



The Yardmaster

Southwestern Michigan Division



September 2022

Website: www.ncr-div9.com

Division 9 Officers

Superintendent	- Garry Johnson	elecsprk@gmail.com
Assistant Superintendent	- Joel Pyard	pyardj@comcast.net
Paymaster	- Bob Lawrence	robertlawrence44@msn.com
Scribe	- Alan Bau	alanwbau@gmail.com
Trustee	- Doug Van Meter	vanmeterda@gmail.com
Trustee	- Casey Bartman	Casey@GR-MI.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.

From the Desk of the Superintendent

Greetings fellow Division 9 members

Fall is setting in kids/grandkids are back to school quiet around the house. I am continuing pushing forward on my basement finishing project. Quite the task but nearing completion. Which means building a layout is just around the corner. Division 9 activities are ramping up with our September 17 meeting in Hartford touring the West Michigan railroad, election of Division 9 officers, and a lunch. October is our conference with dinner at Clara's in Battle Creek, clinics at the River Church, layout tours and OPS sessions.

I watch various YouTube videos as I'm sure some of you also do. There are many channels devoted to modeling which I've mentioned in the past. Something new has been offered on the FD Real channel offering shows on the prototype railroads. Current episodes are Railroad Australia. Shows run about 44 minutes.

In closing hope to see you at our September meeting

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.

I feel that it is time for someone else to take over as Editor/publisher of our Division 9 newsletter, The Yardmaster. I will continue in this position through the end of 2022. If you are interested in this position, please contact me dj.vinci@frontier.com, or any Board member. Thanks, Dave Vinci

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



September Membership Meeting

The next meeting is a Joint Division 9 - Michiana Division meeting and is scheduled for **Saturday September 17th** at the **West Michigan Railroad** in Hartford, Michigan. Mike Hnatiuk of the WMRR is our host.

We will start at the **Paw Paw River Transload Facility at 10am on Saturday Sept 17** for Mike's overview of the WMRR operations and activities there. It could be muddy. The Transload Facility is on 59 ½ St, north of the Red Arrow Highway, west of the County Fairgrounds and behind Paw Paw River Produce.

Then we will move as a group to the area west of the intersection of Hilliard St and North Maple St in downtown Hartford. This is an open area that the WMRR is using for work and is also where the WMRR and CSX tracks connect.

If the weather is bad that morning, we will start instead at 10am at **501 W Main St** (also the Red Arrow Highway) at a facility that is being donated for our use by Matt Nilson, the front of the building says "**Stone Soup Lab**" on it. The facility is just a short distance west of the CSX crossing on W Main Street/Red Arrow Highway on the north side of the road.



If it is a bad weather day or there are questions after the tour, Rich Mahaney put together a PowerPoint presentation of his slides of the WMRR equipment and facilities in Hartford and Hamilton, MI, so our host Mike Hnatiuk can talk from those images.

We will have a catered lunch at Matt's **Stone Soup Lab** facility which can hold



30 to 40 people (some standing). Rich has asked Matt to contact the Mexican restaurant in Hartford to see what they could do for us at a cost of around \$10 a person. Please bring \$10 in cash, *no credit cards*, to pay at the time of the lunch, probably around 11:30am at Matt's facility.

The transfer facility is known as the **Paw Paw River Trans Load facility** and is located at **59 1/2 St** and the railroad tracks and is north of the Red Arrow Highway.



It is located behind the Paw Paw River Produce/Meachum Family Farms warehouse located on the Red Arrow Highway east of Hartford, west of the Van Buren County Fairgrounds. You can see the railroad cars from the Red Arrow Highway. The area is a dirt lot which could be muddy.



West Mi RR is behind the Lineage Cold Storage facility at 61834 Red Arrow Highway.
R. Mahaney photo

We cannot go on the Lineage Logistics property on the Red Arrow Highway to see the old WMRR equipment in storage behind the building per our meeting host Mike Hnatiuk with the WMRR. Trespassing issues now, since it was sold by Hansen



West Michigan RR motive power - Hartford, MI R. Mahaney Photo



West Michigan RR motive power Hartford, MI
R. Mahaney photo

Logistics.

This is where the West Michigan Railroad keeps their railroad engines and other equipment. You can see the engines behind the buildings

from the Red Arrow Highway.

The 2nd stop is an area where railroad cars are loaded and unloaded and where the West Michigan Railroad connects to the CSX Railroad.



Turnout that connects WMRR with CSX in Hartford, MI
R. Mahaney photo



WMRR in Hartford, MI

R. Mahaney photo

This location is in Hartford and north of the Red Arrow Highway. Go north on N Maple St and turn left on W Hilliard St and to head into an open area where the West Michigan Railroad works. There may be railroad cars in this area. This is where the West Michigan Railroad connects with the CSX Railroad.

From here we will go to the **Stone Soup Lab** facility for a catered lunch as noted above.

RSVP for September 17th Meeting

Division 9 folks: we need to have you send Alan (alanwbau@gmail.com) an email by **Thursday Sept 15th** if they are joining us for Saturday, so we can tell Matt Nilson and the restaurant our food needs for Saturday.

The **Michiana Division** has asked their people to email Rich Mahaney if they are coming on Sat., so he can have numbers for them.

This meeting is also our formal annual meeting which includes election of officers. Three of our officer positions (current office holders have agreed to run again) are up for re-election. If you wish to run for an office nominations will be accepted from the floor at the September meeting. The positions are as follows:

Assistant Superintendent (Joel Pyard)

- a. shall oversee the membership registry of the Division, validating membership qualifications.
- b. shall design, plan and execute Division activities
- c. shall conduct official Division functions in the absence of the Superintendent, conducting meetings in adherence to The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, Fourth Edition.

Paymaster (Bob Lowrance)

- a. shall oversee financial business of the Division, to include, but not limited to, collection of monies, distribution of monies as approved by the Board.
- b. shall maintain the financial records of the Division.
- c. shall ensure all financial reporting paperwork is filed with State, Municipal, and Federal agencies as required by law.
- d. in the event that the Division needs a checking account, the treasurer shall establish such account, and each check must be signed by the Paymaster and the Superintendent to be valid. One additional Director shall be on the account to sign checks in the event that either the Superintendent or Paymaster is unable to sign a required check.

Trustee (Casey Bartman)

- a. shall serve as representative at large on behalf of the membership
- b. shall assist any other Director as needed.

If you wish to run for one of the offices, please contact Garry Johnson or Alan Bau.

Upcoming Division 9 Meetings

1. **October** 28-29 we have the convention- (no regular meeting) See details below.
2. **November** meeting is at the Colonial Kitchen with a web/Zoom presentation on "poultry cars" by Doug Harding in Iowa.
3. **December** meeting will have our own Joel Pyard talking about the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad. Also at the Colonial Kitchen. This will be sent out over Zoom also.
- 4.



Information about West Michigan Railroad

From: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **West Michigan Railroad** ([reporting mark WMI](#)) is a shortline railroad in southwest Michigan. It began operations in 1995, replacing the bankrupt **Kalamazoo, Lake Shore and Chicago Railroad** (reporting mark **KLSC**) on an ex-[Pere Marquette Railway](#) line between Hartford and Paw Paw, Michigan. That company had taken over operations in 1987 from [CSX Transportation](#).

Traffic on the West Michigan Railroad consists of canola pellets, plastic pellets, frozen food, refrigerated fresh food, stone, methanol, and corn oil. The railroad has been owned by Hamilton Hartford Group, LLC since 2015.

The [Toledo and South Haven Railroad](#), a predecessor of the Pere Marquette Railway, opened the line from Paw Paw west to Lawrence, Michigan in October 1877 and to Hartford in March 1883, as an extension of an older line from Lawton to Paw Paw. It was initially built as [3 ft](#) narrow gauge; the successor South Haven and Eastern Railroad standard gauged the line (along with an extension from Hartford to South Haven) in April and May 1899. The Pere Marquette gained control in April 1903, but the line temporarily left that system when the [Kalamazoo, Lake Shore and Chicago Railway](#) leased it in April 1907, intending to electrify it as an interurban. [Michigan United Railways](#) leased the line from 1911 to 1916; operations then reverted to the KLS&C until 1925,

when the Pere Marquette took it back, having never been electrified. It abandoned the segment from Lawton to Paw Paw in 1942, and in August 1987 the Southwestern Michigan Railroad [d/b/a](#) Kalamazoo, Lake Shore and Chicago Railroad began operations between Paw Paw and Hartford.^{[1][2]} (Hartford to South Haven has also been abandoned.)

Pioneer Railcorp subsidiary West Jersey Railroad Co. operated a Salem County-owned line between Swedesboro and Salem, New Jersey from September 1988 until May 1995, when the lease was reassigned to the [Southern Railroad of New Jersey](#).^[3] Three months later, the West Jersey began operating, under a directed service order, the line of the KLS&C, which had entered Chapter 11 bankruptcy in March 1993 and suspended operations in May 1995. In October the West Jersey Railroad changed its name to West Michigan Railroad, and later that month it bought the line.^[2] As of the fall of 2011, the railroad from Hartford to Paw Paw is all but abandoned. A filing with the Surface Transportation Board dated December 19, 2012 and numbered STB Docket No. AB-1107X requested abandonment of 10.67 miles of the line from Paw Paw west to a point west of 56th Street on the west side of Lawrence, Michigan.^[4]

Pioneer Railcorp sold the capital stock of West Michigan Railroad Co., effective at the close of business November 3, 2015, to an unaffiliated non-carrier entity, Hamilton Hartford Group, LLC, and PRC, therefore, is no longer in control of WMI.^[5] The new owners have identified a dozen potential customers who have expressed interest in hauling freight along the line.^[6]

Since the purchase of the railroad by Hamilton Hartford Group, traffic has increased immensely, with the vast majority of the growth coming from a transload facility which opened in 2019. In 2022, the railroad received an \$8.7 million grant from the [Federal Railroad Administration](#). This grant will allow the railroad to completely rebuild the existing track, as well as relay 5.6 miles of track along the abandoned right of way, returning rail service to the town of Lawrence.^[7]

- References

1. George Woodman Hilton, American Narrow Gauge Railroads, [Stanford University Press](#), 1990, pp. 427-428
2. Edward A. Lewis, American Shortline Railway Guide, 5th Edition, [Kalmbach Publishing](#), 1996, pp. 330, 362
3. Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, D.C. (1995-10-10). "JP Rail, Inc., d/b/a Southern Railroad Company of New Jersey-- Notice of Exemption--Operation of Salem Branch Rail Line in Salem County, New Jersey." Finance Docket No. 32700. *Federal Register*, 60 **FR** 52689.
4. <http://www.stb.dot.gov/filings/all.nsf/ba7f93537688b8e5852573210004b318/99c4d0a60eb3b60685257ad9007a9764?OpenDocument>^[*dead link*]
5. Daniel A. LaKemper (November 5, 2015). "[West Michigan Railroad Co. -Abandonment Exemption - Van Buren County, Michigan](#)[STB Docket No. AB-1107X](#)" (PDF). Retrieved 16 November 2015.
6. Garrod, Paul (14 December 2015). "[Paw Paw-to-Lawrence rail line purchased for freight hauling](#)". *The Courier-Leader*. Vineyard Press, Inc. Retrieved 17 December 2015.
7. Federal Railroad Administration (June 2, 2022). "[Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements \(CRISI\) Program: FY2021 Selections](#)". Retrieved 13 July 2022

This page was last edited on 13 July 2022, at 20:18 (UTC).

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License 3.0](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.

Locomotives of the West Michigan Railroad

Number	Type	Build Date	Status	Notes
4	EMD SW9	11/1951	Out of service	Ex- Leelanau Scenic Railroad . Exx- Chesapeake and Ohio Railway . Named "Village of Suttons Bay ".
850	ALCO C420	7/1966	Out of service	Ex- Iowa Interstate Railroad , Exx Lehigh and Hudson River Railroad .
921	EMD GP18	12/1959	In service	Ex- Norfolk and Western
1017	ALCO T6	1/1969	Out of service	Ex- Cargill . Exx- Newburgh & South Shore Railroad . Last ALCO locomotive built in the United States.
1397	EMD MP15AC	1/1976	In service	Ex- Union Pacific Railroad . Exx- Soo Line Exxx- Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad .
1512	EMD SW1200	3/1960	In service	Ex- Michigan Air-Line Railway . Exx- Coe Rail . Exxx- Grand Trunk Western Railroad
2480	EMD CF7	6/1956	Out of service	Ex-Clinton Terminal Railroad. Exx- Waccamaw Coast Line Railroad . Exxx- Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway . Originally built as an EMD F9 .

This page was last edited on 13 July 2022, at 20:18 (UTC).

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License 3.0](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.



Placement of items on your Model Railroad

By Dave Vinci

Photos and models are by Dave Vinci



For some reason when items are placed on your model railroad, they look better or maybe more natural, if they are placed in odd numbers. Here are a few examples.

Here is a small storage building in the yard for storing fuses. There are 3 warning signs on the building, 1 oil drum, 1 small oil container and 1 figure. This is about 1 square inch of layout space.

Below is another tiny structure with 2 signs, 2 figures and 1 trash can. Looks better with the trash can.



At left is the tool rack for the ash pit on the approach to the turntable. There are 6 tools so we added a barrel to make it an odd number. Probably should have weathered the barrel though.



At right is a Company house with a fellow sitting alone on the porch, and a boy, his dog and his mother by the rose bush.

Below is a scene outside a factory and we have 2 figures, 2 drums and 1 truck. Again an odd number of details.



And here we have a tower with 3 figures inside the building.

There are 5 figures outside the building, 2 signs on the building (I believe there is another on the side that isn't in view) and 1 barrel, 1 lantern, 1 trash can and 3 scraps of wood on the foundation just left of the building.

Lots of odd numbers of details.



And finally we have a larger factory with 3 figures hauling on a rope lifting 3 barrels to 1 figure waiting on the 3rd floor with a barrel behind him. There on the loading dock is another figure reading the bulletin board and there is also 1 broom, a barrel next to the men and 1 trash can. There are 5 signs on the building bring the total to 17. There is also a truck in the street next to the building. This scene is on a shelf that is only about 5 ½" deep.

These are just a few examples on my model railroad. I "plant" trees and bushes in odd numbers as well

For Modelers/Scratchbuilders:

If you have been using the decal details made by Archer, they have announced they are closing. So if you need any of their products, now is your chance to get them. <https://www.archertransfers.com/>

ARCHER September, 2022

WE ARE CLOSING

NOTHING LASTS FOREVER

The time is well past due for me to throw in the towel and close up shop for good, so **between now and our official closing date, November 30, 2022, we will be liquidating all of our current inventory - first come, first served.** We are expecting a high volume of sales during this inventory liquidation period so we are asking for your patience, and to expect delays in receiving your orders. We will be sending periodic updates on inventory availability in the weeks ahead.

FAREWELL and HAPPY MODELING,

The cool kids at Archer
Woody Vondracek and Chrissy Perdue

New NMRA Special Interest Groups For Women

From: Bob Chaparro via groups.io <chiefbobb=verizon.net@groups.io>

To: ModelRailroadsofSoCalif@groups.io

Sent: Thu, Aug 18, 2022 5:32 pm

Subject: [ModelRailroadsofSoCalif] New NMRA Special Interest Groups For Women

New NMRA Special Interest Groups For Women

Information from Cydney George-Abatecola.

Bob Chaparro

Moderator

++++

The NMRA has a new SIG - Women in Model Railroading. We got to announce it as an NMRA recognized SIG at the convention last week and are getting a good response.

We are excited to offer the opportunity to women around the world to become members of the Women in Model Railroading SIG! As a recognized SIG within the NMRA, we expect this group to be vibrant in the world of model railroading. The purpose of the Women in Model Railroading (WIMRR) SIG is to introduce, encourage and connect women in or interested in the hobby of model railroading. The SIG is designed for education, enrichment, social interactions, and all-around fun. This group is meant to be inclusive and supportive of all women in the hobby and railfan world. We plan to host a few social meetings per year including online and at train shows/conventions around the country. The SIG will provide women in their local NMRA regions the support needed to create activities or gatherings, in order to grow the hobby and remove perceived barriers for women modelers.

Join our Facebook Pages:

"Women in Model Railroading" is for women in the model railroad hobby to share their world:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/769365970927091>

"The Steam Sisters Group" is for women railfans to share their photos of steam AND diesel trains:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/801466170511941>

Visit the SIG page:

<https://www.nmra.org/sigs/women-in-model-railroading>

Join: Please use this link to join the SIG:

<https://forms.gle/aKPhcXU1sthKW1MQ8>

—'—'—'—'—

NCR ONE DAY (*really two!*) MODEL RAILROAD CONVENTION KALAMAZOO/BATTLE CREEK, MI

The NMRA NCR Division 9 is hosting an **NCR OneDay Model Railroad Convention** over two days (**OCT 28/29, 2022**) which will include layout tours, clinics, a special dinner and hopefully some operating session, all of this is over a Friday afternoon through Saturday time frame. The location is in the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek area of Michigan. The **Kalamazoo Model Railroad Club** will be hosting their **Annual Fall Train Show and Sale** on the Sunday (**Oct 30**) of that weekend if you would like to attend that also. A weekend of railroading activities. Hotel selection in the area is on your own.

Registration location(s) on Friday will be at the first layout at 3:30pm in Galesburg. You can view the layout and pick up registration related materials. Registration and clinics on Saturday will be at **The River Church**, located at **517 Walbridge, in downtown Kalamazoo**. The building is northeast of the Kalamazoo Amtrak Station, and their parking lot backs up to the train tracks.

Oct 28, Friday afternoon, there will be layout open houses from 3:30pm to 6:00pm. You must have a paid registration and convention badge to see the layouts. Registration for the convention will occur at the first layout on the tour.

Oct 28, Friday evening, there will be a gathering of model railroaders for dinner at Clara's Restaurant in downtown Battle Creek starting at 6:30pm. You need to reserve a spot for this event and dinner will be ordered off the menu with individual bills. Who knows what might be scheduled for education, entertainment and fun!

Oct 29, Saturday, at the River Church, registration from 7:30am to 8:30am and time to visit with other model railroaders. Free refreshments and some breakfast foods during registration and the clinics! Clinic times are- 8:30am, 9:45am and 11am. 12 clinics will be presented between four different rooms. Lunch on your own. Then more model railroad layout viewing 1:00pm to 5:00pm, operating sessions on Saturday evening. 11 layouts will be open for viewing on Saturday afternoon.

More information will all be posted on The NMRA NCR Division 9 website, including information about paying with credit cards, PayPal for registration and Friday registration sites. The Division 9 website address is - <http://ncr-div9.com/conventionForm.php> Registrations at this time can be check or money order made out to NMRA, NCR, Division 9. Cut off the registration form below and mail it to: **Division 9 Superintendent and Convention Registrar Garry Johnson, 371 32nd Street N, Springfield, MI 49037**. Registration fees in US Dollars only: Pre-registration of \$25, late registration fee is \$30 on or after September 1, 2022. Yup, send them in now and save some money! For more information or question contact Rich Mahaney at 269-214-4221 or rcmahaney@gmail.com.

-----**REGISTRATION FORM/Cut off and send to: Garry Johnson, 371 32nd Street N, Springfield, MI 49037**-----

NAME _____ NMRA Number _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ COUNTRY _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

Are you interested or planning to attend the Friday, Oct 29, 2022 dinner at Clara's in Battle Creek, the cost of dinner will be on your own YES _____ NO _____

Are you interested in attending operation sessions on Saturday evening? YES _____ NO _____ More information will follow in the future as these get set up.

Division 9 Calendar for September 2022

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Div 9 BOD via zoom 2 pm	12	13	14	15	16	17 Div 9 Meeting @ WMRR in Hartford
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 GR&I Chapter PRRT&HS Meeting
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Division 9 Calendar for October 2022

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	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Div 9 Conv	29 Div 9 Conv
30 Train Show	31 Halloween					