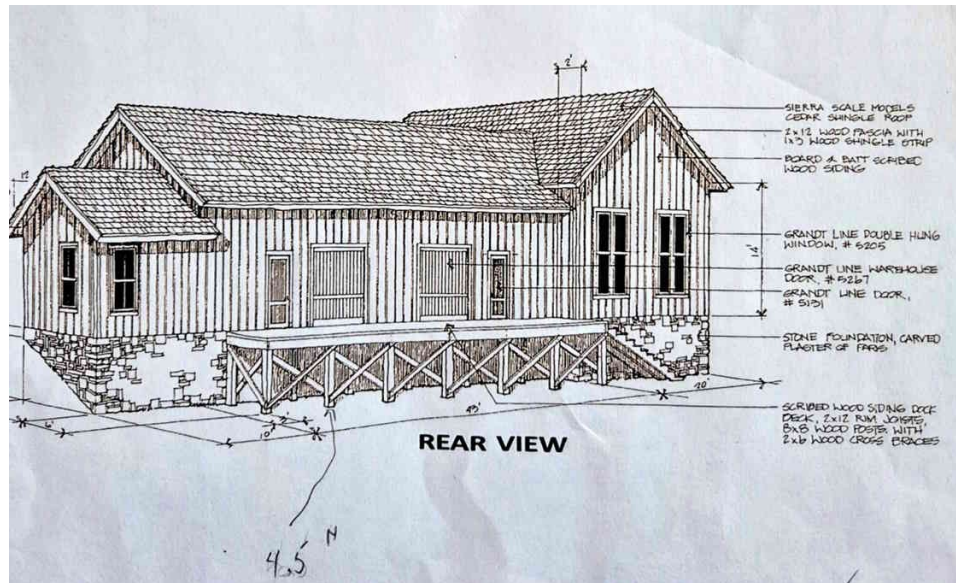
Model evaluators must not guess. The burden of proof is entirely on the entrant.

PROOFS BY MODEL TYPE	
Prototypical Models	Requires reference photos and/or plans.
Proto-Freelanced Models	Requires references to corresponding systems.
Imaginary/Freelanced	Requires evidence of similar prototype practices to score above a few points.

NOTE: No more than a maximum of 15 points can be given to models that do not have actual Conformity documentation such as plans or photographs (kit instructions do not count as documentation).

No exceptions.

Look at that last “Note” again. Kit instructions do not count as documentation. Steve included three schematic drawings from different perspectives in his documentation. Here is one view.



Steve's model earned 22 points in the Conformity category. If he did not include the schematic drawings or a prototype photo, he would have only earned 15 points. Losing those 7 points would have still earned him a Merit Award, but why leave those points 'on the table'? Also, on another model, losing those 7 points could very well have made the difference between earning a Merit Award or not earning the award.

I'll give one more example of Conformity documentation, this time from my work on the Cars Certificate. It deals with my HOn3 scratch-built Water Car.

Now essentially, it is a flat car with a rectangular box sitting on it. I included a diagram of the underframe of the flat car, and a schematic drawing of the water box. However, I wanted to convince the evaluators that such ‘water box on a flat car’ actually existed out there in the real world, so I included this photo.



MD&W water car No. 2291 was used for fire

I did not claim that I was modeling that exact car. I think that you get the point.

So, when you build a model, start with a sketch/diagram and/or find a similar object to your build out there in the real world, and include the prototype photo. Don't leave Conformity points 'on the table'.

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- Dan Shilt; October Mike Kadole

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 –

- Train Show committee – Tim Fisher - No movement so far.
- Over Thirty people attended the Crossroad Village (Huckleberry Railroad) event.

New Business

- Mark announced the new NMRA membership fee, it is now \$50
- A new Achievement Certificate is now available for modules.
- The 2029 convention was awarded to Indianapolis.
- Announcements – Irv Chmielewski – Please provide announcements to Irv.

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>

Announcements

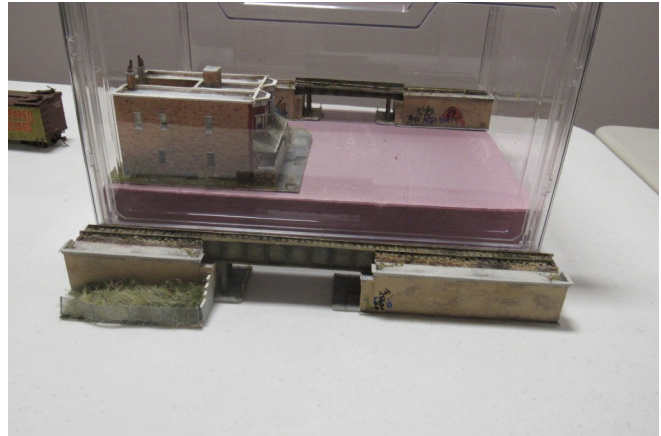
Please notify Irv Chmielewski (NCRDIV8SECRETARY@gmail.com) if you would like to have an announcement posted in Car House. Provide written details

- See fliers at end of Car House for any 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

Gail Braman
N-Scale Diorama

Scratch built raised N-Scale Diorama with a train bridge



Phil Doolittle
Signature Cars

1. GTW/CN b-hatch refrigerator car
2. Milwaukee Road rib side box car



Larry Wolohon
Signature Freight Cars

O-Scale URTX reefer Blatz/Old Heidelberg



Dave Thornton
Signature Freight Cars

B&O class M53 Wagon-top box car



Steve Weber
Current Project

Bob's Wood Shop – Scratch built
with hand made board and batten
siding.



Rad Jones
Bill Board Beer Cars

Used by brewers in the 19th and 20th
century to advertise beer
ICC restricted use in 1930's to only carry
owner's products.
Wood sidings.



George Anderson
Heinz Car

HO Heinz car built by Irv Schultz
On30 Heinz Reefer by George Anderson



Fred Cosgrove
Freight Cars

Central Electric Railways Association
standard for interurban interchange
between railways. The two cars are painted
for 2 roads on opposite sides of the same
car getting 4 cars for the price of 2.



John Jackson
Signature Freight Cars

3 Billboard reefers for 3 different Beer Breweries:
Goetz, Stroh's, and Lone Star



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

Michael Kandole
Signature Freight Cars

Beer refers in On30



Irvin Chmielewski
Signature Freight Cars

Two billboards box cars
Silver Edge Beer. - A prototype car was never actually built.
Roberts Meats – Company is still in existence in Wisconsin



John Peters
Unique Rolling Stock – Freight

NYC Bay window – Partial Bay Caboose. Manufactured at NYC Dispatch shops 1949-53.



No show and tell slip submitted



SCHEDULES

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

September 17, 2026 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 September 17, 7:00 pm**

**Clinic
by Irv Chmielewski
Using Prototype Railroads Of The Upper Peninsula To Improve My
Railroad
Show and Tell
Passenger Cars or Current Projects**

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