

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

Model Railroading in the Digital Age is the slogan of the Newsletter.
We will feature electronic information depicting aspects of analog and digital modeling when possible.

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April 2024 Form-19 Superintendent's Message By Greg Bueltmann

Greetings Model Railroaders.

The Michiana Division with the Midwest Region is hosting the 2024 Midwest Region Convention. The Convention will be held at the Century Center located in downtown South Bend, IN. May 2-4, 2024. The Central Indiana Division (CID) has also committed to providing volunteers to help with the event alongside volunteers from the Michiana Division.

The Convention will be a three day event consisting of Clinics, Layout Tours, Operating Sessions, AP Judging, Tours, AND MORE!

We are seeking volunteers to chair committees for, registration, clinics, AP model evaluation and coaching, budget and accounting, layout tours, operating sessions, promotions and advertising, website and social media, and non-railroad activities for spouses and guests. Hosting the 2024 MWR Convention is a serious undertaking. Expanding the pool and working with CID and MWR volunteers to conduct an enjoyable event in our region will provide many benefits including convenience, greater involvement from our membership, and unique learning opportunities based on our location.

If you are interested in volunteering during the convention and/or to serve as a committee chairman, please contact me. Include the capacity that you would like to serve in and any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration,

Greg Bueltmann, E-Mail: greg@uncleheavy.com
Superintendent, Michiana Division
2024 Convention Chairman

**PLEASE,
STAY SAFE AND
HEALTHY**

Welcome to the 2ND Quarter of the FORM-19 for 2024

REMINDER: The Michiana Division has moved our regular Saturday meetings back to the third Saturday of the month.

Invitation: Please join us in our meetings for fellowship and learning with other model railroad enthusiasts. We meet on the 3rd 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 regular meeting** is **APRIL 20, 2024**.

Future meetings & ideas for topics: Future meetings for the Division 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” some meetings in the future 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> just click on “Resources” “Michiana Division Interactive Map”.

ROAD TRIPS?

Train shows are back and so are in-person conventions. So, let’s look at the possibilities of hitting the road this year. We’ll look at both model and prototype getaways available and the opportunities to get together with old friends we may not have seen for a while and meet some new friends. Don’t forget to take your models and photos to display and/or enter the contest rooms when attending a Region and National Convention.

MICHIANA DIVISION ROAD TRIP IDEAS

SWAP MEETS AND TRAIN SHOWS

Here is a source for train shows and swap meets that may be in the primary area of the Michiana Division and the five state areas of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio.

<https://www.trainshowlist.com>

AREA TRAIN MEETS

Kalamazoo Model Railroad Historical Society

Kalamazoo Spring Train Show

April 6, 2024

www.kmrhs.com for more information

Central Indiana Division

Franklin Train Show

August 3 & 4, 2024

Saturday, August 3, 10:00am to 4:00pm

Sunday, August 4, 10:00am to 3:00pm

www.cidnmra.org for more information

**COMING IN MAY 2024
MIDWEST REGION CONVENTION
START PLANNING NOW**



SAVE THE DATE

AROUND THE BEND
MIDWEST REGIONAL CONVENTION
MAY 2TH-4TH, 2024
The Century Center, South Bend, Indiana

Regional Train Show • Clinics • SIG Activities • Layout Tours
Operating Sessions • Display Room • NMRA AP Program Judging
Railroad and General Interest Tours • *And much more!*

2024AROUNDTHEBEND.COM

Besides convention attendees, volunteers are needed to make any event like this a success.

Committee chairmen are needed for, registration, clinics, AP model evaluation and coaching, budget and accounting, layout tours, operating sessions, promotions and advertising, website and social media, and non-railroad activities for spouses and guests.

Also, needed are clinic presenters, layouts for viewing and possible operating sessions.

If you are interested in volunteering during the convention and/or to serve as a committee chairman, please contact me. Include the capacity that you would like to serve and any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration,
Greg Bueltmann, E-Mail: greg@uncleheavy.com
Superintendent, Michiana Division
2024 Convention Chairman

2024 MIDWEST REGION CONVENTION PROTOTYPE TOURS

NS Tour of Elkhart Hump Yard. The tour bus leaves Century Center at 9:30 Friday morning for a two-hour tour of NS Roberts Yard, a very large and one of the few hump yards remaining in the east. It handles more than 70 trains and 3200 cars per day to and from destinations all over the NS system. Return to Century Center will be around 1:00pm. The tour is limited to 15 people and the bus fare is \$25.

West Michigan Railroad. The tour bus leaves Century Center at 9:30 Saturday morning to visit the WM in Hartford, Michigan. The WM is a former branchline of the Pere Marquette (C&O), approximately five miles in length, serving the hazardous materials, biodiesel, and agriculture industries, and interchanging with the CSX. The two-hour tour is limited to 15 people and will return to the Century Center about 2pm. The bus fare is \$25.

South Shore Michigan City Shops Tour. The tour will leave from the South Shore (NICTD) station at South Bend Airport (travel on your own) on Saturday via train 506 departing at 12:57pm (EDT), traveling to Michigan City (Carroll St) for a tour of the shops and returning on train 505 at 3:23pm (CDT), arriving in South Bend at 5:04pm. Train tickets are available from a ticket vending machine on the platform. The full round-trip fare is \$12.50, but there are discounts for seniors, youth, and families. Airport parking in the short-term lot is \$2 per hour (plan on five hours), or \$1 per hour in the long-term lot. Walk to the train platform is approximately 3-4 minutes. Travel time from the Century Center to South Bend Airport is approximately 15 to 20 minutes.

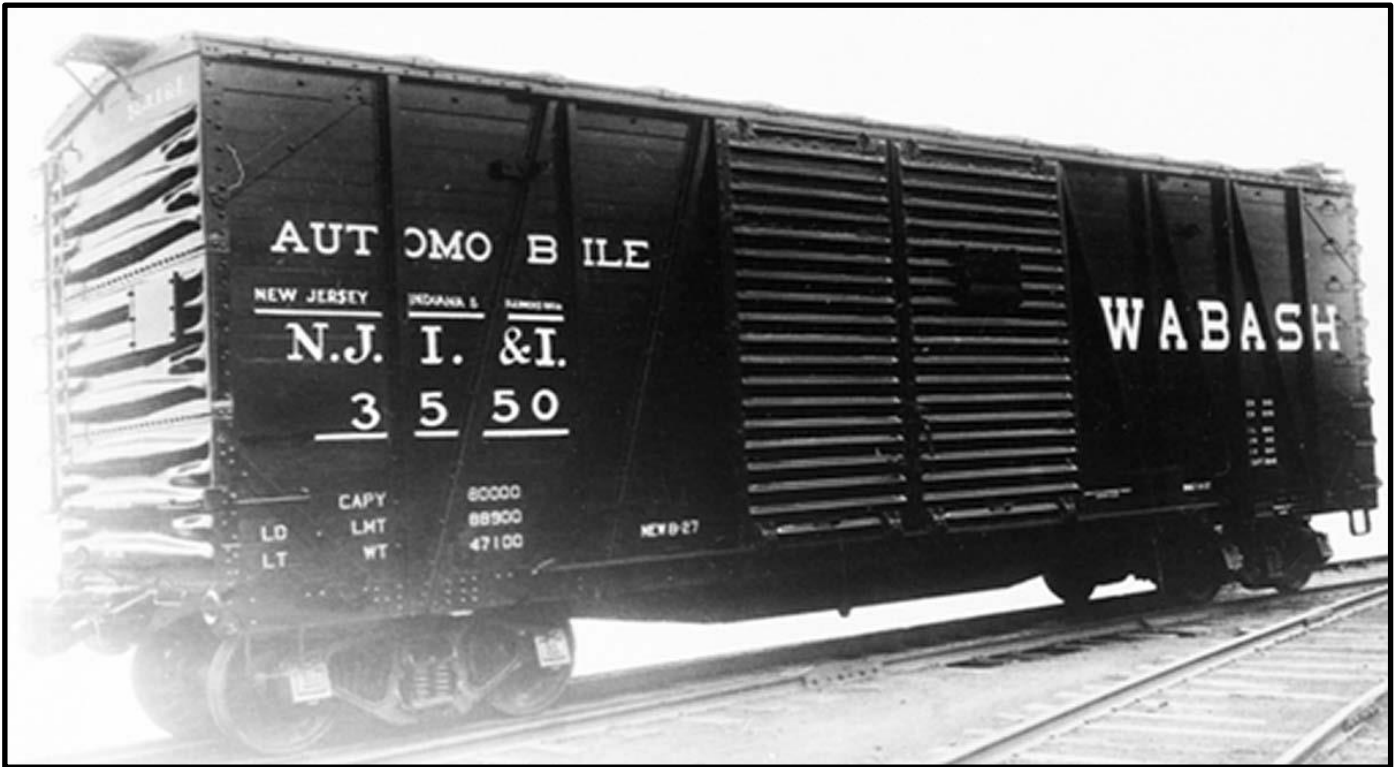
The Around the Bend committee is proud to have worked with Accurail to produce an HO scale Convention Car.

In 1923 the ACF built car number 2024 for the NJ I & I at their St. Louis Plant. It's a "door and a half" 50 foot automobile boxcar originally used to haul Studebakers built in South Bend. This car richly celebrates railroading in the South Bend area with a car number and convention date on a correct prototype. The car was later rebuilt and additionally lettered for the Wabash Railroad in 1950.

We partnered with Accurail to offer a close to prototype model car. Accurail didn't offer a door and a half version, so we purchased Standard Car Company wooden half door add-on kits, included with every car. The add-on comes with instructions for the small alterations needed for a good fit of the door. We consulted with the Wabash Railroad Historical Society and unfortunately was unable to find a photo of car 2024 but they were able to provide us some historical context of the car as well as photos of other cars from the series. We settled on the lettering style of car 2088. Photos of the close prototype and the model are shown on the next page.

Included in each convention labeled box is the Accurail kit, the door add-on, and historical information for the car.

We are offering 54 of these custom lettered and numbered cars, available at the convention for \$40. You can reserve your car by clicking the button below and completing the subsequent form. Once reserved, you may pick up and pay for your car at the convention registration desk.



*And don't forget to take advantage of the many clinics, layout tours, hosted operations sessions, display room activities with workshops, non-rail tours and more.
See you at the Midwest Region Convention 2-4 May 2024.*

**A SMALL LAYOUT FOR MY GREAT GRANDSONS
BY
RON CHRISTENSEN, MMR**

I have built many model railroads, so it was natural that I build a small model railroad for my Grandsons. Now I have Great Grandsons and again it seems like building a 4x4 foot HO railroad was a must. Follow along as I describe the building process.

Benchwork.

I started with 1/4 inch plywood to keep the weight down.

Rod T. built the frame to keep things from being too flexible. Next came the painting and a coat of varnish on the frame.

Track and scenery.

Duane H. had just removed a large layout and contributed a switch and rerailer, John N. had some nickel silver track in code 100 that he would not be using, and the layout was started.

I wanted something that was as child proof as possible so no trees or other things sticking up. What I did was print pictures of their Grandmother's house and their house and glued them by a road. Next I thought maybe a stop sign and Railroad crossing sign might be a learning experience.

Locomotive and rolling stock.

Ron J. contributed a Tyco locomotive that ran well.

I changed the rear coupler to a Kadee coupler but left the front original horn hook coupler in case cars they bought would have that type of coupler. Adding a couple freight cars and a caboose made up a nice small train for the layout.

Building and unloading ramp.

The short sidetrack needed a purpose so I had help from Chuck H. who made a ramp from a small piece of 2x4 lumber for the dump truck to fill the gondola.

It seemed like the layout still needed something, maybe a tunnel, but NO.

Then I saw a building made from wood at Joe's B. house and thin plywood at Chuck's and the idea formed, why not a factory that the train could run through.

So again, I recruited help from Chuck H. and he made the run through factory for me.

Detail touches.

Almost done, but my wife looked at it and said, "kind of plan." "Oh, but you could paint something?" And that deal was done.

A bit on the track and electrical.

All the rail joiners are soldered. I liked the Life Like plastic case power supply, so I went looking for one. Not finding one so again I turned to friends and sure enough John O. found one. Leaving a power supply on for hours and hours is not a good idea, not with small operators (HUM maybe big operators too) it is easy to forget to unplug the power supply.

I found a disconnect circuit on Amazon that allows a cut off after an hour. That's plenty of time, as most kids run the train a couple of times and move on to something else.

Delivery.

The layout has been delivered and my great grandsons are now model railroaders!

Thanks for all the help from fellow model railroader friends. We really do have a great hobby.

**A SMALL LAYOUT FOR MY GREAT GRANDSONS
BY
RON CHRISTENSEN, MMR**



All photos by Ron Christensen, MMR



MICHIANA DIVISION SCHEDULE FOR THIS QUARTER
APRIL 20, TBD
MAY 2-4, MIDWEST REGION CONVENTION, SOUTH BEND, IN
JUNE 16 JOINT ROAD TRIP WITH NCR DIVISION 9 (FATHER'S DAY)

SPECIAL FATHER'S DAY FAMILY ROAD TRIP

June 16th (Sunday) -Let's Take a Ride on the Little River Railroad in Coldwater, Michigan

After the ride we can tour their train shops and for those that want to have lunch there is a Mexican restaurant located near the train facility. Note that they only run the railroad on Sundays and the only Sunday they run in June is the 16th which happens to be Father's Day.

At the last meeting of The Michiana BOD, we decided to change the June meeting date from Saturday June 15th to Sunday June 16th to meet with NCR Division 9 and ride the train with their group.

Members are responsible for purchasing their own tickets.
Ticket information & Website Link displayed below:
 June 16 FATHER'S DAY, 11 AM and 2 PM, STEAM POWERED ROUND TRIP TRAIN RIDE TO QUINCY **(We are planning to take the 11:00 AM train)**

FATHERS RIDE FREE WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY A PAYING PASSENGER
 TICKETS FOR ALL TRAIN RIDES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE
 TICKETS CAN ALSO BE PURCHASED VIA PHONE AT: 517-227-5488

- Adults (ages 12 & up) \$22.00
- Children (ages 3-11)\$15.00
- Children (ages 2 & under) FREE
- PRICES INCLUDE ALL SERVICE FEES

Website Link Schedule and Fares - Little River Railroad
<https://littleriverrailroad.com/index.php/schedule-and-fares/>



National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

New Member Application

Name:		
Address:		
City:	State/Country	Zip:
Phone:	Birth Date:	Scale:
Email:	Occupation:	

Membership	1 Year	2 Year	Total
Member - All rights & benefits as well as the digital NMRA magazine access.	\$68.00	\$136.00	
Member with Printed Magazine Subscription – All rights & benefits, digital NMRA Magazine access and the Printed Magazine.	\$92.00	\$184.00	
Family – Spouse or minor child of above member. No magazine, no voting rights, not allowed to hold office.	\$10.00	\$20.00	
Sustaining – Mandatory for group memberships (Clubs, Business, Associations). All rights & benefits, digital NMRA Magazine access and the Printed NMRA magazine.	\$120.00	\$240.00	
Student – Between the ages of 19-25 years of age. All rights & benefits, digital NMRA magazine access.	\$40.00	\$80.00	
Membership			\$
General Donation			\$
Merchandise			\$
Region Subscription			\$
Total			\$

Thank you for being a member of the NMRA! It is extremely important to have your current email address on file. This is used for access to the member only section, turntable, ballots, voting, annual donation statements, online renewals and communication. Please be sure to note your email address below.

Email:

Region Subscriptions				
If you do not see your region listed, there is no charge for region subscription! Most regions offer the subscription online on the website.				
21 Northeastern Region	\$12.00	28 Midwest Region	\$6.00	
23 North Central Region	\$10.00	33 Southeastern Region	\$10.00	
26 Pacific Coast Region	\$8.00	36 Sunshine Region	\$12.00	

Make Checks Payable to NMRA. We accept MasterCard, Visa, Discover, and American Express.

Credit Card Number:

Expire Date: CVV Code: Signature: _____

Mail To: NMRA, P. O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328
 Email: HQ@NMRA.ORG
 423-892-2846

Thursday Evening Zoom Meets

These meetings are open to all modelers and attract visitors from all over the country. Following the call, a video recording of the event is posted on our YouTube channel. A directory of available videos is provided on our division website at www.nmra-michiana.org. If you would like to receive the weekly invite that is sent out for these sessions, please contact me at greg@uncleheavy.com.

Michiana Division YouTube Channel is now live!

You can now view videos from our Division ZOOM meetings and other event videos. Check out our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbvaWZMhVoRweILW3aiXZlQ>

YOUR Michiana Division needs a Membership Chairman.

Neal Thomas has left the MWR Michiana Division and has moved to the NCR. Neal contributed to the Division as the Membership Chairman. If you have experience with Microsoft products including MS Word and MS Excel please consider filling the position for the Division Membership Chairman. Only a few hours a month are required for this important member position.
Please contact Superintendent Greg Bueltmann.

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.

Michiana Division Committees

AUDIT COMMITTEE	JIM TEMPLE
NOMINATING COMMITTEE	JIM TEMPLE
ELECTION COMMITTEE	JIM TEMPLE
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE	VACANT
CLINIC COMMITTEE	VACANT
INTERNET COMMITTEE	GREG BUELTMANN
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE	CHUCK HART
CONVENTION COMMITTEE	GREG BUELTMANN
MEET LOCATION COMMITTEE	JOHN BANICKI
AP CHAIRMAN	RON CHRISTENSEN, MMR

We are always looking for help with organizing and making the division stronger from within the membership. Please consider taking the load off by volunteering a small amount of your time.

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DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	CHUCK HART	chart7968@yahoo.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	VACANT	
DIVISION DIRECTOR	ROD THOMSON	rthomson3003@gmail.com