

# The Yardmaster

Southwestern Michigan Division



April 2021

---

## **Division 9 Officers**

Superintendent	- Garry Johnson	<a href="mailto:elecsprk@gmail.com">elecsprk@gmail.com</a>
Assistant Superintendent	- Joel Pyard	<a href="mailto:pyardj@comcast.net">pyardj@comcast.net</a>
Paymaster	- Bruce Nichols	<a href="mailto:bruce_nichols09@comcast.net">bruce_nichols09@comcast.net</a>
Scribe	- Alan Bau	<a href="mailto:alanwbau@gmail.com">alanwbau@gmail.com</a>
Trustee	- Doug Van Meter	<a href="mailto:vanmeterda@gmail.com">vanmeterda@gmail.com</a>
Trustee	- Casey Bartman	<a href="mailto:Casey@GR-MI.com">Casey@GR-MI.com</a>

**The Yardmaster** is the newsletter published monthly by Division 9, North Central Region of the National Model Railroad Association.

**Submissions:** Please send articles, news items, inquiries, photos and comments to the Editor of **The Yardmaster**, **Dave Vinci** [dj.vinci@frontier.com](mailto:dj.vinci@frontier.com), **by the 1st of the month** for inclusion in the current month's edition.

## **From the Desk of the Superintendent**

Greetings fellow modelers

As some of you may know I'll be moving during the summer. This means tearing down my existing layout and boxing up all my train items. This began back in January of this year. What to do going forward? I discovered additional publications to read, many U-tube videos and clinics allowing me to stock pile information for the future layout. Such a wealth of information. Knowing specifics about the room size is the beginning of designing a new model railroad layout. Figuring out what I want, what I'd like to have and maybe wishful thinking is the current challenge. Hopefully I'll have this sorted out by fall and start on the new improved layout. Looking forward to our joint meetings with the Michiana Division group and the clinics that will be presented.

Hope to see you at the next meeting in-person or on zoom.

## **Editor's Comments**

Greetings from your newsletter editor. You may have noticed that the deadline for submissions to the newsletter has been changed from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. This is being done so that we can ensure that all our members will receive the newsletter before the monthly meeting. We have several members that must have their newsletters delivered via the US mail which can take up to

5 days, so the earlier we make our deadlines, the more likely everyone will get their newsletter at least 3 days before the meeting day.

Submission deadline (to the editor NLT) the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sent to the printer (NLT) the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Publication date (in the mail NLT) the 9<sup>th</sup>.

To arrive Email = the 9<sup>th</sup>, US Mail= 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>.

If the month starts on a Saturday, the meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday is the 15<sup>th</sup>, so in that case, it would arrive the day before the meeting at the latest. That's the worst case scenario.

## **Achievement Program**

To see the requirements for AP awards see the NMRA website, or talk about the program, contact our Division AP coordinator, Dorman Wilson at [N8YNW@charter.net](mailto:N8YNW@charter.net)

## **April Membership Meeting**

The April 2021 membership meeting will be **Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>** at **The Colonial Kitchen Pancake House**, 330 N. Drake Rd., Kalamazoo. The back room is reserved beginning at **nine o'clock** for informal breakfast. The Colonial Kitchen is in the same building as AT&T and Art Van's Pure Sleep on the east side of Drake Road in the block south of Main Street. The restaurant faces south in that building. We will be doing back to back zoom meetings: First the Division 9 business meeting at 10:00am EDT:

Topic: NMRA NCR Div 9 Membership meeting

Time: Apr 17, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83814576832?pwd=VzJyc2hkWlA0WmxQQTQzbXVmbW5SZz09>

Meeting ID: 838 1457 6832

Passcode: 395561

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 838 1457 6832

Passcode: 395561

Then, at 10:30 am EDT (9:30 CDT) we will have a joint meeting with the Michiana Division and our presenter Bill Neal, who will take us on a virtual tour of his layout

Topic: **Michiana Division and NCR Division 9 Joint Meeting** - April 17, 2021

Time: Apr 17, 2021 09:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83120335971?pwd=NE5lK3RicCtKTzNYaTd1TU1Db29GQT09>

Meeting ID: 831 2033 5971

Passcode: Trains



the **Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad**.

Here is a quick bio of the layout:

The Pennsylvania Railroad built north-west and due west in the 1860's, both lines had a distinctly different flavors. The line Northwest went across the Ohio and Indiana flat lands, and was the **Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago**. The line built due west across the more rugged southern Ohio highlands was the **Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad**. Since the **PCC&St.L** went across the West

We will begin with an informal breakfast (on your own) with business meeting to follow at **ten o'clock via Zoom as well**. Bill Neal will present a program about his model railroad,



Virginia Panhandle, it acquired the nickname **"the Panhandle Division"**. I model from mile post 25 to mile post 50 west of Pittsburgh on the Panhandle, as it might have looked in September of 1939. This means having a substantial steam engine roster, and lots of 40' and 36' cars.

The railroad uses DCC sound equipped engines and includes a 2 mile helper district. The major yard is at Weirton where several line branch off and a major steel mill was located. Trains are controlled by tower operators, using a full signal system. Trains are operated on a sequence with 4-5 trains on the mainlines on average, keeping the railroad pretty busy. Cars are routed using waybills. Usually 10-11 people are required to operate the railroad. It has been published in Great Model Railroads 2010.

See you there!

## **Membership Meeting Minutes**

### **NMRA NCR Division 9 Membership Meeting Minutes March 20, 2021**

#### **In-Person Attendees:**

Garry Johnson  
Alan Bau  
Rich Mahaney  
Bob Montgomery  
Joel Pyard  
Ted Hentchel (guest Div. 4)

#### **Virtual Attendees:**

Casey Bartman  
Doug VanMeter  
Dave Vinci  
Bruce Nichols  
Approximately 18 members of the Michiana Division

This meeting was our first joint session with the Michiana Division. The hope is through combining resources we will be in a better position to offer an expanded series of clinic type programs to our members. The Divisions involved would take turns organizing the clinic sessions, including setting up the Zoom part of the program. This first session went well, and we look forward to many such sessions in the future.

A minor glitch was discovered just prior to starting the business meeting. The Zoom session was scheduled to start at 10:30AM, but the business meeting was starting at 10:00AM, meaning that the Division 9 members joining via Zoom

would not be able to participate in the business meeting. To avoid this problem moving forward, Division 9 will schedule a Zoom session to start at 10:00AM when we organize the meeting and a separate Zoom session at 10:00AM when we are not organizing the meeting.

The Business meeting was then called to order at 10:00AM by Garry Johnson.

Since the combined meeting was scheduled to start at 10:30AM, there was a quick review of the treasury balance, which was unchanged from previous reports.

We dispensed with a reading of the minutes from the last meeting as they were included in the Yardmaster Newsletter.

There was a short review of the following upcoming meetings:

- May 15<sup>th</sup> – Div. 9 only - Presentation by Norm Logan on Backdrops
- June 19<sup>th</sup> – Joint Meeting - Presentation by Rich Mahaney- **"Storage Containers For Solids, Liquids and Gases For Model Railroaders"**

The business meeting was then adjourned at 10:23AM.

#### **Clinic Presentation by Clark Propst from Mason City Iowa**

Clark Propst gave a very enlightening presentation on "Upgrading generic models to prototypical standards".

Respectfully submitted

Alan Bau, Division 9 Scribe



#### **NMRA NCR Division 9 Board of Director's Meeting – April 11, 2021**

Location – Virtual Meeting

**Attendees** – Gary Johnson, Doug VanMeter, Joel Pyard, Dave Vinci, Bruce Nichols, Casey Barnhart, Alan Bau – Absent – Rich Mahaney

Meeting was called to order by Garry Johnson – Superintendent at 2:15PM

#### **Officer Reports:**

**Superintendent Report** – Garry Johnson – Nothing new to report since our last meeting.

**Assistant Superintendent** – Joel Pyard – Joel provided an update on the progress being made on conducting board and membership zoom meetings and the joint meetings with Michiana Division.

**Paymaster** – Bruce Nichols – Our Treasury balance is \$940.16 Plus \$10 in cash for a total of \$950.16. There was one disbursement of \$20 for reimbursing one individual for the one-day conference in 2020 that was cancelled. Actually this was a replacement check, as the original reimbursement check was lost.

**Scribe Report** – Alan Bau - Dave Vinci moved that the minutes from last board meeting be approved, Doug VanMeter seconded, and the motion passed.

#### **Old Business:**

**Virtual Membership Meetings** – Garry Johnson reported for Rich Mahaney concerning the upcoming schedule of General Membership Meetings. See attachment prepared by Rich Mahaney.

**Website Status** – Alan Bau – Alan reported that no real progress has been made in cleaning up the outdated information that resides on the NCR server for the Division 9 website information. It is hoped that we will be able to share the NCR server and be able to create our own website. This item will be taken up again in the July 2021 meeting.

**Yardmaster Information Deadline:** Starting with the May edition of the Yardmaster Newsletter, all information intended for the current month's edition must be submitted to Dave Vinci no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, rather than the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. This change will ensure that all recipients of the newsletter will receive their copy prior to the Membership meeting in that month.

**Membership Meetings** – See Rich Mahaney's report that is attached to these minutes.

**Elections** – Garry Johnson reported that our annual election of officers is coming up at our annual September Business Meeting. The nominating committee is comprised of Joel Pyard and Bruce Nichols. The following positions are up for election, with each serving a 2-year term. Current Incumbent is identified in ( ):



**Superintendent** (Garry Johnson), **Scribe** (Alan Bau), **Trustee** (Doug VanMeter). The **second Trustee** (Casey Bartman) was appointed by Superintendent Johnson after the last election. The term of the second Trustee is only for one year.

It was pointed out by Dave Vinci that the nominations for these positions must be announced at least 30 days prior to the election. Our current practice is to include the slate of officers in the July/August edition of the Yardmaster Newsletter. Therefore, the slate of nominations must be sent to Dave Vinci no later than August 1, 2021.

Joel Pyard & Bruce Nichols indicated that it would be helpful in recruiting nominees to have job descriptions of what is expected. Alan Bau agreed to send them the information that is contained in our bylaws.

**Membership Status** – Alan Bau reported that despite the problems created by Covid-19, Division 9 has grown from 37 members at the end of 2019 to 42 members at the end of 2020.

Participation Rates (defined as the number of members that attend meetings) indicates that approximately 1/3 of NMRA NCR Division 9 members participate in least 50% of our meetings, 1/3 of our members are somewhere between 0% and 49% and another 1/3 of the members do not attend meetings.

**Recruiting** – several of our board members have agreed to contact our newer members to invite them to attend an upcoming membership meeting and answer any questions they may have about NMRA and Division 9. Alan Bau will supply contact information for the newer players to the board members making these contacts. It is hoped this will have a positive effect on our participation rates and make some new friends in the process.

Next Board Meeting is July 11<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00PM. This will again be a virtual meeting.

Motion to Adjourn made by Doug VanMeter, seconded by Casey Bartman at 3:50PM and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:

Alan Bau  
Division 9 Scribe

## **Attachment to BOD Report:**

### **NCR Division 9 2021 meeting ideas by Rich Mahaney**

**Jan** - mtg cancelled.

**Feb** – first meeting at restaurant, building trees by Ron Thomson clinic.

**Mar** – joint meeting with Michiana, restaurant, Clark Propst on building prototypical cars.

**April** – joint meeting with Michiana, restaurant, tour of Bill Neals layout.

**May** - joint meeting with Michiana, restaurant, Norm Logan presentation on backdrops.

**June** – joint meeting with Michiana – Rich Mahaney presenting a clinic on storage tanks for solids, liquids, and gases.

**July** – off

**Aug** – off

**Sept** – Annual meeting, Tour of the Sturgis layout, tour of the train station and a clinic by Dave Vinci

**Oct** – Tom Weaver, CP layout tour east of Lansing area is approved, working on a second layout to tour by Dewitt with Dave and Rob Venzke, it will probably be a go.

**Nov** – possible layout tour

**Dec** – clinic at the restaurant – maybe a joint in person meeting between Michiana and Division 9 groups?

Doug Harding – clinic idea– Meat Packing Plant in Mason City Iowa and other related stuff

#### **2021 ideas,**

Continue with some zoom meeting clinics with other national presenters?

Want to continue with a relationship with the Michiana group?

One day convention in April





## **How to Lay Carpet Under a Train Table After a Flood**

By Alan Bau

Last October we had a water problem in the basement bathroom. By the time we discovered the problem, there was 2" of water in the basement 1900 sq. ft. including the carpeted Train Room.

Once everything was dried up, we had to replace drywall, insulation, some wood panels in my workshop, the bathroom vanity and then paint before the carpeting could be installed. We thought the train table (14' x 8') could possibly be a problem, but the carpet company and the general contractor assured us it could be handled. A few days before the carpet installation was scheduled, the general contractor, carpet salesman and the installer came out to review the situation. The installer knew about the train table but had yet to see it. The first words out of his mouth were, "I don't know how to do this". His concern was how to get the carpet under the table and get it properly stretched. Over the next hour or so we discussed various approaches, including buying carpet squares (we already had this discussion at the carpet store and rejected the idea), moving the train table in various directions during installation, getting a bunch of guys to lift and hold the table off the floor, cutting the table in half and finally deciding on suspending the table from the ceiling and at least 12" off the floor. The suspended ceiling idea won out, with some concerns.

The following day, three carpenters arrived to raise the table and hook it to the ceiling. They started out adding bracing to the table, then using jacks, straps, and eye hooks, they slowly went about the process of raising the table one inch at a time. The process went better than expected and only took about 2 to 3 hours to complete the job. The next day the carpeting was installed with problems. A couple of days later the carpenters returned to lower the table, remove the bracing and straps. The train table is once again on



This picture shows some of the bracing that was added for additional support.

the floor with no damage to the table or layout. We are most grateful to the professionals from VanDam & Krusinga and Sackett Carpeting for the terrific job they did.



Top Picture shows the table suspended about 12" off the floor.



Middle picture shows the table being lowered. Notice the bottle jack that was used to raise and later lower the table.



Bottom picture shows the table safely back on the floor. The carpet movers under the table legs allows me to move the table as needed.



## **Model RR Photos**

Here are a few models I have recently completed:



PRR Class H22 Coke Hopper #406263 Bowser Kit

photo by D. Vinci



PRR Class H22 Coke Hopper #406267 Bowser Kit

photo by D. Vinci



PRR class H22 #406289 Coke Hopper Bowser kit

photo by D. Vinci

These cars are the "as built circa 1911" versions of this class of 42' long 4 bay hoppers, with 50 ton arch-bar trucks . Note the capacity is listed as 105,000 lbs, and these cars were intended to haul coke which is considerably lighter than



coal. These cars were rebuilt into class H22a starting in 1922 with the familiar sawtooth bottoms and 70 ton Crown trucks like this modeled example below.



PRR HT H22a Hopper car #909975 - Bowser kit

D. Vinci photo

The rebuilds had their capacities up-graded to 140,000 Lbs (70 tons) so they could enter coal service with the class H21a. The H21 class also started in 1911 with a 105,000 Lbs (52 tons) capacity but was quickly up-graded to class H21a with the sawtooth bottoms and Crown 70 ton trucks.

Here at right are modeled examples of those classes. Bowser has produced all 4 of these variations and also some H21a with a top chord brace. The initial models were too brown in color but recent models have the more accurate orangeish red. I usually replace some of the grab irons with wire and add air hoses. The models come with AB brake gear and one of these days I may get around to changing my models over to K brakes. Split K brake hardware is available from Tichy. Buying the undecorated kits gives one the opportunity to create as detailed a model as you like. – Dave Vinci



PRR class H21 #732418 - Bowser Kit

photo by D. Vinci



PRR HT class H21a Hopper car #707021 - Bowser kit

D. Vinci photo

## Division 9 Calendar for April 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Div 9 Zoom Meeting
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## Division 9 Calendar for May 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Div 9 Zoom Meeting
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					