

# *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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### October 2023 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, email: [greg@uncleheavy.com](mailto:greg@uncleheavy.com)  
Superintendent, Michiana Division  
2024 Convention Chairman

PLEASE,  
STAY SAFE AND  
HEALTHY

## Welcome to the 4TH Quarter of the FORM-19 for 2023

**REMINDER:** The Michiana Division has moved our regular Saturday meeting to the second Saturday of the month.

**Invitation:** Please join us in our meetings for fellowship and learning with other model railroad enthusiasts. We meet on the 2nd 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 **October 14, 2023**.

**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 continuing to come back and so are in-person conventions. So, let’s look at the possibilities of hitting the road over the next few months. 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>

### MICHICANA DIVISION AREA TRAIN MEETS

November 19, 2023, Michigan City Swap Meet

Held at the La Porte County Fair Grounds

### KALAMAZOO MODEL RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 30, 2023, Train Show and Sale

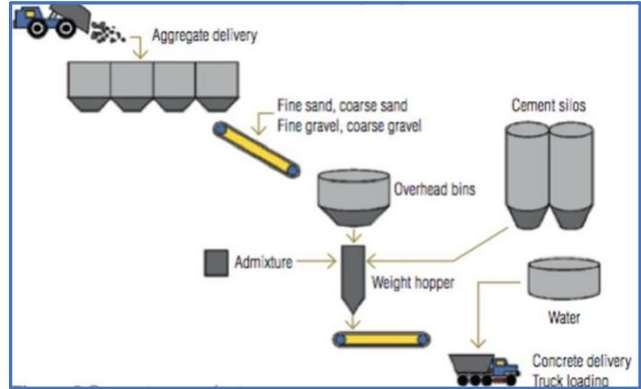
Held at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds

## MICHIANA DIVISION SEPTEMBER MEET SMITH READY MIX TOUR

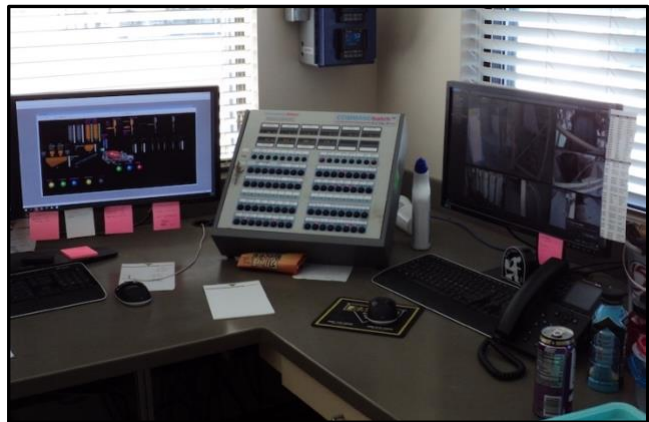
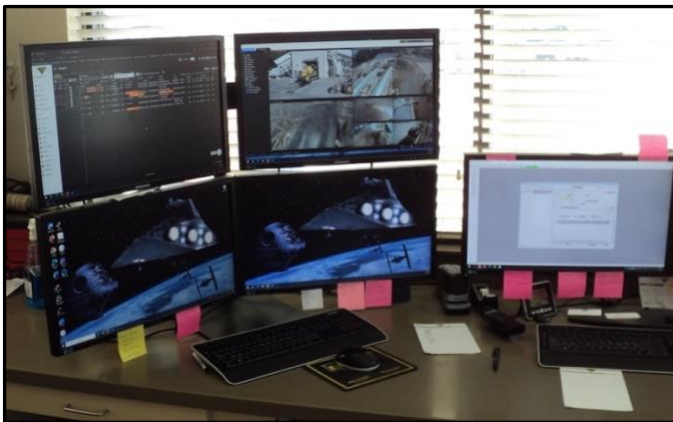
8 Division members gathered on Saturday, September 9 for a tour of the Smith Ready Mix plant located in New Carlisle, Indiana.  
Our tour was conducted by Smith Ready Mix manager Steve Conder.



Smith Ready Mix, New Carlisle, IN



Typical Batch Process



Pictured above are the computer stations operated by Steve Conder. From the New Carlisle plant mixtures can be created and then applied to trucks at any of the local area Smith Ready Mix plants



Various cement powders are stored in the silos



Many types and grades of aggregates are stored in segmented storage bins



**It takes a lot of water to make concrete. A large hot water tank is located inside the plant. The water is fed by the local city water supply**



**Sand is dumped into a large bin and then runs through a large spinning dryer. Above are the conveyers that delivers the aggregates into the building**



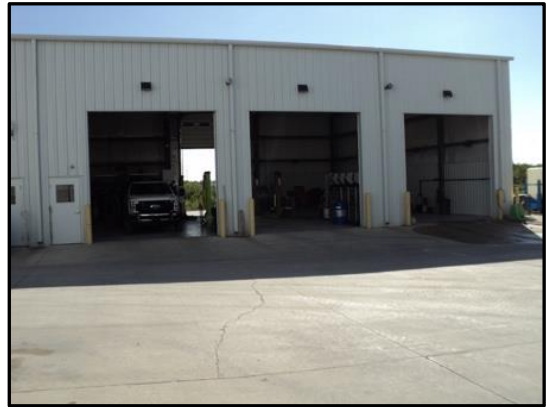
**Customers often request their concrete be delivered in special colors. Above, Steve Conder is explaining the color mixture process. The color powders are stored in the large cloth bags hanging in the upper left of the photo**



**Pictured above are the funnels that dump the required mixture of cement, sand, aggregates, water, and color pigments as needed into the concrete trucks**



Above is a picture of the Smith Ready Mix administration building. It houses the man/computer control station, the dispatcher and other company offices



Smith Ready Mix maintains their own trucks and equipment in a modern repair shop at the facility



A large truck washing station is located on site



With the on site truck washing station their trucks are kept in sparkling condition



Pictured above and below are two ways excess concrete is recovered. Either used for making large concrete barrier blocks or dumped to be crushed into concrete gravel



Safety is vital in and around the Smith Ready Mix plants

**MICHIANA DIVISION EVENTS FOR  
OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER**



**Michiana Division Meet  
October 14, 2023**

Division Meeting: Tour of The Studebaker Museum

Date and Time: October 14, 2023, 11 AM EDT (10 AM CDT)

Location: The Studebaker Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend, Indiana

Cost: \$10.00 per person (cash required)

You will take a guided tour based on the number of registered attendees. The tour may include information relating to railroad activity with the Studebaker Manufacturing Plant when in operation located in South Bend, Indiana.

This event requires pre-registration and is limited to the first 15 NMRA members who register.

To register put 'Studebaker Tour' in the subject box and email your request to:

[greg@uncleheavy.com](mailto:greg@uncleheavy.com) You will receive confirmation that you are on the list for this event. Once 15 registrations are reached, the event registration list will be closed. We will enjoy lunch (on your own) at Tippecanoe Place Restaurant, 620 W. Washington St., South Bend, Indiana following the tour. We are working to arrange a layout tour after lunch.

**Michiana Division Meet  
November 11, 2023**

Division Meeting: Achievement Program (Electrical)

Date and Time: November 11, 2023, 11 AM ET (10AM CT)

Location: Stevensville Public Library, 2099 W. Johns Beers Road, Stevensville, MI 49127

Ron Christensen, MMR, and Greg Bueltmann will present a power point and discuss their work on obtaining the AP Electrical Certificate. Lunch and layout be planned after the meeting.

**Michiana Division Meet  
December 9, 2023**

Division ZOOM Meeting: Grain Elevator Operations

Date and Time: December 9, 2023, 11 AM ET (10AM CT)

Location: ZOOM meeting (link to be provided)

Madison Plumer, Location Manager at the Gavilon Grain Elevator (VITERRA NETWORK).

This location is rail served and the presentation will help explain how the facility operations work and relate to model grain elevator operations.



**NCR 2023 Convention  
Oct. 19 – 22, 2023**

Make plans to attend the 2023 NMRA North Central Region Convention that will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The convention, hosted by the Three Rivers Division will include events for the whole family as well as access to the [2023 Fort Wayne Model Railroad Show and Swap](#) which will be held on Saturday 21 October at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum (conveniently located across the street from the convention hotel). Hope you can join us for this fun filled weekend!

**Bob Jones, Div. 3 Superintendent**

**CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS**

**CLINICS    OP SESSIONS    MODEL DISPLAYS    PROTOTYPE TOURS**

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**2023 Fort Wayne Model Railroad Show & Swap**



Enter [div3.ncrnmra.org](http://div3.ncrnmra.org) in your browser to take you to Div 3 website, then click on [Fort Wayne Rails 2023](#) at the top of the page for convention details



**Hoosier Valley Train Museum and Train Shows  
October Pumpkin Trains**

The Pumpkin Train is one of our most popular trains. Take a fun-filled ride through the crisp rural landscape while enjoying a mix of fall colors! Trains leave the depot in North Judson, Indiana, and take passengers on a leisurely journey. Once again this year, they are offering two unique experiences for the Pumpkin Trains.

<https://www.hoosiervalley.org/train-rides/special-events/pumpkin-trains>

**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 Event • 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, email: [greg@uncleheavy.com](mailto:greg@uncleheavy.com)  
Superintendent, Michiana Division  
2024 Convention Chairman





# NMRA NEWS

## NMRA Digital Magazine

We hope you are all are trying out and enjoying the launch of the NMRA Digital Magazine as much as we are. So far, we have provided the basic information in terms of dues, availability, and general benefits.

On mobile devices, laptops, and desktops, the magazines are available as full pages as if reading the print version, as well as a special flowable text version. The flowable text makes it easier to read individual articles by enlarging the text and placing it into one continuous column for easy scrolling. It is simple to go back and forth between the versions.

The digital NMRA Magazine is searchable by keywords, so it is easy to find your favorite railroad or topic. You can also bookmark articles for quick access later.

Members can save issues offline for viewing when Internet access is not available. This means you can access current and back issues of the NMRA Magazine anytime and anywhere.

### Did you miss any of the latest NMRA news?

Are you taking advantage of logging into the Members Info area of the NMRA website? Located under the Publications tab are archived copies of the NMRA Magazine, NMRA Turntable, NMRA eBulletins, NMRA Dispatches, NMRA Bulletin, President's Car and old Bulletins and Scale Rails

### Are you taking advantage of the NMRA Partnership Program?

The NMRA has partnered with model railroad manufacturers of all sizes who have agreed to give discounts to NMRA members. To see the current listing, log in to our website and visit the Partnership page in the Members Only section: [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) Membership, Member Home, Benefits, NMRA **Partnership Program**. **There are now more than 50 Partners participating in the program. Highways and Byways Model Railroad Graphics is the latest to manufacturer to join the partnership program.**

It just became easier to purchase stuff from the  
NMRA

**PayPal**<sup>™</sup>

Renewals, Memberships, Books, Donations, Online store, EVERYTHING



**National Model Railroad Association, Inc.**  
**New Member Application**

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

**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  |         |                        |         |
|---|---------|------------------------|---------|
| <b>If you do not see your region listed, there is no charge for region subscription! Most regions offer the subscription online on the website.</b> |         |                        |         |
| 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](mailto:HQ@NMRA.ORG)  
423-892-2846

**Ron Christensen, MMR, recent Ops Session**

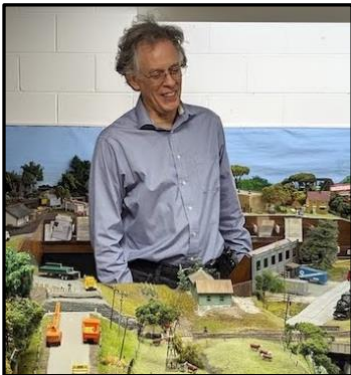
Ron has been holding lunch meets (BYO Brown Bag). After about an hour of lunch and solving the world's problems we spend the next 4 hours or so operating his Granger Roads. Here are a few photos from the last session provided by regular operator Michael Tan.



Ron is wondering who is working M-Town



M-Town (Where's Willie?)



Dan C. surveys Cedar Rapids



Jim T. working the bridges



Yard Ops  
Jerry P.  
Jim T.  
Allen B.  
Ron J.  
Chuck H.



Duane H. enjoying switching at Tama



Good view of Vining

**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/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 from 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 RON CHRISTENSEN, MMR
- 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       | <a href="mailto:greg@uncleheavy.com">greg@uncleheavy.com</a>       |
| CHIEF CLERK         | JOHN BANICKI         | <a href="mailto:jjbmish@gmail.com">jjbmish@gmail.com</a>           |
| PAYMASTER           | JIM TEMPLE           | <a href="mailto:jngtemple@yahoo.com">jngtemple@yahoo.com</a>       |
| DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE   | <b>VACANT</b>        |  |
| 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   | <b>VACANT</b>        |  |
| DIVISION DIRECTOR   | ROD THOMSON          | <a href="mailto:rthomson3003@gmail.com">rthomson3003@gmail.com</a> |