



The Yardmaster

Southwestern Michigan Division



October 2023

Website: www.ncr-div9.com



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Non-Train Related Special Events

Halloween October 31st

Columbus Day – October 9th



Editor's Comments

Thanks to everyone that attended the Annual Membership Meeting on September 23rd. We had a total of 15 members and 2 guests. This is the highest number of attendees in several years.

FYI – Like most groups such as Model Railroading or Bridge, we have similar issues to deal with, such as our average age and our desire to get younger as a group. Just trying to grow the organization is difficult by itself, but trying to reduce the average age of the group leads to the complexity of the issue.

The NMRA has recently brought on Lucy Dormant to manage the Social Media initiatives for the purpose of trying to deal with helping recruit younger members. She recently gave an interview to a Model Railroading Organization, where she said that if we want to get younger as an organization, we need to be more active in Social Media circles in which the younger crowd is active. It is my understanding that she will be involved in organizing and managing this initiative.

It will be interesting to see where this goes and if the hoped for impact becomes reality.



Division 9 Officers

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



HOT OFF THE PRESS

Division 9 will be participating in the Fall 2023 Kalamazoo Train Show.

As part of our on-going recruiting efforts, we decided at the last board meeting to participate in the Spring 2024 Kalamazoo Train Show for the purpose of promoting the NMRA, NCR and Division 9.

However, over the last few days it has been determined that we can participate in the Fall 2023 Train Show, rather than wait for next Spring. The show is on Sunday October 29, 2023. The doors open at 10:00AM and the show closes at 3:00 PM.

We need a few volunteers to man the table and answer questions. If you would like to volunteer, please respond to this email. You don't have to be present the entire time, anything will be helpful.

Upcoming Division Nine Membership Meetings & Events:

Presenter	Date	Location	Presentation Subject
Board Meeting	October 1 st 2:00 PM	Kalamazoo Bridge Club 648 Maple Hill Drive, Kalamazoo, Mi.	
Membership Meeting 3 Layout Tours in Grand Rapids	October 28 th NEW DATE		
Membership Meeting	November 18th	"Ice and Icing Operations"	Zoom clinic with Doug Harding
Membership Meeting	December 16th	GR&I Part 2	Joel Pyard

Upcoming Membership Meeting Details – provided by Rich Mahaney

October 28, 2023 - Division 9 Meeting

Due to the NCR Fall Convention in Fort Wayne, IN, the Division 9 meeting has been moved from the third Saturday in October to the fourth Saturday in October. Oct 21 to Oct 28 by the Division 9 Board. FYI – Division 4 has been invited to join us.

On October 28th, Division 9 will be travelling to view three Grand Rapids area railroad club layouts, meeting at the first club at 9am on Saturday morning. The first stop at 9am will be at River Bend Model Railroad Club, which is the home of the Superior Northern Railroad. Division 9 last visited this layout under construction in the fall of 2019. The club is located in the basement of the Sunset Manor Nursing Home in Jenison, at 725 Baldwin Street. Enter the Nursing Home through the door marked F. Just inside the building, you will find an elevator that will take you down to the basement, follow the signs in the hallway to the model railroad club. You will pass a bathroom on the way to the club. Door F is on Baldwin Street side of the building under a covered entrance, there is plenty of free parking in the parking lot. The Superior Northern Railroad is an HO layout and crosses the Upper Peninsula of the State of Michigan involving several railroads moving iron ore, timber, and other loads. This is a two-level layout using metal benchwork. I estimate our visit to last about an hour before we head to the second layout.

The second layout on the tour is the Grand River Valley Model Railroad Club, which is located at 2405 Porter Street SW in Wyoming, MI. We should be arriving around 10:30am. The club is actually hosting an open house this Saturday from 10am to 4pm, which is perfect for this stop for us. The Grand River Valley Club is a multi-scale club with layouts built by members in HO scale, N scale, garden scale, S gauge, and whatever else the members have an interest in. The Grand River Valley Club is also the sponsor of the Oct 14, 2023 Train Show, at the HSB in Wyoming

and is the producer of "The Train Show List", that is emailed to many people about train show dates and locations in MI, IN and OH. We will enter the building Byron Center at the back of the building. I estimate we should be heading to our third layout around 11:30am. I would recommend a "drive through" fast food lunch on the way to the third layout.

We should be arriving at our third layout around noon time. Our third layout is the Grand Rapids Model Railroad Historical Society (GRMRHS) (more commonly known as the Pere Marquette layout or club), which is located at 4040 Leland Ave NW in Comstock Park, north of Grand Rapids. Get off highway 131 by the White Caps ballpark and head back south on West River Dr to the park, the club is located in the building on the backside of the Dwight Lydell Park. After you get on West River Dr, there is a McDonalds and a Speedway gas station if you need anything on your way to the club. The Pere Marquette Railroad Club has been modeling the Pere Marquette Railroad on a large two-level HO layout across the state of Michigan including going all of the way north to Traverse City and Petosky. Visitors will recognize scenes and towns across central and west Michigan all of the way down to St Joseph, MI, as trains travel on to Chicago that came from Detroit. There is a large area involving Wyoming and Grand Rapids, MI. The GRMRHS was the host for the 2012 NMRA Convention.

Don't forget to visit Grand Rapids area hobby shops in Grand Rapids, Wyoming, and Grandville on your own travel time before heading home.



Upcoming Train Shows

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

Dates	Event Name	Location
Oct. 14	Greater Grand Rapids Fall Train Show	Wyoming, Mi. HSB, Inc.
Oct. 15	32 nd Annual Chicago Railroadiana & Model Train Show & Sale	Kane County Fairgrounds, 525 Randall Rd., St. Charles, Il.
Oct. 19-21	2023 NCR Convention	Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. Fort Wayne, In. Fort Wayne Rails 2023 – 3 Rivers Division (ncrnmra.org)
Oct. 21	Fort Wayne Model Railroad Show and Swap	Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. Fort Wayne, In.
Oct. 22	Taylor Town Train Show	Taylor Town Trade Center, 22525 Ecorse Rd. Taylor Mi.
Oct. 29	KMRHS Show and Sale	Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds/Expo Center
Nov. 5	Lansing Model Train Show & Sale	MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing, Mi.
Nov. 18	Grand Rapids Model Railroad Historical Society Open House	4040 Leland Ave NW, Comstock Park, Mi. 49321
Nov. 18	Maumee Valley Model Railroad Show & Swap	Classic Cafe Catering & Event Center, 4832 Hillegas Rd. Fort Wayne, In.

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 \(ncrmra.org\)](https://www.ncrmra.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.ncrmra.org/fort-wayne-rails-2023](https://www.div3.ncrmra.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 25th of the month.

Send your information to alanwbau@gmail.com.



AP Achievement Program – Dorman Wilson with the assistance of Rick Garthe reviewed a Diorama created by Alan Bau for the purpose of demonstrating the process of reviewing a member's application for the Achievement Program. To achieve a certificate for scenery it needs to be at least 32 sq. ft. This diorama was only 4 sq. ft. but it served its purpose.

To further describe this program the following was taken from the NMRA Website. [Achievement Program | National Model Railroad Association \(nmra.org\)](https://www.nmra.org/Achievement-Program)

"The AP requirements are a set of standards, but they can also serve as a set of guideposts for those who are new, near-new, and not-so-new to the hobby. Not because they lead to some sort of official pat-on-the-back, but because they are a source of ideas for projects that can help us learn to become better modelers."

"Briefly, the AP is a system of requirements for demonstrating a superior level of skill in various aspects of our hobby. It covers not only building various types of models, but also building other things which are important to the hobby, such as scenery, structures, track work, and wiring. It also recognizes service to the hobby and the NMRA, which are important as well. The Achievement Program is also a personal commitment to share one's knowledge with others and to encourage them as they also make the AP journey."

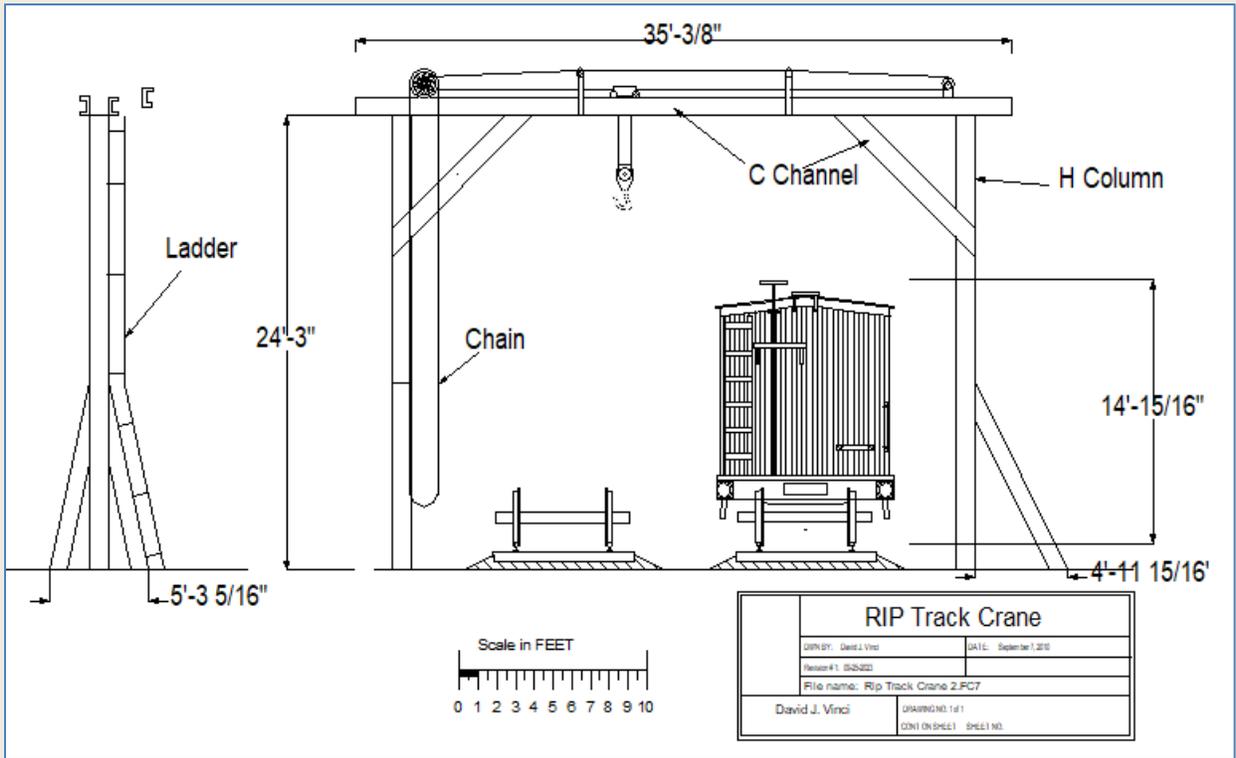
Ask Dave – October 2023 -- Build a RIP (Repair in Place) Track

Here are 3 photos of the RIP track I built for my model railroad.

All you really need is a track in your yard area that will hold an average freight car. In my case, I picked the service track that ran behind the Coal tower and Sand facility. You will need a crane substantial enough to lift a freight car off its truck on at least one end. This was done by rigging a sling around one end of the car and using the crane to do the lifting.



There are lots of possible variations in design and details. For instance, you could have 2 cranes, one to lift the car and another to lift the trucks. Maybe the 2nd crane is a different type of crane. Maybe the crane and the rigging are both electric. I chose to have a chain fall to move the horizontal position of the lifting hook and just made the operation of the hook electric. Other details could include trash drums, spare trucks or wheelsets, step ladders, sawhorses, lumber, hand tools and some employees hard at work or gold bricking. I added an outhouse nearby. Use your imagination and have fun with it. If you have the space, you could also have 2 tracks as the drawing on the next page shows. The drawing is made to show some of the possible construction details.



Rich's Travels

Rich Mahaney travels around quite a bit and likes to take train photos. Starting with this edition we are adding a new column in the Yardmaster of photos that Rich takes while on the road. Rich takes all of the photos included in this column.

These pictures are of a CN east bound at Vicksburg 9/3/23

962 - head end



0971 - distributed power in the middle



0974 - two white tank cars are DOT 105 tank cars transporting chlorine



0964 - lots of tank cars/hazmat in this train



The Saginaw Railway Museum in Saginaw, MI.

The Saginaw Valley Railroad Historical Society was founded in 1982 to preserve and display to the public, artifacts and information which is significant to the history of American railroading. The Historical Society is officed in a 1907 Pere Marquette railroad depot on the grounds of the Saginaw, MI property. There is lots of railroad equipment displayed on the property to see and photograph. There is a model railroad in the basement of the depot to see. The depot and the railroad equipment display are located at 900 Maple St in Saginaw. There is a fence around the property so you can't just walk around the property when the museum is closed, you can see the railroad equipment through the fence. The museum is not open every day or every weekend, so it is best to check their website for open days and hours before you drive to Saginaw. Lots of interesting railroad equipment on the property to see! There is no admission fee, but they do take donations.

Displays include several cabooses, two GP 9's from the GTRR, box cars, a GE 25 ton engine and a Consumers Power RS1 engine, passenger cars and some structures that have been moved to the site.

It is a worthwhile stop to visit if you are going to or by the Saginaw area!

Rich Mahaney



These pictures were taken by Ricch during his visit to the Saginaw Railway Museum.





More photos taken by Rich Mahaney during his visit to the Saginaw Railway Museum



Overview of the Annual Membership Meeting:

- The day started with coffee and donuts.
- At the start of the meeting Alan Bau presented an overview of the history of the Kalamazoo Bridge Club.
- Next we elected Division 9 Officers. Elected were Garry Johnson (Superintendent, Alan Bau (Scribe) and Doug VanMeter (Trustee)
- This was followed by Jim Glenn reviewing the history of forming Division 9.
- Dorman Wilson then reviewed the NMRA Achievement Program and along with the help of Rick Garthe evaluated a diorama of a city park that was modeled by Alan Bau.
- Rich Mahaney went over the tentative upcoming event schedule for the remainder of 2023 and 2024.
- The drawing of door prizes and the 50/50 raffle was next.
- Rich Mahaney gave his presentation on "Potatoes & the Railroad Traffic" clinic.
- The day wrapped up with an open discussion on several topics.

Pictures from the Division 9 Annual Membership Meeting

Alan Bau starting things off with an overview of the Kalamazoo Bridge Club



Jim Glenn presenting a history on the formation of Division 9



Dorman Wilson presenting an overview of the NMRA Achievement Program.

Pictured below is the model used in AP review conducted by Dorman Wilson and assisted by Rick Garthe. Model created by Alan Bau



Pictured left is Deb & Dale Kilarney

Pictured right clockwise is Greg Marvin, Jim Fankhauser, Greg Stonerock, Merrick Willson, Rick Garthe, Dick DeVisser, Connie Vinci, Dorman Wilson & Joel Pyard.



This next group of pictures are members and guests working on their identification of incoming and outgoing railroad traffic as part of Rich Mahaney's clinic on "Potatoes & Railroad Traffic". Each group was tasked with coming up with a list of incoming and outgoing materials, supplies, equipment, finished products, waste, etc. along with the mode of transportation of each item related to a specific industry for various potato products. Then each group presented their findings to the other groups. Very eye opening as to what is all involved in the Potato Industry.

Pictured above - starting on the left bottom and moving clockwise - are Greg Marvin, Alan Bau, Dave Vinci, Connie Vinci & Dorman Wilson



Pictured above starting on the left - Rick Garthe, Joel Pyard, Bob Lawrence, and Dick DeVisser



Pictured below are Merritt Wilson, Greg Stonerock, Rick Garthe, Joel Pyard & Bob Lawrence



Pictured below are Dale Kilarney, Deb Kilarney, Jim Fankhauser & Jim Glenn



NMRA NCR Division 9

September 23, 2023

Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

Location – Kalamazoo Bridge Center

(Minutes are not yet approved)

Attendance:

In-person - Joel Pyard, Alan Bau, Bob Lawrence, Rich Mahaney, Greg Stonerock, Jim Fankhauser, Dorman Wilson, Rick Garthe, Jim Glenn, Deb Kilarney, Dale Kilarney, Merrick Wilson, Dave Vinci, Connie Vinci (Guest), Greg Marvin (Guest), Dick DeVisser.

Zoom – Marilyn Holm

Prior to the meeting start there was coffee & donuts available

Meeting was Called to Order by Joel Pyard, substituting for Garry Johnson at 9:00AM

Paymaster Report – Bob Lawrence informed the group that we were selling tickets to a 50/50 Raffle, and there would be door prizes later in the meeting.

There were no other officer reports.

Alan Bau thanked all attendees for coming to the Annual Membership Meeting and gave a brief overview of the history and logistics of the Kalamazoo Bridge Club.

Since there are a few new members and guests, each member introduced themselves.

Election of Officers

Next on the agenda was the election of Officers which are Superintendent, Scribe and the Trustee position held by Doug VanMeter. Since there was only one candidate for each of the three positions, Rich Mahaney made a motion to unanimously elect the three candidates. This motion was seconded by Greg Stonerock and passed.

NCR-Division 9 History - Jim Glenn, one of the founding members of Division 9, presented a history on the forming NCR-Division 9 back in 2013.

Achievement Program

This part of the meeting was intended to provide an overview of what is involved in judging an application for a segment of the NMRA Achievement Program. To assist in this process, Alan Bau brought a diorama of a city park scene set in the transition era. Dorman Wilson, the Division 9 AP Coordinator described the steps of what he looks for in making his judgement. Dorman was assisted by Rick Garthe. Once the analysis is completed, a report is submitted to the NCR Achievement Program Coordinator for review and if approved it is sent on to the NMRA for final approval and issuance of the appropriate certificate. There will be more information included in the October Yardmaster Newsletter.

Upcoming Events – Rich Mahaney discussed upcoming events for the balance of 2023 and described what he is looking at for the first half of 2024. This will be reviewed with the board in the October meeting.

Door Prizes & Raffle

Door Prizes were then drawn from a hat and the winner of the 50/50 raffle was announced.

Clinic

Rich Mahaney then conducted a clinic he calls “Potatoes and Railroad Traffic”. The meeting attendees broke up into groups to identify the materials, supplies, equipment, etc. needed to produce a given product along with mode of transportation to the plant. Then we did the same thing on what was going to be shipped out, including final products, waste, etc. and again mode of transportation. After a few minutes each group presented what they came up with to the group.

Open Discussion

The final segment of the Annual Meeting was an open discussion on a variety of topics, including future meeting locations, recruiting programs, Yardmaster Content, Comments, Suggestions, etc. A couple of ideas that were presented is to see if the NMRA can send an email to someone in Division 9 for all new Division 9 members as they sign up, rather than us waiting until we get the quarterly reports. This would allow us to welcome the new member on a timelier basis. Another suggestion was to see if we could develop some hands-on clinics.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately noon.

Respectfully Submitted.

Alan Bau

Division 9 Scribe

Division 9 Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday October 1 2:00 PM

Kalamazoo Bridge Club

(Minutes are not yet approved)

Attendees – In-Person: Garry Johnson, Joel Pyard, Bob Lawrence, Alan Bau, Rich Mahaney

Zoom Attendees – Dave Vinci

Meeting was called to order by Garry Johnson - Superintendent

- **Officer Reports**

- **Paymaster** – Bob Lawrence reported that we spent approximately \$187 on the Annual Membership meeting (Gift Cards \$120, Refreshments \$45 and Raffle Tickets \$22) The sale of the 50/50 raffle tickets netted \$20). Bob Lawrence suggested that we consider offering something other than Gift Cards, such as a small bag of modeling tools in future drawings. Another consideration is to offer a welcome package to new members. Another possibility is to offer incentives to members to encourage them to participate in Show & Tell Programs. It was suggested that we could run the 50/50 raffle more often.
- **50/50 Raffle** – Dave Vinci asked the question if there were any tax implications for running a 50/50 raffle, such as reporting of income to winners. Bob Lawrence said he didn't think that applies to small raffles, but he would investigate and get back to the group.
- **Scribe** – Alan Bau Expressed appreciation to the Kalamazoo Bridge Club for allowing us to use the facility. Alan reported that our membership stats are the same (36 members) as it was when last reported.
- **Board Election Results** - Joel Pyard reported that Garry Johnson, Alan Bau & Doug VanMeter were unanimously re-elected to their current positions.
- **Schedule of Upcoming Events – Rich Mahaney**
 - October – Layout Tours in the Grand Rapids area.
 - River Bend Model Railroad Club located in the Sunset Manor Nursing Home located at 725 Baldwin St. in Jenison, Mi.,
 - Grand River Valley Model Railroad Club located at 2405 Porter St. SW, Wyoming Mi.
 - Grand Rapids Model Railroad Historical Society located at 4040 LeLand Avenue NW in Comstock Park, Mi.
 - November – Colonial Kitchen in Kalamazoo
 - Doug Harding Clinic on the Icing Industry – followed by a local layout tour.
 - December – Kalamazoo Bridge Club
 - GR&I Part 2 by Joel Pyard
 - January – TBD
 - February – Kalamazoo Bridge Club
 - Operations Clinic by Andy Keeny

- March – Layout Tour of Andy Keeny’s Layout, which will include an Ops Session.
- April – Visit to the Sturgis Model Railroad Club is being considered.
- May – Visit to Turkeyville is being considered.
- June – Tour of Coldwater Little River Train and workshops is being considered.
- **Clinic Speaker Expenses**
 - A question has come up regarding speakers requesting reimbursement for expenses when they travel to Kalamazoo for a clinic presentation. After a brief discussion, it was decided that we are not in a position to do this at this time.
- **Recruiting Programs**
 - In addition to asking NMRA to notify us of new Division 9 members on a timelier basis, we had a discussion about requesting the Kalamazoo Model Railroad Historical Society to allow us to set up a table at their Train Show in the spring of 2024 for the purpose of recruiting new NMRA members. Alan Bau volunteered to contact Jim Glen about this possibility.
 - Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Alan Bau
Division 9 Scribe

Wrap-up for another month

First off, I want to express my appreciation to the Kalamazoo Bridge Club (pictured here) for allowing us the use of their facility. There are several advantages to using the Bridge Club for our meetings. It is in a convenient location with lots of close-by parking, there are no steps to enter the building, it is quiet, has plenty of room, good lighting, good internet connection and no interruptions. This doesn't mean that we will cease using other locations when appropriate.



It was nice to see so many members and guests at our last annual meeting. There was a total of 15 members and 2 guests. This was the largest group attending a meeting since I have been a member. It would be great to be able to build on that going forward.

I would remind all of our members that we have some great resources available for answering questions. Dave Vinci is our main source, so if you have questions, feel free to contact Dave or respond to this email and I will see that your questions are forwarded onto Dave.

Dave's email is banjodave.prr@gmail.com

Alan's email is alanwbau@gmail.com

Remember to attend the Kalamazoo Train Show on Sunday October 29th and volunteer to man our table to promote Division 9 and help us recruit new members. Doors open at 10:00AM and close at 3:00 PM.

Mark your calendars for the next Membership Meeting on Saturday October 28th for layout tours in the Grand Rapids area. If anyone needs a ride, please let me know.

Alan Bau
Division 9 Scribe & Newsletter Editor