



The Yardmaster

Southwestern Michigan Division



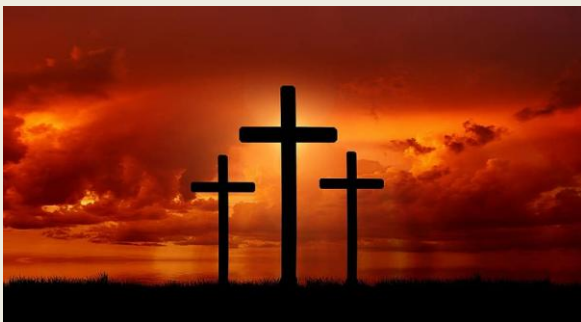
April 2026 Website: <https://div9.ncrnmra.org>

Division Nine Mission Statement

Our mission is to foster a welcoming community for model railroad enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels. We strive to share knowledge, inspire creativity, and promote the enjoyment of model railroading through collaboration, education, and hands-on activities. Together, we celebrate the rich history and artistry of railroading while building lasting friendships and memories.

Non-Train Related Holidays & Special April 2026

April 1st April Fool's Day
April 5th Easter
April 22nd – Earth Day
April 28th – Arbor Day



Featured Articles this Month:

Pages

Mission Statement	1
Editor's Comments	2
Board Members Contact Information	2
Rail Pass Details	2
New Member	2
Upcoming Events Schedule	3
Norm Logan Clinic	4-7
Show & Tell	8
Rolling Stock Workshops	9
Division of Choice	9
Battle Creek RR Club History	10-11
Kalamazoo Train Show	12
NCR 3-day Div 4 Convention Information	13
NY Central Historical Society	14
On-The-Road Again – Garry Johnson	15-19
Blast From the Past	20-24
Rich's Travels	25-27
Local Area Layout Update	28-35
Wrap Up	36



Editor's Comments

The March meeting attracted 15 train enthusiasts, including three guests, who attended a session focused on improving rolling stock performance. Norm Logan delivered an informative presentation highlighting the significance of maintaining quality rolling stock. Due to the comprehensive nature of the discussion, there was insufficient time for members to test or address issues with their own cars during the meeting. Please note that a future meeting will be dedicated exclusively to member testing and enhancements of their chosen rolling stock. Further details will be provided in due course.



Division 9 Board Members

Position	Board Member	Email address
Superintendent	Garry Johnson	elecsprk@gmail.com
Assistant Superintendent	Open	
<u>Paymaster</u>	Bob Lawrence	robertlawrence44@msn.com
<u>Scribe</u>	Greg Marvin	grmarvin@comcast.net
<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	Alan Bau	alanwbau@gmail.com
<u>Website Manager</u>	Tony Vacha	CKRHandler@aol.com
<u>Trustee</u>	Doug Van Meter	vanmeterda@gmail.com



NEW RECRUITING PROGRAM

NMRA Rail Pass Want to "test drive" the NMRA for a little while?

Sign up for our [9-month Rail Pass trial membership](#) for only \$19.95! This Includes 9 months of the *Digital NMRA Magazine*.

The Rail Pass offer is good in the U.S. only and is for new members and those who have not been NMRA members for two years or more. Individuals can join at the Rail Pass rate only once. Rail Pass members can attend conventions and participate in contests, but cannot hold office or vote in NMRA events. Membership will renew at the regular membership rate.

To encourage model railroad fans to join the NMRA, Division Nine will pay the fee for the 9-Month Rail Pass Trial Membership for any new Division Nine member.

We Have a New Member!

We would like to welcome **John Forrest** as a new member of the NMRA and Division Nine. John is friend of Frank Zajek and member of the Kalamazoo Historical Model Railroad Club. John is the first one to take advantage of our New Recruiting Program.

Upcoming Division Nine Membership Meetings & Events:

Meetings & Events	Date	Location	Presenter & Topic
Board Meeting	April 12 th	Bob Lawrence's House	
Membership Meeting	April 18 th	K'zoo County Expo Center	Operating Session
Membership Meeting	May 9 th	Bill Nichols Layout	Operating Session
NY Central Train Ride	May 16 th	Meet at the Delta Hotel	
Rolling Stock Workshop Session - Tentative	June 20 th	Kalamazoo Bridge Club	Hands-on test & repair your rolling stock. Bring your own supplies & tools.
Board Meeting	July 12 th	TBD	
Local Layout Tours - Tentative	July 18 th	TBD	
Family Picnic - Tentative	August 22 nd	TBD	
Annual Meeting	September 19 th	Kalamazoo Bridge Club	
Board Meeting	October 4 th	TBD	
Membership Meeting	October 17 th	TBD	
Membership Meeting	November 21 st	TBD	
Membership Meeting	December 18 th	Jim Fankhauser's	Breakfast & TBD

Overview of upcoming events.

April 18th - Kalamazoo Model Railroad Club has invited Division 9 members to participate in an operating session on their new layout. Join them in moving freight cars on their layout in trains to communities and industries. See their new signaling system operate other special features on their new layout.

May 9th – We are trying to set up an Operating Session on Bill Nichols layout. This will be an evening session starting at **6:00 PM**. This will be hosted by Sheila Nicholes/Kevin Kizer, 5746 West VW Ave, Schoolcraft, MI, (west of Schoolcraft on VW, off of 131). We need 10 operators, so we would appreciate you letting us know if you plan to attend. To sign up please contact Tony Vacha at 269-720-7571 or Kevin Kizer at 269-244-5634.

There will be no morning Membership Meeting in May.

May 16th – Participate with the New York Central Railroad Historical Society train ride day along with other activities.

June 20th – We tentatively plan to host a hands-on Rolling Stock Testing and Repair Workshop. Participants are encouraged to bring their own rolling stock, supplies, and any tools they wish to use. If you're unsure about which tools to bring, consider starting with the list provided by Norm Logan at the March Meeting.

All Membership meetings held at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club start at 9:30AM, but coffee & donuts are available at 9:00AM.



Remember all board meetings start at 7:00 PM. Location varies between board member houses in April, July & October and the Kalamazoo Bridge Club in January.

The link to the Train Show List is displayed below:

[The Train Show List - Hobby and Train Event Clearinghouse](#)



Review of the March 21st Membership Meeting at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club

We extend our appreciation to Norm Logan for delivering an excellent clinic on **“Preventive Maintenance for Rolling Stock”**. The session was attended by 15 participants, including three guests. Norm’s presentation comprehensively addressed fundamental aspects of testing and maintaining rolling stock fleets, which are essential for achieving optimal train performance on any layout. Several photographs from the clinic are included below.

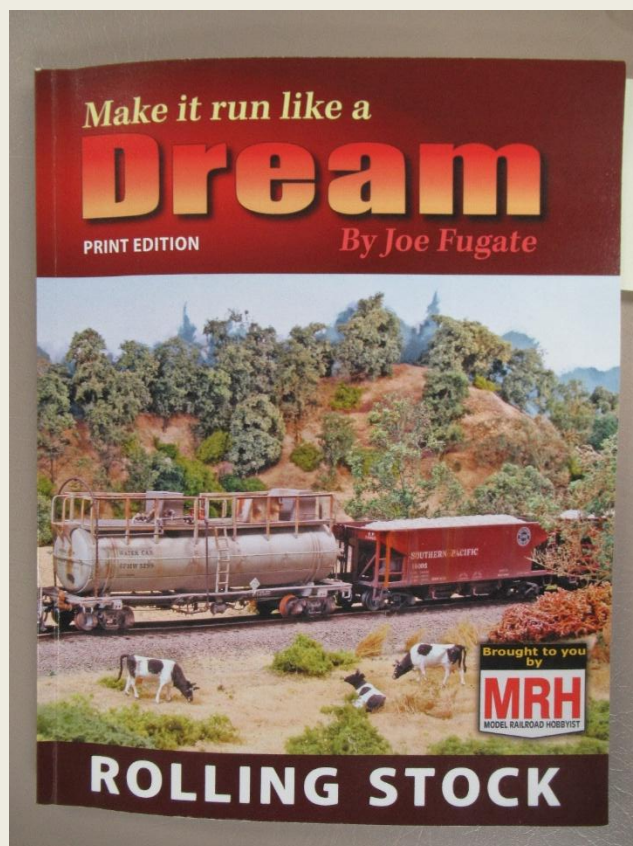




We haven't had these many cars in the parking lot in quite a long time.



Pictured below is a copy of the cover of an instruction book on "Make it run like a Dream" by Joe Fugate. Norm highly suggested that we pick up a copy for future reference.





A couple of photos taken during the meeting.

Thanks to Rich Mahaney for taking the photos that appear in this article.





Lots of tools!



SHOW & TELL

This HO tank car is in my collection, and I brought it for "show and tell". I have owned it for a number of years. It is a brass car and a model of a tank car used for hazmat training involving "leak training for emergency responders. It was designed and purchased by Chevron and used at their refineries for training. It has all of the different types of top valving and bottom valving that was found on tank cars when it was produced for real. Later it was given or sold to the BNSF Railway for their use around the BNSF system for emergency responder training. During the time I worked with BNSF doing hazmat training I worked with. After BNSF got it, they repainted it for BNSF. The attached photo shows my hand with the real tank car (repainted for BNSF) and my model in Las Cruces, NM.

Rich Mahaney

Editor's Note:

We would like to have a Show & Tell segment at all upcoming membership meetings. Members are encouraged to bring items they wish to present and share with fellow modelers.



Rolling Stock Workshops

After attending the Hands-on Clinic on “Preventive Maintenance for Your Rolling Stock”, hopefully we have all gained some ideas on how to upgrade and maintain our fleet. Now all we need to do is find some time to start working on upgrading this frequently overlooked activity. To help with this effort, I have been in discussions with Garry Johnson regarding the establishment of a new program tailored for modelers who either possess significant quantities of rolling stock they wish to upgrade or are new to model railroading.

While we are still finalizing the specifics, the basic framework of the program is as follows: once a month, interested participants will gather at my condo in Hunter’s Run, Comstock, for an evening dedicated to enhancing their rolling stock in a collaborative and engaging environment.

All necessary HO scale tools will be provided; however, attendees are expected to bring their own cars and supplies, such as couplers, wheels, washers, and related components. The available workspace can accommodate up to four additional modelers, alongside myself and Garry Johnson. Therefore, reservations are required to secure a spot.

If you are interested in joining these sessions, please reach out to reserve your place. We anticipate launching the program on Wednesday May 13th, with potential sessions scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Further details and updates will be communicated as plans are finalized.

Please contact me at 269-501-8999 or alanwbau@gmail.com.



Division of Choice

Do you live in one division, but attend meetings and participate in another? With the “Division of Choice” program you can become an official member and even hold office in the division of your liking!! All you need to do is fill out the [DIVISION OF CHOICE form](#). Once filed, you can vote and hold office in the division of your choice. Please be aware, the North Central Region (NCR) will notify both divisions of your choice and records will be maintained within the NCR. The NMRA national office WILL NOT change your default division (which is part of your NMRA number). The NCR and your division of choice will honor your selection and provide all the rights of a member of that division.

History of the Battle Creek Model Railroad Club



Discover the journey of the Battle Creek Model Railroad Club and our ongoing projects in the world of model railroading. The Battle Creek Model Railroad Club was originally organized in 1949. It was active in varying degrees until 1965 when it went inactive. In the winter of 1973-74, the group was reactivated and has been involved in various railroad projects since then. Club members were involved with the creation of the Z.O. & O. Railroad at Binder Park Zoo.

They have assisted with and sponsored model railroad conventions including the National Model Railroad Association's North Central Region Convention held in Battle Creek in 1985 and participated in various local exhibits.

Previously, the primary membership activity had been the construction and operation of two modular railroads, one in HO Scale and one in N Scale, both of which were at the club's current location at 2 West Michigan Ave, in Downtown Battle Creek, Michigan.

Before obtaining this excellent location for our railroads, the HO Scale railroad was exhibited at various locations in Battle Creek, specifically at Kimball House Museum the Comerica Bank Building and the UAC Family Place during the Festival of Lights, and several exhibitions at McCamly Place. In addition, we have had several exhibits of Lionel equipment at various locations, and activity involving the N Scale Railroad have ceased.

The HO scale named the "Cereal Belt Industrial Railroad—CBIR", is the scene of active construction and expansion. The original layout was constructed to strict NMRA modular standards. The result was a layout that was easy to move for various exhibits, and easy to assemble in various configurations. As time went on

the prospect of disassembling, moving, and reassembling the layout became less appealing, the modules began to deviate from the published standards, and the result is the present layout. The main loop consists of two operating mainlines, running in opposite directions, which allows for continuous operation. Many of the modules have been modified by their owners to allow for a variety of switching operations. The first major addition was a large switch yard located at the northwest corner of the layout. This area allows trains to be generated and switched onto the main line. There are crossovers that allow trains to be moved between the two main lines.

A second addition was a series of oversized modules, 30 inches wide rather than the 24 inch standard, adding the peninsula in the center of the main loop. The peninsula was built 6 inches higher than the rest of the layout, and connected via a long grade to the west side of the layout. The peninsula currently under construction is intended to be an extensive industrial switching area. It can be operated independently of the main loop, and it will be possible to move trains between the two. Additionally a second grade, back to the mainline, has been constructed to allow trains to return directly to the main line on the east side.

Recently the layout has been rewired allowing for "Command Control" that allows an operator to control the train from anywhere on the layout without the need for block control. This will allow more prototypical operations. In addition the members decided it was time for a "traveling layout", for exhibition to the public. Work is in progress on a new modular railroad for that purpose with a trailer outfitted to haul it to various locations. Concurrently, a project to install color television camera in the nose of a HO locomotive which will give spectator the impression of riding in the cab of the locomotive.

Club business meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month, except during June and July. Work and operation session are held on Thursday evening, and the Second Saturday morning. We are always looking for new members, and membership is open to anyone interested in model railroading. Affiliation with other model railroad organizations is encouraged but is not required for membership.



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. Send your information to alanwbau@gmail.com.



Southwest Michigan Train Show

Saturday, Apr 4th, 2026

10AM - 3PM

Kalamazoo County Expo Center

Admission \$5 • Kids 12 & Under Free With Adult

KMRHS.ORG

Southwest Michigan Train Show

Presented by Kalamazoo Model Railroad Historical Society

Saturday, April 4th, 2026, between 10AM – 3PM

Kalamazoo County Expo Center

2900 Lake St. Kalamazoo MI

Admission: Adults \$5, Kids 12 & under Free with Adult

Event Description

The Southwest Michigan Train Show is rolling back into town at the Kalamazoo Expo Center on April 4th from 10AM to 3PM. Whether you are adding to your layout, or just starting in the hobby, this is the place to be. Search all of the vendors to find that great deal, or that rare item. With over 150 vendor tables there are many bargains to be found! There will be running layouts to view from local clubs. This is your chance to see the beautiful layouts that these clubs spend many hours crafting. They would be happy to discuss model railroading, and current trends with you. This could be your one stop trip for model railroading supplies, toy trains, railroading memorabilia, and collectibles.



NORTH CENTRAL REGION, DIVISION 4 Grand Rails 2026 3-day convention

Open to ALL model railroaders! You do NOT have to be An NMRA member to attend!

BASIC NMRA MEMBER REGISTRATION (PRIOR TO SEPT 1, 2026)	\$60.00
BASIC NON NMRA REGISTRATION (PRIOR TO SEPT 1, 2026)	\$80.00
YOUTH RATE (17 AND UNDER W/PARENT OR GUARDIAN)	\$5.00
YOUTH 18-25	\$20.00

There will be layout tours, railroad operating sessions, clinics, railroad displays, and more!

**OCTOBER 8-9-10, 2026
HOWARD MILLER COMMUNITY CENTER
14 SOUTH CHURCH STREET
ZEELAND, MI 49464**

**CHECK THE DIVISION 4 WEBSITE FOR UPDATES AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION
www.grandrailsdiv4.com**

**Save the dates AND come join us for some great days
of model railroading, learning and fun!**

**Sponsored by
NMRA, NORTH CENTRAL REGION**

The above is a preliminary flyer for the NCR Zeeland 3-day Convention.

To see more details click on the following link, which will take you to the convention website. [Grand Rails Division 4](http://www.grandrailsdiv4.com)



The New York Central is coming to Kalamazoo

The New York Central Railroad System Historical Society is hosting their 2026 annual convention in Kalamazoo, MI between May 14 and 17, 2026. The headquarters hotel is the Marriott Delta Hotel on the west side of Kalamazoo, just off US 131. Besides the standard activities of a railroad convention, they are planning a train ride from Pleasant Lake, IN to Coldwater, MI on Saturday May 16th. They are allowing non-NYCSHS people to register and sign up for the convention train ride and lunch to help increase the attendance at the convention and to help fill the train. More information, registration and pricing will be available at the NYCSHS website.

For more information click on the links below:

[New York Central System Historical Society](#)

[NYCSHS 2026 Annual | NYCS Historical Society](#)

The following note sent to Rich Mahaney provides more up-to-date information affecting non-members.

Rich, the NYCSHS Board has removed the requirement to be a Society member to attend the convention. Please advise your members.

Our present thinking is to bus riders from Kalamazoo to Pleasant Lake, board there and ride up to Hillsdale for lunch at the brewing company. We'd still appreciate your review if convenient.

Thanks

Alex Schneider President

“On-The-Road Again” - by Garry Johnson

This article is a series of photos taken in Battle Creek and Kalamazoo during some of Garry’s outings.

Canadian National photos

Locomotive 2750 purchased from Citirail CREX in 2022 by Canadian National



Lead engine CN 3040 in the lead



Trailing unit CN3041 bringing up the rear as a DP unit



CN 5786 and Heritage Unit Illinois Central 1025 passing through Battle Creek MI



Battle Creek downtown East West meet on the CN tracks



CN engine 5772 ex CREX in the lead with 5820 showing the old Grand Trunk paint scheme looking a little worse for wear. Engine has been used in the Kalamazoo yard before.



Grand Elk Photos

WMAX 4225 ex UP2789 along with along with Wisconsin & Southern 4191 idling in front of the yard office



East end of Gearhart Yard WMAX 4125 and 4209 notice painted on numbers for 4209



Two Wisconsin Southern units 4198 & 4192 at the east end of the yard. In the background is the Balkema Aggregate yard



Unusual locomotive lash up on the Grand Elk four-unit train arriving at Gearhart Yard. Grand Elk typically runs two-unit trains



Amtrak

Amtrak special one high rail truck along with a converted flat car eastbound near Galesburg MI



Blast from the Past

This article was prepared by Dave Vinci and first appeared in the December 2020 Yardmaster Newsletter.

Freight Cars with Open Loads

By Dave Vinci

As we watch the trains roll by, one of the most interesting things to see, outside of the locomotives, are what things are being carried on open freight cars. Usually, these open cars are flat cars, gondola cars, open hopper cars and sometimes stock cars. Here are a couple of photos of the prototype:





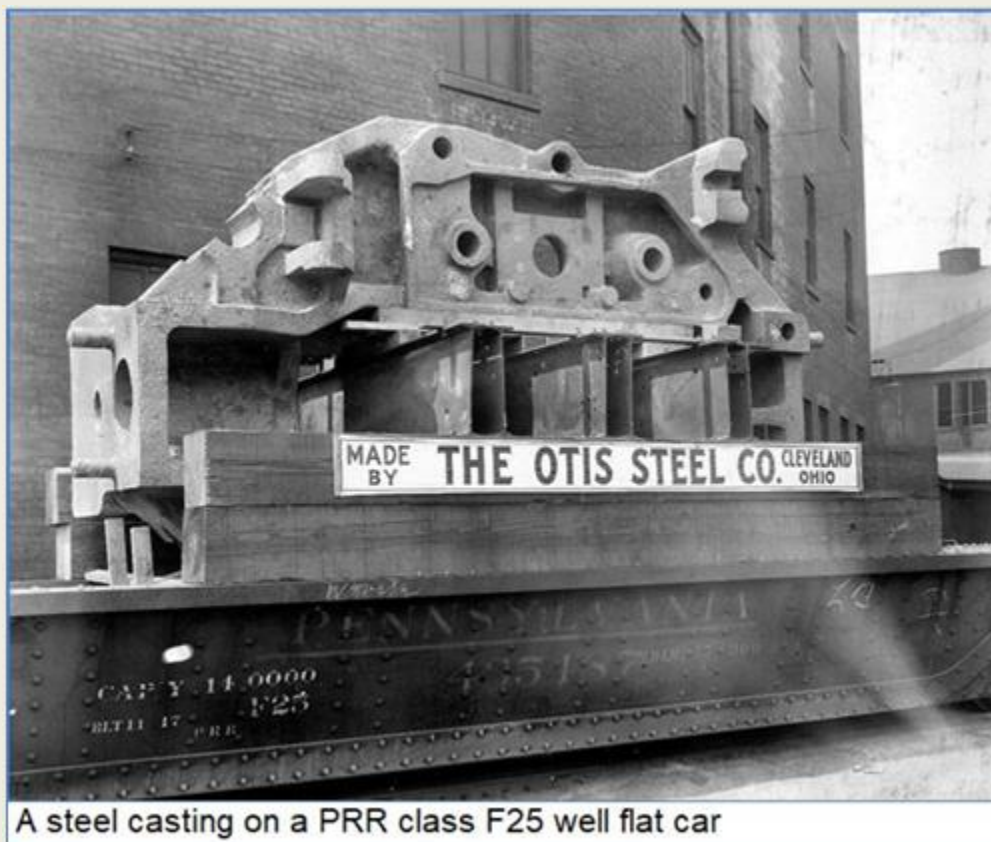
Stationary boilers on an all wood flat car



A Generator for a power plant



A German "Buzz Bomb" from WWII



A steel casting on a PRR class F25 well flat car

These photos are ones I harvested off the internet and for which I don't have recorded sources unfortunately. If you go looking for these kinds of images, I'm sure you will find some you like for the period you are modeling.

I model the 1920s so keep that in mind when looking at just a few of my models:



PRR FW F25 Well Flat car #435468 - scratchbuilt

D. Vinci photo



PRR class FM flat with WWI tanks

photo by D. Vinci



F&C PRR class F34 Heavy Duty Flat Car # 470201

D. Vinci model & photo



PRR class Fi Flat with Steam Shovel bucket

photo by D. Vinci



PRR class Gi Gondola with load of steel plate

Model & photo by D. Vinci

Rich's Travels

Other Uses of Stock Cars



All the photos in Rich's Travels were taken by Rich Mahaney. Our many thanks go out to Rich for his many contributions to the Yardmaster Newsletter and to the NCR and Division9

Many of us are modeling in time periods where stock cars were being used to move livestock across the country or to processing facilities. In some of my online groups there has been discussion about what other commodities were or could be moved in stock cars. So, for us with stock cars this creates new industries, new rail car traffic and other ideas. But even in later time period, a few stock cars might be sitting on your layout that could end up "in a new service or transportation mode". Maybe more so in the "maintenance of way" mode as the years have moved on. So don't get rid of your stock cars, check your era, think about other loads besides livestock that could be loaded in it, where could it be offloaded and loaded.

I have attached a list of ideas from a friend by the name of Bob Chaparro, who lives in the greater Los Angeles, CA area that he posted with examples of other stock carloads. Bob supplies a lot of railroad information on the internet. This list of ideas is an attachment to my short story. Bob is very knowledgeable in the Southern California produce industry, refrigerator cars and the livestock/meat industry.

So, first look and see if you have any stock cars in your layout car collection? I know I do, because I was going to have some spots on a previous layout to pick up livestock at, which was going to be transported to a packing company. If you are going to use stock cars for other services, you will need to create a "cleanout area and possible repair location. Next decide what you plan to load in the cars, what industry would that be? What does that industry look like? Where to they store their materials that need to be loaded and shipped? Where is/are the load(s) going, and where and how are



the loads going to be unloaded? Guest what - more car movements and loads, stock cars moving again on your layout, maybe new industries on your layout. Your operators will be saying in the future: "hey what are all of those stock cars doing on your layout?" Now it is time for your new railroad/layout story!

Rich Mahaney

Editor's Note: There will be a part 2 to this subject in the next newsletter.

Commodities Shipped In Livestock Cars

I've posted this before but here it is again.

I'm still looking for documented additions.

Bob Chaparro

Moderator

Barrels

Box Shook

Bricks

Cabbages

Canned Goods

Cantaloupes

Cars & Trucks

Coal - A lot of coal in stock cars, in the Rocky Mountain States, as late as WWII

Coal -Bagged

Coke - Beehive Oven as late as WWII

Corn Cobs

Dunnage Bulkheads (For boxcars)

Firewood

Freight Car Wheels

Garden Bulbs

Grain (With Car Lining)

Grain Doors

Hay

Ice - Some Photos Were Posted On The D&RGW Facebook Site Showing Pond Ice

Loading In Stock Cars In The Early 1960s

Lemons

Live Poultry (In Regular Stock Cars, Not Poultry Cars)

Lumber

Metal Sheets

Oil (In Barrels)

Onions

Oranges

Ore - Bagged

Pipe – Clay & Metal

Potatoes - Bagged

Pulpwood
Pumpkins
Railroad Ties - Treated & Untreated
Rails
Roofing Shingles
Sand (In Barrels)
Scrap Brass
Scrap Iron
Sewer Lids
Sewer Pipe - Ceramic
Straw
Sugar Beets
Tile
Tires
Tomatoes
Utility Poles
Wagon Wheels
Wagons (Unassembled)
Watermelons

Notes:

Per the MCBA and ARA loading rules, stock cars could be treated the same as any other house car and could be loaded with the same goods. So technically, anything conceivably loaded into a boxcar could also be loaded into a livestock car.



The above picture is just fill-in.

Member Layouts:

This month we feature [Jim Fankhauser's](#) layout, which is the 4th in a series of articles prepared by other modelers on the status of their layout.

Creating the feel of the Tri County RR

My Tri County RR is a free-lanced railroad that is located in Southern Michigan. It is a short line railroad that serves rural Michigan. Part of creating a free-lanced railroad is to create a story for the railroad. The following description of the TC is posted on the door of the train room.

HISTORY OF THE TRI COUNTY RAILROAD

The Tri County RR was formed in 1962 as a short line railroad that bought 40 miles of sold off trackage from the New York Central railroad that served southern Michigan. In early 1977 the newly formed Conrail system offered 105 miles of trackage that they no longer wanted to service to the Tri County RR. Tri County started serving the industries on the new trackage immediately.

In the fall of 1977 one of the Conrail mainlines needed to be partially shutdown to facilitate major track repairs. Conrail approached Tri County about leasing back some trackage rights to help alleviate some of the congestion due to the needed track repair.

Conrail is currently routing 6 – 8 trains per day across the Tri County system and interchanges with the Tri County RR. Tri County also has interchanges with the Norfolk and Western and the Chesapeake and Ohio.

The motive power that the TC has was primarily purchased from the Belt Railway system as they sold off their GP7 & 9s. TC also purchased a couple of units in the lease agreement from Conrail.

TC is in the process of repainting all of those units.

The names of the towns are taken from family. Some examples of town names from family are Davidson, my wife's maiden name. Lynneville, from my daughter Tamara Lynne and Parr Corners, my grandmother Fankhauser's maiden name.

The rail customers are named after my model railroad friends. Kizer Hardwoods is from Kevin Kizer a regular at the TC Op sessions, Stoney's Insulation from Greg Stonerock, Vacha Animal Supplies after Tony Vacha and Zajak Transfer after Frank Zajak.

A special business on the railroad is Nichols Grain a major business on the railroad named after my deceased friend Bill Nichols. Bill's Boston and Maine RR was where I developed my love of operation.

In addition to towns and businesses a free lanced railroad needs its own equipment. I enjoy painting and decaling locomotives and rolling stock.

The current locomotive paint scheme is shown below.



Here is an earlier more basic TC paint scheme.



Pictured right is a GTE 44 ton loco in the current TC scheme.



The TC has bought all of its GP 7 and GP 9s as second hand units from other railroads. Below is a patched over unit from the Beltway Railroad of Chicago.



Another patched over unit leased from Conrail in old NYC colors.



Nichols Grain purchased a used unit from the CNW. They have not had the opportunity to repaint it and patched it with their Nichols Grain logo.



The Michigan Pharmaceutical Corporation, an industry on the TC has a GTE 44 ton unit. The paint scheme for this unit is similar to the paint scheme that was used on a 44 tonner that worked at the Upjohn plant. A company that worked at for 36 years.



Another major industry on the TC is Bullseye Tire Co. Below is the unit that works the plant. The decals for this unit along with the decals for the TC equipment and the Nichols Grain decals were created by my friend Steve Brelje.



The following photos are of rolling stock that are part of the TC fleet.



And just like at the end of a train, the last pieces of equipment are the cabooses.

The oldest caboose on the TC, with an old paint scheme.



Below is a newer caboose with the old paint scheme.



And to the right is a caboose in the current paint scheme.



I have enjoyed being able to create by painting and decaling a railroad with its distinctive identity.

Thanks to Jim Fankhauser for sharing his layout with fellow modelers.



We welcome all members—no matter the size, scale, or era of your layout—to share information about their layout. Who would like to contribute an update for the May issue and upcoming editions?



More Fill-in

Wrap-up

I am grateful to all the contributors to the Yardmaster Newsletter. Your support makes this task much easier. I sincerely appreciate everyone's efforts to help create a newsletter that aims to offer useful information as well as some entertainment.

We again would like to welcome John Forrest to the NMRA and Division Nine.

If you have attended one of our meetings but have not yet enrolled as an NMRA member, now is an excellent opportunity to benefit from the NMRA Nine Rail Program. Division Nine will cover your membership fee for the initial nine months of participation.

We appreciate Norm Logan for delivering an excellent presentation during our March Membership Meeting. The insights he provided will be very useful as we continue working on our rolling stock.

We invite members to submit news, updates on railroad events, upcoming train shows, or information about community gatherings related to railroading for consideration in future newsletters. Member contributions are essential to ensuring our community remains well-informed and actively engaged.

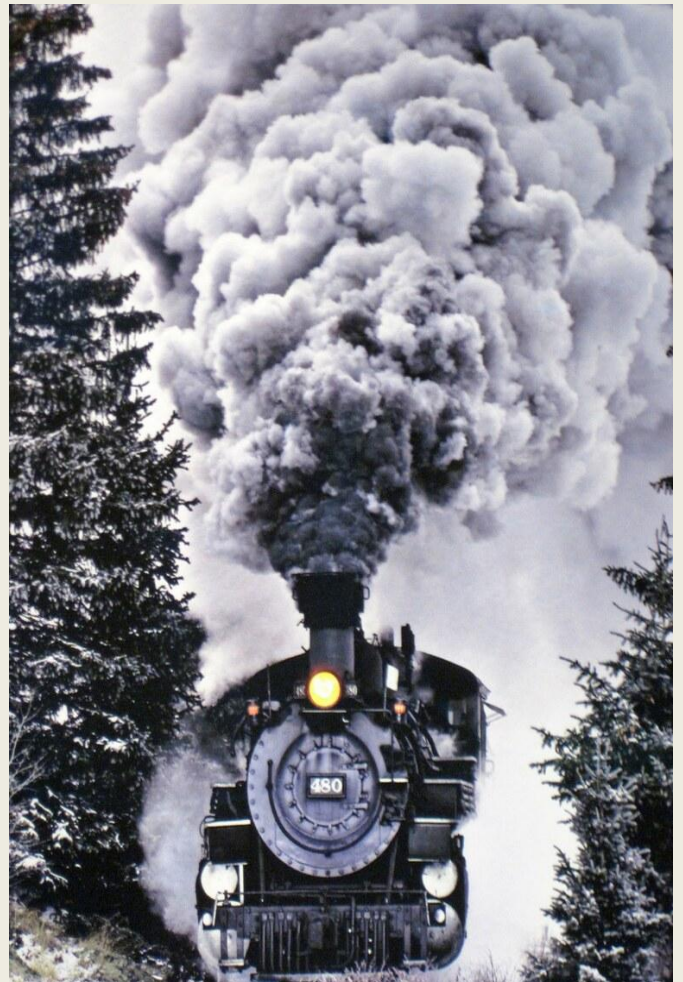
On a personal note: the May Yardmaster could be delayed, as I will be having surgery in Mid-April and may need some time to recover.

Hope to see you at our next meeting.

Alan Bau

Division Nine Newsletter Editor

alanwbau@gmail.com



And even more fill-in.