



The Yardmaster



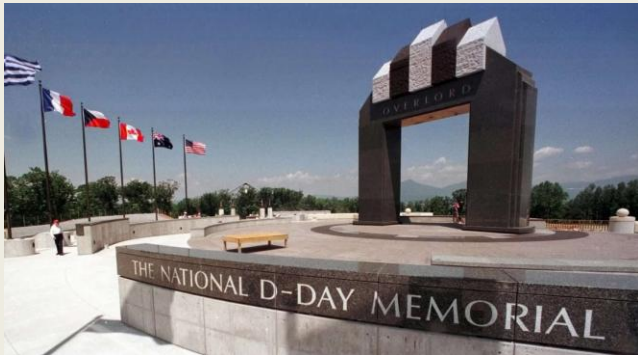
June 2026 Website: <https://div9.ncrnmra.org>

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 Events June 2026

D-Day June 6th
Flag Day June 14th
Father's Day June 18th
1st Day of Summer June 21st



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Editor's Comments

Summer was once a quiet season for Division Nine, but not this year. In June, we'll hold a rolling stock testing and repair meeting; in July, Greg Stonerock will host an operating session; in August, we'll gather for a family picnic in Vicksburg; and in September, we'll have our annual meeting at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club. We are also launching monthly rolling stock workshops—informal two-hour sessions held on the second Wednesday evening of each month. You'll find more details about all of these events in this issue.

We congratulate the NMRHS for celebrating their 75th anniversary Open House on November 20th.

As a reminder, we plan to feature member layouts in upcoming issues of the *Yardmaster* for the rest of the year. We need six members to submit a short article about their layout, along with a few photos. Please send contributions to Alanwbau@gmail.com. So far, we have featured layouts by Greg Stonerock, Rick Garthe, Bob Lawrence, Greg Marvin, and mine twice.

You could be next!



We're always looking for ideas for future monthly meetings. If there's a topic you'd like us to cover, please contact a board member.



Division 9 Board Members

Position	Board Member	Term Expires	Email address
Superintendent	Garry Johnson	2027	elecsprk@gmail.com
Assistant Superintendent	Open	Open	
Paymaster	Bob Lawrence	N/A	robertlawrence44@msn.com
Scribe	Greg Marvin	2027	grmarvin@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor	Alan Bau	2027	alanwbau@gmail.com
Website Manager	Tony Vacha	N/A	CKRHandler@aol.com
Trustee	Doug Van Meter	2026	vanmeterda@gmail.com

ATTENTION ALL NON-NMRA MEMBERS RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER

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

Try the NMRA with a [9-month Rail Pass trial membership](#) for just \$19.95, including 9 months of the *Digital NMRA Magazine*.

This offer is available only in the U.S. to new members and former NMRA members whose memberships have been inactive for at least two years. Each person may use the Rail Pass rate only once. Rail Pass members may attend conventions and enter contests, but they may not vote or hold office in NMRA events. After the trial period, membership renews at the regular rate.

To help model railroad fans join the NMRA, Division Nine will cover the cost of the 9-month Rail Pass trial membership for any new Division Nine member.

Upcoming Division Nine Membership Meetings & Events:

Meetings & Events	Date	Location	Presenter & Topic
Rolling Stock Workshop Session 9:00 AM Start Time	June 20 th	Kalamazoo Bridge Club No formal agenda, just a fun time working on your rolling stock.	Hands-on test & repair your rolling stock. Bring your own supplies & tools.
KMRHS – Open House	June 20 th	<u>9336 Riverview Drive</u> <u>Kalamazoo, MI 49004</u>	See article in this newsletter
Rolling Stock Workshop Session	July 8 th	Alan Bau – 2441 Hunters Run, Kalamazoo	Rolling Stock Workshop Session
Board Meeting	July 12 th	Garry Johnson's	
Op Session	July 18 th	Greg Stonerock's - @ 1:00 PM	
Rolling Stock Workshop Session	August 12 th	Alan Bau – 2441 Hunters Run, Kalamazoo	Rolling Stock Workshop Session
Family Picnic	August 22 nd	Vicksburg Train Station	No Agenda – Just good Food and Fun
Annual Meeting	September 19 th	Kalamazoo Bridge Club	Rich M. – Benchwork for buildings on layouts.
Board Meeting	October 4 th	Bob Lawrence's House	
Membership Meeting	October 17 th	TBD	TBD
Membership Meeting	November 21 st	Kalamazoo Bridge Club	Doug Tagsold – Bldgs. & Operations on his former layout
Membership Meeting	December 18 th	Jim Fankhauser's	Breakfast & TBD

Overview of upcoming events.

June 20th – Join us at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club for a hands-on Rolling Stock Testing and Repairing Workshop. You're welcome to bring your own rolling stock, supplies, and any tools you'd like to use. If you're not sure which tools to bring, refer to Norm Logan's list from the March Meeting as a starting point. There will be no business meeting, just a few enjoyable hours using what we learned from Norm Logan into practice. Even if you don't have rolling stock needing repairs, feel free to come and help out, as I have several pieces that require some attention.

This session will begin at 9:00 AM, which is 30 minutes earlier than normal. We realize that some of our members will want to attend the KMRHS Open House celebrating their 75th anniversary. Our members are welcome to come and go as they please as there is no formal agenda for this meeting, just some fun time working on testing and repairing rolling stock.

July 12th – Board Meeting at Garry Johnson's

Board meetings are typically scheduled for the first Sunday of each quarter starting at 7:00 PM. However, when holidays fall on that weekend, meetings are generally postponed by one week. This adjustment applies in July, as the regularly scheduled date coincides with the July 4th weekend. Meetings customarily take place at the residence of a board member. All Division Nine members are cordially invited to attend.

July 18th – Normally there is no meeting in July, however, this year we are having a special Operating Session at Greg Stonerock's. All division nine members and their guests are welcome to attend. The Op Session starts at 1:00 PM

August 22nd – Like July, normally there is no meeting in August, however, this year we are having a family picnic at the Vicksburg Train Depot. All Division Nine members and their families are invited to attend.

September 19th – In September we will be meeting at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club for our annual meeting. The tentative agenda is displayed below:

- Coffee, Donuts & Conversation - 9:00 to 9:30 AM
- Introductions - 9:30 AM
- Board Member Reports - 9:45 AM
- Board Member Election – if necessary
- 50/50 Raffle & Door Prizes - 10:15 AM
- Show & Tell -10:30 AM
- Member Feedback & Open Discussion - 10:45AM
- Clinic 11:00 AM – Rich Mahaney- “Use of layout benchwork for buildings on layouts”



November 21st – Tentatively at Kalamazoo Bridge Club – need to verify availability. Doug Tagsold from Blissfield, Mi. to present his clinic on the building and operations of his former HO layout about the trains and railroads of Toledo, Oh

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

Upcoming Michigan Train Shows

There are three upcoming train shows that are fairly close to Kalamazoo. They are listed below along with links to their detailed information.

Battle Creek Train Show Sep. 10, 2026

Contact Information

Shawn Rhoades
shawn@lazys-k.com
(269) 758-3477
Website: <https://bcmrrc.net/train-show>

KMRHS Oct. 4, 2026 – Tentative Information

Kalamazoo County Expo Center
2900 Lake Street,
Kalamazoo, Mi.

Lansing Mi. Nov. 8, 2026

Contact Information

John Hartmann
oakandco4@gmail.com
(517) 290-8948
Website: <https://lmrc.org/trainshow/index.shtml>

GRMRHS (Grand Rapids Area), Jan. 9, 2027

Contact Information

Mark Baldwin
baldwinmw82@gmail.com
(616) 258-0110
Website: <https://www.grmrhs.org/>

The link to the entire Train Show List is displayed below:

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



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.



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.



Hey "N" Scalers – here is a message from Marilyn Holm that you want to read.

Hi Alan,

Could you please send this out to your Yardmaster mailing list? I've decided to stay in Florida permanently and want my Kalamazoo train stuff to go to other N scale modelers.

Thanks,

Marilyn Holm

Hello Everyone,

I am dismantling my N scale layout. If anyone is interested in any FREE Kato track or N scale buildings, please let me know.

Marilyn Holm 269-268-9772

KMRHS Celebrates 75th Anniversary



A poster for the KMRHS 75th Anniversary Open House. The poster has a dark red background with a large white circle in the center. Inside the circle, the text "KMRHS" is at the top, "75th" is in the middle in a large, stylized font, and "ANNIVERSARY" is at the bottom. Below the circle, the text "OPEN HOUSE" is written in large white letters, followed by "JUNE, 20TH, 2026" and "11AM - 3PM" in smaller white letters. Below that is the address "9336 N RIVERVIEW DR. KALAMAZOO, MI 49004". At the bottom of the poster, there is a row of five small images: a yellow model train, a construction crane, a QR code with the text "SCAN ME" below it, a black model train, and a red model train. Below these images, the text "Kalamazoo Model Railroad Historical Society Invites You To Celebrate 75 years of Model Railroading With Us" is written in white. At the very bottom, there are two white boxes containing the text "KMRHS.ORG/75" and "FREE ADMISSION".

KMRHS
75th
ANNIVERSARY

OPEN HOUSE
JUNE, 20TH, 2026
11AM - 3PM
9336 N RIVERVIEW DR. KALAMAZOO, MI 49004

*Kalamazoo Model Railroad Historical Society
Invites You
To Celebrate 75 years of Model Railroading With Us*

KMRHS.ORG/75 FREE ADMISSION

The details of the event including schedule of presentations are displayed on the next page.

KMRHS 75TH Anniversary Open House

20 JUNE 2026

11:00AM – 3:00 PM

The Kalamazoo Model Railroad Historical Society will host an open house

celebrating its 75th Anniversary on Saturday, June 20, 2026, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at the society's facility , 9336 N Riverview, Kalamazoo.



We invite all railroad enthusiasts, model railroaders, and the general public to this family friendly event. KMRHS will have its doors open to showcase our club layout, talk to guests about our history, and host presentations about model railroading.

Activities include operating trains on the club's Cooper Park & Eastern Railroad HO scale layout, Red and Black layout for children, tours of the 1917 BCG&A 802 Caboose, dedication of a memorial plaque honoring past members, presentations of KMRHS history, caboose history and restoration, the new CP&E Layout, operations and dispatching, dispatching at Kalamazoo's BO Tower, and building a New Layout.

Schedule:

11:30 – KMRHS History – Mark Tomlonson

12:00 – Caboose History & Restoration – Mark T, Aaron Kowalski, David Crosser

12:30 – Dispatching BO Tower Video – Bruce Muhlberger

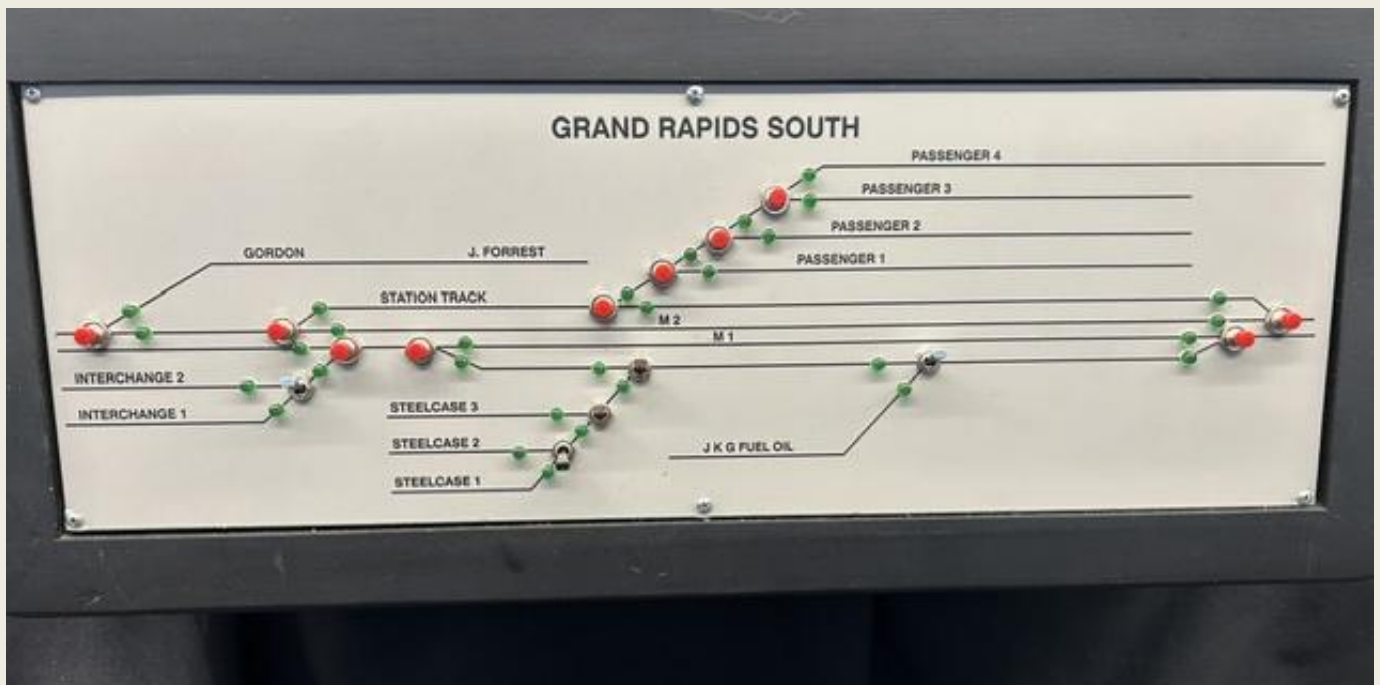
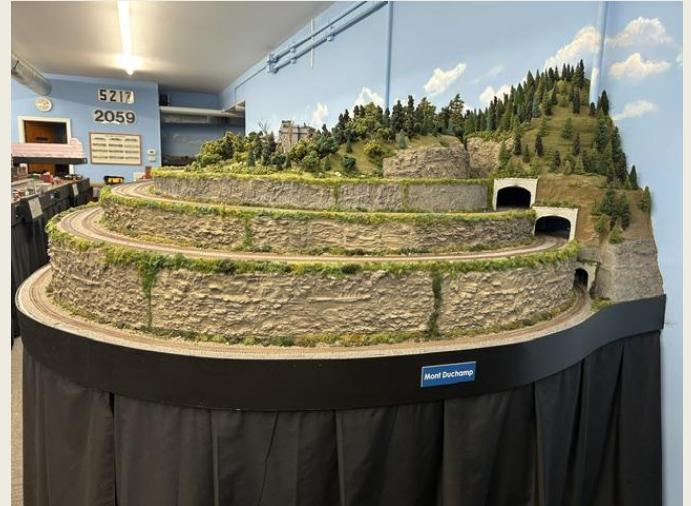
1:00 – Dedication of Memorial Plaque & Refreshments

1:30 – The New CP&E Layout – Jim Glenn

2:00 – Operations and Dispatching – David Hayes-Moat, Frank Zajac

2:30 – Building a new layout – Greg Marvin

KMRHS Layout Photos





More KMRHS Photos



More KMRHS Photos

Thanks to Frank Zajac for providing the KMRHS photos & the Open House Flyer



Another modeling idea - the one square foot diorama

Forwarded to Rich Mahaney by Bob Chaparro

Model: Chama Livestock Loading Chutes

This was an HO scale entry by Donald Burch at last week's Pacific Coast Region/NMRA annual convention in Rohnert Park, CA.

The contest was the "Square Foot Challenge". The prototype were the chutes at Chama, New Mexico.

Donald scratch-built the model using wood, plastic and corrugated sheeting. The livestock pens and supply building are freelance designs.

Bob Chaparro

Moderator



More Info. From Bob Chaparro

Video: Basic Figure Painting Step-by-Step

A video by Ian Fainges:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpjsZb6_LVs



Monthly Rolling Stock Workshops

After the hands-on clinic on "Preventive Maintenance of Your Rolling Stock," we hope you came away with useful tips for improving and maintaining your railroad cars. The next step is setting aside time to put those ideas into practice. To help with that, Garry Johnson and I will host a Rolling Stock Workshop on the second Wednesday of each month, beginning June 10th.

We will provide the most commonly used HO scale tools, but please bring your own rolling stock and supplies such as couplers, wheels, washers, and similar parts. Space is limited so reservations are suggested.

If you would like to attend, please contact me to reserve a spot. The first session is Wednesday, June 10th, and future sessions will be held monthly on the second Wednesday from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

The workshops will be held at my home: 2441 Hunters Run, Comstock. Contact me at 269-501-8999 or alanwbau@gmail.com.



"Make it run like a Dream" by Joe Fugate.

This book is really helpful in solving some of the more difficult problems you may encounter when working on your rolling stock.

Highly recommended as a reference book.



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)

Member Layouts:

I was hoping one of our members would give us an update on their model railroading activities. However, since that hasn't happened, I guess it is my turn to update you on what I have been up to lately. This is divided into two sections, the first is pictures of my attempt at mountain building, followed by an overview of my efforts to upgrade my rolling stock, using some of the concepts presented by Norm Logan.



The mountain highlighted in these photos is on the north side of the layout. There will be another section on the West Side, which will be connected by two bridges. The final version will be a point-to-point operation, with no visible access to the main part of the layout.

Pictured above left is a small passenger and freight depot. The photo above right is on the northwest side and displays two of several hiking trails. Below right is an old trestle bridge that I built a few years ago. The photo on the bottom left was taken from the back side of the mountain and is positioned above and slightly to the right of the trestle bridge.



Pictured below are a few of the animals that live on the mountain, including moose, bears, deer and birds at the moment. More to follow. The photo in the center includes an out-of-scale replica of Mount Rushmore with a moose on the lower right.





The photos on this page display a couple of campgrounds and hiking trails.



My Next Projects??????????

1. The number one project I have in mind is to run the cars that passed the initial set of tests, through a series of tests on the track.
2. Fix any track problems that develop by the tests in project # 1.
3. Add portals & other details to existing mountain.
4. Work on the two bridges that I want to build connecting the two mountains.
5. Get ready for the Fantasy Football Season.



Overview of Rolling Stock Testing Activities

While recovering from gallbladder surgery, I spent time testing and repairing rolling stock using many of the methods Norm Logan presented in March 2026. I checked wheel size and spacing with the NMRA gauge, performed spin and wobble tests, verified trip pin height, compared coupler alignment to a test coupler, confirmed that couplers moved freely and returned to center, and finished with the 30% test.

I also checked for missing parts and recorded key details for each car, including whether the couplers were body- or truck-mounted, whether the wheels, axles, and trucks were plastic or metal, and whether wheel size matched the car's CAPY rating. I entered all of this information into the Yard Office software program.

As I tested each car, I noted any failures. Cars that did not pass were moved to a separate area of my workshop and tagged with the identified problems. After finishing the testing phase, I began repairing the cars that needed only minor work.

The following charts provide a broad overview of what I accomplished during this period.

Testing Results – excludes Locomotives & Passenger Cars

Total Cars tested	217
Cars that passed all tests being tested for the first time	94
Cars failing one or more tests, being repaired, retested and passing all tests. Most of these cars had minor problems.	52
Cars failing one or more tests, requiring major repairs. Repair efforts have not started on these cars.	58
Cars failing one or more tests, requiring minor repairs	13

Blast from the Past – Dave Vinci Layout Photos from Open House

Over the last few months, I included a few articles by Dave Vinci from past editions of the Yardmaster. Dave was a former Yardmaster Editor and a member of the board of directors for Division Nine. He was widely knowledgeable and had an impressive reputation in model railroading. Connie Vinci along with help from a few model railroaders had an open house and sale along with an op session in May. In last month's Yardmaster we included several pictures that were taken by Rich Mahaney. This month we will feature some of the pictures taken by Joel Pyard and his son Josh. They took approximately 70 pictures. Joel was kind enough to send us a link, which is displayed below, for anyone who would like to view these photos.

The photo below is the first one on the list.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TAnepDqwNP4Q7y_E2ARGswygN3ND8QTM?usp=sharing







Rich's Travels



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

More photos of West Michigan Railroad Transload Yard in Hartford, MI



My wife always says to me, "better to see one train on a day, verses seeing no trains on a day"!

This train crossed my path on Waverly Rd north of Holland, heading east bound towards Zeeland and Grand Rapids, MI.

It even came with a caboose. Sorry the first image is small and from a distance.

Rich Mahaney



CSX train at Grand Junction, MI today (Thursday 5/14/26)

On my way home to Gobles today from South Haven, I had to wait for a fast-moving short east bound CSX freight train at Grand Junction, MI. The flashing lights came on and the gates came down as I came up to the track-road crossing. Because of trees I could only get one shot of the engine after it passed the road crossing.



Two trains today! Here is train number one

Jill and I went to Penney's today for some shorts for me and then we took a ride to Vicksburg for a couple of photos I wanted and then noted the block signal colors and stayed to watch two CN trains pass, one westbound and eastbound. Photos by the train stations and photos by the bridge crossing the water for a new photo taking spot.

West bound train first. Lots of loads of new wood/lumber on the train.

Rich Mahaney



Train Number Two

Two engines, one CN and one painted blue.

Gondolas with covers

DOT 117 tank cars



A few Videos forwarded to Rich Mahaney by Tom Person

Two great videos of the PM 1225 steam locomotive operating in MI! Enjoy!

Pere Marquette 1225: Superpowered Freight for Saginaw

Pere Marquette 1225: Superpowered Freight for Saginaw - YouTube

WOW! NEW Hertiage Units UNVEILED By BNSF | RailRecap 260

https://youtu.be/Toq99i2iSQE?si=8_8tH7ss6PuJMZKq



NYC RR Historical Society Convention

More than 80 people went on this train ride today, it was part of their convention this weekend in Kalamazoo, MI. The ride went from Pleasant Lake, IN to Coldwater, MI. The train ride was contracted by the New York Central Railroad Historical Society as part of their Kalamazoo convention.

The Nickle Plate engine was on the lead, the IN Northeastern engine was on the rear. They did a final "run by" for the crowd at the Coldwater station.

Fun day, lunch was a group meal at the Hillsdale Brewing Company. Hillsdale has a real history of railroads and trains if you go back and read the history of the town. Lots of passenger trains stopped there every day. The city is the beginnings of building a tourist rail center downtown.

Rich Mahaney





Thanks to Rick Garthe, Greg Stonerock and the KMRHS for hosting layout tours for the NYC club. We had 13 guests at Stonerock's and about the same at Garthe's. They were all model railroaders and interesting folks and there were some great conversations taking place. It was a pleasant surprise that so many turned out for the tours. Thanks to Greg & Rick for opening their homes to this organization.

Mid-Michigan Railroad Club, Turkeyville, MI photos

If you have never made a visit to the Mid-Michigan Railroad Club, next to Turkeyville, MI, you are really missing out. They have great trains to see and ride and can tell you all about them and how to build them. I was with the New York Central Railroad Historical Society with they stopped to visit the club and ride some trains on Sat., May 16th. I have been to the club several times and always have a great time. Their website talks about the activities they are doing.

Of course, next store is the Cromwell's Turkeyville restaurant and many weekends they have activities going on, plus they serve great turkey meals. This is all just northwest of Marshall, MI.

Thought I would send out a few photos from last Saturday afternoon. If you have never been there, plan a trip for the future, check out their website.

Rich Mahaney





**Mid-Michigan Railroad
Club, Turkeyville, MI
photos**

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Mid-Michigan Railroad Club, Turkeyville, MI photos

Page 3



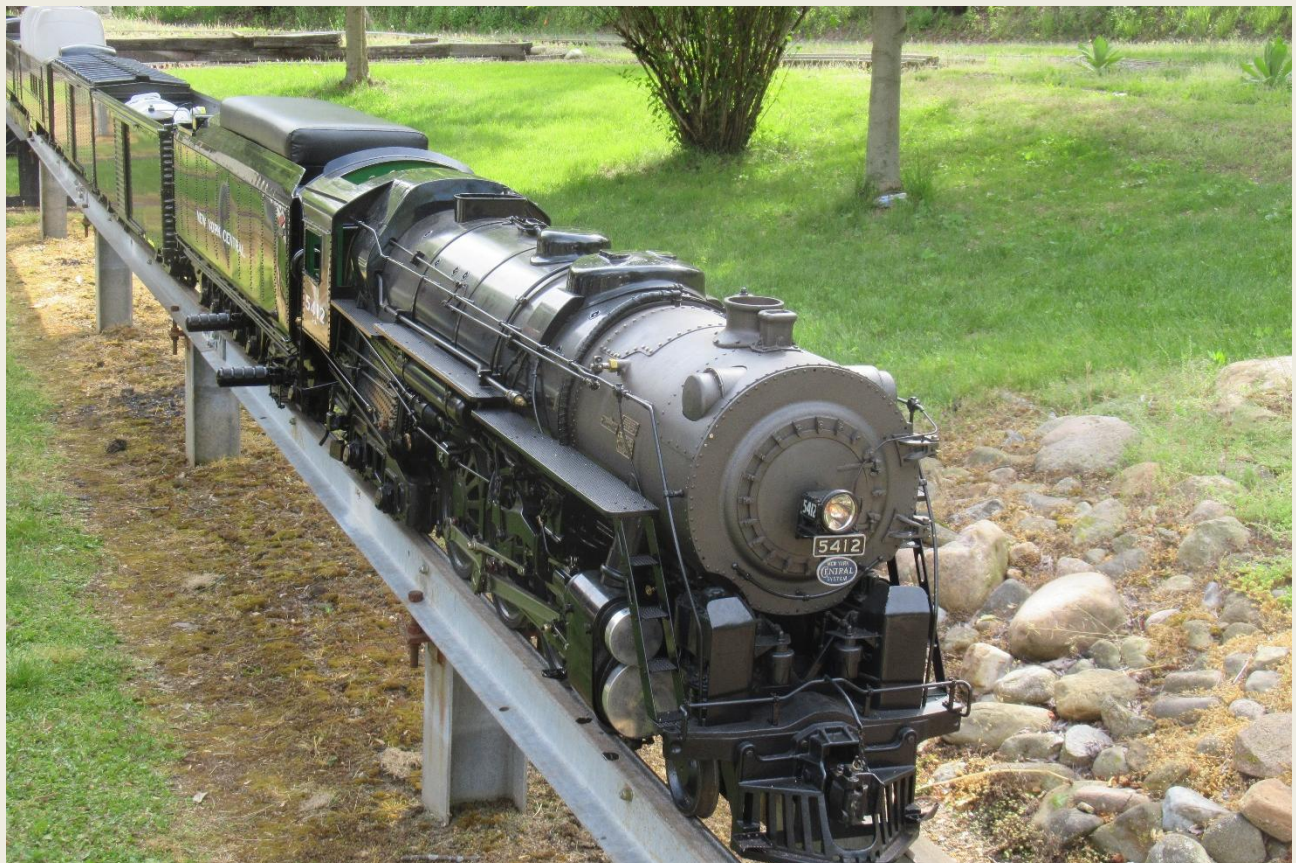


Mid-Michigan Railroad Club, Turkeyville, MI photos

Page 4

Note From Rich:

Make a plan for a future visit!!





These photos were provided by Garry Johnson

Norfolk Southern limestone train waiting at Kalamazoo aggregate yard.



Balkama GP idling waiting for ore train to arrive



Car shaker at Balkama aggregate yard.



The picture below shows ore cars – this is filler only.



Wrap-up

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.

We anticipate one or two board openings at our September meeting. If you're interested in joining, please inform a board member.

If you're experiencing issues with your rolling stock, there will be a meeting at the Kalamazoo Bridge Club on June 20th dedicated to testing and then making the necessary repairs.

In addition, we're launching a new monthly program where we'll gather at my home for two hours once a month, focusing on improving your rolling stock, along with a few stories, jokes, etc. Since space is limited, please contact me soon if you'd like to participate. The first session is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10th, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Most of the necessary tools will be available, but you should bring your own rolling stock and any supplies you may need.

Hope to see you at our next meeting.

Alan Bau

Division Nine Newsletter Editor

alanwbau@gmail.com

