

# NMRA NORTH CENTRAL REGION DIVISION 2 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 / NUMBER 4  
FALL 2018



## ALL DIVISION MEETING

**SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 17TH**

**1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Peninsula Township Hall**

**13235 Center Road**

**Traverse City, MI.**

- **Clinic on Flat Car Loads**
- **Clinic on Industries and Car Types**
- **Show and Tell**
- **A/P Table**
- **Caboose Challenge Results**

*“...do they really transport that stuff on flat cars for real?!”*

## ALL DIVISION MEETING

So . . . You didn't make it to the National Conference in Kansas City or even the North Central Region gathering in Lansing. That's ok, I couldn't get there either. Consequently, we're trying to do the next best thing, bringing conference clinics to you!

Rich Mahaney will be joining us to present two of his clinics. We had a difficult time trying to decide which ones as he has quite a few to choose from. Rich presented five clinics in Lansing and six in KC and has a total inventory of over twenty, with more under construction. He is staying busy this fall, presenting 13 sessions between September and December in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan.

Our first clinic is “Interesting Flat Car Loads,” which looks at the variety of items that are transported on flat cars by railroads. Do they really transport that for real?

We will also have our Show and Tell presentation between our two clinic sessions. As always, we look forward to Show and Tell. We love to see and hear what you are working on for your layout. It is great to see progress that others are making. If you don't bring something to show, you'll owe our kitty fifty cents! Donations will help to cover expenses for future division events.

Railroad Car Traffic or Making Pancakes is designed to help match industries, rail car usage and rail car traffic. Divided into groups, we will be assigned an industry and then brain storm to come up with products, operations and rail cars needed for that industry.

**Our meeting will be held at a new location, a little further north up M-37. We will be meeting at the Peninsula Township Hall located at 13235 Center Road. This is about 9.4 miles (11 minutes) north of Fire Station #2. See the map on the back page.**

See you there!  
Mike Cipko, TC Yardmaster



## Super Sez...

As we prepare for an op session on the GLN it is a great feeling that my 'club' layout can host over a dozen fellow model railroaders for an evening of railroading fun. Over the years there have been talented individuals that have spent many hours working on this basement layout. Some sadly are no longer with us, but their efforts are remembered, commented on and truly appreciated. Last night as we put some finishing touches on the preparations there were three great members here that were not even in the area five years ago. Having a 'club' layout as your personal layout is both a blessing and a challenge. Yes, sometimes things have to be redone and yes, the learning process for both of us has growing pains but let us look at the NMRA a minute. This organization we are members of is a 501c3 based upon that we are an 'educational' organization. What better way to educate than have them work on a layout. I know that the results if you do all your layout are precisely what you want but consider maybe having a member over to help you out, spend some one on one time and educate them on a tried and proven technique of model railroading construction. It will help them out for their layout and teaching is the best way to learn. We have op sessions to share our layouts why not share the construction also.

Speaking of sharing this Saturday we have an ALL Division meeting in TC. We only have two of these each year so try to make it. There will be two clinics and our 'Show and Tell.' The show and tell has become a great way to share to the group what you have been working on and get ideas from others. Bring something, anything that you have new or old to share with us. If even one member gets an idea it is worth the time and effort to teach us all about what we are doing in our hobby.

Division Two had its first real open house tour and from the reports it was a real success. 60+ people toured 8 layouts. Time will tell on how many new NMRA members we will gain but we are discussing the future of tours. As you all know it is difficult to explain to the general public what our hobby is. Most still think of running a train around the Christmas tree. These layout tours give them a real understanding of the inside view of model railroading. Of course, observing an operating session will show them what we really do.

Our next All Division meeting will be in May in Charlevoix. I mention it now because we have been a Chartered Division in the NCR for over three years now and our elections in May will include new leadership positions. It has been a real pleasure to work with our BOD and I look forward to continuing as a member of this Division. We will need a new Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and a Yard Master. Start thinking now about helping the Division out with your own insight into where we want to go. Everyone has been a part of creating this new Division, it is time now to develop it into the Division of the North.

Thanks for all your support and I look forward to seeing you Saturday.

**Dave**

### DIVISION 2 LEADERSHIP

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# DIVISION 2 OPEN HOUSE



# AP CORNER

## PETE MAGOUN, MMR

This hobby is a lot of fun, and as I've mentioned before, it's even more fun when you participate in a group setting of some sort. You learn from others, others learn from you, and everyone grows. As everyone grows, so, too, does your fun with the process and your friends. So now it's "Payback time," in the form of the last AP Category from which your MMR will require a certificate: **Service to the Hobby**. There are three possibilities here, all of which take time: **Association Official**, **Association Volunteer** and **Model Railroad Author**. Let's have a look at them in order of their appearance on the NMRA website.

<https://www.nmra.org/education/achievement-program>

First up is **Association Official**. Yup. You guessed it. You need to raise your hand and put some of those organizational skills you've been working on since you were in Scouts as a kid to work for the benefit of the NMRA. The Good News here is that you've been working on these skills since you were in Scouts as a kid, so you have a pretty good idea of what's involved. This is Corporate Governance of one form or another, and you have options.

To earn this certificate, you need to have completed satisfactory terms as President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or Director in one of the following, as listed on the NMRA website:

- At least one year in office at the national level.
- At least two years in the office(s) at the regional level, of which one shall be Region President or Trustee.
- At least three years in the office(s) at the regional level, if other than Region President or Trustee.
- Division Superintendents or Directors who serve as voting members of the Region Board of Directors, either by election, appointment, or automatic by-law provision, shall be eligible for the certificate on the same basis as any other Region Board member (i.e. three years of service required).

Note that there's also a lengthy discussion on what constitutes service toward "Official" as opposed to service toward "Volunteer." The short version here is that if your service makes you a voting member of a Region or National Board of Directors, then it counts for Official, otherwise it counts towards Volunteer. And this stuff can be divided up, so read the "fine print!" Five years as Division Superintendent and voting member of the Region Board, for instance, can be divided up for "Official" (three years) and "Volunteer" two years, but you cannot count the same time for two different certificates.

With the requisite time logged in, fill out the SOQ, send it along, and bask in the joy of having done some Good for the Association, your friends and yourself.

But what if you haven't been any of the "honchos," for instance, but you've still done a lot for the organization over the years? This is where **Association Volunteer** comes into play. Here you need to accumulate sixty (60) "Time Units" on one or more NMRA National, Region or Division committees. The list of what counts, and for how much, is too lengthy to reprint here, so have a look on the NMRA website here: <https://www.nmra.org/volunteer> And do note that after item 6 on the list there is a lengthy discussion of what constitutes an "NMRA Committee." This is worth the read, and you may find that you've done a lot of the work already, especially if you've been involved in convention planning, contest judging or Division recruiting, for instance. Opening the Home Railroad to NMRA-sponsored "Layout Tours" generates time units on a schedule. This stuff adds up, and if you're involved, having a good time and helping the Division, Region or National organization do well, you've earned the Time Units.

And what of those of you who can, and do, write, photograph, and contribute? This is where **Model Railroad Author** joins the discussion. Once again, have a look at the website <https://www.nmra.org/author> . The options abound! There



are lots of possibilities here, from videos to live clinics to print magazine articles, digital magazine articles and so on. Again, a lengthy list, with options, discussion, “fine print” explanations and the like, all of which are worth reading.

There are undoubtedly other ways in which you can render service to the hobby, as even the late-night “master class” in the bar over a libation is helping someone out, but the ones listed are the places that things “Count.” All require an investment in time, and so I’ll recommend a good read through the certificate requirements, and then start keeping logs!

We’ve now covered the basics of the AP here. I’m certainly open to questions, comments, interesting finds, tidbits, photos and so on from you as you work through the process. The AP will challenge you, will have you out of your comfort zone, will force you to confront some of your fears and trepidations, and will ultimately give you more skills and more fun in your hobby. It’s a growth process, and it works pretty well.

I’m out of space, so until next time...

High Green!

# PETOSKEY YARD MEETING



Division 2 met in Harbor Springs at Dave Comer's house for show and tell and a presentation on air brushing. Six people attended. On this page David Zolnieriek describes his scratch built narrow gauge cars (above); the models (right) and Dave Comer describes a scratch built round barn for his G Scale outdoor layout (below).



# NCR REGIONAL CONVENTION



Division 2 was well represented at the North Central Region Convention on October 11 – 13, 2018 in Lansing. Pete Magoun, Dave Capron, and Scott Pandorf all gave clinics, David Zolnieriek, Charles Crandall, and Dave Landis also attended. Pictured above (1) Dave and Pete did a Make-N-Take with a model of an actual tower found in Lansing (now placed at a local model RR club); (2) Dave and (3) Pete in their session; (4) David Z in the Model Showcase room getting tips! Next Page (5) Dave Capron and Dave Landis viewing a beautifully build layout on the layout tour; (6) Another spectacular layout following a GN prototype.

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# NCR REGIONAL CONVENTION



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# LEARNING OPS SESSION

For the September Yard Meeting the Division held a 'Learning Ops' session at Dave Capron's Great Lakes Northern Layout in the morning, and Scott Pandorf's Ohio and Mississippi Layout in the afternoon. More than 14 members took the opportunity to run two different operating schemes on different running layouts. Lunch was served at Dave's house in between sessions. Hopefully everyone had a great time!



Pictured above Group photo at Dave's; (1) Ernie Barry Dispatching at the GLN; (2) Busy times on the west end of Cincinnati Yard; (3) Lunch; (4) Scott Pandorf introducing the Ohio and Mississippi and discussing operating issues.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## *To the Editor:*

What a pleasure spending five hours traveling through nature, seeing trees in their fall glory, vineyards, dunes, orchards and the homes of Leelanau peninsula in search of railroad signs indicating that a home was on the RR Open House Tour.

No, there are no longer the logging, shipping and travel trains of the past. But there are scale miniature trains and layouts with related railway paraphernalia. The HO scale is the predominant scale used by railroad modeling aficionados.

This northern Michigan division had six homes and their railroads open for visitation on the last Saturday of October. Many more modelers in this division also have layouts under various stages of construction shoehorned into their basements.

It is impossible to adequately describe the extent of the efforts of these serious modelers. I'm only familiar with an O gauge Lionel train set which ran around our Christmas tree. These modelers combine RR history with favorite locations as a basis of RR layouts including yards, main lines, helixes, turnouts, tiny landscapes, flashing lights whistles and on and on and on . . . These craftsmen combine historical research on favorite RR lines and locations along with electrical and computer skills, amazing artistic abilities, financial resources and quiet time composing truly amazing sites.

Thanks for the invite and exposure to all these fantastic accomplishments. The owners, dispatchers and engineers at all the homes were genuinely interesting and helpful in explaining their hobby. If you get a chance, I highly recommend visiting one of these serious modelers.

David Merrell

## *To the Editor:*

It was enjoyable to be able to see so many different layouts as each had something different to appreciate. We especially enjoyed the creativity of each owner and the theme they chose to represent. They shared their knowledge of the area and seeing the trains in action was great. Thankful that the modelers took the time to organize this event for the community.

My dad has shared many stories about his “train buddies” so when the chance came to see many of the layouts, I didn't hesitate. A family friend accompanied me, and I am glad we went. It let me see why my dad enjoys his Wednesdays so much. Each layout reflected the owner's passion for a particular area and I especially enjoyed hearing about the unique areas that each chose to model. I was impressed with their knowledge and expertise. Seeing the models actually operate was even better than seeing my dad's pictures. I have to admit that my favorite layouts were the ones with the elaborate scenery and the artistic ability that it represented. I really appreciate the time commitment that it took to organize this event. Hopefully this won't be a onetime event. My mom wants to go to the next one!

Christopher Cipko



## FUTURE EVENTS

January 2019, 1:00 PM

Traverse City Yard Meeting

February 16, 2019 1:00 PM

Petoskey Yard Meeting

March 2019, 1:00 PM

Traverse City Yard Meeting

April 20, 2019 1:00 PM

Petoskey Yard Meeting

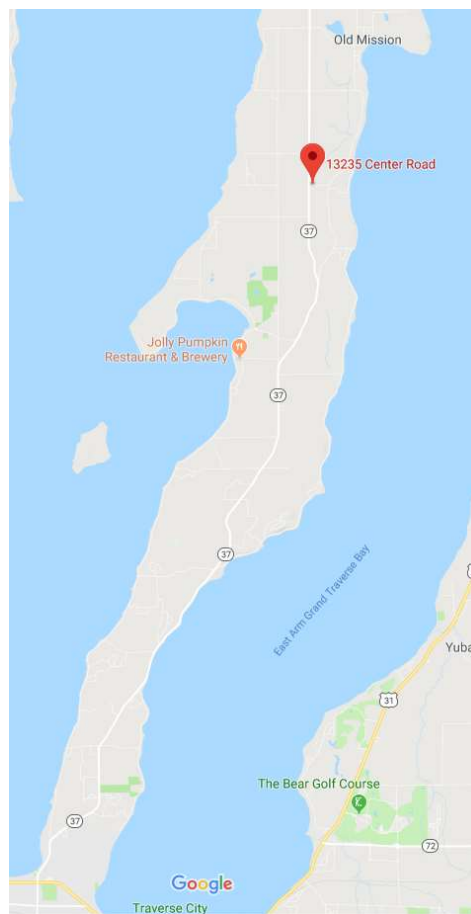
May 2019, 1:00 PM

All Division Meeting Charlevoix

July 7 – 13, 2019

NMRA National Salt Lake City Utah

[www.nmra2019slc.org](http://www.nmra2019slc.org)



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**OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI**

**"LINKING EAST AND WEST THROUGH CINCINNATI"**

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