



The Yardmaster

Southwestern Michigan Division



October 2021

Division 9 Officers

Superintendent	- Garry Johnson	elecsprk@gmail.com
Assistant Superintendent	- Joel Pyard	pyardj@comcast.net
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Scribe	- Alan Bau	alanwbau@gmail.com
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Trustee	- Casey Bartman	Casey@GR-MI.com

Division 9 Website: <http://ncr-div9.com/>

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, **by the 1st of the month** for inclusion in the current month's edition.

Editor's Comments

Greetings from your newsletter editor. If any of you would like to try your hand at creating an article for the newsletter, please try and write one. It can be of any size or maybe just a photo of your latest project. How about a tip that you think other modelers could benefit from? This newsletter will only be as informative and entertaining as you, the membership, make it.

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

October Membership Meeting

On Saturday, October 16, Division 9 will be visiting two layouts in the greater Lansing, MI area.

At the Division 5 NCR Convention in Lansing in October 2018, I visited both of these layouts and was very impressed and have been wanting to make another visit for an update on construction, progress, operations and new photos. - Rich Mahaney

LAYOUT #1 - 10:00 AM, we will start at the DM&IR layout of a father/son building team of Dave Verzke and his son Rob Verzke. This railroad models traffic from the DM&IR, Great Northern, Northern Pacific, Soo Line, Milwaukee Road. This layout is described as a "club size layout in a building behind a home". This is a layout that focuses on the DM&IR operations in northern MN in the 1950/1960's moving iron ore from the MN mines to the docks in Duluth. The layout is an HO scale layout that is under construction.



The address is: 7511 S Chandler RD, St John's MI 48879.



After the DM&IR layout tour, photos and discussions we will stop for a short lunch break as we travel to Haslett (east of

Lansing/East Lansing) to the second layout. So we should be at the second layout around between **12noon and 1pm.**

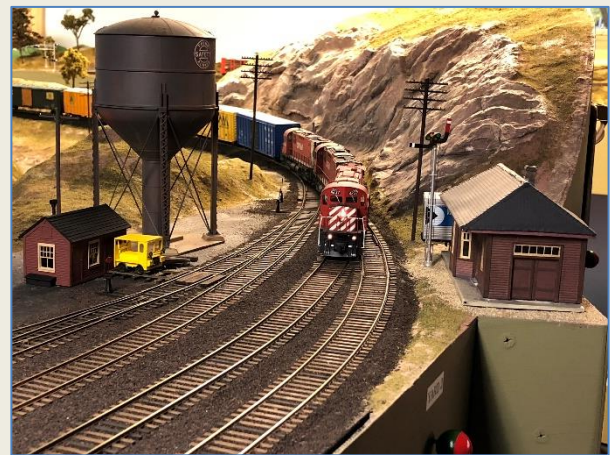
LAYOUT #2 - our next layout is in the home of Tom Weaver in the basement. **We will be wearing facemasks at Tom's layout tour.** Tom models the CP railroad in HO scale in Southern Ontario. **Tom's address is 6029 Oakpark Trail, Haslett, MI 48840.**

Tom provided the following layout description:



1) 1984 and based on Sudbury to Webbwood on CP Rail branch to Sault Ste. Marie and a connection with Soo Line and Algoma Central there. Real Webbwood was a Division Point until ~1980 (maybe a bit earlier) and still is on our pike since everything west of there is represented by staging in the double-ended fiddle yard. Lower level represents the Little Current Subdivision that extended to the North Channel of Lake Huron and Manitoulin Island until mid-1990's.

2) roughly 25 x 49 feet max.



3) timetable and train orders. Car cards and waybills. No signals although I like signals well enough I might signal a part of it.



4) Two-level layout with ~90 ft five-level helix. Controlled by Digitrax DCC. All trains followed across layout using radio throttles. Double-ended fiddle yard and off track storage reduce the "looks the same" concept that staging yard layouts have. We have only officially operated four times (all pre-COVID). One time since was just done unofficially to keep the cobwebs lubed up. We hope to begin valance installation and new lighting as soon as this tour is completed.



Parking at the Layouts:

Layout #1 last time I was there we parked on the grass by the building.

Layout #2 last time I was there we parked on the neighborhood streets by the house.

Rich Mahaney



Membership Meeting Minutes

NMRA NCR Division 9

Membership Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2021

Location: Sturgis Historical Museum, 101 South Jefferson St., Sturgis, Mi.

In Person Attendees:

Rich Mahaney
Bruce Nichols
Alan Bau
Jim Glenn
Doug VanMeter
Bob Montgomery
Jim Fankhausen
Chuck Peterson
Bill Haack
Rand Yeomans
Greg Stonerock
Robert Klein - Guest

Virtual Attendees:

Dave Vinci
Garry Johnson
Dave McMullian - Guest

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 by Garry Johnson was unable to attend.

Business Meeting:

Garry Johnson made his opening remarks and then turned the meeting over to Alan Bau as Garry was unable to attend in person.

Officer Reports:

Paymaster Report – Bruce Nichols reported that the treasury balance was unchanged from previous reports.

Scribe Reports – Alan Bau reported that Casey Bartman has the new website up and running. The web address is ncr-div9.com. Members were asked to check it out and tell the board what they think about the new site.

Alan also reported that any member not living within the physical boundaries of Division Nine and wanting to be a member of Division Nine, needs to complete the Division of Choice Form and submit it to the NMRA.

Yardmaster Editor – Dave Vinci reminded members to submit articles, pictures, etc. to the newsletter before the end of the month to include it in the next issue. This change facilitates getting the information to the members prior to the upcoming membership meeting.

Board Elections:

Bruce Nichols read off the names of the nominees for the 2021 board member election. Garry Johnson – Superintendent (2-year term), Alan Bau – Scribe (2-year term), Doug VanMeter – Trustee (2-year term) & Casey Bartman – Trustee (1-year term).

A motion was then made by Bruce Nichols and seconded by Greg Stonerock to close the nominations, which was approved by the members.

Ballots were then passed out to members in attendance. Ballots were collected by Bruce Nichols and all of the above were elected.

Upcoming Schedule: Rich Mahaney reviewed the schedule of upcoming clinics and layout tours through the end of the calendar year.

October 16th – there are two layout tours in the Lansing area on the schedule (Note: Masks are Required)

November 20th & December 18th – We will be meeting at the Colonial Kitchen located at 330 N. Drake Road in Kalamazoo. The Clinic will be presented by Doug Harding in a two-part series on the Meat Packing Industry and Railroads.

One-Day Convention scheduled in October 2022

Possible dates for this event will be October 15th or 22nd.

Details of this event will be available in the near future.

Bylaw Changes – Alan Bau read the proposed bylaw changes to the group. The plan is to vote on accepting or rejecting the changes at membership meeting in November. The proposed changes appeared in the September Yardmaster and will again in the November issue.

North Central Region 2021 Convention – Dave McMullian

The Black Swamp Junction will be held at the Radisson Hotel located at 3100 Glendale Avenue, Toledo, Oh. 43614 on October 21st thru the 24th. The

theme of the convention rail/marine. There are lots of activities on the schedule, including 32 clinic sessions, a Rail Yard Sale, 21 layout tours, Operating Sessions, Proto-type tours and lots of fun. The convention website is [Black Swamp Junction NCR 2021 Convention \(divisiononencr.com\)](http://divisiononencr.com). You can register on-line or by mail. There is a special room rate of \$115 per night. To reserve a room at the Radisson call 419-381-6800 and give them the NMRA code to get the special rate.

Special Thanks – A special thank you goes out to Bruce Nichols' grandsons (Carter & Cohen McGee) for their help setting up the equipment for the zoom portion of the meeting.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Clinic Presentation – Dave Vinci gave a fine presentation on Switch Towers.

Sturgis Historical Museum – We would like to thank the Museum Staff and the Model Railroad Club for the tours of both facilities and their fine hospitality. This is a really nice facility, and we encourage members and their families to check them out.

Respectfully Submitted
Alan Bau
Division 9 Scribe

2021 Regional Convention

NCR 2021 Show and Convention **Oct. 21-24, 2021**

***Radisson Hotel at the University of Toledo
3100 Glendale Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43614***



Hosted by the Black Swamp Division

Join us in Toledo Ohio as we celebrate the enjoyment of Model Railroading. Toledo has a long and strong history of railroading, being served by 20+ railroads during the 20th century. The theme for this year's convention is Rail Marine to coincide with Toledo's historical role as a major port on the great lakes.

This year's event will be hosted within the Radisson Hotel at the University of Toledo. The hotel is an all-inclusive hotel/conference facility with large meeting areas. A special room rate has been negotiated so you can relax and not worry about travel. Ample space has been provided for display rooms, clinics and on-site layouts.

Event Highlights

- Theme – Rail Maritime
- All Inclusive Hotel/Conference Facility
- Clinics
- Layouts (on-site and tours)
- Op sessions
- Prototype Tours
- Model Showcase
- Door Prizes
- Saturday Luncheon

Initial list of clinics announced! See our [Clinics page](#) for the latest list of clinics being offered at the Black Swamp Junction.

- We will have 24 topics, including 8 by MMRs.
- Many are brand new for this convention
- 10 clinic sessions with no other activity conflicts
- 19 presenters, including 8 MMRs
- 7 topics on modeling ships and nautical scenes
- Laser kit Modeling with the Masters (make 'n' take clinic)
- Others include operations, backdrops, structures, planning, and prototypes.

NOTE: "Modeling with the Masters" clinic does require an extra fee for the structure cost. Please make sure to include this fee on your [registration form](#).

Registration form: <https://www.divisiononencr.com/2021/register.html>

Division 9 Calendar for October 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Div 9 Activity - Layout tour
17	18	19	20	21 NCR 2021 Show and Convention	22 NCR 2021 Show and Convention	23 NCR 2021 Show and Convention
24 NCR 2021 Show and Convention	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Division 9 Calendar for November 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	18	19	20 Div 9 Zoom Meeting
21	22	23	24	25 Thanks- giving	26	27
28						