



# The Yardmaster

Southwestern Michigan Division



June 2023

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



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### Non-Train Related Special Events

June 6 – D-Day (see photo on page 2)

June 14<sup>th</sup> – Flag Day

June 18<sup>th</sup> – Father's Day

June 21<sup>st</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Summer





## From the Desk of the Superintendent

Greetings fellow Division 9 members

Temperatures would seem to indicate that. Outside projects begin to take on importance over modeling. Saturday, I had to take scaffolding back to Hartford. It just so happened that my grandson who is staying with me came along for the ride. He is my train helper who enjoys seeing trains large and small. Before taking the scaffold back we stopped and viewed the West Michigan Railroad. Two locomotives both of which I remember as a youth are headquartered in Hartford. Both are ex-GTW units 1512 and 4428. In my day both were painted in the olive green color. I have included a picture of my grandson, Jaden arms extended and a grin. Hopefully, I'm passing on the modeling bug.

Time will tell.



## **Division 9 Officers**

<b>Superintendent</b>	- 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	- Bob Lawrence	<a href="mailto:robertlawrence44@msn.com">robertlawrence44@msn.com</a>
<b>Scribe</b> & Newsletter Editor	- Alan Bau	<a href="mailto:alanwbau@gmail.com">alanwbau@gmail.com</a>
<b>Trustee</b>	- 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>

Note: Elections are coming up in September. The positions in red are up for election.



**Yardmaster Submissions:** Please send articles, news items, inquiries, photos and comments to the Editor of **The Yardmaster, Alan Bau** [alanwbau@gmail.com](mailto:alanwbau@gmail.com) , **by the last day of the month** for inclusion in the current month's edition.



This picture was taken on the layout tour at Dale & Deb Kilarney's during the May Layout Tours. More pictures from their layout and Casey Fisher's layouts are displayed on pages 11-13.



## **Upcoming Division Nine Membership Meetings & Events:**

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Presentation Subject</b>
Maynard Mitchell	June 17 <sup>th</sup>	4228 Fawn Ct, Battle Creek, MI	Layout Tour
Board Meeting	July 9 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm	Kalamazoo Bridge Club 648 Maple Hill Drive, Kalamazoo, Mi.	
<b>No Membership Meeting Scheduled</b>	<b>July &amp; August</b>		<b>Enjoy the summer</b>
The agenda will be announced as more details become available.	September 16 <sup>th</sup>	TBD	Annual Business Meeting & Board Elections

**July Board Meeting** will be held on July 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club located at 648 Maple Hill Drive in Kalamazoo. Maple Hill Drive is located between the Old Long John Silver's & Texas Corral Restaurants. The Bridge Club is located in the back of the West Main Place Mall on the lower level. This will be an in-person meeting, but for those unable to attend, a zoom link will be available. Note: Parking is close to the entrance and there are no stairs to gain access to the Bridge Club.

### **Board Meeting Agenda**

- Membership Status Update
- Status of Upcoming Board Elections
- Agenda for September Board Meeting
  - Location ○ Start Time
  - Possible Program Details
    - Refreshments ▪ Election of Officers ▪ 50/50 Raffle
    - Door Prizes ▪ Items for Sale Table ▪ AP Program - Display Items ▪ Show & Tell ▪ Upcoming Event Schedule
  - NMRA Interchange Program

### **September Annual Meeting:**

Mark September 16<sup>th</sup> on your calendar and plan to attend our Annual Meeting to also be held at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club 648 Maple Hill Drive in Kalamazoo. We are planning a very special event requiring more space than is available at the Colonial Kitchen. Look for a tentative agenda to be announced after the upcoming July board meeting. It's Gonna be fun!

## June Layout Visit

Maynard Mitchell Layout Visit scheduled for Saturday June 17 @ 10:00am.  
4228 Fawn Ct, Battle Creek, MI.

If you missed a chance to visit Maynard's layout at the 2-day Kalamazoo Convention last October, then this is another chance that you don't want to pass up. Here are just a few pictures of Maynard's layout to give you a glimpse of what is in store for you in June.







## Upcoming Train Shows

To encourage our members to support local area train shows the following shows are within reasonable driving distance from Kalamazoo.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Event Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
June 11	47th Annual Kane County Railroadiana and Model Train Show	525 S Randall Rd, St. Charles, IL 60174
Aug. 26	Grand Rapids Model Railroad Historical Society Open House	4040 Leland Ave NW, Comstock Park, Mi. 49321
Oct. 14	Greater Grand Rapids Fall Train Show	Wyoming, Mi. HSB, Inc.
Oct. 19-21	<b>2023 NCR Convention</b>	Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. Fort Wayne, In. <a href="https://www.ncrnmra.org">Fort Wayne Rails 2023 – 3 Rivers Division (ncrnmra.org)</a>
Oct. 21	Fort Wayne Model Railroad Show and Swap	Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. Fort Wayne, In.
Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>KMRHS Show and Sale</b>	<b>Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds/Expo Center</b>
Nov. 5	Lansing Model Train Show & Sale	MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing, Mi.

You can click on the above link for more information on the NCR Fort Wayne Convention. There is also a copy of the Convention flyer on the next page.

## NCR 2023 Convention in Fort Wayne, In.

Click on this link for more details.

[Fort Wayne Rails 2023 – 3 Rivers Division \(ncnmra.org\)](https://www.ncnmra.org/fort-wayne-rails-2023)

**ANNOUNCING**  
**NCR 2023 Convention**  
**Oct. 19 – 22, 2023**



Make plans to attend the 2023 NMRA North Central Region Convention that will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The convention, hosted by the Three Rivers Division will include events for the whole family as well as access to the [2023 Fort Wayne Model Railroad Show and Swap](#) which will be held on Saturday 21 October at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum (conveniently located across the street from the convention hotel). Hope you can join us for this fun filled weekend!

Bob Jones, Div. 3 Superintendent

### CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

[CLINICS](#)

[OP SESSIONS](#)

[MODEL DISPLAYS](#)

[PROTOTYPE TOURS](#)

### [SPECIAL EVENTS](#)

[2023 Fort Wayne Model Railroad Show & Swap](#)

Visit [www/div3.ncnmra.org/fort-wayne-rails-2023](https://www.div3.ncnmra.org/fort-wayne-rails-2023) for additional details and updates

**For Sale Items** Do you have an excess inventory of cars, supplies, etc. which are just taking up space and most likely will never be used? You can list these items here and try to sell them, so you can buy more train stuff.



To list your for-sale items here, send your list of items along with a picture if one is available, a description of your item(s) along with your asking price and contact information. If you wish your item(s) to be listed in the upcoming newsletter, you need to submit them along with needed information no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Send your information to [alanwbau@gmail.com](mailto:alanwbau@gmail.com).



**Achievement Program Information** – the Achievement Program Coordinator for Division 9 is Dorman Wilson. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dorman for assistance.

You can also follow along as NMRA Magazine Editor Cinthia Priest continues along her journey to achieve MMR status. See Part Five Titled "The Association Official Certificate, on pages 20-28 in the May 2023 edition.



### **Question of the Month – May Results**

What is your favorite Model Railroad website?

My favorite RR website is on YouTube. [Jason Jensen Trains - YouTube](#)  
It's mainly a teaching aid on building models. He's a great artist and does a fantastic job explaining what he's doing. Greg Stonerock

Garry Johnson's favorite sites, also includes **Jason Jensen Boomer's Dioramas** - [Boomer Diorama | River Road - YouTube](#)  
**Luke Towan** – [Luke Towan - YouTube](#)

### **Question of the Month for June**

Do you plan to attend the Division 9 annual Meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup>? Come alone or bring a friend or two, maybe three?

Results will be published in the July/August Newsletter.

# NMRA NCR Division 9

## May Layout Tours

May 20, 2023

### **Attendance:**

**In-person:** Alan Bau, Bob Lawrence, Bob Kline, Greg Stonerock, Chuck Peterson, Dick DeVisser

### **Layout Tours - Our First Stop was at Casey Fisher's house in Plainwell.**

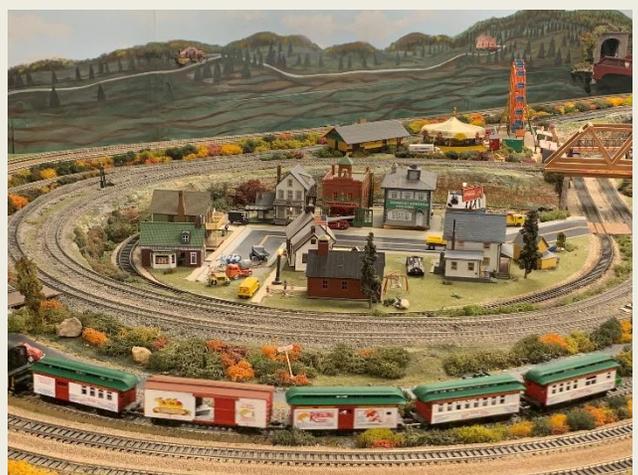
**Casey's Railroad** – a short synopsis.

This railroad was started approximately in 1990 and has been moved twice. It has had several sections added over time and there are wheels mounted so it can be moved. It was cut into sections when transported to its present location in 2002. Construction is basic 2 x 4 and plywood. The Control System is DC with a fair amount of hands-on-wiring. There is a separate room for staging and storage.

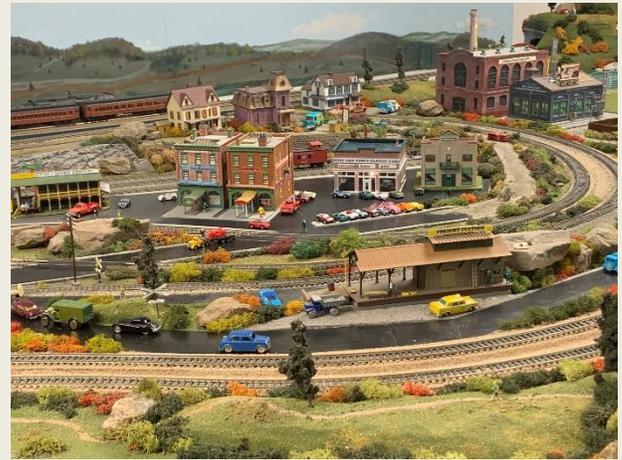
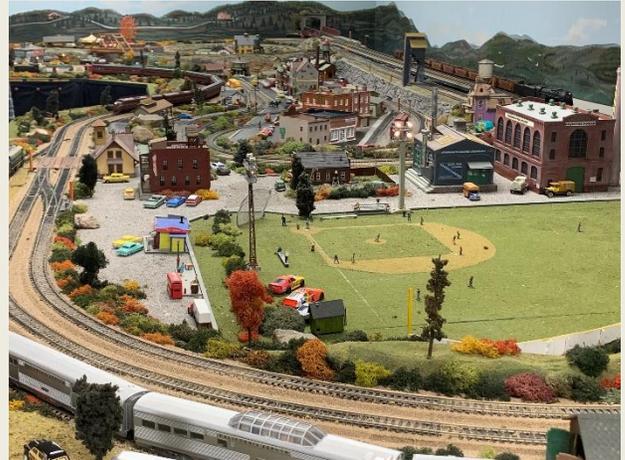
The layout is based on his hometown of Pittsburgh, Pa. and a small southern borough called Dormont. Tracks run through Mount Washington on its way to the Pittsburgh area and past Forbes Field, note there is a game in progress.

The shops and buildings are named after family members and friends. Thanks to **Kitty Fisher** for the great coffee & homemade cookies.

Casey is pictured below along with a few pictures from his layout.



Forbes Field is displayed below:



Casey is a man of many talents. He is an avid golfer and accomplished woodworker. These Intarsia plaques are a small sample of his woodworking skills.

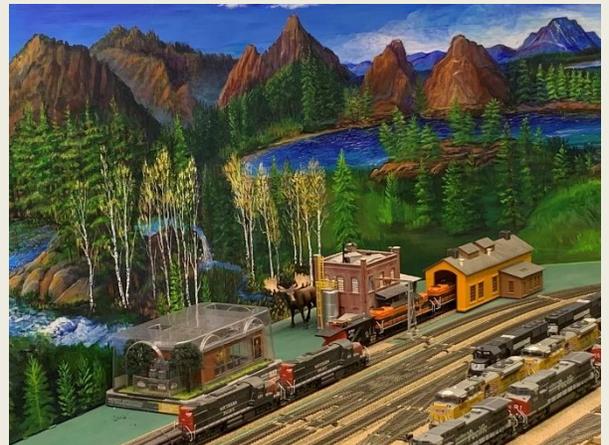
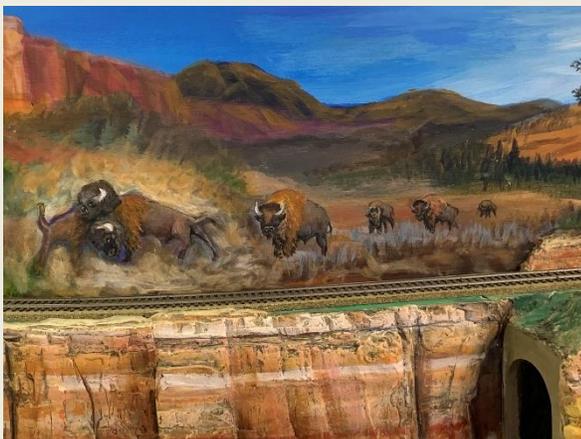
**Our 2<sup>nd</sup> tour on the day was to the home of Dale & Deb Killarney**

Their layout is quite impressive, from the detailed quality track workmanship on display to the outstanding scenery and backdrops painted by Deb. These pictures are a small sampling of the things to see on their layout.

**Dale Killarney**



**Deb Killarney**



## Ask Dave – June 2023

“There is one problem that many people encounter when upgrading wheelsets from plastic to metal. The wheelset in Figure 1 always gives me great difficulty in changing out the wheels. It typically falls apart, I lose a spring or two and I can't seem to solve the problem. Any suggestions?”



The change from plastic wheels to metal ones is desirable for a number of reasons ie: current pick-up, lower tendency to accumulate crud, better rolling capability, to name a few.

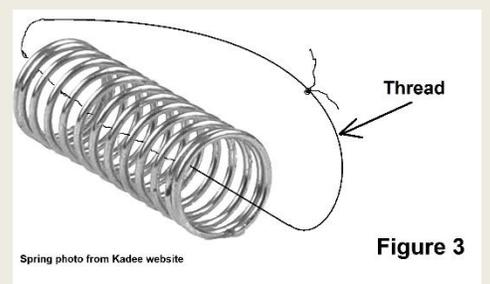
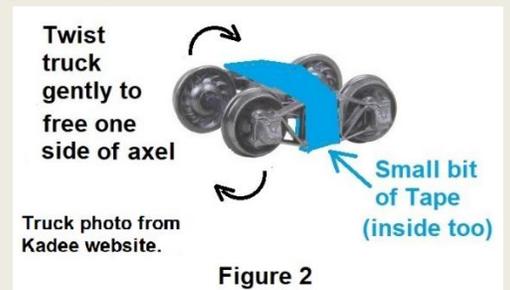
Solid Delrin trucks are easiest to change by just spreading the plastic truck and removing the wheelsets. Then you can do the same process in reverse to install the new metal wheelset. Be mindful that many metal wheelsets are insulated on one side and pick up current on the other. Make sure the insulated wheels are on the same side of the truck to prevent an electrical short. Yeah, I know, “Thank-you Captain Obvious.” It’s a common mistake that just about everyone will make at some point.

Sprung trucks are a different animal. They can be made of metal or plastic, and they take a little special handling. First, I recommend buying extra truck springs from Kadee (part #637 for most HO scale sprung trucks with a couple exceptions) Go to the following website for more information:

<https://www.kadee.com/637-ho-scale-truck-springs-for-all-ho-sprung-trucksexcept-513-555>

Having a supply of spare truck springs and spare coupler springs is always a good idea. Those little buggers will fly off into the ether at the slightest provocation.

Here’s a couple of suggestions for handling sprung trucks. Place a small strip of tape (I use blue painter’s tape) around the center of the truck before you attempt to remove the wheelsets. (Fig 2) Make sure you have a small piece on the inside of the truck to help keep the truck from falling apart. Then replace the wheelsets one at a time by gently twisting the truck until one end of the axel can be removed from the journal hole. Twist the truck as little as possible. Then remove the wheelset and return the truck to its normal orientation. Install the new all metal wheelset by following the same procedure in reverse. Then, you can check to see that the springs are still in Page 2 of 2 place. If you still lose a spring, put the new wheelset in place and remove the tape on the

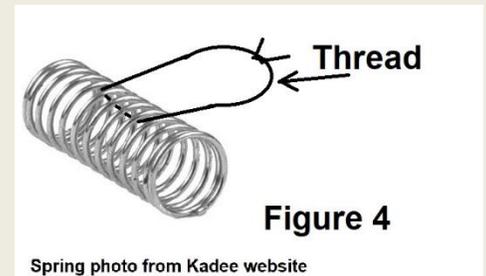


outside of the truck where the lost spring was and install a new one. Replace the tape and do the other wheelset.

One other suggestion I have run across is to run a thread through the new spring so you can hang onto it during the installation process. (Fig 3) Once the new spring is in place you can cut the thread and remove it.

Some folks run the thread just through a few coils in the center of the spring (Fig 4) so there is no interference with the small pins that hold the spring in place. I've done it both ways and still lost a spring or two.

There is also a special tool to insert truck and coupler springs available at Micro Mark (part #81029) for \$8.95. It works pretty well with some practice. Some folks do okay with a #11 knife blade, YMMV.



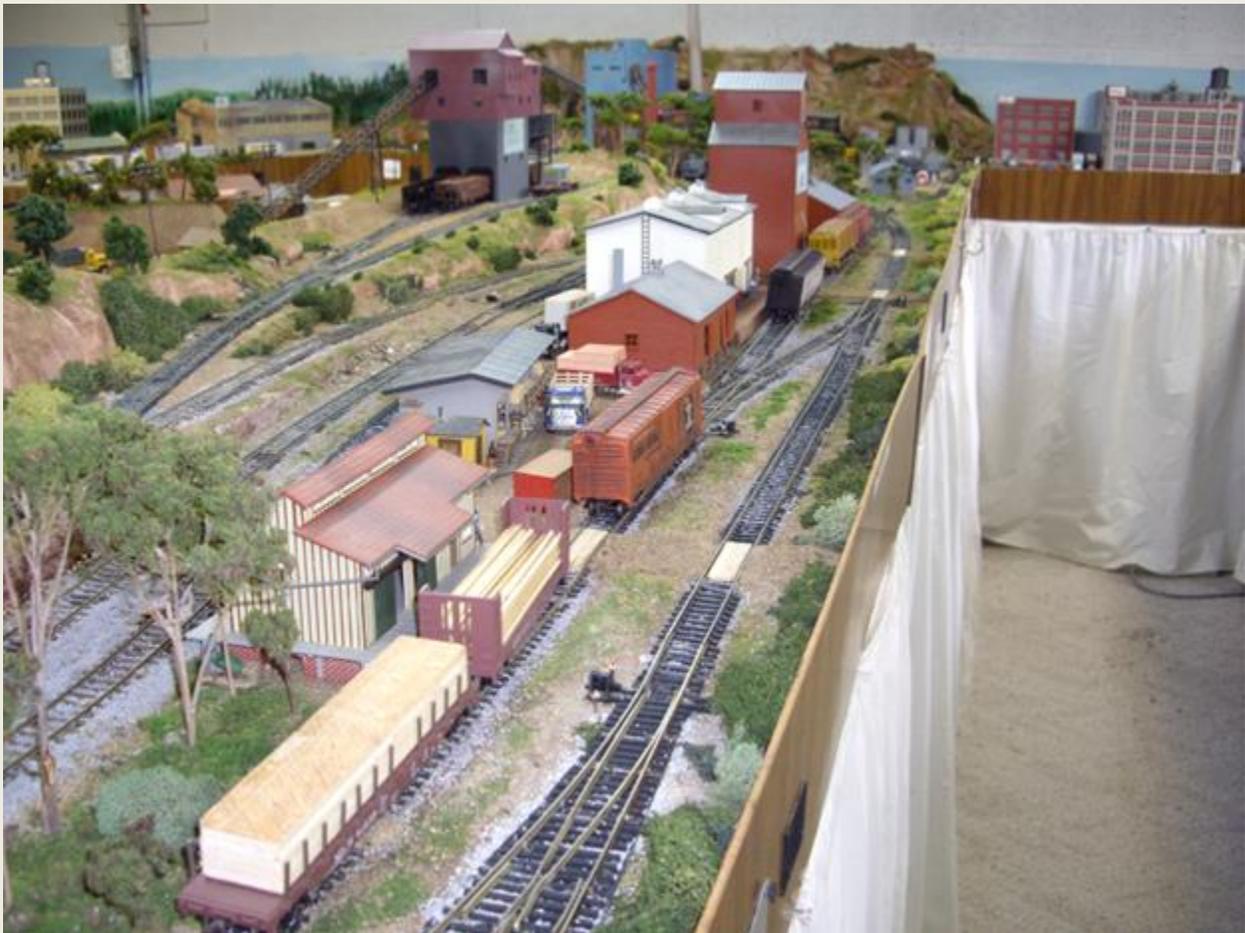
There is a small group of modelers who are bothered by the fact that you can see through the springs on sprung model trucks. That is not the case on the prototype as there are springs within the springs and behind the springs visible from the side. So what these folks do is place a piece of styrene rod inside the springs to fill the space. If that see-thru condition bothers you, you could switch to plastic/Delrin trucks that don't have the problem. Both of these truck types operate well so it's your choice.

I hope you find this helpful. **Dave Vinci**



Once you place an industry, there are several things you will need to decide:

- What does your industry ship and receive?
- What kinds of cars will service the industry?
- How many cars will the spur hold?
- How often will the industry be served?
- What train/trains will serve the industry?



Here is another spur. Now there are two industries and a runaround. The lumber yard receives dimensional lumber and building supplies. The grain elevator receives grain, sacks for flour, and miscellaneous supplies. This spur will handle three 50-foot cars at the lumber yard and three 50-foot cars at the elevator. Flat cars, bulkhead cars, box cars, and covered hoppers visit this spur. The spur is served during every op session.

With a simple couple of spurs, you can start to plan operations on your railroad.

## Wrap-up for another month

- I would like to take this time to encourage all of our members to attend the June layout tour and Maynard Mitchell's. Then take a couple of months off, work on your layout, help a friend, take a vacation, take in a ball game, and then gear up to participate in the annual Membership Meeting in September.
- To our newer members just getting started on your layout, if you are like me you probably have lots of questions on a myriad of topics related to model railroading. I encourage you to submit your questions to Dave Vinci at [dj.vinci@frontier.com](mailto:dj.vinci@frontier.com). Dave has a wealth of model railroading knowledge which he is very willing share with anyone that asks.
- Rich Mahaney's column will return next month.
- We have a full slate of candidates for the upcoming election of Board Members, but it isn't much of an election if there is only one candidate running for each office. It isn't too late to throw your hat in the ring.
- If you have any suggestions for the upcoming September Membership Meeting, please forward them to [alanwbau@gmail.com](mailto:alanwbau@gmail.com) at your earliest convenience. We are looking for ideas to make this a truly memorable event.
- Finally, if you have any suggestions, comments, criticisms, etc. concerning the Yardmaster, I would really like to hear them.

That's it for another month.

Hope to see you at Maynard Mitchell's and again at the annual Membership Meeting in September.

Alan Bau