

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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PLEASE,
 STAY SAFE AND
 HEALTHY

From the Michiana Division Superintendent:

Spring has sprung and while that may mean less time working on our models and more time in the yard, it also means our division members will be meeting in person and going on fun outings together without as much worry about what the weather might do. Please take a look at the events we have planned for the next few months and consider joining us. The friends we make through this wonderful hobby are what keep us coming back.

We will be having an election for at large members of the board of directors at our meet on May 17th. This is a great opportunity to get more involved and give back some service to the hobby and our volunteer organization. We will be taking nominations from the floor but if you are interested and would like to know more about what's required and what your commitment will be, feel free to contact me or any of the board members.

Best Regards,
 Greg Bueltmann
 Superintendent, Michiana Division NMRA
[Michiana Video Archive](#)

Welcome to the 2ND Quarter of the FORM-19 for 2025

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 meet** is **APRIL 19, 2025**.

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”.

MICHIANA DIVISION SPRING MEETS

See more information on page 3

Saturday, April 19th Family day. Plan to attend and ride the trains at the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum annual Easter Special event.

Saturday, May 17th Annual Division Membership Meeting.

Saturday, June 21st Plan to attend our winter model progress show and tell.

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>

Kalamazoo Model Railroad Historical Society Train Show.

Spring Model Train Show & Sale

Saturday, April 5, 2025, 10:00am to 3:00pm (ET)

Kalamazoo County Expo Center

Admission \$5 / Kids 12 & Under Free

<http://kmrhs.org/> for more information

Michiana Division Spring Events

Michiana Division Meet Saturday April 19th

Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum

Hop aboard the Easter Train and enjoy a fun-filled excursion aboard one of the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum's most popular train rides! Passengers will board the train at our depot in North Judson and take a quick trip out across the Kankakee River bridge at English Lake before returning to town. Passengers will disembark from the train at Grasselli Tower. Our younger passengers (ages 2 to 12) will participate in our Easter Egg Hunt.

For complete information: <https://www.hoosiervalley.org/train-rides/special-events/easter-trains>

Michiana Division Meet Saturday May 17th

Annual Michiana Division Membership Meeting

Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library - Downtown Branch

209 Lincolnway E, (933), Mishawaka, IN 46544

Time 10:00am (CT) / 11:00am (ET)

During the business portion of the meeting, two Division Director at Large positions are up for election. Nominations will be taken from those attending and voting will follow after the nominations during the meeting.

An open discussion or clinic may follow the business meeting.

Many of those attending usually head off to a local restaurant for lunch following our meets.

Michiana Division Meet Saturday June 21st

Lincoln Township Public Library

2099 W John Beers Road, Stevensville, MI 49127

Time 10:00am (CT) / 11:00am (ET)

It's time to catch up on your winter projects and your ideas and suggestions for future meetings. Please bring your models or projects whether completed or in a work of progress.

Many of those attending usually head off to a local restaurant for lunch following our meets.

On January 6, 2025, Lincoln Township Public Library located in Stevensville, MI celebrated *National Hobby Month* by hosting an adult Patron Hobby Open House. Michiana Division members attended and displayed items for our favorite hobby, 'Model Railroading'.

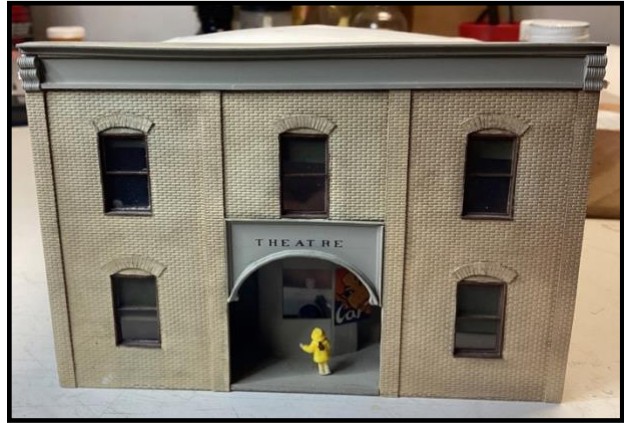


LEFT: Three Division members brought along a number of items including a section of track operating by DCC control, layout diagrams, model magazines and NMRA information. Seated left to right are Ron Christensen MMR, Rod Thomson and Bob Blake.

RIGHT: Division member, Rod Thomson brought along one his beautiful modules to demonstrate many of the aspects of the model railroad hobby, including track installation, scenery elements of terrain, ground cover and trees. Rod's module also shows off his scratch building abilities of structures.



**Re-building and constructing the unique Bow String Roof
on a 1930's re-modeled Theater located in Coloma, MI.
By Ron Christensen MMR**

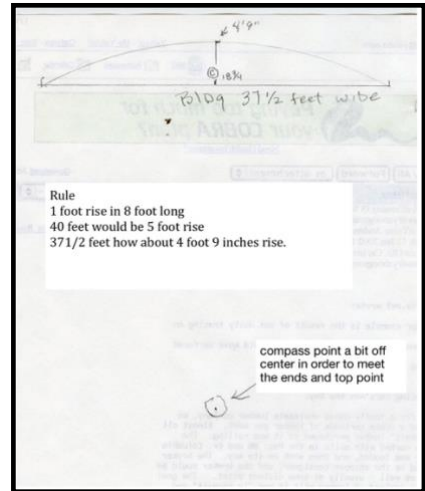


Back in the 1980s I was a regular at John's Hobby shop in Coloma, Michigan. The town was having some kind festival and John was making a diorama of Main Street. John asked if I would construct a building, and I built the local downtown Coloma theater. The only information was this picture taken probably in the 1930s. I was happy with the building until Seth Lakin did a zoom on bow-string roofs. I knew right away the flat roof was not correct for a free standing roof like a theater. We now have Google Earth, and the theater is still an open movie theater which allowed me to look at the roof.



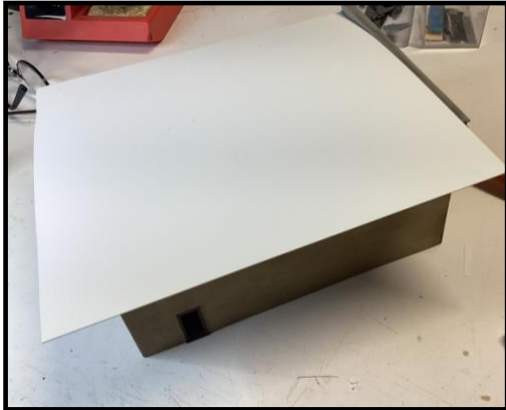
LEFT: This is how the model looked with a flat roof.

RIGHT: This was the start of the roof.
I first built a roof like this; to make it look right I would have had to remove 2 feet off the sides.
The brick siding is Holgate and Reynolds and very tough to cut, so I dumped it.



LEFT and RIGHT: The roof arch structure was built from Evergreen .040 sheet styrene, and the bracing are .060 x.170 styrene strips.

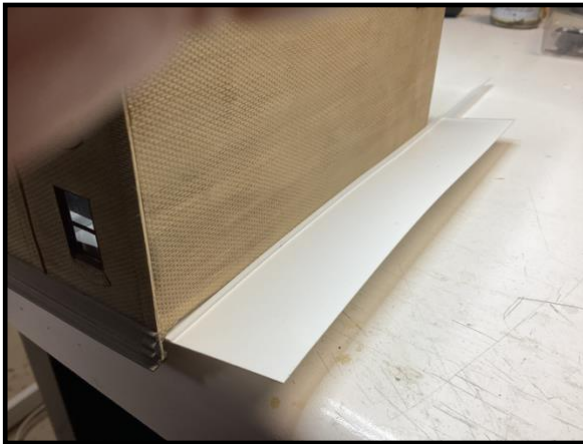




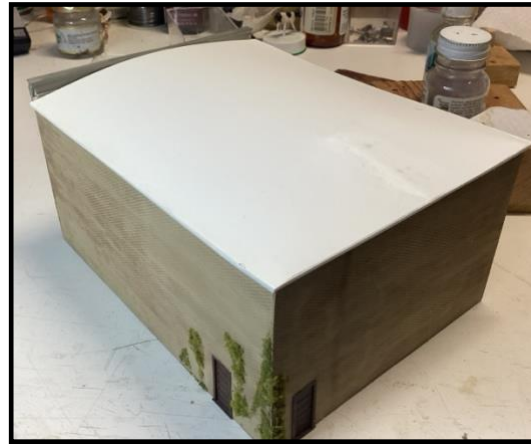
LEFT and ABOVE: The roof material is .015. How do you measure something accurately that is round and may not be exactly the same length at each end?

I decided I would have a 4 inch hang over, so I glued on a scale 4X4 on the roof edge.

The roof was attached on one side then rapped over and glued. A scale 4x4 was glued to roof material on that side, making the extra roof material easy to cut off.

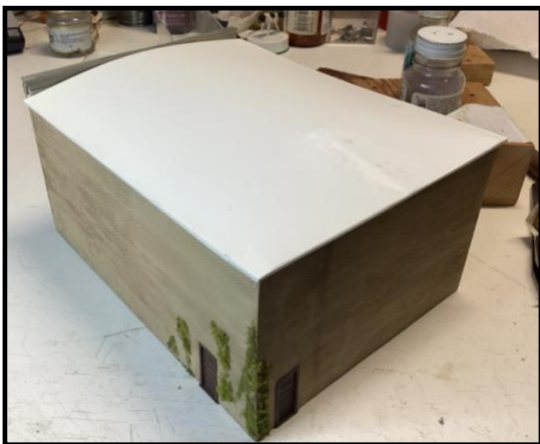


ABOVE: Shown before the extra was cut off.



ABOVE: The rear was bent down to a flat building edge.

That was done because I did not have any material to make the back side with a round edge.



LEFT and RIGHT: The sub roof done, now it's time for roofing material.

I like airplane paper, but not having enough, I use tissue paper.

I think it is a bit too thin, but that is what it is.

Roll roofing is usually 3 feet wide and 30+ feet long.





LEFT: Complete roof with plumbing vent , roof vents and chimney

Making the movie marquee



Using the real sign I photo shopped a marquee for the model theater
The paper sign was glued to a plastic V shape glued to the front of the building with wire supports



ABOVE: The movie theater is done, now for the next building.



ABOVE: The little people can now get back to using the park

2025 Spring Railroad Modelers Meet

Hosted by the Black Swamp Division (Div 1) of the North Central Region (NCR), NMRA



April 5, 2025 – Sylvania OH

Doors Open 8:00AM with activities into the evening. See website for details!
Sylvania Senior Center, 7140 W Sylvania Ave, Sylvania, OH 43560

Learn New Skills, Share Your Models, Share Techniques, Visit Layouts



This is an RPM style
Model Railroading event!
Lunch options will be available on-site!



This event is open to ALL MODELERS - NMRA Membership is not required

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Modeling Clinics – 9 clinics on 3 tracks to choose from on a mixture of subjects presented by modelers, historians, and industry experts.

Model Showroom – Bring your models (finished or in-progress) of locomotives, rolling stock, structures, dioramas, or scenery. All are Welcome! The showroom is about sharing the hobby in all its many forms. Freelance and prototype welcome.

Layouts and Displays - Small and modular displays will be available within the main venue.

Layout Tours - Layout tours of local layouts will be available during the afternoon and evening.

Admission is \$20 at the door

17 and under free, all individuals 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult

All event activities (minus lunch) are included in one low price!

This is NOT a swap meet!



Visit our website for more information
and event schedules
smm.ncnmra.org

Hosted by the Black Swamp Division
Division 1, NCR NMRA
div1.ncnmra.org





**MWR 2025 Election Results:
New Officers for the Midwest Region**

President:	John Coy MMR	CID
Vice President:	Bob Perry	CID
Director at Large	Mike Hirvela	FVD
Director at Large	Bob Wundrock MMR	SCWD
Director at Large	Larry Nelson	IVD

Congratulations to all!

**NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
2025 National Convention**

STATION No. VI

Hosted by:
the NORTH CENTRAL REGION

July 14-19, 2025

Open to ALL model railroaders! You do not have to be an NMRA member to attend! **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!**

Our location – Sheraton Detroit-Novi, MI
A suburban location with FREE parking!

CONVENTION GOALS and HIGHLIGHTS -
Our main objectives are to provide events of value, items attendees will see as worth their money, all at the lowest possible cost. ** We will honor the traditions of past conventions but at lower cost and with greater flexibility. ** This convention will be shorter, starting at 1 PM on Monday and continuing through Saturday afternoon with a banquet Saturday evening. ** Note that registration includes all layout visits and operating sessions, and all activities at the hotel except Modeling with the Masters, and admittance to the National Train Show. ** We will support all the traditional activities of the SIG's. ** The National Contest will be fully supported. The contest will be in a prominent room and will be run by the National Contest team. There will be space for model displays, modular layouts and other functions. Those putting their models on display will have the option of entering the People's Choice Contest. ** We will have several prototype tours which may include a Ford plant tour and a cruise on the Detroit River with an emphasis on the industrial aspects of the waterfront. ** We expect to have at least 90 clinics. The clinics will be varied, and each will be given twice. ** We expect to have at least 60 layouts open for visit. Most layouts will be at least 900 sq. ft. in size running to over 3,000 sq. ft. in one or more cases. All layout visits and op sessions will be self-guided so you may take your time.

<https://nmra2025.com/>

**For more information click on the link below:
<https://nmra2025.com>**



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>

Please send articles, news items, photos and comments to the Editor of the Michiana Division FORM-19 Newsletter to: Chuck Hart, email: chart7968@yahoo.com by June 21st to be included in the July 2025 Summer issue of the FORM-19 Newsletter.

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.

DIV. SUPERINTENDENT	GREG BUELTMANN	greg@uncleheavy.com
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DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	RON CHRISTENSEN, MMR	rxensen@yahoo.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	CHUCK HART	chart7968@yahoo.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	VACANT	
DIVISION DIRECTOR	ROD THOMSON	rthomson3003@gmail.com