

**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.

In keeping with this line we will feature digital information depicting aspects of digital modeling.

### 2nd QUARTER DIVISION EVENT SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY, April 23  
10:00AM CT, 11:00AM ET**

**Annual Division  
Membership Meeting  
MONON Connection  
Museum**

**May 18-22**

**Indy Junction 2022  
Tri-Region Convention  
Indianapolis, IN**

**SATURDAY, June 18  
11:00am CT, 12:00am ET**

**G-Scale Layout Tour  
ILLIANA Garden  
Railway Society**



### April 2022 Form-19 Superintendent's Message

Greetings fellow model railroaders! Much has happened since our last Form-19 was published in January. Many events and locations are coming back after two years of cancelations, etc. It is exciting to be able to get out and see old friends and get back to the hobby we enjoy. At the same time, we have learned new skills and adapted to meeting online. The Michiana Division will continue to provide information online as well as in-person meetings and outings as described in this issue in the coming months.

The Michiana Division was particularly active during the pandemic in hosting monthly meetings and clinics online as well as establishing weekly informal Zoom clinics and establishing a YouTube channel and online archive of the recordings. The Michiana Division Board of Directors has been encouraged by the statistics below showing the reach of our YouTube channel. BOD member and Master Model Railroader (MMR) Ron Christensen sends out a weekly email to hobbyists all over the world and BOD member Chuck Hart assembles and publishes our monthly Form 19 newsletters and bulletins as well as actively maintains and organizes the division's [Groups.io](https://nmramichiana.groups.io/) presence (<https://nmramichiana.groups.io/>).

**Please see page 13 for our YouTube channel information.**

PLEASE,  
STAY SAFE  
AND HEALTHY

## Welcome to the 2nd Quarter of the FORM-19 for 2022

**Invitation:** Please join us in our meetings for fellowship and learning with other model railroad enthusiasts. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 meeting** is **April 23, 2022**. You will receive an email via “groups.io” with additional information for the 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”.

## ROAD TRIPS?

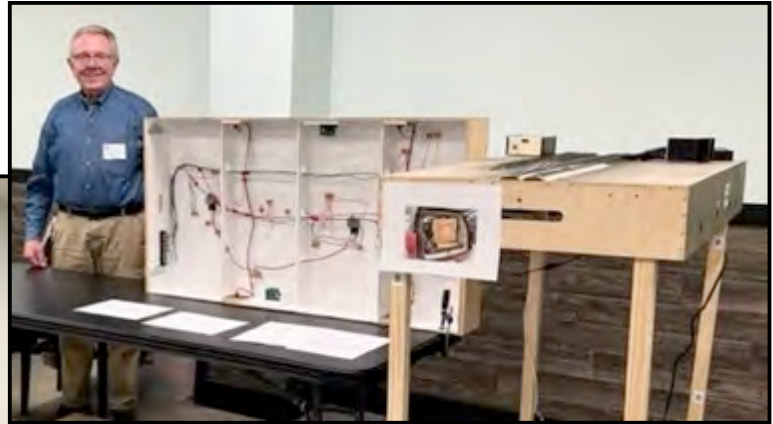
Yep, as the Mast Head of the Newsletter implies this issue is all about getting out of the basement away from our layouts and hitting the road. *Well, almost every thing. Check out Jim Temple’s article about track cleaning on pages 4 & 5.* Some of us have been down there for about two years now and we need some sun! Train shows are coming back and so are in-person conventions. So lets 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 into the contest rooms when attending the Region and National Conventions. See our suggested Road Trip information on page 5. We’ll have more suggestions in the July FORM – 19 Newsletter.

## Michiana Division at Elkhart Model RR Club Train Show

On behalf of the Elkhart Model Railroad Club and as the Club President I would like to thank everyone that attended our Train Show on March 19, 2022.

The Train Show was deemed a success with 52 vendors and their helpers, totaling 91 sellers manning 150 vendor tables along with four operating railroads running trains for the young and older train buffs all day long. The layouts came from the Kalamazoo Model Railroad Historical Society, the Northeast Indiana N-Scale Club of Ft. Wayne and the Michiana T-Trakers and Club members. All this along with over 500 public attendees and the great food available during the day from the Claywood Event Center Kitchen made for a fun day of railroading and seeing old friend and meeting new ones. Hope you were one of the attendees! Neal Thomas, Michiana Division Chief Clerk has provided a few Train Show pictures on page 3. For complete show information and other up to date Club happenings please visit the Club’s website at: [www.emrrc.com](http://www.emrrc.com). See you next March 18, 2023.

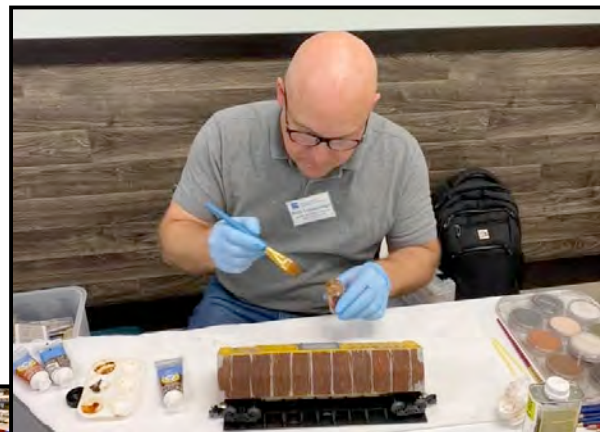
**RIGHT: Neal Thomas, Division Chief Clerk, displayed his Free-Mo modules during the Train Show.**



**LEFT: Greg Bueltmann, Division Superintendent and Jim Temple, Division Paymaster, manned the NMRA promotion table during the Train Show.**



**RIGHT: Rich Trowbridge, Division BOD member demonstrated his weathering technics during the Train Show.**



**LEFT: Dan Brown, NEINS, displayed a fine N-Scale layout.**



**RIGHT: Matt Glassman, Elkhart Club member is with the Michiana T-Trakers on display at the Train Show.**





## TRACK CLEANING

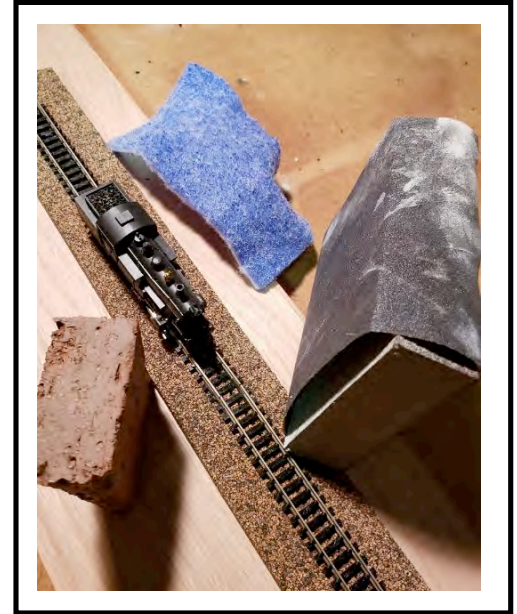
### By Jim Temple

Two of the least enjoyable model railroading activities are track ballasting and track cleaning. Ballasting is necessary for every realistic model railroad. The best thing about it is that when it's done, it's done. Track cleaning, on the other hand, is an ongoing chore that's necessary as long as you want your motive power to operate satisfactorily. Right?

There are different preferred methods such as running a track cleaning car with a dry rubbing block floating beneath it. We're all familiar with using a Bright Boy for stubborn spot cleaning. It's also important to clean wheels of your motive power with Goo Gone or kerosene. Don't put the engine back on the track without running the wheels clean on paper towel, if you're using Goo Gone. There are other effective methods you may have used.

### **Below are some techniques that you probably have never used.**

For HO, try steel wool or a sanding block, gently, with medium grit sandpaper. For sure that sand paper will clean your railheads! You should probably use a shop vac to suck up sandpaper particles from around your switch points if you want them to close after cleaning, right?



Now for N scale, use a kitchen scrub pad or fine-grit sandpaper. Be careful to move the sanding block up and down the track, not across it, to prevent pulling track sideways off the roadbed. A small piece of brick could also be used. Kiln-fired brick is much better than those cement bricks, which crumble and leave lots of particles on your track, particles too big for N scale ballast!

For O or G scale track, the big stuff, you may again use the sanding block or a brick to rub, rub, and rub. Another choice tool would be a good wire brush. Again, you will want to suck up the particles from the track with your shop vac.



**WARNING, DANGER, HAZMAT:**  
 Before trying any of these track-cleaning techniques,  
**PLEASE** look at the date of this publication.... and don't be a FOOL!

### **MICHIANA DIVISION ROAD TRIP IDEAS**

#### **SWAP MEETS AND TRAIN SHOWS**

Here are two sources for train shows and swap meets that may be in the primary area of the Michiana Division.

For the five state area of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

<https://www.trainshowlist.com/listings.pdf>

If you are on Facebook you may find this page of interest.

#### **MODEL TRAIN SHOW SCHEDULES**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MTSS1>

### **MICHICANA DIVISION ROAD TRIPS FOR APRIL, MAY AND JUNE**

#### **MODEL RAILROAD CONVENTIONS**

INDYJUNCTION 2022	Tri-Region Convention	May 18-22, 2022	Indianapolis, IN
GATEWAY 2022	NMRA Nat'l Convention	August 7-13, 2022	St Louis, MO
NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW	Part of NMRA Nat'l Conv.	August 12-14, 2022	Collinsville, IL

#### **PROTOTYPE RAILROAD CONVENTIONS**

MONON Railroad	2022 MRH-TS Convention	September 16-18, 2022	Michigan City, IN
GNRHS-Nelson 2022	Great Northern Convention	September 17-21, 2022	Nelson BC, Canada

**APRIL DIVISION ROAD TRIP****MONON CONNECTION MUSEUM & ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Join us on April 23<sup>rd</sup> for our spring business meeting and outing at the MONON Connection Museum and The Whistle Stop restaurant. The museum opens at 11 AM Eastern and we will have our annual business meeting in the Whistle Stop private room at 11:30 AM Eastern. Two Division Director positions will be up for election in April 2022. These positions are elected during the Annual Membership Meeting. Consider joining the Division board and help develop Division Activities. Contact Nominating Committee Chairman, James Temple, email: [jngtemple@yahoo.com](mailto:jngtemple@yahoo.com). Those who have brought their appetites may order food from the menu and after lunch we will take in the museum, which is open until 8 PM. Admission to the museum is \$8 for adults 16 and older. Children aged 4 to 15 are \$4 and under 4 are free. The museum is located at 10012 N US Highway 421, Monon, IN. More information is available on their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057169191332>. We look forward to seeing you there!

**MAY DIVISION ROAD TRIP  
INDY JUNCTION 2022**

Many in the division have already made plans to attend Indy Junction (<https://www.indyjunction2022.org/>) in Indianapolis, IN May 18<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup>. As the event approaches we will publish details about a potential Michiana Division gathering based on the pending schedule. Be sure to register and make your hotel registrations now. The convention is being sponsored by the Midwest, North Central, Mid Central regions of the NMRA, and the Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM) Conference and will feature four days of clinics, layout tours, operating sessions, and more!



## JUNE DIVISION ROAD TRIP G SCALE LAYOUT TOUR

Illiana Garden Railway Society, "The Bull Moose Line" – On June 18<sup>th</sup> the Michiana Division of the National Model Railroad Association will visit the Illiana Garden Railway Society and tour "The Bull Moose Line." The park is located on the north side of Valparaiso. From I-80/90 exit south on SR 49 at Chesterton, IN; then turn right at U.S. highway 6 (notice the Hospital on the right at the interchange), then turn left on Meridian Road, then about ¼ mile left into park. Pass the gatehouse and take the small drive immediately to the right. Follow the pavement until it ends. Park on the grass at the layout. The park opens at 10 AM Central and we meet briefly at the entry to the layout at 11 AM Central and enjoy a guided tour afterwards. For more details, visit their website at <https://illianagardenrailwaysociety.com> Or their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Illiana-Garden-Railway-Society-157258485074161>.



## MIDWEST REGION NEWS

<http://www.mwr-nmra.org>

**Registration for the May 18-22, 2022 *Indy Junction***

**Tri-Region 2022 convention is now OPEN**

***Indy Junction 2022* is jointly hosted by the three Regions.**

**Midwest, North Central & Mid Central**

**The convention facility will be**

**The Marriott East**

**7202 E 21st St**

**Indianapolis, IN 46219**



Marriott East, 7202 E 21<sup>st</sup> St  
Indianapolis, IN 46219



Four Full Days  
Three Regions  
Two Day Train Show  
One Convention  
May 18-22, 2022

Clinics  
Layout Tours  
Ops Sessions  
Prototype Tours



<https://www.indyjunction2022.org>



**RPM**  
CHICAGOLAND





# 2022 NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION



## NMRA National Convention Location:

Marriott Grand  
St Louis 800 Washington Ave, St Louis, MO

## National Train Show Location:

The Gateway Convention Center  
1 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, IL

## Convention Website:

[https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?preview&event\\_id=13724](https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?preview&event_id=13724)

## Convention Features

- **Layout Tours**
- **Bus Tours**
- **Self Drive Tours**
- **Prototype Tours**
- **Non-Rail Tours**
- **Modeling With the Masters**
- **Clinics**
- **Door Prizes**
- **Partner Activities**
- **Merchandise**
- **Banquet**
- **LDSIG**
- **OPSIG**
- **Contests**
- **National Train Show**



# NMRA NEWS

## NMRA Digital Magazine - Arriving at the Station on April 1<sup>st</sup>!

We hope you are all eagerly anticipating 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. As the NMRA gets closer to the launch date, we are sure you are wondering exactly what this new digital version will look like and how digital will provide additional benefits to our members. We think these are most easily summed up with the images below. But, in case you forgot:

On mobile devices, laptops, and desktops, the magazine will be 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 will be searchable by keywords so it will be easy to find your favorite railroad or topic. You can also bookmark articles for quick access later.

Members will be able to 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.

**More information is available in the NMRA March/April 2022 eBulletin.**

### **SPECIAL NEWS FROM THE NMRA PRSEIDENT, GORDY ROBINSON, FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE INDYJUNCTION 2022 CONVENTION**

The British Are Coming. Well, actually, it's just one Scottish guy. And we don't think he'll be wearing a red coat. NMRA President Gordy Robinson is scheduled to attend the entire Indy Junction 2022 convention, May 18 through May 22, 2022. His plans include visiting layout tours, running trains during operating sessions, attending clinics, filling a spare bag or two with train show purchases, and spending time with YOU. We have setup several opportunities for you to visit with Gordy in large and small group settings during his time in Indianapolis.

#### **PLANNED EVENTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING**

**Coffee/Tea in the Atrium with Gordy**

**Festive Beverage of your choice in the Lounge with Gordy**

**Open Forum with the NMRA President**

**Meet the NMRA President**

**Region and Division Leaders Meeting with the NMRA President**

**Indy Junction 2022 Convention Committee Meeting with the NMRA President**

**See the Indy Junction website for event times.**

*Now in September there is a tough Road Trip choice. You can stay around the Michiana Division and take in the MONON Railroad annual convention in Michigan City, IN or.... take a long Road Trip and head on up to Nelson, British Columbia, Canada for the Great Northern Railroad annual convention!*



**MONON Railroad H-T S  
Convention  
September 16 to 18, 2022  
Michigan City, Indiana**



See the MONON RH-T Society website for more information:  
<https://monon.org>

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**A joint Great Northern Railroad Historical Society and the  
Canadian Pacific Historical Association Convention  
September 17 to 21, 2022  
Nelson, British Columbia, Canada**



See the Great Northern Railroad Historical Society website for  
more information:  
<https://www.gnrhs.org/>

So we have quite a line up of places to see and things to do this Spring, Summer and early Fall for your Road Trip possibilities. And, the Michiana Division will continue to add local events for you in the local area too. As for your Newsletter Editor, I am a born and raised native of Michigan City. ... Alas, the dates for the above events overlap. As a member of both the MRH-TS and the GNRHS it's a tough choice however, I'll be heading to Canada!





NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 1328  
Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328  
Phone (423) 892-2846 FAX (423) 899-4869  
Email: nmrahg@aol.com Website: www.nmra.org

Complete all personal information, select membership type(s) and subscription choices. Enter all totals in Payment block below.

**Welcome Aboard the NMRA!**

## New Member Application

Name:					
Address:					
City:		State:		Zip:	
Phone:		Birth Date:		Scale:	
Email:		Occupation:			

<div> <div>NMRA Membership Type</div> <div>Circle the Option of Your Choice</div> </div>	1 Year	Total
Member with NMRA Magazine Subscription - All Rights and Benefits; includes NMRA Magazine	\$82.00	
Member without NMRA Magazine Subscription – All Rights and Benefits; does not include NMRA Magazine	\$50.00	
Family - Spouse or Minor Child of above member in good standing. No NMRA Magazine or voting rights. Provide each Family Member's name and date of birth below: Name: _____ DOB: _____	\$9.00	
Student - Any person 18 yrs and under or student between the ages of 19 - 25 yrs possessing valid student ID. All Rights and Benefits and the NMRA Magazine DOB: _____	\$40.00	
Sustaining - Mandatory for Group Memberships (Clubs, Associations, Businesses). All Rights and Benefits and the NMRA Magazine	\$120.00	

Region Subscription Options for <u>New Member</u> (First Year \$6.00)						
Circle the Options of Your Choice						
Subscription Type	1 Yr			Subscription Type	1 Yr	
21-Northeastern Subscription	\$6.00			29-Mid Continent Subscription	0	
22-Niagara Frontier Subscription	0			30-Mid Eastern Subscription	0	
23-North Central Subscription	\$6.00			31-Lone Star Subscription	0	
24-Thousand Lakes Subscription	0			32-Mid Central Subscription	0	
25-Pacific Northwest Subscription	0			33-Southeastern Subscription	\$6.00	
26-Pacific Coast Subscription	\$6.00			36-Sunshine Subscription	\$6.00	
27-Rocky Mountain Subscription	0			37-Pacific Southwest Subscription	0	
28-Midwest Subscription	\$ 6.00			* Out of region subscribers may be charged additional fees by Region		

	Phone:		PAYMENT	NMRA Membership Total:	\$
				Region Subscription Total:	\$
	E-Mail:			Grand Total:	\$

Go to the NMRA website at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) and visit the online store for latest merchandise updates.

We also accept MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover

[illegible]

Expiration Date: 















      \_\_\_\_\_

Month                      Year                      Signature

Return entire renewal notice along with your payment.

**All Payments must be made in U.S. FUNDS ONLY • Make checks payable to NMRA**

***NOTICE - 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>

Here are some statistics from our YouTube channel

- Views since January 1, 2022: 2,200
- Unique Viewers since January 1, 2022: 935
- Watch time since January 1, 2022: 408.2 hours

Statistics for the 90 days prior (during the holidays) were about 8% higher. While we're glad to be able to meet in person again and are looking for to the outings coming up, it's nice to know that the efforts we've made to get online are reaching our intended audience.

**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	NEAL THOMAS
CLINIC COMMITTEE	RON CHRISTENSEN, MMR
INTERNET COMMITTEE	GREG BUELTSMANN
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE	CHUCK HART
CONVENTION COMMITTEE	VACANT
MEET LOCATION COMMITTEE	JOHN BANICKI
AP CHAIRMAN	VACANT

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 BUELTSMANN	<a href="mailto:greg@uncleheavy.com">greg@uncleheavy.com</a>
CHIEF CLERK	NEAL THOMAS	<a href="mailto:nfthomas@prodigy.net">nfthomas@prodigy.net</a>
PAYMASTER	JIM TEMPLE	<a href="mailto:jngtemple@yahoo.com">jngtemple@yahoo.com</a>
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE	JOHN BANICKI	<a href="mailto:jjbmish@gmail.com">jjbmish@gmail.com</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	RICH TROWBRIDGE	<a href="mailto:richtrow@frontier.com">richtrow@frontier.com</a>
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN	NEAL THOMAS	<a href="mailto:nfthomas@prodigy.net">nfthomas@prodigy.net</a>