

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**



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

Greetings Model Railroaders.

It is October and that means cooler weather and more time to work on our model railroads. After a very busy winter and spring planning the 2024 Around the Bend convention in South Bend, your Board of Directors took a hiatus over the summer. Now that fall is upon us, we will begin our regular schedule of outings, Zoom calls, and train shows.

Our October outing has been shifted to the fourth weekend to accommodate the schedule of the Barker Museum in Michigan City, Indiana. Please see the details contained in this issue regarding this outing which will be held on October 26, 2024, beginning at 11 AM CDT at the Barker Museum. It promises to be a fun and informative visit.

We are planning other outings for November and December and beyond. Please be sure you are signed up for our Group.io site so that you can receive timely updates via your email about outings and other information.

We continue to get together most Thursday evenings via Zoom. These meetings are announced typically on Wednesday mornings by email from our Zoom.io. If you are not receiving these messages, you may update your settings at <https://nramichiana.groups.io/g/members>. A directory of past clinics is available at <http://michiana-nmra.org/videoarchive.php>.

We continue to search for volunteers to chair committees and serve on our board of directors. It is a pleasure to work with the volunteers who currently serve, and we would welcome your participation. Please contact me or another board member if you are interested in getting more involved in your NMRA division.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Bueltmann, Division Superintendent

Welcome to the 4TH 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 **OCTOBER 26, 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”.

MICHIANA DIVISION FALL MEETS

Saturday, October 26th meet will be held in Michigan City. See page 4 for information about the day’s events. NOTE: this is the 4th Saturday of October!

Saturday, November 16th meet is planned to be an in-person meeting at the German Township Branch library. The subject will be the NMRA AP. This is your chance to ask all about the AP categories.

Saturday, December 21st is in the planning stage for home layout tours. Currently Chuck Hart is confirmed, and others may be added.

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 and Sale
Kalamazoo County Expo Center
Sunday, October 27, 2024
2900 Lake Street
Kalamazoo, MI

<https://kmrhs.org/events> for more information

Division Six of the
NCR- North Central Region of the
NMRA- National Model Railroad Association presents-



NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024



A MODEL RAILROAD WEEKEND CONVENTION!

THURSDAY - FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY
OCTOBER 10-11-12-13, 2024
NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN, USA

WELCOME to the NCR Model Railroad Convention, **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024!** The convention is being hosted by DIVISION SIX, located in Wayne and Washtenaw counties. We are planning a great weekend of model and prototype railroading, just for YOU! Please access our website for all of the important information you need to help you to decide to attend this event. As you'll soon read, we're concentrating on having fun and learning all about model railroading! All you need to do is fill out the registration page, send it in with your registration fees and you'll be part of one of the greatest model railroad events in Michigan! Visit us online and register there using your credit card and PayPal security services! Come and join us for the **MAXIMUM** model railroad **FUN**, all in one weekend!

Open to ALL model railroaders! You DO NOT have to be an NMRA member to attend!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE-

- * Event site – Ward Church, Northville, MI
- * Event shirts available pre-order only
- * Special DAY PASS entry available!
- * Online Registration available on website!
- * Banquet Dinner on Saturday evening
- * Clinics on Friday and Saturday
- * Operation sessions available Thursday, Friday, Saturday
- * NO model contest – MODEL SHOWCASE – show off your work!!
- * Get a discount for participating in the Model Showcase!!
- * Model layouts to visit on Friday and Saturday
- * Prototype tours on Friday (if available)
- * Yard Sale of new/used model railroad equipment
- * Ask the Experts (MMR's) table
- * EVERYONE welcome to attend!



For more information or questions answered, contact -
Norm Logan, Chairman –
248-444-3491 nlogan114@wowway.com
Paul Lichau, Div 6 Superintendent -
734-878-5390 plichau@yahoo.com
Mark Ellis, Asst. Chairman -
734-536-5470 emark@sbcglobal.net
visit our web pages at- ncx24.ncmmra.org



**NMRA Michiana Division October 26, 2024
Meeting, Tours and Lunch
Michigan City, IN 46360**

**1ST Tour, 11:00 AM CDT, Barker Mansion
631 Washington St, Michigan City, IN 46360**



Take a step back in time with a visit to The Barker Mansion. When you walk through the front door of the historical Mansion, you will be filled with the spirit of days gone by. Price of admission includes access to our permanent exhibit Haskell & Barker Car Company and The Legacy of Freight.

Admission is \$16.50 - \$10 for 60 years +, Veterans free

<https://barkermansion.org/>

**1:00 PM CDT Lunch at Shoreline Brewery and Restaurant
208 Wabash St, Michigan City, IN 46360**

**2ND Tour, 2:00 PM CDT, Visit Old Lighthouse Museum
100 Heisman Harbor, Michigan City, IN 46360**



At the bend of the Michigan City harbor stands a historic old structure. Its beacon has served as a guiding light for Great Lakes Sailors for almost 200 years. The Hoosiers living on Lake Michigan have a long and interesting history, bound to the lake with all its mysteries and beauties.

Admission \$10 – Veterans free

<https://www.mchistorical.org/>

**An All MONON Weekend
By, Chuck Hart**

There are many railroad societies especially those in the Fallen Flag category. These organizations have a wealth of information that may help you in your modeling efforts even if you are not modeling a specific prototype. Even if you are just modeling a free-lance railroad, by looking at historical information from a specific railroad that was in the area that you model may provide valuable information for scenery, facilities, industries, tracks/yards, and more.

I am a member of a few historical societies, and I recently attended the MONON Railroad Historical Society Annual Convention. This year the convention was held in Delphi Indiana. The activities on Friday included a guided tour along a converted MONON right of way to the MONON High Bridge, now a walking trail, a presentation of how the Wabash and Erie Canal how canals shaped future rail lines. A canal boat ride on the canal and finishing the day with a dinner and a slide presentation.

On Saturday morning we bused over to the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum. The museum has several items of MONON railroad rolling stock including the MONON Business Car No 2 Lynne, MONON DS-50 in restoration, MONON Caboose 81532 in the paint shop, and MONON Boxcar 1220. All the convention attendees were given special tickets to ride in the Business car during our time at the museum and received guided tours of the shops.

As a special treat our own Michiana Division member, Bjarne Henderson, was the locomotive engineer for the day operating our train in Alco S1 #310.

Below are a few pictures of this part of the day.

In the afternoon we continued to the MONON CONNECTION Museum located just north of MONON, Indiana. While there we had lunch, watched a slide presentation and toured museum and the many MONON pieces of rolling stock on the grounds.

Sunday morning consisted of the annual membership meeting and a swap meet. We had a great weekend seeing old friends and meeting new ones and leaning more about the MONON railroad as it existed in the Delphi area of Indiana.



Our walking tour to the MONON High Bridge in Delphi, Indiana.





Canal boat, DELPHI, on the Wabash and Erie Canal in Delphi, Indiana



MONON Business Car No. 2 Lynne at the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum



Michiana Division Member, Bjarne Henderson, operating the Alco S1 #310 at the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum.



MONON Caboose 81532 in the paint shop at the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum



The following information about the 2025 MWR Election was posted in the fall issue of the *Waybill*. We still need volunteers to enter their name as a nominee for one of the posted open positions.

In 2025 the Midwest Region (MWR) will elect a President, a Vice President, and three (3) Directors-at-Large to the Board of Directors. All the positions are for a term of two years, with two complete consecutive terms in office before a break in service is required.

The Board meets twice a year; on the first Saturday in April and the first Saturday in November. The meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. (Central Time) and are about two hours in length. These meetings will be held via ZOOM.

Please consider becoming a nominee for one of the following positions:

President

Vice President

Director at Large

If you are interested in applying for any of these positions on the MWR Board of Directors, or have questions about any of the positions, please contact me (contact information is supplied below).

Being a Board member is a great way to learn more about the operations of the region and to help manage the future of the region. If you are engaged in the Achievement Program (AP), three years of service on the MWR Board satisfies the requirements for the AP Association Official certificate.

Set aside some time to consider helping your fellow MWR members by serving on the MWR Board of Directors. Let us know if you are interested in placing your name into nomination for the 2025 Board of Directors election. Nominees will be asked to supply a 2X2 inch digital photo (passport-type photo will work) and a biographical resume that is limited to two (2) paragraphs. Do not embed the photo in the bio. Keep the two items separate. Please forward these items to me at sastudley@gmail.com. I need to receive the photo and bio by **October 12th** so the slate of nominees can be presented to and approved by the MWR Board at the November 2nd meeting.

Thank you for your participation,
Steve Studley
sastudley@gmail.com
(812) 876-9726

Open LCB, also known as LCC By, Chuck Hart

The NMRA Open Layout Control Bus (LCB) has evolved into the more common title of Layout Command Control. (LCC). LCC is designed to work alongside of Digital Command Control (DCC). (Not Replace it).

So, what is LCC and what can it do? Here is a short introduction to LCC.

LCC is a system for controlling all the functions on your layout that don't have to do with how fast the locomotive is moving -- things like signals, or sounds, or passenger car lighting.

LCC, or Layout Command Control, is designed to take some of the burden off the DCC bus by routing all the non-locomotive commands through a different pair of wires, the LCC bus. Only the locomotive control stays on the DCC bus. And because the LCC command bus is taking the burden off the DCC command bus, there are far fewer signals on the DCC command bus, so Locomotives can respond much faster

The NMRA set the standard for DCC over 20 years ago and has set the standard for LCC. A group of independent volunteers who are both model railroaders and experts in electronics got together and developed concepts, protocols, interfaces, and documents for LCC.

Although LCC has been around for about 10 years, little has been invested by the model railroaders to date. Manufacturers have known about LCC too, so many are finally coming up with some cool products that will put LCC to use on your layout. Some have already started building and delivering products and there are new products being developed too.

My interest in LCC started by discussion with another Division member.

He is interested in using LCC for block detection and signal implementation. This will allow a stand-alone system to report to his JMRI dispatcher panel via a separate communications bus (LCC) without the need for the data to clog up his DCC bus.

My layout is using my DCC equipment with routes programmed on JMRI to control a 5 track classification yard. The class tracks can be selected from a control panel on the layout fascia. If I want to use the layout to just run trains informally, I must go through the process of starting the computer, start JMRI and bring up the layout in Panel Pro to use the class track control panel on the layout. My initial goal is to configure LCC equipment to replace the DCC equipment and the requirement of the computer to operate the class tracks. This is an advantage of LCC, in that it does not require DCC components to control the layout devices.

If you are using LCC or thinking about using LCC please let us know. I would be happy to work with others in the Michiana Division learning about LCC and its capabilities.

For more information about LCC go to www.nmra.org or google and search 'Layout Command Control'.

Here is a short list of LCC manufacturers. There may be others in the near future.

RR-Circuits <https://www.rr-cirkits.com>

Train Control Systems <https://www.tcsdcc.com>

Sprog DCC <https://www.sprog.us.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>

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.

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