

# Michiana Division



National Model Railroad Association  
Midwest Region

## FORM - 19

### Model Railroading in the Digital Age



## A publication of the NMRA, Midwest Region, Michiana Division

A word about the FORM-19 Masthead. Model Railroading in the Digital Age is the slogan of the Newsletter. In keeping with this line we will feature images depicting aspects of digital modeling. Currently we are showcasing an image from Tom Cain of his JMRI dispatcher station on his Eastern Illinois Santa Fe Railroad. You can send your images for possible use in the masthead to [chart7968@yahoo.com](mailto:chart7968@yahoo.com).

### 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER DIVISION EVENT SCHEDULE

10:30am ET, 9:30AM CT

Saturday, April 17

**BILL NEALE, MMR**

(Page 3)

SATURDAY, MAY 15

**ANNUAL DIVISION  
MEETING**

(Page 8)

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

**RICH MAHANEY**

(Page 5)

ATTEND USING THE  
ZOOM APP

LINK WILL BE PROVIDED  
THE GROUPS LIST



### April 2021 Form-19 Superintendent's Message

**Welcome, Spring!** The snow has vanished, and the temperatures are rising. It's time to emerge from our basements and layout rooms and take in some fresh air. Many of our membership have received Covid-19 vaccinations and we are optimistic that this summer will include some in-person gatherings in the division as well as the region. It is great to see that several events that had to be cancelled in 2020 are still on for 2021. The Michiana Division Board of Directors is planning to continue our monthly meetings via Zoom through June. Our hope is to organize a couple of visits to local railroad and modeling attractions including layout tours in July and August if feasible.

Our division remains active online as the pandemic wanes, including informal gatherings on Thursday evenings at 6:30 central / 7:30 eastern. These Thursday Model Railroad Zoom calls started in May 2020 with a small group and have grown to include many devoted model railroaders from all over the country. The topics are as varied as the people who present. If you are interested in receiving an invite to these gatherings, please contact me at [greg@uncleheavy.com](mailto:greg@uncleheavy.com).  
Greg Bueltmann, Division Superintendent

PLEASE,  
STAY SAFE  
AND HEALTHY

**Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of the FORM-19 for 2021**

**Invitation:** Please join us in our meetings for fellowship and learning with other model railroad enthusiasts. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, almost every month. See the location, time and topic at <http://michiana-nmra.org/meetings.html> as well as topics from previous meetings. The **next meeting** is **April 17** using “Zoom,” so you can view it via the Internet. We are not meet in person because of COVID-19. You will receive an email via “**groups.io**” with the link to join the meeting scheduled for **9:30am CT/10:30am ET**. If you want to participate vocally, you will need a microphone for your connected device. More info/instructions will be part of the message with the link to join the meeting. You will be able to test your speakers’ volume before the meeting starts. Once the meetings start, if you don’t hear anything, check that your speakers are not muted. To learn more about using Zoom, see <https://support.zoom.us>. The link for the monthly meetings will be posted in an email to you from the groups.io list.

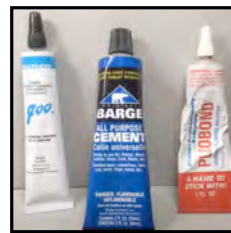
**Future meetings & ideas for topics:** When we resume physical meetings, we would like to alternate locations between eastern and western areas of the Division, attracting more members from west of La Porte. Also, we may be able to “Zoom” the meetings for those who cannot attend in person. We invite you to suggest topics interesting to you. You can do this by posting your ideas on the Division’s **groups.io**. Meeting locations and other attractions are mapped at <http://www.michiana-nmra.org> and click on “Resources” “Michiana Division Interactive Map”.

**The Division had a full quarter of presentations to start the year**



In January Ken Chick, MMR took us on a tour of his Danforth Hadley & Northern Railroad and was featured in the January FORM – 19. You can see Ken’s presentation on YOUTUBE at the following link:  
<https://youtu.be/fXY3rKOohdo>

In February Lester Breuer, MMR presented a very informative clinic on adhesives. Lester demonstrated the most common types we use and showed examples or how to use them and on our models. Some of the glues presented are shown in the pictures below and you can see Lester’s presentation at the following link:  
<https://youtu.be/YnQIdrhNo6U>



In March Clark Propst presented the process of upgrading commercial freight cars to a more prototype car and demonstrated the modifications he makes using items he adds from off the shelf. You can see Clarke’s presentation at the following link:  
<https://youtu.be/1IH5hTbVFik>



Prototype sample.

Clarks finished model.





### April 17, 2021

Bill Neale, MMR will be our Presenter on April 17, 2021. Bill is a member of the NCR, Division 6, where he served on the North Central Region Board of Directors in several roles. Bill currently serves the NMRA in the Central Director position.



Bill will be leading us on a tour of his model railroad. The Pennsylvania Railroad built northwest and due west in the 1860's, both lines had a distinctly different flavor. The line northwest went across the Ohio and Indiana flat lands, and was the **Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago**. The line built due west across the more rugged southern Ohio highlands was the **Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad**. Since the PCC&St.L went across the West Virginia Panhandle, it acquired the nickname "the Panhandle Division". I model from Mile Post 25 to Mile Post 50 west of Pittsburgh on the Panhandle, as it might have looked in September of 1939. This means having a substantial steam engine roster, and lots of 40' and 36' cars.

The railroad uses DCC sound equipped engines and includes a 2-mile helper district. The major yard is at Weirton where several lines branch off and a major steel mill was located. Tower operators, using a full signal system, control the trains. Trains are operated on a sequence with 4-5 trains on the mainline on average, keeping the railroad pretty busy. Cars are routed using waybills. Usually 10-11 people are required to operate the railroad. The **PCC&St.L** was featured in **Great Model Railroads 2010**.



### March 5, 2021 Train Watching / Chuck Hart

Friday, 5 March turned out to be pretty nice day, weather wise, so Ron Christensen, MMR and Willy Worick and I decided to get out for some fresh air. We met about 9:30am in Galien, MI and Ron drove us down to the New Carlisle area for some train watching. We no sooner pulled into a favorite spot and along came a hot NS heading west. The day looked promising! And then! There were no trains for a long time. Anyway, we wandered around for a while and ended up sitting on Walnut Road near the Gavilon Grain complex. Gavilon Grain is a big operation with headquarters in Omaha, NB. The company currently has 92 locations in the Midwest as far south as Texas and out west to Idaho.

The New Carlisle location has it own locomotive on site. It's an ex Army GE 65 Tonner. As luck would have it the facility was hard at work. A long string of covered hoppers were being loaded so we watched for a while. The loco crew picked up five empties at a time and brought them over to the elevator. A worker on an elevated platform connected his harness to the OSHA Railcar Fall Protection System (yellow structure above the railcars). This structure allows the worker to freely walk from one end of the cars to the other and be protected from falling to the ground. He stepped off the platform onto the hoppers and opened the hatch covers on the cars. As the string of cars moved under the discharge shoot filling the hoppers the worker closed and sealed the hatches. The process of filling five cars was time by Willy and was averaged at just over 5 minutes per load! The worker went back to the platform while the loco crew moved the cars to an adjacent siding and picked up 5 more empties for loading. It was great to see an industry in action. We did see a South Shore train and a CP Autorack train while we were out but by then we declared it was time for lunch and we headed over to Bob's 19<sup>th</sup> hole on US 20 for a sandwich and their good Trice Baked Potato. All in all it was a very good day.



**LEFT: The Gavilon Grain local switcher brings five empties from a storage siding on the east of the elevator. Within about 30 minutes all five will be full and heading to the train being built on an adjacent siding.**



**RIGHT: A working circled in red wearing a white safety helmet is standing on the elevated platform. He has attached his harness to the OSHA Safety Rail above and is preparing to step onto the Hopper Cars to perform his duties.**



**June 19, 2021**

Rich Mahaney will be our Presenter on June 19, 2021. Rich is a member of the NCR, Division 9 and serves as a NCR Director at Large. In June's presentation Rich will tell us about "Storage Containers For Solids, Liquids and Gases For Model Railroaders".

Rich Mahaney has been involved with model railroads and trains since he was about 5 years old when that first "Christmas train set" arrived. The railroad and trains interest was further instilled and reinforced in Rich by his grandfather that would take Rich down to the train tracks in the Grand Rapids, MI area to watch trains with him, and the interest has never left. Rich has been interested in modeling the Great Northern Railway (GN) in an HO layout and the railroads that it interchanged with, between the state of Washington and the Midwest, as well as the movement of perishables in the late 1950's.

Rich is probably most known for his model railroad and railroad related clinics and photography that he has presented in many states and Canada. As an instructor/presenter, Rich has taught in 32 states and 4 countries.

Rich works in the fields of corporate industry and plant level loss control, emergency response, hazardous materials, emergency management, training programs development and delivery since 1972. 29 years of fire service emergency response experience and provides clinics related on loss control, emergency response, hazardous materials, and emergency management, training programs development and delivery and uses his knowledge to present clinics for the model railroad hobby.

**Ron Christensen's, MMR Daily email List  
(AKA Ron's Train Club)**

Greg mentioned in this issue's Superintendent Message about Ron's Thursday email group. This began as an email questionnaire with a daily topic. Ron would suggest a subject and include a picture or two. Others on the list would then comment and sometimes add additional pictures to the conversation. As time went on the topics began to generate a Thursday evening ZOOM session. Some of these sessions have been layout tours that reinforce the daily subject topics others have been clinic presentations. So far there's been as many as 28 videos saved from these ZOOM presentations.

Some examples of topics have included:

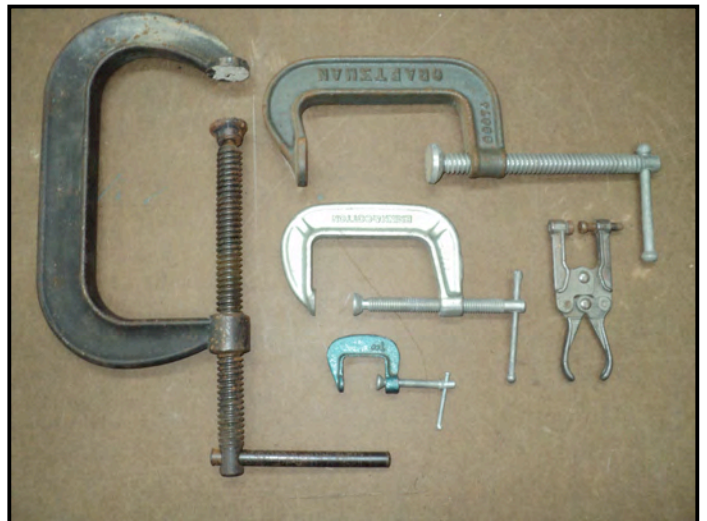
- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Scenic Ideas       | Operations                  |
| Elevators          | Switch Towers               |
| Gas Stations       | Prototype Modeling          |
| Back Drops         | Vinegar Cars                |
| Coal Power Plants  | Track, Switches and Ballast |
| Oil Companies      | Soldering                   |
| Culverts & Bridges | Corn Cribs                  |
| Rail Car Loads     | Scrap Yards                 |
| Snow Plows         | Etc.....                    |

You can join in the conversation by sending your email address to Ron or Greg. The list of past videos is usually listed in an email to the group every week.

Ron Christensen, MMR [rxensen@yahoo.com](mailto:rxensen@yahoo.com)  
Greg Buelmann [greg@uncleheavy.com](mailto:greg@uncleheavy.com)

## CLAMPS (Part 2, By Chuck Hart)

We'll continue our discussion with some of the larger clamps that are useful during the building process of our layouts. This is by no means an exhaustive list but covers a wide variety for you to consider. In Part 3 we'll look at some of the items we use for our 'holding from flopping' on our workbench. If you have special or favorite clamps not shown here let us know about them.



**ABOVE:** Probably the two most common clamps found on our workbench are the large spring style in the left photo and 'C' clamps in the right photo.



**ABOVE:** Next on the workbench we'll probably see some Bar Clamps in the left photo. The bar clamps shown range in length from an 18 inch opening to over a 6-foot capability. Bar clamps can come in handy when building module framework. Next in the right photo an assortment of Trigger or Quick Grip Clamps and are handy because using one hand can usually tighten them against your work piece.

**CLAMPS Part 2cont.**



**ABOVE: Commonly called Wood Screw Clamps are shown in the photo at left. The center photo shows a use for this type of clamp when a vice is not available. Their large jaws provide a very stable surface for their ability to hold parts from vibrating when used with power tools. We looked at small Vice Grips in part 1 so now we'll we look at the more common size, which are in the 8-10 inch length. The tool in the top of the picture to the right has a wide flat jaw surface that is handy for bending metal.**

*Next time in Part 3 we'll conclude this discussion as we look at some of the devices that are usually mounted to the workbench.*

**Looking Forward To Summer**

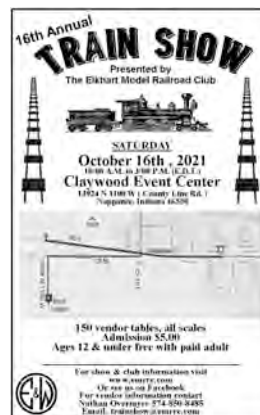
During our recent Division Meetings the subject of in person get-togethers have been discussed. Last July 31 during the height of Covid-19 a group of Division Members got together and met for a day of train riding, lunch and camaraderie between friends. Our destination was the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum. We're all looking forward to a repeat event this summer, maybe in August. Lets make it a family event this year. Below is a picture of some of last year's attendees. Do you recognize any of the suspects?



**'Club Corner'**

**From the Elkhart Model RR Club**

As most know almost all events in the last year had been cancelled. That included two important events for the Elkhart Club. First, the club passed 70 years of continuous operation in 2020. A celebration was planned for last May and that has been moved to a later undetermined date. The second event was the cancellation our Annual Train Show last March. Again, the Club Train Show scheduled for March of this year was cancelled. The good news is the Club has decided to have a Fall Show this year in October 2021. Below is the flyer for this year's Elkhart Train Show.



This years Train Show is scheduled for October 16, 2021.

For show information and other up to date Club happenings please visit the Club's website at:

[www.emrrc.com](http://www.emrrc.com)



# NMRA NEWS

**FOR SCHEDULE INFORMATION GO TO: [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)**  
**CLICK ON THE CALENDAR PAGE TO FIND UPCOMING EVENTS FOR BOTH THE NMRA AND NMRAx.**

Here is the direct link to the NMRAx YOUTUBE Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBbDHVLodgxn8otpnudMsHdQMucCzcTWD>

## MIDWEST REGION ELECTIONS

The results of the election will be announced during the next MWR Annual Meeting of Members. MWR Link: <http://www.mwr-nmra.org>

# Michiana Division News

## Michiana Division Annual Membership Meeting

May 15, 2021

9:30 CT / 10:30 ET

As has been happening for the regular monthly meetings over the last year, this year the Annual Division Meeting will require participation using the ZOOM app. Please attend and help your Division plan the events for the next year. Also, during the meeting there will be an election for two Division Board of Director members. The voting will take place from those in attendance so join in and make your vote count. See more from the Nominations Committee below. Speaking of elections, congratulations to Michiana Division member, Jerry Peterson, for being re-elected to the MWR Board of Directors.

### From the Nominations Committee

1. *Michiana Division Board Of Directors Elections* will be held during the 2021 Annual Membership Meeting in May. The Nominating Committee is soliciting for candidates at this time. This is a two-year term position. If you are a current paid-up member of NMRA MWR Michiana Division in good standing and are interested in serving as a Board Member, please submit your name before April 30, 2021 to the Nominating Committee Chairman: James Temple, email: [jngtemple@yahoo.com](mailto:jngtemple@yahoo.com)

2. *Michiana Division Assistant Superintendent Election* will be held this winter. The Nominating Committee is soliciting for candidates at this time. This is a two-year term position. If you are a current paid-up member of NMRA MWR Michiana Division in good standing and are interested in serving as Assistant Superintendent please submit your name before November 15, 2021 to the Nominating Committee Chairman: James Temple, email [jngtemple@yahoo.com](mailto:jngtemple@yahoo.com)



**Two incumbents are running for re-election for the Michiana Division Board of Directors Position.**

**John Banicki**

I am currently an active member of the Division Board. I am responsible for arranging meeting space for regular and special events for the Division. I also help with audio and visual equipment for the presentations during the meeting events. I am a member of the Elkhart Model Railroad Club and serve as the Club Secretary on the Club Board of Officers. Please consider me as a choice to continue my role on the Division Board of Directors.

**Chuck Hart**

I am currently an active member of the Division Board. I am responsible for maintaining the Division Groups.io list. I am also the editor and I produce the Division Newsletter, the 'FORM - 19'. I am a member of the Elkhart Model Railroad Club and serve as the Club President on the Club Board of Officers. Please consider me as a choice to continue my role on the Division Board of Directors.

***NOTICE - Michiana Division YouTube Channel is now live!***

You can now view videos from our Division ZOOM meetings and other events videos. Check out our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbvaWZMhVoRweILW3aiXZlQ> We will be transferring previous videos and others into that channel as time permits.

**Michiana Division Website <http://www.michiana-nmra.org>**

**Michiana Division - 2815**

The Michiana Division was activated effective September 13, 2009. Includes the following Counties in Indiana: Elkhart, Fulton, Jasper, Lake, La Porte, Marshall, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, Saint Joseph, and Starke and the following Counties in Michigan: Berrien and Cass.

DIV. SUPERINTENDENT	GREG BUELTMANN	<a href="mailto:greg@uncleheavy.com">greg@uncleheavy.com</a>
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT	RICHARD SMURAWSKI	<a href="mailto:rsmurawski@msn.com">rsmurawski@msn.com</a>
CHIEF CLERK	NEAL THOMAS	<a href="mailto:nfthomas@prodigy.net">nfthomas@prodigy.net</a>
PAYMASTER	JIM TEMPLE	<a href="mailto:jngtemple@yahoo.com">jngtemple@yahoo.com</a>
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	JOHN BANICKI	<a href="mailto:jjbmish@gmail.com">jjbmish@gmail.com</a>
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	RON CHRISTENSEN, MMR	<a href="mailto:rxensen@yahoo.com">rxensen@yahoo.com</a>
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	CHUCK HART	<a href="mailto:chart7968@yahoo.com">chart7968@yahoo.com</a>
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	RICH TROWBRIDGE	<a href="mailto:richtrow@frontier.com">richtrow@frontier.com</a>
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN	NEAL THOMAS	<a href="mailto:nfthomas@prodigy.net">nfthomas@prodigy.net</a>
MWR DIRECTOR	GERALD PETERSON	<a href="mailto:babbette4@comcast.net">babbette4@comcast.net</a>