



Newsletter Helper



SION

Division Meeting 3rd Saturday of each Month - Time TBD

The meetings will continue to be a live and virtual via zoom and will start again in September. Invitations and other details will be sent out to Division members by email the week prior to the meeting. Following Division business and member Show and Tell, we will have a presentation (TBD).

From the Editor

Remember the song:

"Summertime and the livin' is easy, fish are jumpin', and the cotton is high, Oh, your daddy's rich, and your ma' is good lookin', So hush little baby don't you cry". Is the little baby that is crying your Model Railroad since it knows that it will be neglected in the Summer??

Not sure why they are saying summertime is easy with all of the outdoor chores. But, there are all of those fun activities as well. So step aside Model RR, but don't worry we will get back to you soon.

This newsletter relies on articles and photos that we receive from **you**, our members. Have a favorite structure, loco or railroad? Share it with us. Thank you to all of you who have contributed to this newsletter.

Send your photos (JPEG) and articles (MS Word) to us for our future newsletters. Our goal is to publish quarterly in March, June, September, and December. Deadline for submittals will be the end of the month prior to each quarter.

Thank You,

Jens Hensel (jens.hensel50@gmail.com) Assistant Superintendent & Newsletter Editor

Crew Call:

• 09-16-2023 Division Meeting – Live & Zoom

• 10-14-2023 Open House & Operations TC Area Railroads Info Coming

• 10-21-2023 Division meeting – Live & Zoom

• 11-18-2023 Division Meeting – Live & Zoom

On the Switch List:

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Super Sez...

Welcome to Summer!

First things first as we have gained another new member! Welcome to John Pennell who is from the Harbor Springs area. Welcome aboard John!

We are currently planning for Fall meetings and activities. Interested in specific clinic topics? Please let us know.

I don't know how many of you have had the chance to realistically "operate" trains on your layouts. I am fortunate to belong to a group that meets on a regular basis, operating various layouts on a rotating basis. Passenger trains, local and through freights, pick-ups, and setouts, just like the prototype. Engineers, conductors, yardmasters, and dispatchers making everything work.

Curious? We are in the process of planning an event to take place on Saturday, October 14th. Join us for an **"Introduction to Operations."** This is an all-day session with layout tours starting at nine in the morning, followed by afternoon and evening hands-on operating sessions.

Lots of square miles in Division 2, and not easy to make meetings in person. We think you will enjoy this, however, and that it would be worth your while to travel to the Traverse City area and maybe even spend the night! Stay tuned as there will be more information to follow.

Enjoy Summer! Mike

Division News

Social Media Survey Results:

We only had a few respond to the survey that wanted to create a new Facebook Site for NCR 2, so I guess we will scratch this idea for now. Just noticed in the new HotBox that our NCR does have a Facebook site already; https://facebook.com/NCRNMRA. Check it out!

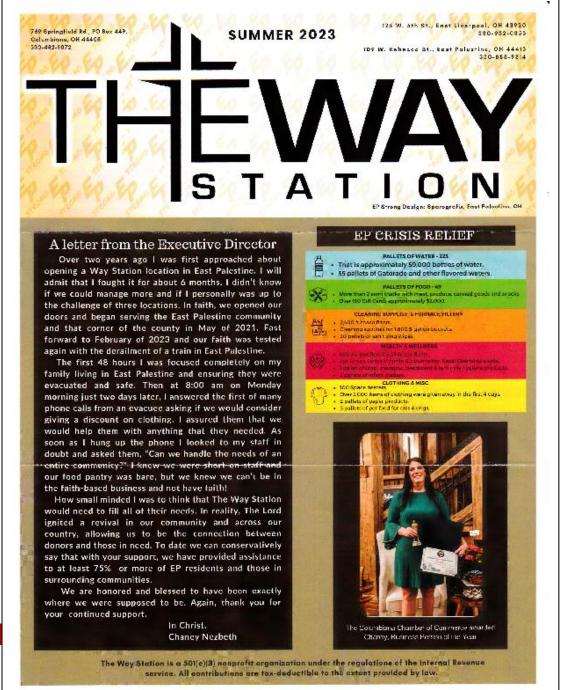
The other option is to use the NMRA Interchange:

The Interchange is a new NMRA Members only site which can bring together other Model Railroaders. Membership must be used to gain access. This is administrated by the NMRA. Please log in to NMRA.org

for additional information.

Thank you to all who donated to the East Palestine Ohio Train Disaster. Our Donations to the "Way Station", from our Division, totaled over \$700.

And Thank You Mike Cipko for organizing this charity effort.



Clerk Report

Membership and Election Information from Bob Crocker

We currently have 43 Active Members.

All NCR Division 2 Members were sent the Officer Election Ballot for this year prior to the May 19th Due Date.

Thanks to no one returning their ballot with a write in candidate, we were able to declare the incumbents elected by acclamation.

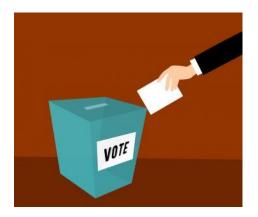
As a result, Mike Cipko will continue as Superintendent. Jens Hensel will remain as Assistant Superintendent, and John Campbell will be our TC Yard Master.

Each officer will serve a two year term beginning June 1st, 2023, and then will be eligible to run again for an additional two year term. All three of the current Officers also served partial terms in 2022 and 2023 because of the death of Scott Pandorf. These Offices were considered interim positions and did not count towards the term limits.

The Office of Northern Yardmaster is now Vacant since no write in Candidates were received. Mike McDougall was Term Limited, as he served two consecutive two year terms. Thanks Mike for your service. Any Volunteers??

Congratulations Guys and Thank You for your service!

Bob Crocker Chief Clerk NCR Div. 2



Paymaster Report

NMRA NCR Division 2 Monthly Financial Totals

From May 1 , 2023 To May 31, 2023

000: REGULAR SHARE		Jan	Feb		Mar	120	Apr		May	- 11	Jun	1	Jul	1	Aug		Sep		Oct	1	Vov		Dec		Totals
Beginning Balance	\$	199.35	\$ 219.85	\$	240.35	\$	240.94	\$	241.44																
Phone Transfer																									
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Year to Date Dividend Paid																									
Show and Tell Fund																									
Donations																									
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Other						\$	-	\$	-					\$	-	\$	-	1						1	
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NOTES:

Year to Date Dividend from Wolverine C U (income)\$.09

\$50.00 Compensation to Skip Luyk for exspense's in providing AP clinic. (May Meet) No Additional Income this month.

Submitted By: David J. Zolnierek

Division 2 NCR Paymaster

Date 1-Jun-2023

Summary of the last Division Meetings

Mar 18 – Mikado Saloon by David Zolnierek. Excellent Modeling as always from David. A card table with Playing Cards and Poker Chips. Restaurant Tables with all of the fixins. A fully stocked Bar. Wow!

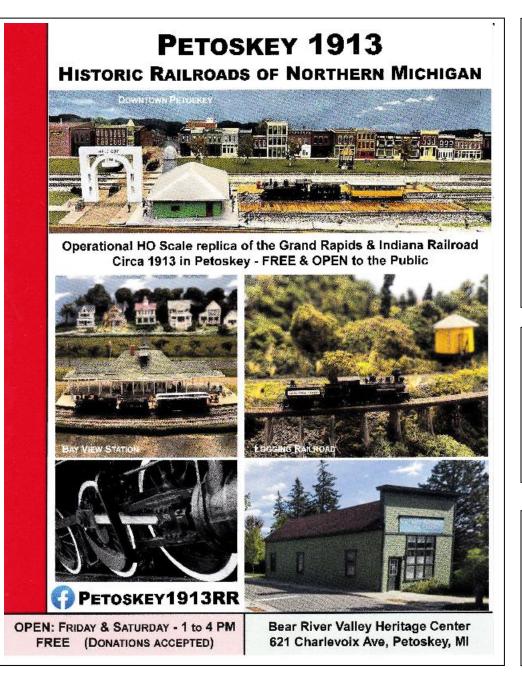
Apr 15 – A visit to Petoskey 1913. An operational HO Scale replica of Petoskey and the Grand Rapids & Indiana RR circa 1913. Featuring the homes of the Bay View Association, an old Lumber Yard, a Farmstead and other numerous replicated local structures. Hosted by Dave Comer, John Likins, & Steve Ivkovich. Dave and Steve are NCR Div. 2 members. Take a trip to Petoskey if you missed this one. (Information and pictures in the member pages).

May 20 – A live demonstration by Skip Luyk (NCR AP Chair) on how to evaluate models for the AP Certificates. (See info and pictures in the AP Section pages).

Jens

Around the Division

April Open House in Petoskey



A big thank you to the Petoskey 1913 Group for hosting an Open House for the NCR Division 2 on April 15.

A nice time was had by all.

The Petoskey 1913 Group also has several NCR Division 2 members within its ranks.

Several of the buildings are replicas of the actual structures from 1913.





Open House in Petoskey





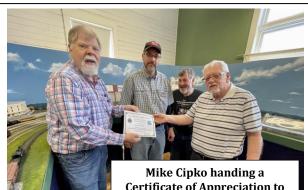








Hunter Evans, one of our youngest NCR Members and also a Member of the Petoskey 1913 Group



Mike Cipko handing a Certificate of Appreciation to Dave Comer for Hosting the Open House

Around the Division

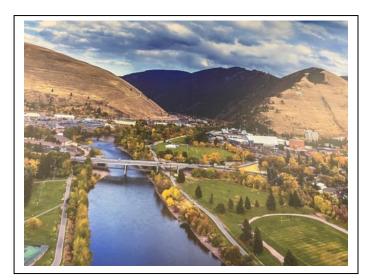
Starting a New RR Empire By Dr. Michael Coonrod

For decades, I have wanted to create a diorama of my home town of Missoula, Montana with the train station, University of Montana, Clark Fork and Bitterroot rivers, and the surrounding Rattlesnake and Bitterroot mountains. Now that I am retired, I have time to develop this. The setting is the early 60s when I was making memories as a teenager. I-90 was only a two-lane road and the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern railways brought F8 locomotives though the Hellgate Canyon in route to Spokane WA.

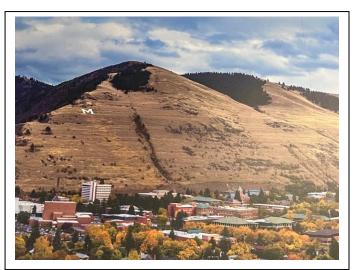
After studying YouTube videos for years in my few spare hours, I began this project in November of this past year painting and building the scenery which I won't have easy access to after installing the track. The six modules are 4' X 6.' I do have that step ladder called "Topside Creeper."



And so it begins



The Clark Fork River in Missoula Montana



A basis for the scenery. Missoula Montana

Starting a New RR Empire

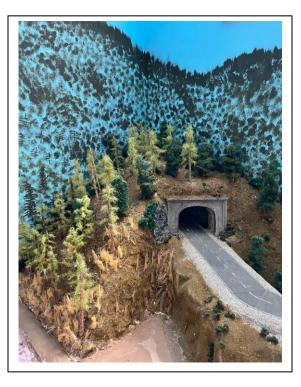
Parameters:

6 modules: 4' x 6' x 42" Benchwork: 1' x 3" select pine, 2"X 2" furniture grade pine for legs. Sub roadbed: 5/8" plywood with 2" foamboard Space: Half our garage; 18' 5" x 12' 7" is for the layout; 8' x 12' for work. Garage temporarily used for construction. Track: Code 83 flextrack. Power: DCC Setting: Early 1960s, summer. Locomotives: F8 and freight diesels (complete contomporary Montana Bail link rolling stock with

contemporary Montana Rail link rolling stock with two diesel locos. One is DCC ready). Several locos will be needing decoders for DCC sound and lights.



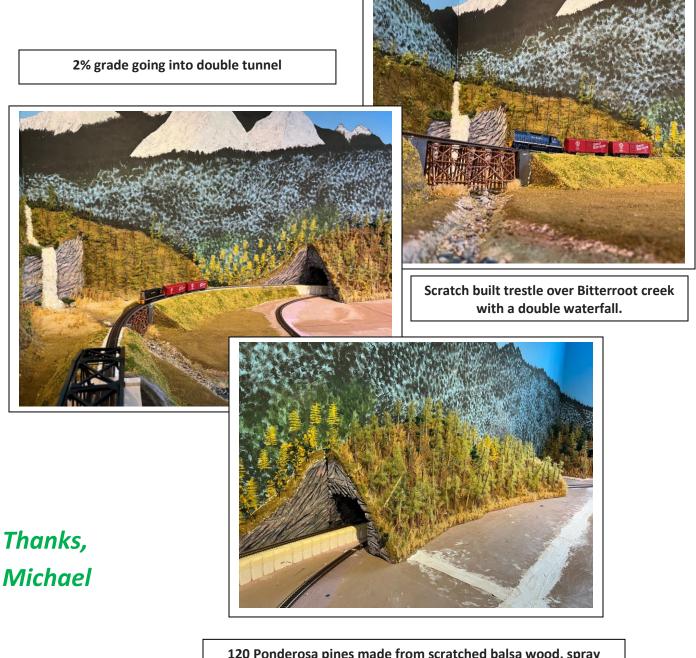
Layout facing future Missoula old town





American flyer trains on display in the background Crestview area in Missoula on left—Bitterroot Valley on right with bridges and crossover lift

Starting a New RR Empire



120 Ponderosa pines made from scratched balsa wood, spray painted with black flair pen to mimic jigsaw puzzle-shaped bark,7 mil. static grass sprinkled over florist wire branches (white glue), and finished with hair spray and more static grass.

Around the Division

Illinois Visit By Jens Hensel



I stopped at a Gas Station near our Daughter's house on old Route 66 near Braceville, Ill. Just happened to catch the Amtrak Texas Eagle 21 coming South from Chicago on its way to St. Louis, and then West to San Antonio Texas. In San Antonio it merges with the Sunset Limited and then proceeds onto LA.

The Texas Eagle Route is the longest in the USA. The entire trip is 65 hours, with 3 nights on the train. Popular stops include Chicago, St. Louis, Dallas, Ft. Worth, Austin, San Antonio, Tucson, Palm Springs, and Los Angeles.



Had to wait for this fast freight near Mazon, Illinois

Thanks, Jens

Around the Division

The Dull Coat Test By Ernie Barry

NATURE IS DULL

No, I'm not alluding to nature lacking wit. I'm referring to the general lack of gloss in our surroundings unless they are manmade. Most surfaces, even glossy ones, tend to age, weather, rust, corrode, or get dirty. That said, our model railroads should reflect reality if we are recreating the prototype,

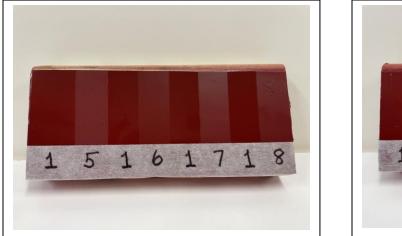
Our operating group had debated what the best dulling product was, so I decided to create a comparison of some available products. I'm sure you may know of others but I had these on hand. Dulling sprays are products that you might want to apply on plastic buildings, engines, rolling stock, automobiles and figures. This is also a good base for weathering products and techniques.

I sprayed 2 wood blocks with a base coat of Painter's Touch gloss red. I then alternated different dulling products with the high gloss red between them. The products are identified by number on the blocks. (see photos) The products used are: (see photo).

#1--PAINTERS TOUCH GLOSS RED
#2--RUSTOLEUM MAT CLEAR
#3--RUSTOLEUM MAT FINISH
#4--KRYLON CRYSTAL CLEAR (the only gloss finish)
#5--TESTORS DULL COAT
#6--DUPLI COLOR WHEEL MAT CLEAR COAT
#7--GLIDDEN MAX-FLEX TOP COAT FLAT
#8--KRYLON MATTE FINISH (this product caused crazing of the base color).



The Dull Coat Test By Ernie Barry





Not owning a gloss meter this evaluation is somewhat subjective. It is difficult to see some differences in photos as light sources and viewing angles can change what you observe, so I surveyed our operating group after a session and the majority selected #5 Testors Dull Coat. This is my "Go To" product in both the spray can or airbrushed from the bottle version. The spray can is rather pricey for the volume and tends to put some modelers off but it is convenient and effective.

I hope you find this helpful in your modeling endeavors.

Ernie Barry----THE EAST RATON & SANTA FE



Editor's Note: Testors has changed the design of the spray can the last several years. Depending on the store you may find any of the above; all being the same product. Jens

Around the Division The Shame, Oh the Shame By Ernie Barry

Our Little Finger Train Group (LFTG) has been meeting and operating for more than 20 years and in that period some of us have gotten older. This tends to lead to operators getting tired and occasionally leaning on the railroad, a cardinal sin on railroads with mature scenery and details.

As a deterrent to this behavior I have introduced a pair of "negative awards". The "OPEN PIT" trophy, currently held by a past NMRA president is one. This honor goes to those who fail to completely throttle down when "parking" their engines on the roundhouse garden tracks adjacent to the turntable pit. The current owner claims "fowl", in that he was set up, but no witnesses to this accusation have come forward.

The second trophy is the "HORSE'S ARSE", currently held by a member known to wear a kilt, as was described by a witness to the destruction of a railway crossing sign. I encourage whistleblowers, (not of the engineer operator type), so thankfully this destructive individual was identified. There are many miscues that can win you this honor, such as failure to communicate with dispatch, not returning turnouts back to the main and entering hidden staging on the wrong main to name a few.

These awards are reviewed after each operating session so individuals can redeem themselves and hand off to another delinquent operator.

Of course this is all taken in good humor and adds to the lively discussions in our social afterglow.

Steams up, Ernie Barry







Crossing Sign knocked over by an Operator. A car was placed over the sign to make it appear as an accident. Looks like a cover up.

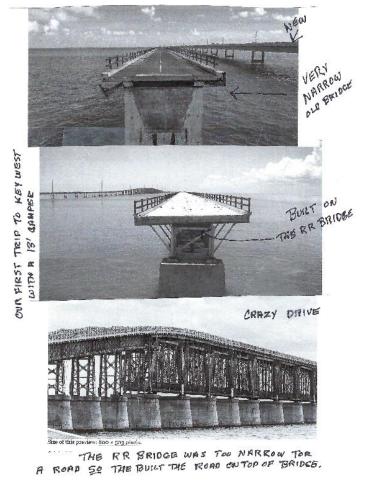
Around the Division The Florida Overseas Railroad (Flagler's Folly) By Walt Wyatt

In 1963 the first time I drove from Miami to Key West Florida. They were still using a vehicle bridge built on the remains of the old railroad bridge. Attached are pictures of the remains of the old bridge after the new vehicle bridge was built. On the trestle parts of the RR bridge they laid beams across the tracks and built the road across them. The through parts of the RR bridge were too narrow for a two lane road so the road was built over the top of those bridges. Very steep. (see photo) The road was very narrow, each lane less than 8' wide. I was pulling a little camper and when I met another camper one of us would stop at the edge of the road and the other trailer would squeeze past. For trucks the bridge became one way south between 8pm and midnight and one way north from midnight to 6 am. Key West was a very different world until the

new modern bridge was built.

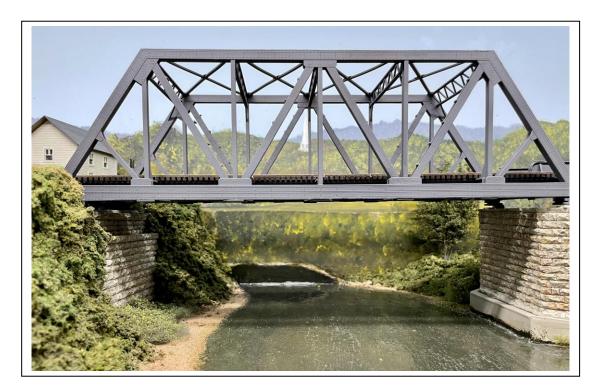
Walt Wyatt

Work on the RR Started in 1905 and operated from 1912 to 1935. It was partial destroyed by the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane. The remaining infrastructure was used for the Overseas Highway. Many of the old concrete bridges of the Overseas Railroad remain in use as fishing piers and pedestrian paths called the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail.



Mystery Layout

Who can identify this famous layout? Name the river for extra points.



(Spring Newsletter's answer was: Al Johnson's New York Central Layout (In Interlochen MI)

AP Corner May, 2023 Pete Magoun, MMR©

We had what I think was an enlightening Division Two meeting on 20 May, and there is Actual News in the AP Corner!



First of all, Congrats to David Zolnierek who received his Volunteer Certificate at our Division Open House in Petoskey on April 16.

Then NCR AP Manager Skip Luyk, MMR, came up from Grand Rapids on May 20 to demonstrate the "AP Evaluation" process, which uses a series of assessment matrices to determine how well the modeler accomplished the goals of building the model. The form information, which is aimed at contests, but is the same information used for evaluations, may be found here: https://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/education/achievement/pdf/2006-judging-guide-lines.pdf In a nutshell, there are 125 points available, from five separate categories; a Merit Award requires 87.5 points (70% of 125).

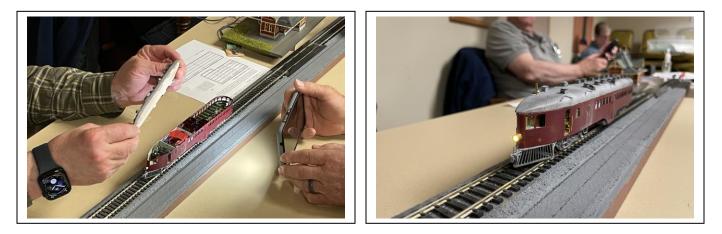
Skip and I teamed for an informal presentation on the AP in general, and the processes involved in earning Merit Awards for model work. We emphasized that the AP is designed to move you out of your comfort zone, help you realize that yes, you *Can* do stuff, and in the process, get more joy from your hobby.

Skip Luyk (Right) and Pete Magoun (Hidden) explaining the process to David Zolnierek (foreground), Ernie Barry (Left), and John Campbell (Back center)



We then turned to evaluations for real. Dr. John Campbell presented his scratchbuilt Ann Arbor RR McKeen rail motor car, which ran from Frankfort/Elberta to Cadillac in the 1920s. My overall impression of John's car is simply stated: "Eye Candy." Skip, assisted by David Zolnierek and Ernie Barry, went through the step-by-step process of evaluating the car while the rest of us observed. Discussion between John, the evaluators and the audience was encouraged, and we all learned from the process. When the evaluation was complete, Skip totaled up the numbers from each of the five categories and came out with 118 of a possible 125 points. This is John's first Merit Award, and he is well on the way to an MMR. Great way to begin!

AP Corner



The other model up for evaluation was my scratchbuilt station that will serve Elmwood on my proto-freelanced railroad, circa 1954. The model was based on a 1960s Alan Armitage article in Model Railroader magazine entitled "Ticket to Tomahawk," which used the B&M station in the Greenwood neighborhood of Wakefield, Massachusetts as its origin. I "needed" a model of Greenwood, so this was a logical and interesting choice. I started the model back in... hmmm... let's just say it's now old enough to buy legal alcohol <sigh>. Several life interventions, time on the shelf and eventual resurrection prior to some surgery finally gave me an incentive to complete the structure, which has a complete interior. In the process, the Internet intervened, and I came up with photo documentation not available at the time the article was written that indicated that in addition to the liberties Mr. Armitage took (and documented) in his article, there was a major error in his interpretation of the street side of the station. I now had a structure "Inspired By" Greenwood, and not a "model of" Greenwood. This was not an issue, as the AP does not differentiate between the two processes, as long as "Prototype Practice" is followed. When things were "done and dusted," the model scored 107 points. I will note that having a professional building contractor evaluating your structure can be intimidating, but every issue that David found and commented on was legitimate and I appreciate his efforts!



AP Corner

So for the Month of May we have two additional Merit Awards to report, and as soon as I can gather a team together, John Campbell will have two steam engines evaluated and should thereby earn his Master Builder-Motive Power certificate. He had the models with him, but we simply ran out of time....

All of us thank Eloise Luyk for loaning Skip to us for an afternoon in their "Up North" weekend. He did a great job!

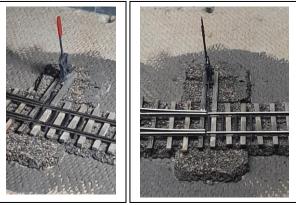
Some future AP Award considerations from David Zolnierek: (scratch built turnout requirement) HOn3 Stubs , Code 55 Rail.

<Cue standard closing remarks>

But what of the rest of you? Are any of you contemplating using the Achievement Program for its intended purpose, which is to stretch your skills and abilities to improve the quality and joy of your hobby? Are you laden with questions on how things work or what is necessary? And are any of those questions you're afraid to ask because they're "dumb," but you still don't understand the answers? If so, then ask ahead, because there are *NO* "dumb questions" here. Again, the whole purpose of this process is to educate you, to help *You* become a better modeler and get more joy from *Your* hobby....

As I mentioned in our last Newsletter, if you have questions or comments on any of the AP stuff, I'm easy to find. Let's hear from you!

High Green!





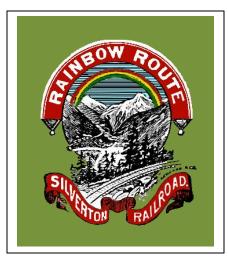
The NMRA Achievement Program is designed to challenge the skills of the modeler. The Achievement Program is divided into eleven categories covering different aspects of the hobby and the NMRA. As members of the NMRA earn credit in the different categories, awards are presented to signify the member's achievement. All current AP Awards are listed in the NMRA Magazine each month. Those who have earned the Master Model Railroader® award are listed both by number and by Region on this website.

Need additional information?

Please reach out to Pete Magoun. orion@chartermi.net







PIKE ADS: SUPPORT YOUR DIVISION. BUY THIS SPACE – ONLY \$20.00 FOR THE YEAR CONTACT DAVID ZOLNIEREK djzolnierek@gmail.com

Other Coming Soon Selected Michigan Events:

8/26/2023 9/16/2023 9/17/2023 9/23/2023 10/14/2023, 11/18/2023 10/22/2023 11/5/2023 11/26/2023 Grand Rapids Model RR Historical Society Battle Creek Train Show 16th Michigan Railroad History Conference Mt Clemens Train Show Greater Grand Rapids Fall Train Show Taylor Town Train Show Lansing Model Train Show and Sale SS Simon & Jude Railroadiana Comstock Park Marshall Ludington Mt Clemens Wyoming Taylor East Lansing Westland

Division 2 Leadership

- Superintendent Mike Cipko
- Asst. Superintendent Jens Hensel
- Chief Clerk Bob Crocker
- Paymaster
- Yardmaster North
- Yardmaster TC John
- Trainmaster
- John Campbell J Al Johnson a

David Zolnierek

Open Position

mcipko@charter.net jens.hensel50@gmail.com rc6sb@charter.net djzolnierek@gmail.com *Any Volunteers??* Jcampb1513@aol.com alwyn0008@gmail.com