

Michiana Division



National Model Railroad Association  
Midwest Region

FORM-19

# Model Railroading in the Digital Age



COMMUNICATIONS  
DCC/LCC  
PROGRAMMING  
LAYOUTS  
AND  
ELECTRONIC  
PROJECTS

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

Model Railroading in the Digital Age is the slogan of the Newsletter. Along with modeling articles, we will feature electronic information depicting aspects of analog and digital modeling when possible.

### Inside this issue

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PLEASE,  
STAY SAFE AND  
HEALTHY

### Editor Comments:

Elkhart Train Show

I hope you attended the Nappanee Train Show, hosted by the Elkhart Model RR Club on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The Train Show is always a lot of fun. The NMRA table was manned by Michiana Division members Greg Bueltmann, Jim Temple, Bob Petit and Lisa Tarnow.

### Division Meet participation

The attendance at Division Meets continues to decrease.

There has been an invitation in every Michiana Division FORM-19 Newsletter (including this issue) for ideas for meet subjects. No Division Members have responded with their ideas to date; however, the Board members have continued to strive and create interesting meet subjects.

The Michiana Division is now without leadership in the Superintendent position. Greg Bueltmann has assumed the Division Director position vacated by Rod Thomsom

The following positions are vacant.

- Superintendent
- Membership Chairman
- Clinic Chairman
- Meet Location Chairman
- Chief Clerk

What can you do to change this trend?

Regards, Chuck Hart, Editor

## Welcome to the 2ND Quarter of the FORM-19 for 2026

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 Sub-Division meet is scheduled for April 21, 2026.

The next Division meet is scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Annual Business Meeting)

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 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>

Southwest Michigan Train Show

Hosted by the KMRHS

Saturday, April 4, 2026, 10:00am-3:00pm

Kalamazoo County Expo Center

2900 Lake St. Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Griffith Swap Meet

Hosted by Blackhawk Railway Historical Society, Inc

Sunday, April 19, 2026, 10:00am-2:00pm (CT)

American Legion Post 66

132 N. Wiggs St, Griffith, IN 46319

The Bag Factory Train Show

Hosted by Michael’s Trains

Saturday, April 25, 2026

The Bag Factory

1100 N Chicago Ave. Goshen, IN 46528

**APRIL TRAIN SHOW ADS NEAR THE MICHIANA DIVISION AREA AND 1 SPECIAL AT THE ILLINOIS RAILWAY MUSEUM**



**Southwest Michigan Train Show**

**Saturday, Apr 4th, 2026**

**10AM - 3PM**

**Kalamazoo County Expo Center**

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

**KMRHS.ORG**

ENJOY A GREAT TRAIN SHOW!

# CIRCUS CITY TRAIN SHOW!

FORMERLY, THE MIAMI COUNTY TRAIN SHOW

PERU JR SR HIGH SCHOOL  
401 N BROADWAY  
PERU, IN 46970

**KIDS 6 AND UNDER FREE!**

**APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> 10AM - 3PM**

**\$5 ADMISSION**

- CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE
- OPERATING LAYOUTS
- HUGE SELECTION OF ITEMS
- 150 VENDOR TABLES
- ALL SCALES OF TRAINS
- VENDOR TABLES AVAILABLE \$25

QUESTIONS? CONTACT PAUL FORMAN 765-432-1052

# MARCH MADNESS

## Model Train Show

The IRM Hobby Shop in Union, IL will be selling its large excess inventory of N, HO, S, O and G Scale model trains, track, buildings, and accessories!

Date: Saturday, April 18  
Time: 10am - 3pm  
Location: Illinois Railway Museum  
7000 Olson Road  
Union, IL 60180

*\*NOTE: IRM Museum Campus will be closed to the public during this event. No fee to attend.*

We Accept: Cash

\* No tax on purchases

**ILLINOIS RAILWAY MUSEUM**

The Illinois Railway Museum Model Train Hobby Shop is a 501 (3) (c) non-profit organization. Donations of model trains and other items are always welcome and are tax deductible for the donor.

## The Bag Factory Train Show

*HOSTED BY MICHAEL'S TRAINS*

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**Saturday**  
April 25th, 2026  
10am-3pm EDT

**The Bag Factory**

1100 N Chicago Ave.  
Goshen, IN 46528

**THE BAG FACTORY**  
Since 1896

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**Vendor tables, operating layouts, all scale model trains**

**Admission \$5.00**

**Ages 12 & under free with adult admission**

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For show information visit [www.michaelstrains.com](http://www.michaelstrains.com) or visit our Facebook page

For vendor information contact Michael @ (574) 212-2920 or email at [info@michaelstrains.com](mailto:info@michaelstrains.com)

# RIDGE MODEL RAILROADERS SPRING 2026 OPEN HOUSE

FREE

<https://ridgerailroaders.org>

FREE

**Sat. Apr. 18th from 10AM to 4PM**

The SE Corner of Ridge and Colfax, Griffith, IN  
*in the basement of the **OLD** Calumet High Gym*

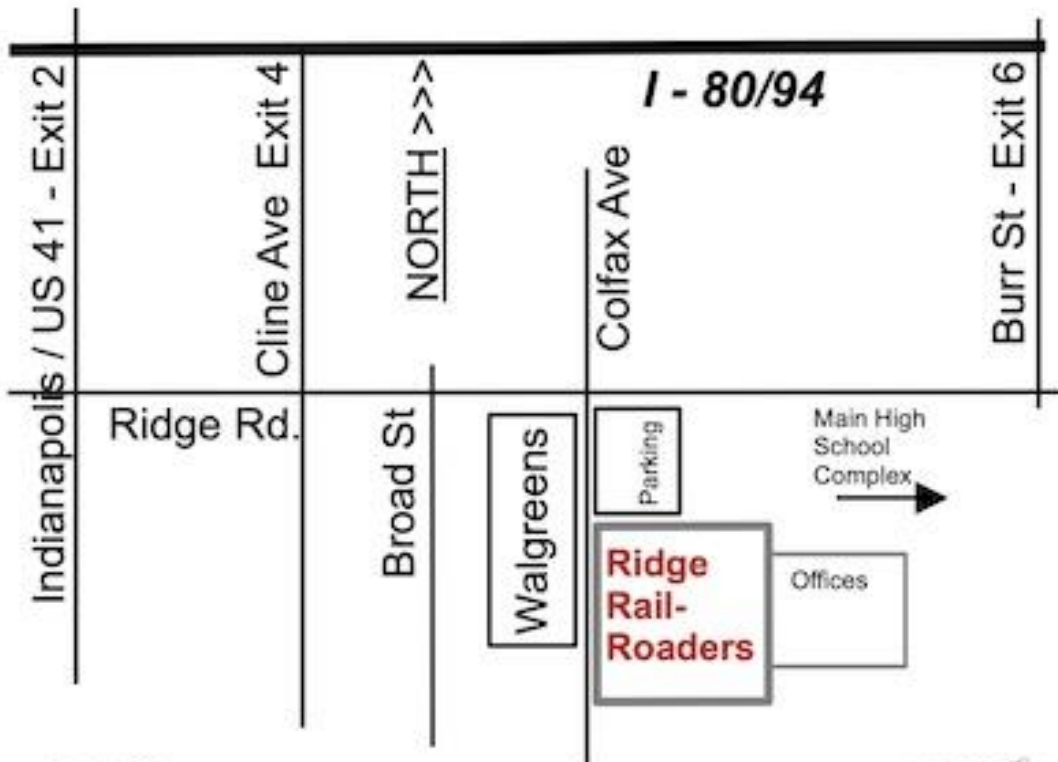
[See what we have been up to recently!](#)

Google  
Map



See the correct doorway -->

**FREE TRIAL MEMBERSHIPS Available! See the Website!**



FREE

*Memberships are available!  
Donations Welcome!*

FREE

### FUTURE MICHIANA DIVISION EVENTS

During the March meeting of the Michiana Division Board of Directors planned the following Division Meets for April, May and June 2026.

**Subdivision Meets**  
**Lincoln Township Public Library**  
**Stevensville, 2209 W John Beers RD**  
**6:30pm Eastern Time**

**April 21, 2026**

Chuck Hart will give a presentation about his N scale layout, how he conceived and built it using 10 basic rules for layout construction.

**May 19, 2026**

Jeffrey Sodaro will be presenting basic decoder installation and programming.

**June, TBD**

June is not set but will be one of the topics from a list developed during the January 2026 meeting.

The Michiana Division is composed of many counties and spread over a large area of NW Indiana and two counties in Michigan. Maybe a get together in smaller groups closer to where you live is a way to meet. If you would like to create a Subdivision in your area, just put out a call by using the Michiana groups.io list.

**Annual Division Membership Meeting**

**May 16, 2026**

This will be a ZOOM meeting. The ZOOM link will be posted on the groups.io list.



From Robert Petit via the NMRA Michiana Division Facebook page.

The Michiana Division of the Midwest Region had these made for the 2024 Regional Convention. They are based on Automobile cars on the Wabash subsidiary, New Jersey, Indiana, and Illinois. Included in the kit is the half door from New England Rail Service.

These are being sold by the Michiana Division of the NMRA. All proceeds go to the Division Treasury. The Division has a limited number of these available. Cost is \$25 with \$10 for shipping. Interested people may contact Robert Petit through Facebook Messenger or email: [bobpetit422@yahoo.com](mailto:bobpetit422@yahoo.com)

## Wood Deck Loading Dock By Chuck Hart

I have mentioned that I help out on some of the local layouts around my area. One of those is John Nye's large HO scale Great Northern, Santa Fe and Union Pacific layout located in Stevensville, MI. In the October 2026 Newsletter I described how I built a concrete loading dock for the Team Track area for the Santa Fe Terminal. After completing the concrete dock for the Santa Fe Terminal, John asked me to build a loading dock extension to a freight house that is located in Jamestown on the Great Northern Railway line.

### Constructing an HO Scale Wood Loading Dock

After looking at the available space, I made a rough sketch for the loading dock construction. I decided to make the loading dock a board by board project rather than from a panel of scribed wood because it was a small footprint. I really didn't do much measuring and worked from a rough sketch of the area. Again, there were two dimensions that I needed, and they were the height of the dock as it had to be correct for the spur track that was installed without a roadbed and also the height and length of the ramp at the end of the dock. The rest of the dock just had to fill in the area John had in mind for the dock extension. Construction of the dock was pretty straight forward and is described along with the following photos.

### Proposed area for the loading dock to be extended from an existing building





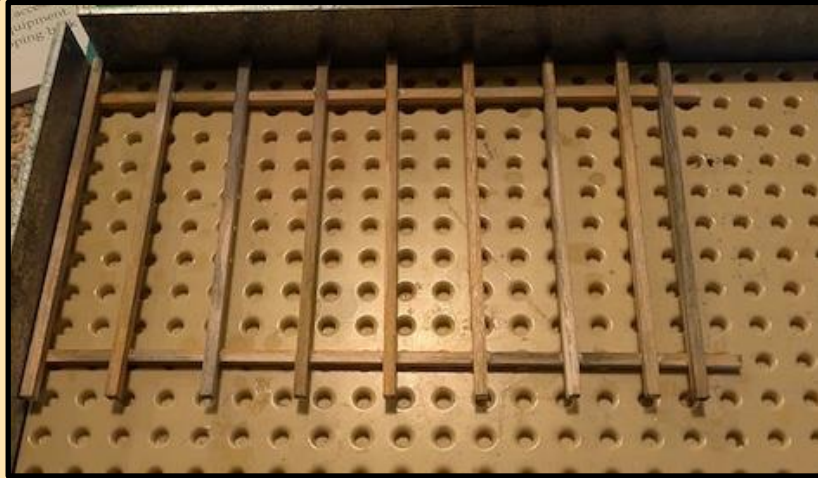
**LEFT:** The basic tools used for the construction of the wood dock. Also used was a squaring jig and a NWSL Chopper

**RIGHT:** The washes and wood glue used for the project.

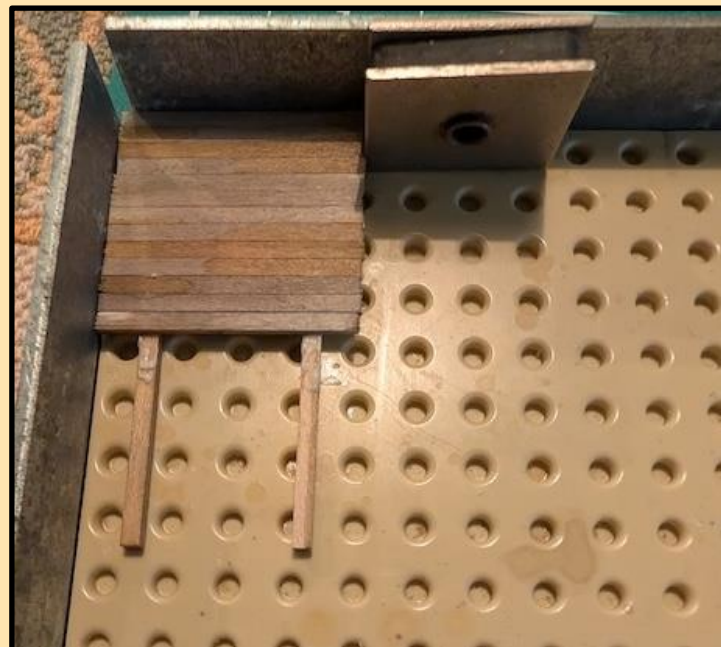
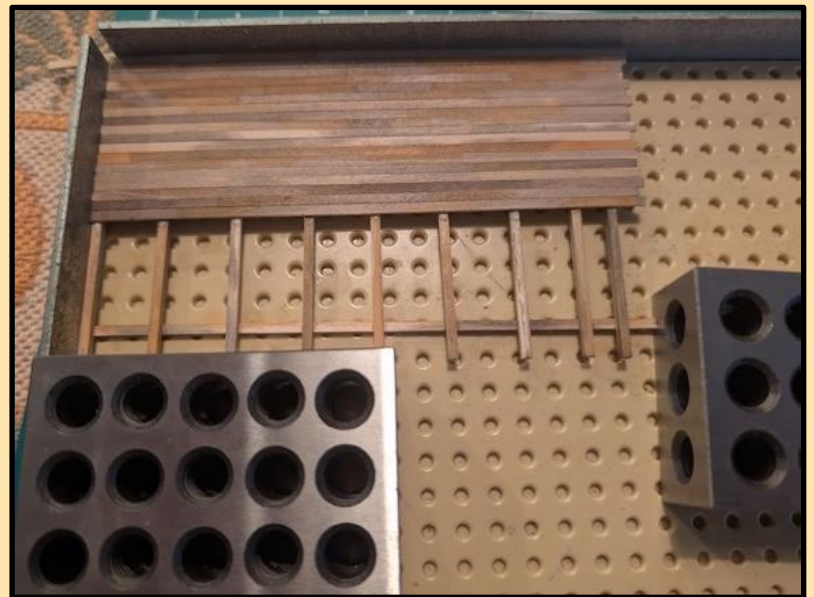


**LEFT:** All of the wood pieces were cut using a NWSL Chopper then laid out on wax paper. The various washes were then applied to the wood strips to create different shades of age.





**ABOVE, RIGHT AND BELOW:** The squaring tool, 1-2-3 blocks and small magnets were used to help aligned the deck frame supports, the deck boards and the ramp construction.





**LEFT:** The completed wood dock ready to be installed. The extension on the left connects the dock to the existing building.



**LEFT:** Before photo. Parking lot needed to be painted, and the scenery needed to be repaired and completed.

**RIGHT:** After photo. The completed dock in place and connected to the freight building. The parking lot has been painted, and John has applied new ground cover to complete the scene.



Tree construction presentation at the January Sub-  
Division Meeting  
Article By Chuck Hart

During the January Sub-Division meet hosted by Ron Christensen, MMR, members attending requested a learning session for tree construction. Rod Thomson and Ron Christensen gave a presentation about various types of trees and construction methods during the February meeting. Below is a summary of that meeting in pictures.

**Rod's tree construction materials.**

**Wood dowels**

**2 sizes of braided picture hanging wire**

**LOCTITE Super Glue**

**DAP DYNAFLEX 230**

**Aleenne's Spray Pump Fabric Fusion**

**Woodlad Scenics Poly Fiber**

**Various dark flat spray paint**

**Various colors of flock**



Insert and glue  
the wire into  
holes drilled in  
the wood dowel.  
Then flare the  
braided wires to  
create small  
branches





Blend the wire to the dowel using the DAP 230 then spray your tree with your desired gray or brown color.



Stretch the Poly Fiber across the wires so you can see through the fiber and expose the branches. Apply the flock using the Fabric Fusion Spray.





LEFT:  
A beautiful,  
completed scene  
on one of Rod's  
modules

After Rod's presentation, Ron showed some locations for tree placement on his C&NW / MILW lines layout. Ron uses various weeds, plants, super trees, flower stems, sage brush and other basic armatures covered with flocks and poly fiber for his trees.





LEFT:  
Grove of trees  
along the  
riverbank

RIGHT:  
Trees on the  
hillside. Don't  
forget about  
adding dead  
trees



LEFT:  
Trees along the  
right of way.  
Trim where  
power poles are  
located.





LEFT:

Trees and other growth near abandoned right of way. Old power poles still in place.

BELOW:

An overview of how trees help to separate the roads, track and the terrain.





I need your assistance. I am compiling a history of the Midwest Region, and I am looking for a few older editions of the Waybill. Specifically, any issues published during 1966 through 1971.

Please contact me by replying to this email or directly at:

[indycop999@hotmail.com](mailto:indycop999@hotmail.com)

if you have any Waybill issues within this timeframe in your collection.

BTW, you can take a historical look back at the Midwest Region from 1945 to 1964 at:

<https://www.mwr-nmra.org/mwr2016/mwr.about.html#history>

Past issues of the Waybill currently back through 1998 are also available to electronically search or download at:

<https://www.mwr-nmra.org/mwr2016/mwr.waybill.html>

I appreciate your help in completing this story for all to enjoy.

Regards,

John Coy, MMR and MWR President



## National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

### New Notice

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

Membership	1 Year	2 Years	Total
<b>Premium Membership</b> – All rights & benefits, including digital NMRA Magazine and the <b>monthly printed</b> NMRA Magazine.	\$ 92.00	\$ 184.00	
<b>Basic Membership</b> - All rights & benefits including the digital NMRA magazine.	\$ 68.00	\$ 136.00	
<b>Family</b> – Spouse or minor child of full NMRA member. No magazine, no voting rights, not allowed to hold office. <b>Name:</b> <input style="width: 200px;" type="text"/>	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00	
<b>Sustaining</b> – Mandatory for group memberships (Clubs, Business, Associations). All rights & benefits, digital NMRA Magazine and the monthly printed NMRA magazine.	\$ 120.00	\$ 240.00	
<b>Student</b> – Between the ages of 19-25 years of age. All rights & benefits and digital NMRA magazine.	\$ 40.00	\$ 80.00	
<b>Membership</b>			\$
<b>General Donation</b>			\$
<b>Merchandise</b>			\$
<b>Total</b>			\$

**If you would like to set up auto renewal, pay with PayPal or make payment arrangements please call the office to speak with a staff member (423) 892-2846. Please make Checks Payable to NMRA. We also 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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/UCbvaWZMhVoRweLLW3aiXZlQ>

**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](mailto:chart7968@yahoo.com) by June 21st to be included in the July 2026 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	VACANT
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	VACANT	
CHIEF CLERK	VACANT	
PAYMASTER	JIM TEMPLE	<a href="mailto:jngtemple@yahoo.com">jngtemple@yahoo.com</a>
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	DAN BREWER	<a href="mailto:dbrewer@nd.edu">dbrewer@nd.edu</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	ROBERT PETIT	<a href="mailto:bobpetit422@yahoo.com">bobpetit422@yahoo.com</a>
DIVISION DIRECTOR	GREG BUELTMANN	<a href="mailto:greg@uncleheavy.com">mailto:greg@uncleheavy.com</a>