

# Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA –  
Spring 2024



# The WAYBILL

Editor

David J. Leider MMR  
9070 64th Way N  
Pinellas Park, FL 33782-4663  
[sooauthor@netzero.net](mailto:sooauthor@netzero.net)  
847-454-6481  
Associate Editor  
Jim Osborn MMR

## The WAYBILL

is published quarterly by the Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association Inc. for the benefit of the model railroading community.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Electronic delivery is free to all members of the Region. Go to <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/mwr2016/waybill.html> to subscribe or to change your e-mail address. Regular mail subscriptions are \$6.00 per year; \$12.00 for two years. To subscribe, complete the applicable sections of the NMRA Membership Application at <http://www.nmra.org/>.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles, photographs and artwork are encouraged in either hardcopy or electronic form. The editor uses Quark 5.0 as his publishing software on a Mac. Word documents are also acceptable, but please send the photographs as an attachment. Copy is due by the 10th of February, May, August and November and should be sent to the editor at the above address. Submitted material will be returned upon request.

### ADVERTISING

Deadlines for camera ready ads are the same as for the copy deadlines. Please submit by email to the editor as a TIF or .jpeg. We accept only railroad related ads.

Advertising rates are:

	yearly	or	per issue
Full page	\$100		\$35
Half page	75		25
Quarter page	50		20
Business card	25		15

Make checks payable to the **Midwest Region NMRA** and mail to: David Leider  
9070 64th Way N  
Pinellas Park, FL 33782-4663  
[sooauthor@netzero.net](mailto:sooauthor@netzero.net)  
847-454-6481

## Editor's Column

The Midwest Region 2024 Convention will be held at the Century Center, South Bend Indiana on May 2-4, 2024. The century Center is located at 120 Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd. South Bend, IN 46601.

The convention website is <https://www.mwr-nmra.org/aroundthebend.html>  
More information is available on page

### .... A Day at the Archives

For the past several year a number of Chicago Area Historical societies have joined forces to present a day dedicated to supporting those societies. I have attended a number of them in the past and thought they were well worth it. This year the event will take place on April 5 and 6. April 6 is the seminars and there will be field trips on the 5. More information is available on page

The Fox Valley Division has an excellent list of upcoming local railroad related events. You can find it at: [www.foxvalleydivision.org/fvd2016/rrevents.v2.html](http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/fvd2016/rrevents.v2.html)

From Mike Lehman, ITD Super and Show Chair.

Illinois, Urbana -- March 23 & 24, 2024, Illinois Terminal Division, NMRA presents the 40th Annual Lincoln Square Train Show, 100 W. High St, Urbana, IL. Display layouts, historical societies, museums, make-and-take, and vendors, plus 2nd Annual Urbana Freemo Open. Saturday, 8am - 5pm, Sunday 11am - 4pm. Freemo starts up at noon Saturday with evening ops until 8pm. Free Parking and Public Admission, wheelchair accessible.

We will be giving away a HO scale switching layout complete with a locomotive, rolling stock, and power supply chosen from among those who register for our show notice email list.

We encourage anyone with historic photos or other material from the Lincoln Square Show to share it with us, along with who should be credited for it. You can email this to the show chair (address below) or bring it by the show so we can compile it for the public's enjoyment and the historical record.

For info on tables, Freemo, and bringing display layouts, see the show website: <http://www.illinoisterminaldivision.org/show/show.htm> or contact Show Chair Mike Lehman at 217-344-5609 or via email to: [trainshow@illinoisterminaldivision.org](mailto:trainshow@illinoisterminaldivision.org)

### On The Cover

Paul Newton had an excellent display made of two highly detailed HO modules. Everything was weathered to perfection and made a very pleasing overall display. to the left is another example of his work. Both photos by the editor.



## **President's Report**

### **Bob McGeever President, MWR**

A few short items under the general topic of joining the 21st century.

#### **Membership Renewals**

At the last MWR BOD meeting we got some information about how few of the NMRA members were renewing their membership online. I have forgotten the exact percentage, but it was low, below 25%. I remember thinking that if almost all the renewals are for one year, then somebody at headquarters has to process by hand about 250 paper renewal forms per week. And process over 250 checks or charge card transactions by hand per week. And then mail out the new membership cards. Every week, fifty weeks of the year. That comes out to 6 or 7 renewals per hour. We are keeping somebody really busy processing renewals!

I want to encourage all the members of the Midwest Region to renew online at the NMRA web site. Let's free up some resources in the home office to support other activities.

Here is the link: [www.nmra.org/store/membership](http://www.nmra.org/store/membership) I have used the online renewal twice. Successfully. For myself as a full membership and my wife as a family membership. Overnight I got an email confirmation for my full membership and my wife got her confirmation at her email address. I admit it is not the most intuitively obvious process. But neither was the old paper form, and we all figured it out.

#### **E-tickets for the Midwest Region Convention**

Round the Bend is coming up. The details are at the following link:

[www.mwrnmra.org/aroundthebend.html](http://www.mwrnmra.org/aroundthebend.html)

I said in earlier reports that one of the goals of this project is to develop methods and tools that can be used for future conventions.

The basic registration of attendees has always been a real chore. The folks who did it when my division hosted the regional a few years back swore they would never do it again. One way to lighten the load would be to move to an online registration system. National has a contract with a firm that specializes in convention registrations. I contacted them to see if they would do the same for a regional convention. They very politely no-bid me. Our event is just too small for them.

If you think about it, most of what we have been calling registration for a convention is just the same as buying a ticket to an event. So, we contacted Etix. This is the firm that has been handling the online ticket sales for the Mad City Model Railroad Show for the last few years and they were eager to help.

Starting with this convention, all paid admissions will be handled through the online site we set up. For general admission to the event, no paperwork will have to be processed by hand by the registration team. Maybe a few of them will be willing to do it again for the 2025 convention.

#### **The NMRA Magazine**

The guy who used the phrase "joining the 21st century" in the title of this column has a confession to make. I'm a bit of a luddite when it comes to books and magazines. I completely understand and support the reasons to move the NMRA magazine to an e-magazine distribution format. Hard copy distribution is getting really expensive. I was one of the folks who decided the mailed hard copy of our divisional newsletter should be discontinued and we should do it all with email. We saved thousands of dollars per year. We saved a bunch of hours our volunteer editor/publisher was putting into getting the thing printed and mailed. I like getting things like newsletters by email. I read them and then delete them. If I need to go back to one, I can pull it up on the division web site.

But I just cannot adapt to e-books or e-magazines. I spent the last year getting the NMRA Magazine as an e-magazine. It has not gone well. I may have read half of them. Since I am old enough to remember life before computers and the internet, my reading habits for books and magazines do not include sitting at a computer for several hours. I read books and magazines in my reading chair, not at the computer. This old dog has found a new trick he just can't learn. When I went online and renewed my membership, I popped for the hard copy magazine. There is a little bit of irony in that. This lack of adaptability will cost me, but at least I will get back to reading the magazine on a monthly basis.

Bob McGeever

# Region News

## Midwest Region Achievement Program Report

by Jim Landwehr- MWR AP Manager

I am happy to report that there has been a lot of activity from our members. They continue to take part in the Achievement Program all over the Midwest Region.

The following members received awards:

Andrew Kirby	Palatine, IL	Golden Spike
Joe DeGroot	Two River, WI	Golden Spike
David Casey	LaValle, WI	Golden Spike
Andrew Kirby	Palatine, IL	Electrical
Andrew Kirby	Palatine, IL	Civil
Phillip Burnside	Avon, IN	Motive Power
Phillip Burnside	Avon, IN	Cars
Precilla Roderick	Greenwood, IN	Volunteer

As always, work with your division Achievement Program Manager first, and if there is trouble feel free to contact me.

Jim

### NMRA.ORG MASTER MODEL RAILROAD LIST

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

Please look at the updated MMR Listing:  
[www.nmra.org/master-model-railroaders](http://www.nmra.org/master-model-railroaders)

Many of the names appear highlighted and underlined indicating an active link. "Click" on these links and additional information will appear involving the MMR name selected.

John Coy, MMR #730\_

**Midwest Region Annual Convention**  
**The Century Center**  
**120 Doctor M.L.K. Jr. Drive, South Bend,**  
**IN 46601**  
**May 2-4, 2024**

## The Frugal Modeler by Dave Nelson

Railroads have been facing the regulatory and litigation expenses of remediating or mitigating the long-standing environmental contamination caused by the accumulations of oil left on their tracks. The damage and the mitigation are visual effects that can be modeled.



1988 photo was taken at the C&NW's Butler Yard near Milwaukee.

Years of spills at fuel racks can leave thickly encrusted tracks, ties and ballast: the 1988 photo above was taken at the C&NW's Butler Yard near Milwaukee. Wherever locomotives are routinely parked, darkened ballast and deposits of oil on the ties can result; at Joliet, IL, for example, you see exactly where Metra push/pull commuter train locomotives would lay over between runs. An ex-B&O GP30 on the Iowa River Railroad (former M&StL tracks) south of Ackley, IA, leaks a trail of oil wherever it goes, but it gets particularly thick and grungy where this old engine is parked every day. -- the IARR has no enginehouse -- near its major (only?) customer, an ethanol plant. These effects can be modeled with "Mars Black" acrylic paint on the ties and ballast for the thickest and worst oil accumulations; a spray mist of India ink and isopropyl alcohol for a less-concentrated darkening of ballast and right-of-way.

Some of the worst railroad oil deposits are from flange oilers, which automatically pump a thick lubricant when wheel flanges rub against the rail head, such as at curves. While this reduces wear on wheels and rails, the main goal is to reduce noise: flange oilers are located where the ear-splitting sound of "flange squeal" would be most objectionable. The



Joliet, IL where Metra trains lay over between runs.



Flange oiler at Union Station, Chicago.



Above:  
Sioux City.  
Below:  
This is near Steamboat Rock on the Iowa River Railroad. Their GP30 is old and leaks oil. Former Iowa Central/M&St.L tracks.

photo shows an example near Chicago's Union Station. Details West offers a nice flange oiler model in HO, and the visual appearance of the accumulation of oil is readily modeled with thickly applied black acrylic paint. One caveat; we modelers, unlike on the prototype, need to leave ample space to clear the wheel flanges, since real lubricant is flexible and dried paint is not.



Track mat at the flange oiler at Dixon Illinois on the UP.





Track mat on the Illinois RailNet north of Flagg Center where the locomotive is parked when not in use.

In an era of growing environmental sensitivity, it is becoming more common to see track mats where these oil accumulations occur. This heavy-duty fabric of geotextile material can absorb or hold oil, fuels, and other hydrocarbons. The fabric, which comes in rolls, also sees use at drill rigs, and under vehicles and mining equipment. My photos were taken at a flange oiler on the Union Pacific (ex-CNW) mainline through Dixon, IL near the old freight house, and on the Illinois RailNet line north of Rochelle (at Flagg Center) that goes through Davis Junction on the CP (ex-Milwaukee Road) and on north to Rockford. Their locomotive is kept near Hemstock Road so crews can park their cars along the track, and the mat is slightly longer than the engine. Both of these areas are on river watersheds which likely explains this oil mitigation. Note that the mat fabric extends to the ends of the ties and over the base of the rails.

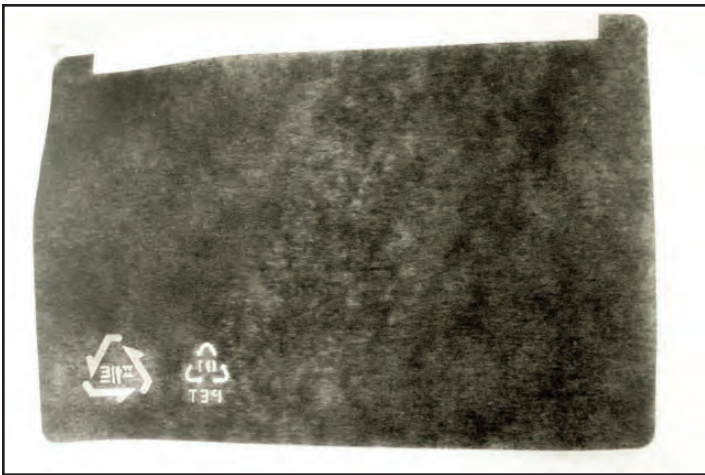
I was able to (frugally) replicate a track mat using a black fabric-like sheet that came with my new laptop between the screen and keyboard. It looks and feels like cloth but is actually a paper product. I cut the sheet in three pieces for between the rails and over the ties; like the prototype the mat extends over the base of the rail. Black acrylic paint is applied to the ties and ballast and base of the rails, and then the black sheets are pressed into place with cotton swabs (or your fingers if you don't mind getting paint on them). The paint acts as the adhesive when it



HO track with model of track mat installed.

dries. Use a damp cotton swab to wipe the wet paint off the tops of the rails. When cutting the sheet, place it on a hard surface, use a fresh knife blade, and cut along a metal straight-edge being pressed down hard, otherwise it tends to tear. Any fuzzy edges can be trued-up with a good quality scissors. I have an old freight car model with older NMRA standard deep flanges that I then ran over the track to make sure the fabric won't interfere with trains.

All photos by the author.



Black protective sheet from a new laptop.

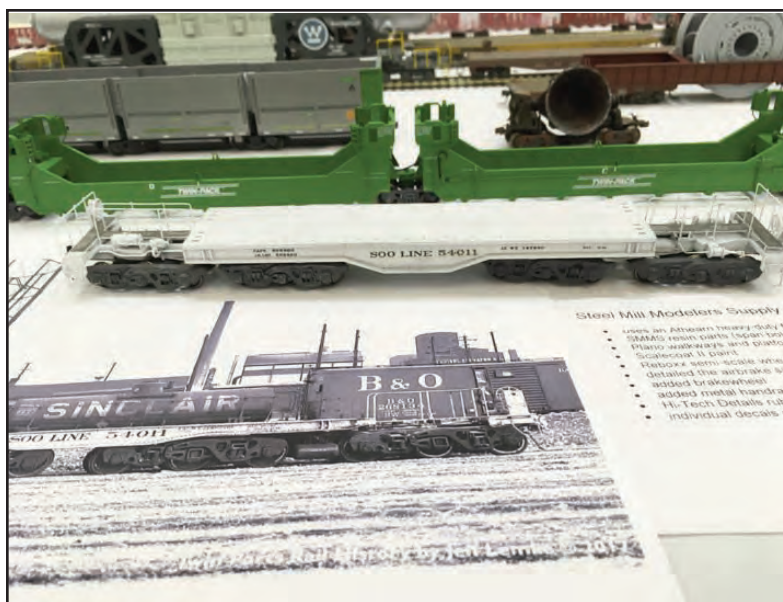
**Midwest Region BOD meeting  
120 Doctor M.L.K. Jr. Drive, South Bend,  
IN 46601  
May 5, 2024**

## Cocoa Beach Prototype Rails 2024 by David J. Leider MMR™

Once again I had the pleasure of presenting at the annual Cocoa Beach RPM (Prototype Rails). My topic was on the Chicago & Western Indiana Railroad Belt, or Belt Railway of Chicago. Despite forgetting my computer and having to borrow one, everything went off without a hitch.



An example of Ghost Lettering on a highly weathered model.



Being a Soo Line modeler, I was drawn to this specialized Soo flatcar by Doug Geiger

The clinics were divided into Freight Cars, Passenger Cars, Ops/Industries, Layouts, Prototype, How To and Locomotives. I attended some excellent clinics on each topic and learned a lot. They covered all time periods. I heard about the Hurricane vs the FEC Key West Extension in 1935 and Brightlines 21st Century Orlando Extension, quite a contrast. I was happy to see that Tony Koester was back after an absence of a few years and heard about progress on his NKP layout.

The salesroom was expanded this year, with several new vendors and the display area was filled to overflowing. I had a table as usual, selling



Cinthia Priest shows off her People's Choice award. Congratulations.



Stephan Priest MMR™ shows his amazement at his wife's accomplishment.



Austin Strenecky possibly has the only Brightline modular layout in existence. It was a joint effort with his father. Austin had custom engine shells 3D printed along with decals produced. He also built the futuristic West Palm Beach Station. It is fortunate he models in N scale, as it is an imposing structure.



View of a portion of the Cocoa Beach vendor room looking towards the models.

The winner was Cinthia Priest, as you all may know is the editor of Scale Rails. Attendance was over 300 and I want to thank all involved for all the hard work that goes into planning an event such as this.



Two Florida East Coast GE ES44C4's roll by on Austin's module. Brightline and the FEC share tracks. Dania is just south of Lauderdale-Hollywood airport.

## Bringing Smiles to Many Faces

by Dr. Robert Perry

my books and promoting the Soo Line Historical & Technical Society. I was lucky that fellow Soo Modeler and my former neighbor in Chicago, Mike Polsgrove, was seated next to me. He has a line of 3-D printed parts under the Northwoods/Soo parts banner.

In a memorial to Mike Brock, one of the founders of Prototype Rail who passed away last year, a Mike Brock popular vote contest was initiated.

When it comes to bringing smiles to people's faces in model railroading we often think of giving a train set to a child, showing off our home layouts to a few friends, or possibly even demonstrating a portable layout at a train show. Recently, John and Connie Coy and I have had the privilege of bringing a very simple portable layout to the Hooverwood Living





Nursing Facility® in Indianapolis and the Park Square Manor Retirement Community® in Avon.

The layout was a very simple 4 x 8' 3-rail O-Scale Christmas layout with just a couple of oval tracks. It was decorated with a dozen or so removable buildings and pre-made trees with bases. This layout can be setup in less than 20 minutes. We run a couple of old Lionel® engines pulling various toy-train Christmas cars as well as a Polar Express Train®. We spend two or three hours there speaking to the residents and staff.

To the accomplished, detail-oriented model railroaders within our hobby, this toy train setup would appear to be a joke. It is just toy trains running in loops with premade Department 56®-style buildings or even Cat's Meow® wooden fronts and no real scenery. But to the residents of these facilities, this is exactly what they remember from their youth. They all saw these setups in the front windows of the local department stores. They all remember having these as a child. They all recount giving toy trains like these to their children...maybe even the model railroaders in the CID got their start from toy trains like these.

To the residents of these facilities, having someone come to visit with them and entertain them in this manner, is uplifting. It brings smiles to the faces of those who may not have a lot to smile about. They are able to talk to us about their memories of trains...real or modeled. Many will either stand or sit for an hour or so just observing the endless looping of the trains, the puffing smoke from the steam locomotives, or just watching with a broad smile on their face.

Granted, this outreach to the community will

not likely expand our NMRA membership but the enjoyment we bring to the people is of great humanitarian benefit and is uplifting to our souls. Due to the extremely positive response from this venture, we are now in the process of creating a similar type of toy-train layout specifically for a Halloween train. This will include multiple intersecting loops of track that create a mesmerizing effect.

I would encourage our members to think outside the box as to how we can bring the hobby to others. The CID's visits to the Avon-Washington Township Library, the Carmel Public Library and soon to the Fort Ben Library and Mooresville libraries have been able to extend our reach into the community in ways we never thought of before. Let me suggest that if anyone has a portable layout, a little spare time and



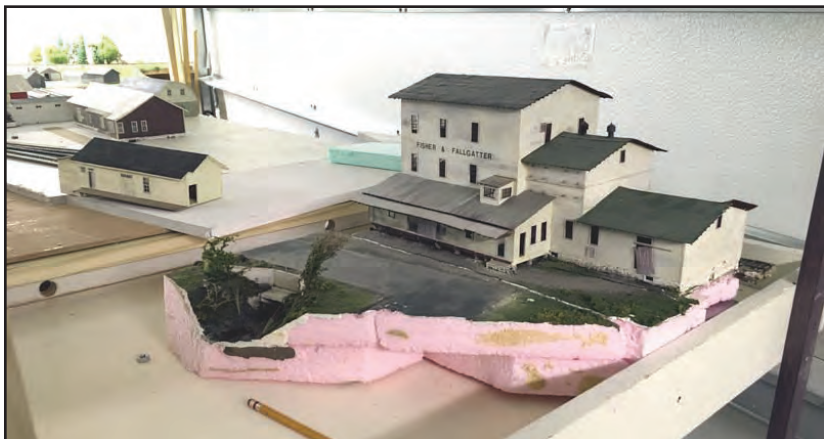
the inclination, please consider giving back to those who got us started in the hobby. Look into bringing a layout to those who otherwise may not be able to get to see one. Bring some smiles to some older faces.

## Waupaca layout Progress by David J. Leider MMR™

After a year of procrastinating, I got to work on another section of my Waupaca layout. It is centered around the Fisher-Falgatter mill, at the time one of the last water powered grist mills remaining in the country. This prominent structures anchors the end of the layout.

I removed it intact from the old layout, as I modeled the water wheel below the building that drove the machinery to grind grain. It survived the move with only minor damage, but needed special bench-

work to accommodate the water wheel. With it in place, I was able to place the other structures on the layout. I am in the process of laying track to it.



Two photos of the mill placed on the benchwork. I intend to model the river that provided power. Maybe I can find a sound source of a grist mill in operation to put beneath it.

I have sketched out the tracks to the potato warehouses and the roadway leading to the mill. I hand-lay my track using Fast Tracks® copper ties and their paper templates. I use HO flextrack and old Atlas brass switches to plan where it goes.

This portion of the layout extends along the garage door. It still opens, as I will need to open it to get access to the rear of the mill.



# SAVE THE DATE

## AROUND THE BEND

### MIDWEST REGIONAL CONVENTION

# MAY 2ND-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!***

Saturday, April 6, 2024

VFW POST 1197

Doors Open 9:00AM



645 S River Street/Illinois Route 25  
Batavia, Illinois

Along the Historic CA&E Batavia Branch Right of Way



## A Day for the Archives

**Affiliated Sponsors BRHS, CNWHS, GNRHS, LAKE STATES, MRHA, SHORE LINE, SLHTS**

### **A Weekend to Benefit Multiple Archive Efforts**

Collectively, all the participating groups archive efforts will benefit from this event,  
both financially and in collective knowledge.

Great presentations, networking and archive updates from participating organizations.

9:00 - 10:00 am – Registration

#### **Schedule of Presentations**

10 am – James Wade – “Canst Thou Send Lightnings” A history of Telegraphy

11 am – Andy Nelson – “Railroad Audio Artistry”

**Noon to 1 pm – Lunch Provided**

1:30 pm – Bob Hanmer MRHS, GNRHS, NPRHA – “All-Rail Ore”

2:30 pm – Walter Keevil Shore Line – “Movies from the Keevil Archive Collection”

3:30 pm – Potpourri also Society shorts / socializing / networking  
Craig Willett BRHS

“50 Years of Craig Willett Photography”

Jerry Pyfer NWI Chapter NRHS

“Stuff from Little Yellow Boxes”

4:30 pm Jeff Eggert CNWHS

“From the CNWHS Archives, A Selection of Slides from the J. David Ingles Collection”

**5:30 pm – Buffet Dinner and Dessert**

6:30 pm – Paul Swanson LSRHA “The Moonlighters on VIA’s Canadian”

7:00pm – George Forero LSRHA, BRHS, Soo Line H&TS, MRHA  
“St. Louis Union Station : Its Darkest Hours Before Dawn”

7:30 pm – Paul Swanson LSRHA – “Mississippi River Railroading”  
From the Collections at Lake States – IC, Q, Milw Rd. and CNW



**Full Fare Includes:** Presentations, Lunches, Buffet Dinner and Friday Rail Event - **\$175.00#**  
#of which \$100 is tax deductible

**Admission To Day Presentations Only** Including Lunch - **\$110.00@**  
@of which \$80 is fully tax deductible

**Evening Presentations and Dinner (after 5 pm) - \$75.00**

**Friday Only Rail Fare, Including Lunch - \$75.00**

**Limited Archive/Society Company Stores will be on site during this event.**

*A room block has been arranged for those traveling from out of town at:*

**Comfort Inn & Suites**

1555 E. Fabyan Parkway • Geneva, IL 60134 • 630-208-8811

\$119.00 Double Occupancy, use code ARCHIVES 2024

- Regional Train Event
- Clinics
- SIG Activities
- Layout Tours
- Operating Sessions
- Display Room
- NMRA AP Program Evaluation
- Railroad & General Interest Tours

The Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA)

# AROUND THE BEND

## MIDWEST REGIONAL CONVENTION

• **MAY 2ND-4TH, 2024** •

**The Century Center**  
120 Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. South Bend, IN

The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA), Midwest Region (MWR) 2024 Convention hosted by the Michiana Division. We sincerely welcome you to the convention. We have a great event planned for both veterans and beginners in the hobby of model railroading.

Additionally, the Steel Mill Special Interest Group will participate in this event with featured Steel Mill (SIG) clinics and vendors.



**Admission Prices** This event is open to NMRA members and the general public

**Early Bird Registration** (ends April 1, 2024)  
**Full Convention Registration** \$70 Public \$60 NMRA \$48 Volunteers  
**One-day Registration** \$40 Public \$30 NMRA \$24 Volunteers

**Gate Registration** (on or after April 2, 2024)  
**Full Convention Registration** \$75 Public \$65 NMRA \$52 Volunteers  
**One-day Registration** \$45 Public \$35 NMRA \$28 Volunteers

Members of the public may pay for a Rail Pass Membership and receive NMRA admission prices. Children 12 and under accompanied by an adult (paid) are admitted free.



For more info visit  
[2024AROUNDTHEBEND.COM](http://2024AROUNDTHEBEND.COM)