



# The Yardmaster

## Southwestern Michigan Division



October 2022

Website: [www.ncr-div9.com](http://www.ncr-div9.com)

## Division 9 Officers

Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent

Paymaster

Scribe

Trustee

Trustee

- Garry Johnson

- Joel Pyard

- Bob Lawrence

- Alan Bau

- Doug Van Meter

- Casey Bartman

[elecsprk@gmail.com](mailto:elecsprk@gmail.com)

[pyardj@comcast.net](mailto:pyardj@comcast.net)

[robertlawrence44@msn.com](mailto:robertlawrence44@msn.com)

[alanwbau@gmail.com](mailto:alanwbau@gmail.com)

[vanmeterda@gmail.com](mailto:vanmeterda@gmail.com)

[Casey@GR-MI.com](mailto:Casey@GR-MI.com)

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

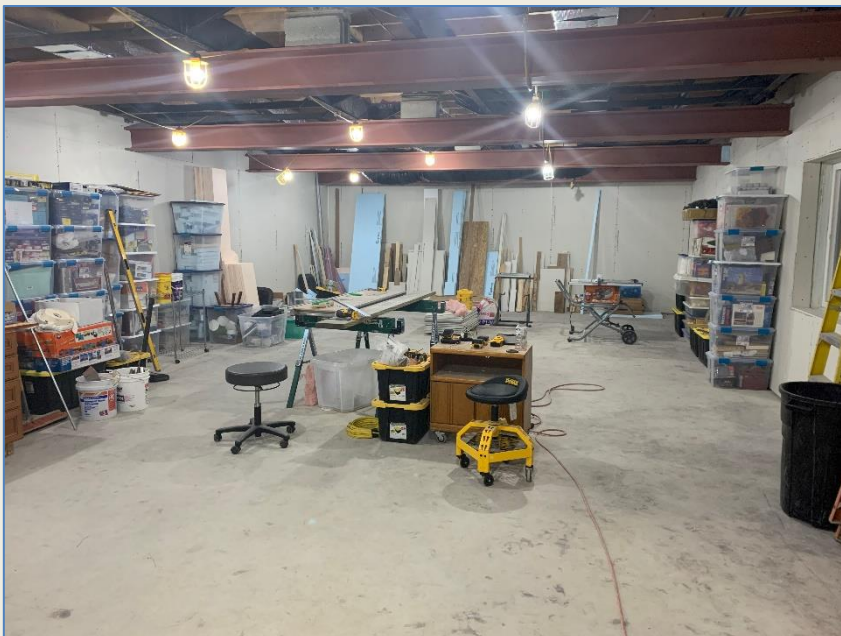
**Submissions:** Please send articles, news items, inquiries, photos and comments to the Editor of **The Yardmaster**, **Dave Vinci** [dj.vinci@frontier.com](mailto:dj.vinci@frontier.com), **by the 1st of the month** for inclusion in the current month's edition.

## From the Desk of the Superintendent

Greetings fellow Division 9 members

Good news on the home front. I finally finished the basement walls 100% complete with the help many hands thanks to them. By the end of October should be ready for final inspection. Another hurdle surmounted. Several included photos show the potential floor space for my train layout 24'x30' with additional room for a

bedroom and full bath. Who knows I might be living next to the layout. Come one come all to our Division 9 conference, it's loaded with activities; Friday night dinner with a guest speaker, layout tours, clinics and OPS sessions. Hope to see you all.



## **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](mailto: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](mailto:N8YNW@charter.net)



## **September 11<sup>th</sup> BOD Meeting**

Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Dave Vinci, Rich Mahaney, Joel Pyard, Casey Bartman, Garry Johnson, Bob Lawrence, Alan Bau

Officer Reports – there were no officer reports as the main topic of this meeting was to update everyone on the status of the October 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Kalamazoo Train Convention.

Rich Mahaney provided an update on the following convention related issues

- Rich indicated that everything is going well so far
- Convention fliers have been distributed to train clubs, local area hobby shops and the Grand Rapids Train Show that will be held in October.
- Signs for layouts & Operating Sessions have been made and will be distributed in the next few weeks.
- Jim Glenn won't be able to run an Operating Session, however, he will be able to have the Layout tour at his home on Friday Evening (October 28<sup>th</sup>).
- Rich will pick up 5 projectors, giving us one backup as we only need 4.
- Rich asked for a volunteer to pick up one of the projectors from Rich at the WMRR membership meeting and deliver it to the Convention. Alan Bau volunteered.
- We have total of 9 registrations so far. 8 from the website and 1 mail-in.
- Dinner count is up to 8 for dinner.
- Casey Bartman indicated that the dinner presentation will be a zoom presentation.
- We will need Joel to make arrangements for the zoom link.

- We need a projector for the dinner meeting.
- Clinic presenters & layout owners are registered for free.
- Rich to send out a memo to presenters & layout owners regarding their registrations.
- Rich asked board members to bring the following items to the convention.
  - TV Trays or Card Tables – Alan Bau indicated he can get 4 card tables from the Kalamazoo Bridge Club.
  - Coolers
  - Small Tools
  - Extension Cords – Bob Lawrence indicated he can bring whatever we need.
- Rich has 3 conventions signs to be displayed outside the church
- We will need to have a small amount of money available at Jim Glenn's and at the church to make change for anyone paying their entrance fee with cash.
- Rich will pick up the lanyards and labels but will need someone to print them. Garry Johnson volunteered.
- We need to get at least 3 volunteers to help out at Jim Glenn's house at the start of the convention.
- Garry Johnson indicated that the Church wants \$500 for renting their facilities.
- Casey said he would forward the registrations fees that have been paid over the internet to Bob Lawrence.
- Rich said that we need to send out reminders to those people who have registered.
- We also need to create a map of all convention tours and operating sessions.
- Casey indicated he would add the clinic sessions to the website in the next week.

Board Elections – Alan Bau – our annual elections will be held at the September meeting during the WMRR visit. There are three board positions up for election. Assistant Superintendent, Treasurer and the Trustee position currently held by Casey Bartman. All three of the current board members are running unopposed, unless we have some last-minute volunteers step forward.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:17PM

Next meeting is scheduled for Sunday October 2 2022 at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Bau  
Division 9 Scribe



## **September Membership Meeting**

Mike Hnatiuk presented our tour and discussion on the West Michigan Railroad facilities and operation for Division 9 September meeting. Great fun, very interesting, more than 20 people attended between Division 9 and the Michiana Division. - Photos by Rich Mahaney











Mike Hnatiuk

## September Annual Meeting

Turnout for the annual meeting held after the presentation on the West Michigan Railroad was low. The members running for the Board of Directors were running unopposed and volunteered to serve another term:

<b>Assistant Superintendent</b>	(Joel Pyard)
<b>Paymaster</b>	(Bob Lowrance)
<b>Trustee</b>	(Casey Bartman)

Thanks for volunteering!



Here's a flatcar load you won't see every day... a WW1 British Mark 4 Tank from Shapeways. This load needs some blocking and some chains to hold it down, but it's a start. Models and photo by D. Vinci

## **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 32<sup>nd</sup> Street N, Springfield, MI 49037**. Registration fees in US Dollars only: late registration fee is \$30 (after September 1, 2022).

For more information or question contact Rich Mahaney at 269-214-4221 or [rcmahaney@gmail.com](mailto:rcmahaney@gmail.com).

-----REGISTRATION FORM/Cut off and send to: **Garry Johnson, 371 32<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## **NMRA NCR DIVISION 9 CLINICS, DESCRIPTIONS AND PRESENTERS**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>NAME</b>			
	<b>ROOM #1</b>	<b>ROOM #2</b>	<b>ROOM #3</b>	<b>ROOM #4</b>
<b>8:30am</b>	<b>1. Mark Cowles</b>	<b>2. Greg Bueltmann</b>	<b>3. Steve Harsh</b>	<b>4. Rich Mahaney</b>
<b>9:45am</b>	<b>5. Barry Hensel</b>	<b>6. Norm Logan</b>	<b>7. Steve Harsh</b>	<b>8. Bob Blake</b>
<b>11:00am</b>	<b>9. Ralph Moxley &amp; Jim Shirreffs</b>	<b>10. Ron Christensen</b>	<b>11. Maynard Mitchell</b>	<b>12. Bill Neale, MMR</b>

### **Clinic Descriptions:**

#### **1. Mark Cowles – “BOATS FOR TRAINS”**

The clinic provides ideas for how boats and railroads intersect with photos of the prototype and of how other modelers have incorporated into their layouts. Emphasis is on, but not limited to, the vessels of the Great Lakes. A number of models will be available to view, and a handout will be provided.

#### **2. Greg Bueltmann – “STAYIN’ ALIVE: INSTALLING KEEP ALIVE CIRCUITS IN DCC LOCOMOTIVES”**

Keep alive circuits allow DCC equipped locomotives to traverse dirty tracks or unfriendly turnouts without stalling or restarting the DCC sound on the engine. These circuits will be explained, and installation techniques reviewed.

#### **3. Steve Harsh – “ADVENTURES IN SCRATCH BUILDING A SMALL TURNTABLE”**

The presentation will explore the various options available for acquiring a small turntable. The various steps involved in scratch building a small turntable will then be illustrated including the wiring and control of the turntable. Also, to be shared is knowledge gained, mistakes made and the cost of construction.

#### **4. Rich Mahaney – “BIG PIPES, AN INDUSTRIAL FACILITY DETAILING ADDITION”**

Many industries use large pipes on the outside of their buildings to move solids, liquids, and gases. This is an item that you can add to your industries for an interesting detail and addition. These pipes actually come painted in a variety of



colors, which can make them stand out. Rich will share images through his photography to give you many examples and ideas.

5. Barry Hensel – **"THE CLOSET EXPANSION"**

In The Closet Expansion, Barry explains how he found more room for another town and industries on his Reading Lines - Central Division HO scale layout. Working on this project was spread-out over a 2-year period, but it has recently been completed! This is an interesting look at using space that one might not feel is usable.

6. Norm Logan – **"DEVELOPING OPERATIONS FOR YOUR RAILROAD"**

There are many books on Train Operations, but none for "YOUR RAILROAD" business. Mr. Logan will discuss how to look at YOUR Railroad and develop traffic, rail car use, and crew handling for all sizes of layouts. Discussion of OPS sessions will also be included.

7. Steve Harsh – **"CONSIDERATIONS IN LIGHTING STRUCTURES"**

The presentation explores some reasons for increased interest in lighting structures and some of the commercial options available for lighting structures. The focus will be on methods and considerations if using the "do-it-yourself" method including power supplies, bulb selection for different purposes, distribution systems, wiring, lighting control and the newer technologies available. These methods and considerations will be illustrated with actual installations.

8. Bob Blake - **"MODELING MOTION"**

Model locomotives and DCC decoders have become much more sophisticated during the past decade. Much of the focus has been on new features including road specific details, lights and sound effects, but they also include much better motor control allowing smoother, more prototypical operation. Modelers can take advantage of this to provide much more realistic operation.

9. Ralph Moxley and Jim Shirreffs – **"BUILDING THE ANN ARBOR RAILROAD LAYOUT"**

Ralph and Jim built Jim's Ann Arbor Railroad in Jim's basement going from Cadillac to the Elberta boat yard and ferry in MI. Ralph built many buildings and scenes as he remembered and traveling to the area for details and photos for use in modeling. Recently built are the "Boat Landing Scene" and the "Marine Office Building" which have been displayed in MI and will be brought for display at the convention. Jim will talk about building the "Michigan Forest Look" for the layout and the use of the product "Magic Water" to make the lakes and rivers.

10. Ron Christensen – **“MODELING BULK OIL DEALERS FOR YOUR LAYOUT?”**

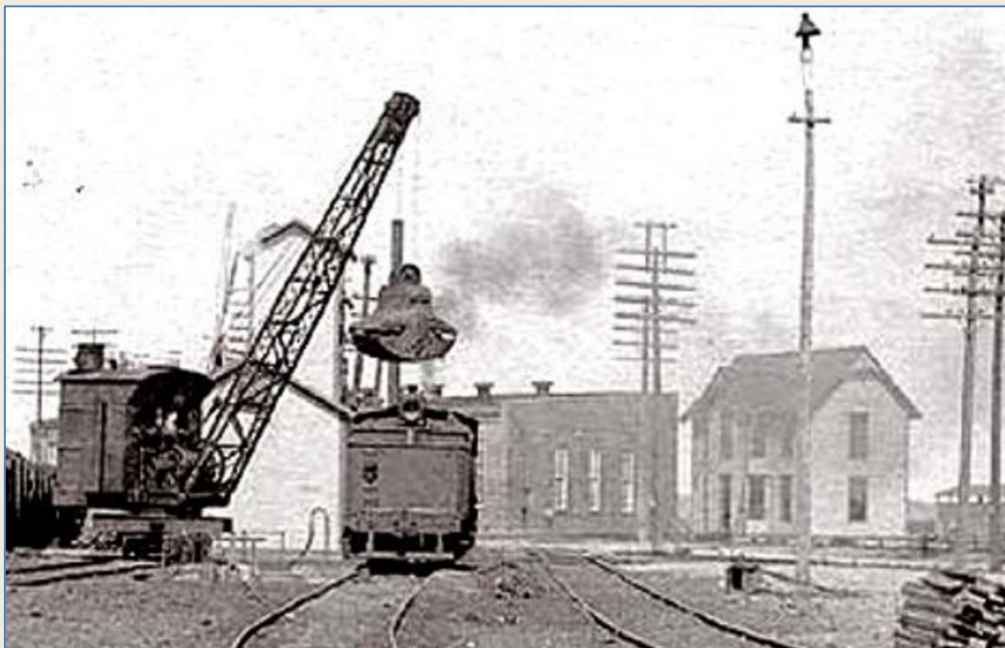
Ron has spent many hours studying and photographing bulk oil dealers over the years. This presentation looks at his findings and how these facilities were in most communities to serve the local gas stations with fuels and oil to sell. Many of these facilities were serviced by the local railroads. This presentation will give you ideas for “scratch building” a facility or improving your “Walthers” kit if you bought one.

11. Maynard Mitchell – **“BUILDING MY C&NW LAYOUT”**

Maynard will share some of his incredible techniques for building his layout, track, scenery, and buildings to give the realistic looks that he is known for.

12. Bill Neale – **“UPGRADING AND REFRESHING A LAYOUT (...or What I Did During the COVID Shutdown)”**

Simple upgrades can make a big impact on the appearance and operation of your layout. This presentation details the improvements I have made to my layout over the past year or so. Most of these improvements can be applied to your layout, and can really improve your enjoyment of the hobby. This clinic includes: fascia & backdrop painting, layout lighting, control systems and the addition of a fully operational signal system.



GR&I Filling a tender with coal. North Yard Cadillac, MI 1910  
From a postcard - GR&I chapter of PRRT&HS Collection



## Division 9 Calendar for October 2022

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Saturday
						1
2 BOD meeting via zoom 4:15pm	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 BOD meeting via zoom 4:15pm	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Div 9 Conv	29 Div 9 Conv
30 Train Show	31 Halloween					

## Division 9 Calendar for November 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 Div 9 Meeting
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30			