Waybill

Winter 2027

NMRA

MIDWEST REGION



The *WAYBILL*

Editor
David J. Leider MMR®
9070 64th Way N
Pinellas Park, FL 33782-4663
sooauthor@aol.com
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: https://www.mwr-nmra.org to subscribe or to change your e-mail address.
Out of Region NMRA members who want to be notified that the Waybill is available can contact Jim Osborn at mwr.nmra.webmaster@gmail.com to be put on the Constant Contact email notification list.

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@aol.com
847-454-6481

In this issue

Page	2	Editor's Musing	David Leider MMR
Pages	3-4	Presidents Report	John Coy MMR
Page	4	AP Report	Jim Landwehr
Pages	5-10	Superdetailing a Mantua 4-6-2 Pacific into a Pacific part 2	CNW 4-6-2 E-2A Dave Poquette
Pages	11-13	Candidate bios for Midwest region election	
Pages	14-15	ballot and official envelope	
Pages	16-17	Engineer's License	David Leider MMR
Pages	17-21	Largo Central	David Leider MMR
Pages	21-26	Trainfest 2026	David Leider MMR
Page	27	Announcing NMRA keynote Speaker: Lance Miindheim	
Page	28	Introducing the Railroads of Cincinnati Division 7	
Pages	29-30	C&O Train show	
Pages	31-32	Division 7 Convention	

On The Cover: Looking into the cab of the Largo Central's Milwaukee streamlined Hudson. See more on pages 15-19.

Editor's Musings

This is the annual election issue. You will find bios of the candidates up for election. Please take the time to vote.

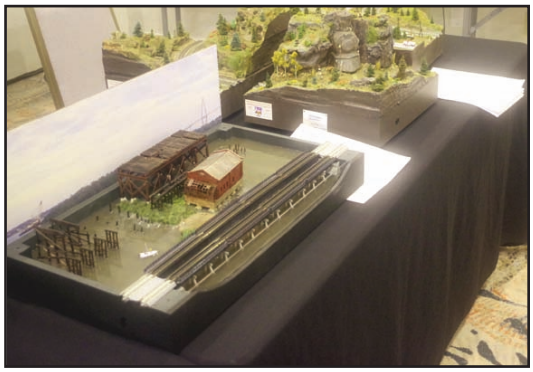
I flew in from Florida to attend Trainfest. There were 50 layouts and lots of vendors, some new to me. The event was well advertised and the weather was pleasant, resulting in 20,000 people coming out to see it during its two day run. All the vendors I spoke with did very well and were very happy with the result.

I spent most of my time at the Soo Line Historical & Technical Society booth and enjoyed speaking with the attendees and friends, some of which I had not seen for several years.

I attended the Sunshine Region NMRA convention, Iron Horse 2026, in September.

A highlight of the convention was a Zoom call with President Gordy Robinson MMR. He spoke about how the NMRA was able to lower dues, and is actively contacting members lost in the past two years to rejoin. He also said that in 5-10 years many current NMRA will be planning their funeral instead of their next layout.

I was surprised to see a number of modules to be judged for the new AP category. Several samples are below.





President's Report (John's Junction)

John Coy MMR president, MWR 730

Happy National Model Railroad Month (November)! T'is the season—that is for model railroading. As you are reading this, TRAINFEST in Milwaukee, one of the largest shows in the nation, happened in November. There are also multiple other shows and train displays going on in the Midwest Region.

Let me clarify a small point, to alleviate confusion here in the Central Indiana Division, we were to a train "SHOW" as buying and selling is happening. A train "DISPLAY" is merely just that, showing portable layouts to the public—and there is no buying and selling. In fact, the libraries where we display our trains does NOT allow buying and selling.

I'm confident that the vast majority of us are aware that dues were dramatically reduced to $50 per year for membership! That $50 is the most value any model railroader could get for their money as membership benefits are numerous!

The greatest thing anyone could get by joining is the fellowship and friendship you develop with others in the hobby including those in your proximity. If I wouldn't have joined, I would have missed knowing half a dozen people who live within twenty minutes of my house! My best friends are all model railroaders!

It would cost a new member about $4.16 a month to join us. That is fabulous! At the National Train Show in Chattanooga, I got a dozen people to join the NMRA. We can do the same thing here in the Region. When we work the NMRA booth at our local shows, we need to connect and invite attendees face to face / one on one. It works. Asking someone to join us in person is the absolute best way to get someone to join.

Please share with a prospective member about your local events! Facebook is great, but there is no substitute for good old fashion get-together and actually doing model railroading in person together.

MWR Convention Coordinator Dan Banks and I are aiming for a Regional Convention in Carmel, Indiana in 2027. We are targeting (UNCONFIRMED) September of 2027. When we get the dates confirmed, we will IMMEDIATELY reach out. There is a possibility that the location may NOT be in Carmel.

The NMRA national convention will be far away in the Pacific Northwest in July of 2027 and therefore, we will not be "stepping on anyone's toes" with our Regional Convention.

Here is my NOTE, that I have put into every President's column: bear in mind that If you are contacted via email or text supposedly by me, or any other Board Member, or ANYONE from the NMRA asking you for money, gift cards, electronic transfer of funds, etc., there is a 100% chance it is fraudulent scheme. This is a common occurrence and not just for the MWR / NMRA. Do NOT fall for these scams.

If you want to donate money to the NMRA, or Region, or your Division, directly contact NMRA HQ, or the Region President or your local Division Superintendent and ask what the best way to donate would be. ANY check or money order or whatever should be made to the





precise name of the: Division, Region, or NMRA.

We had our required Members' Meeting in August of 2026. This was the SECOND time to do this meeting on Zoom. We had 75 members which tied the FIRST meeting. I am really pleased to see that many people; although I would really like to see at least 200 Members.

ELECTION TIME!!!!!!!!!!

Please vote!!! Unfortunately, too many members have blown this off for multiple years. It truly makes a difference who you vote for. Here is a true horror story: Members from a local model railroad club joined the NMRA. They managed to get themselves voted onto a Division Board. Then, they voted to give their own club a huge donation from the Division. Then, they quit. It truly makes a difference who you vote for.

Read the Bios! Who has been in the NMRA for a while? What has he or she done? What are their future ideas for the NMRA?

I have been a workhouse on my layout, the Glacier Line, in preparation for the upcoming model railroad season. I have cleaned the wheels of all of my engines and even cabooses! I confess that I have never cleaned a caboose wheel before and it occurred to me that all rolling stock wheels should be cleaned, after cleaning track, in order for them to not be dirt distributors.

I wish you and your families well in the holiday / model railroad season! I'm looking forward to see you all either in person or on Zoom throughout the season. God bless each and everyone of you. John

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:

Larry Nelson	Canton, IL	Cars
Gary Baker	Pekin, IL	Dispatcher

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

Thanks,
Jim

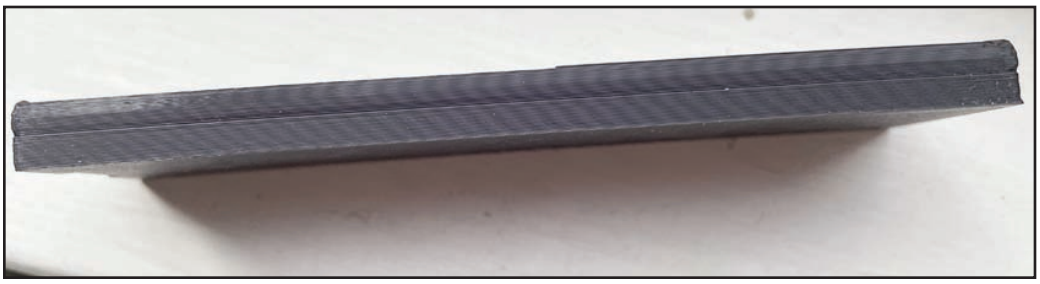
Superdetailing a Mantua 4-6-2 Pacific into a CNW 4-6-2 E-2A Pacific part 2 the tender

By Dave Poquette



Basically, a tender is a large tank that sits on a flatbed car. The tank holds water and either coal or oil. The E-2A tender was an oil tender that was converted from a coal tender. Using a MicroMark variable speed table saw set to the slowest setting, I removed the bottom 3/32" between the steps and glued 3/32" ABS Channel to mimic the tender's structural platform. Then, I measured up 6' from the 'new' bottom of the tender and removed any material above 6' using the same table saw. Any molded items were removed (with the exception of the rivets).

The top of the tender was created and printed using 3D printing technology. Modeling putty was applied to smooth out the tender top.



It was glued to the modified tender and putty was applied to smooth out any defects.

The oil tank was created using .020" styrene. Balsa wood was used to fill in the front cavity of the tender and .020" styrene was placed over it. The hand rails were created from .015" brass wire.

I cut a piece of .020" styrene that would slide into the water tank area. I really had my heart on having a working water hatch. Since I could not find a square hatch that opened, I purchased a round hatch that opened instead.

Unfortunately, the "working" hatch did not open as designed so I glued it shut. Had I known this, I would have pur-





putty was added to the grooves show that 'holes' were drilled through the trusses for the piping.

The tender sat a bit too high, so I also ground down truck bolsters by 3". Since the trucks were off, I removed the brass/plastic wheels and cleaned up the axle insert portion of the trucks with a wire brush disk on my Dremel.

chased the square hatch instead.

The train control box was created from .020" styrene. Tichy strap hinges was used for the hinges. Lift hooks were added to both sides. I added classification lights and a working rear light.

A groove was cut into the underside



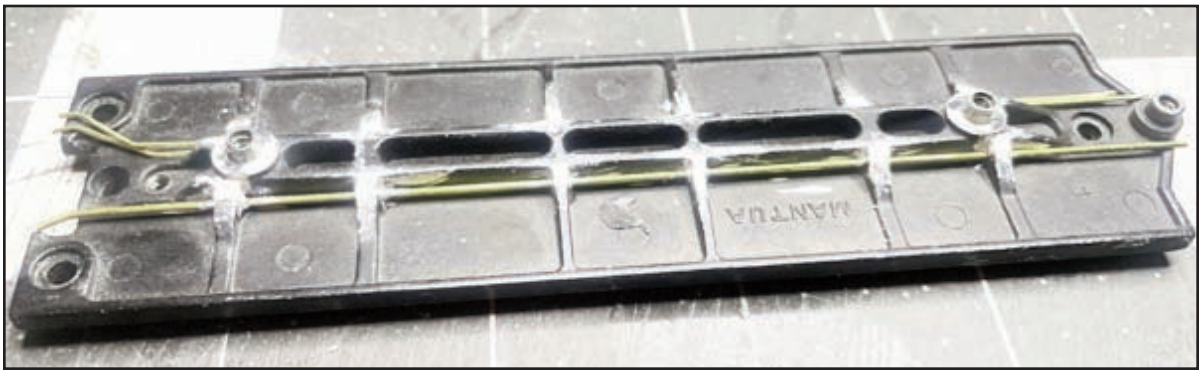


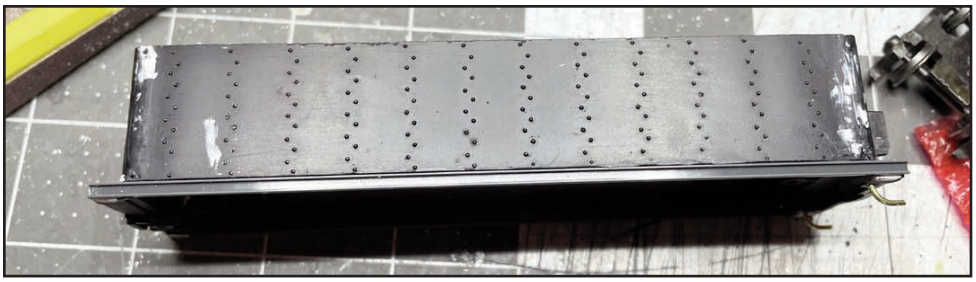
I replaced the brass/plastic wheels with Intermountain Semi-Scale 36" wheels making sure the insulated wheel was on the engineer's side. This provided pickup on all 6 axles.

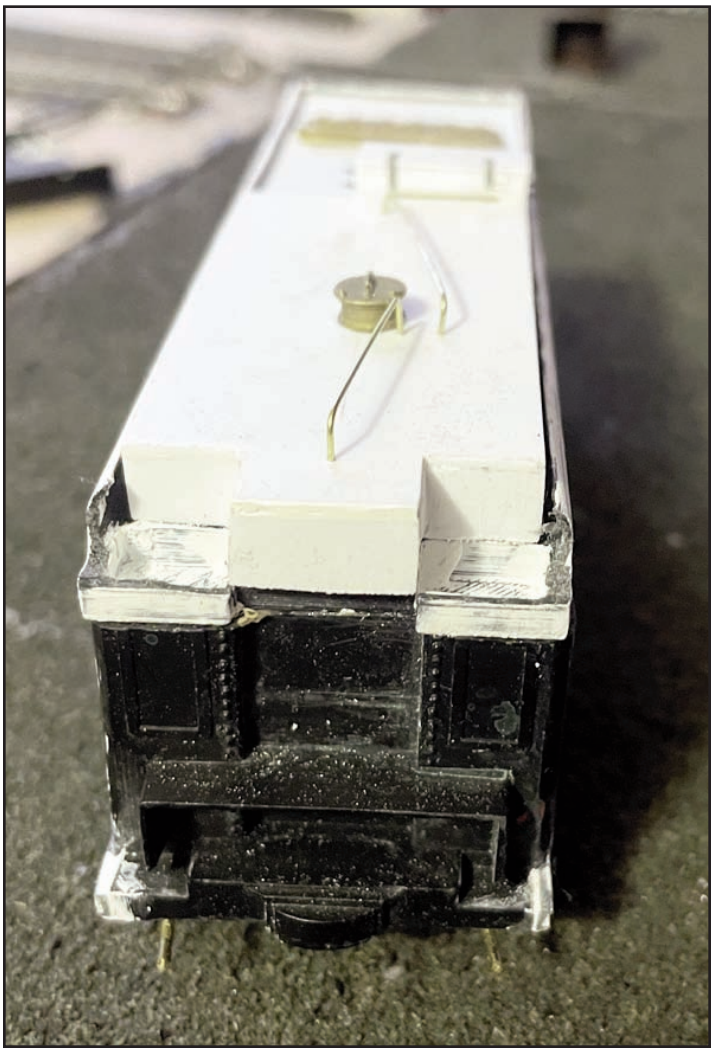
The coupler was replaced with a Kaydee scale head

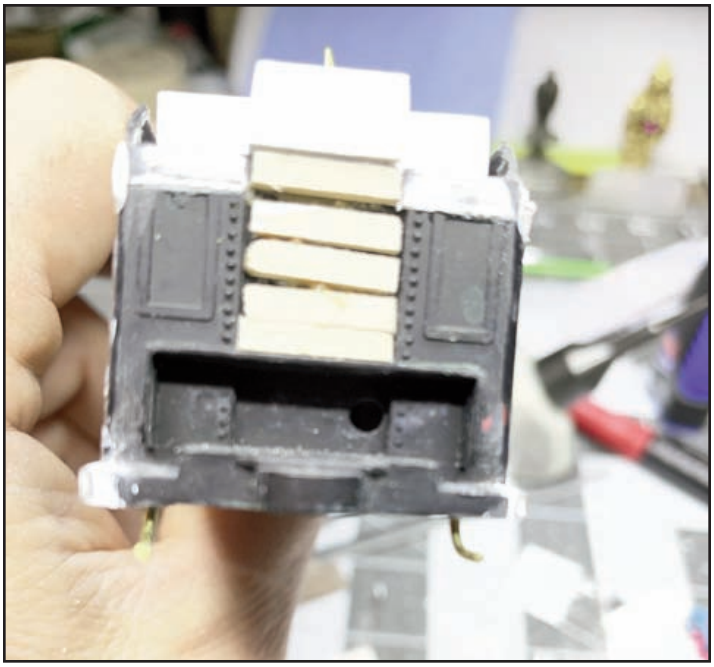
of the tender so that the steam, signal, & air piping could be added. .032" brass wire was used for the pipes.

Modeling







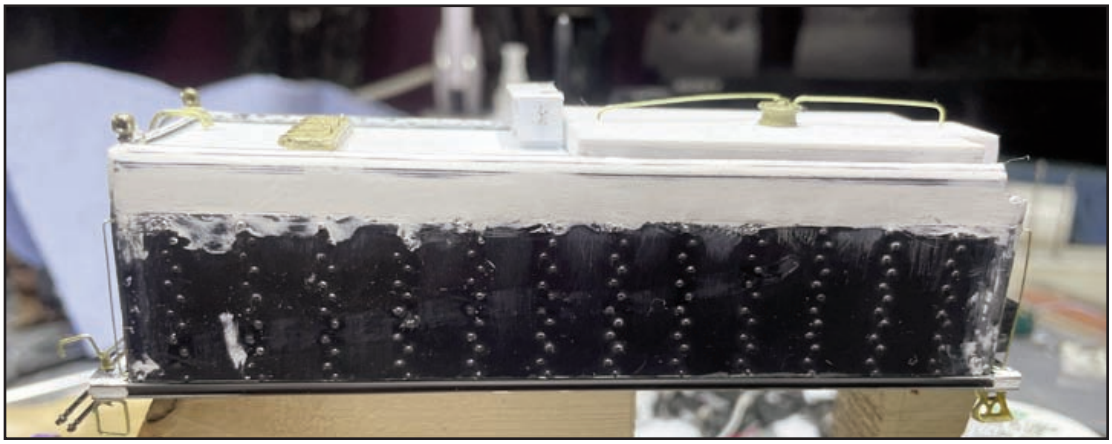


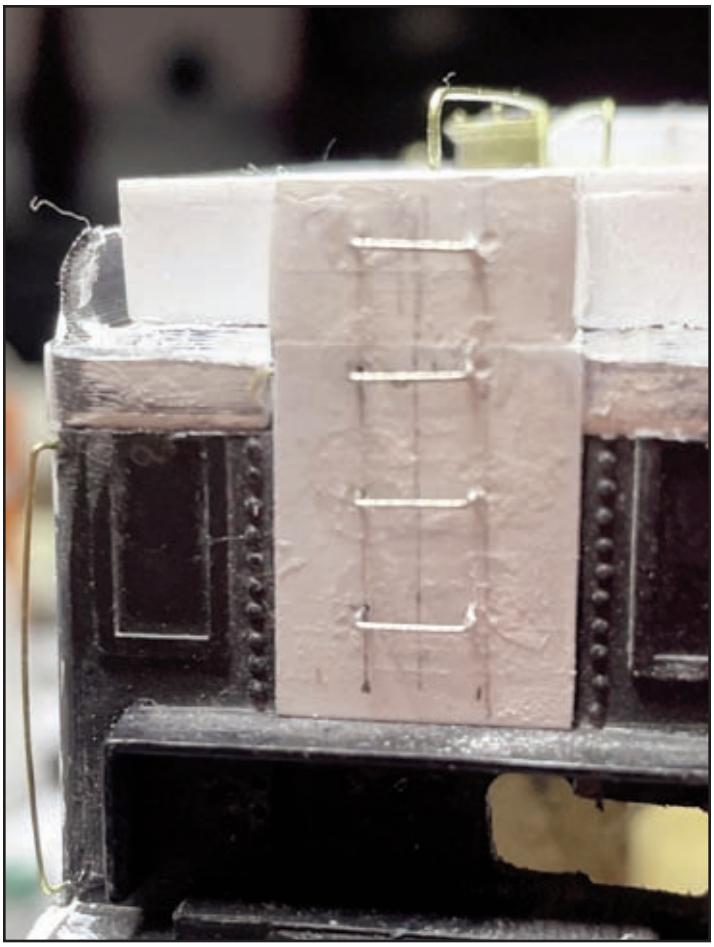
decoder buddy. The connector was glued flush with the outside of the tender so that it wasn't noticeable. I installed a TCS WOW Steam decoder.

As per the prototype, 2 air tanks were added, one on each side. .022" brass wire from the air tanks to the bolster kingpin was used for the airline to the trucks.

Grab irons were added. The rear stirrups coupler.

I removed some material and drilled holes in the underframe so that I could add a speaker. I mounted a Nix Decoder Buddy to the underframe and ran wires from the 6-pin connector to the





were formed from .010" x .030" flat bar stock. The front stirrups were also added. The tender ladder was created using .010 x .030" bar stock and .019" brass wire. I bent the bar stock first, then used a jig to solder the rungs to the sides. The coupler lift bar was formed from .019" wire and a piece of .010 x .030 flat bar stock.

The air, steam and signal details were added to the rear of the tender.

Finally, rivet details were added.

The original distance between the cab and the tender was too long. A new, shorter, drawbar was created to the correct distance.

Finishing & Lettering:

Painting:

As I mentioned before, the inside walls and ceiling of the cab was painted green. The gauges were painted white. The cab floor, back head, cab seats, pilot trucks and tender/engine frame was painted using Grimy Black. I primed the entire model using Tamiya Primer. The smoke box was painted an Oily Steel color while the rest of the engine and tender was painted with a mixture of 80% Tamiya Semi-gloss black and 20% Tamiya Flat Black. The front pilot truck wheels were painted rail-tie brown.

Decals:

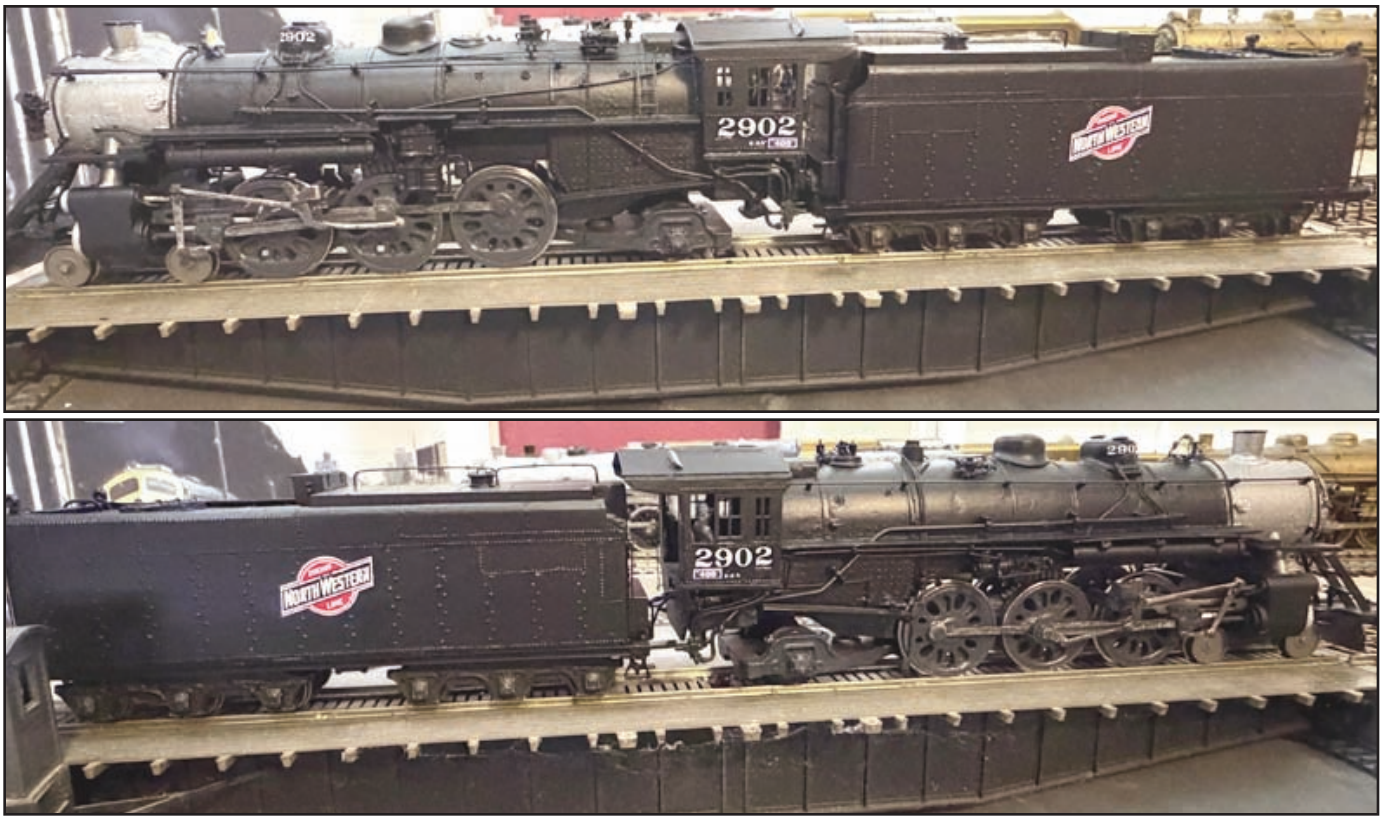
Since I already had Microscale 87-89 CNW Steam decals, I decided to use them. On the prototype, the size of the numbers that go on the side the cab for the 400s is supposed to be 10". Microscale's cab numbers are almost 15". Therefore, the "400" sign had to be placed in the lower corner of the cab. The "400" sign decals were designed and created by me and CircusCity Decals printed them for me.

Weathering:

Since the 400 engines were kept clean, minimal weathering was applied. I used chalks for weathering. A grimy black chalk was applied to the smoke stack. A light-colored earth chalk was applied to the tender wheels and lightly applied to the outer frame of tender. The rear pilot truck and the underside of the cylinders also received some earth chalk.

Conclusion

This was my first attempt at doing a major overhaul of a locomotive. It was a long, fun, rewarding, and sometimes frustrating project. Call me crazy (my wife does), but I've decided to super detail the other Mantua Pacifics and Mikado that I acquired. I'd like to thank all of the people who helped me with the research, suggestions, and the use of their 3D printers for this project. I'd like to especially to thank Jim Allen, Keith Kohlman, Mike Lenzen, Matt Millican, Dave Nelson, Joe Russ, and Mark Willmering.



Materials List:

Manufacturer	Description	Part Number
American Scale Models		
	Backhead	1004-12
	Smoke box cleanout	1021-33
	Bell PSC CNW Yellow Jacket	1024-12
	Steam Dome PSC NH I-5 small	1028-1
	Steam Dome	1028-12
	Pop Valve	1029-62
	Smoke stack	1030-18
	Pilot coupler on mount	1072-26
	Tender Steps	1081-51
	Rear Tender Light	1087-7
Cal-Scale		
	Generator	190-212
	Westinghouse Air pump	190-240
	Commonwealth Ash Pan	190-249
	Checkvalve	190-253
	Air Steam Signal Hose set	190-275
	CNW headlight bracket	190-279
	Marker Lights	190-280
	Power Reverser	190-303
	Front Pilot Air hose	190-319
	Boiler Steps	190-377
	Tender Brake Lever	190-494

	Lift Rings	190-501
	Whistle	190-596
	Stanchions	190-604
	Poling Pockets	190-734
?	Tender Brakes	?
?	Pyle Headlight	?
Chino Backshops	Mantua 4-6-2 Can motor with Flywheel	Kit #3
Detail Associates	.012” Brass Wire	2504
	.015” Brass Wire	2505
	.019” Brass Wire	2506
.	022” Brass Wire	2507
	.015” x .024” Brass Flat Wire	2526
	.015” x .060 Brass Flat Wire	2530
Evans Design	2pin connector	WC1
Greenway Products	Sand Dome	TS-815
Kato	Seated Figure	31-610
Kaydee	Scale Couplers	158
Kemtron	16” Air Tank	X-816
Heyer 3D Design	Pilot for Mantua Pacific	
Intermountain	36” semi-scale wheels	40052
Micromark	Rivet Decals	84985
Microscale	CNW Steam Locomotive Decals	87-89
NCE	6pin JST Connector	1309
NIX	Decoder Buddy 0ohm	NTZ3
PFM	1.5 v light bulb	
Precision Scale		
	Distribution Air Tank	3175
	Governor	3195
	Pilot beam flag holders	3206
	Check valve w/elbow, vertical Nathan	3326
	Low Water Alarm	3480
	Globe Valve	4840.3
	.012” Pipe Bracket	4859.1
	.040” brass wire	4875
	Hancock R&L non-lifting injector	31314
	Cylinder Relief Valve	32103
	.020” Pillow Block	32175
	3 Compartment working water Hatch	32203
	Oil Hatch	32373
	Air Tank Bracket Holder	32520
	Coupler Lift Bar Brackets	32546
	.020 Pillow Pipe Bracket	33174
	Pillow Block .040”	48131
	Washout Plugs	48213
	.040” Union	48242
	Elbow	48394
Tichy	Strap Hinges	3068
Train Control Systems	KA4 Keep Alive	1668
WOW Sound Decoder kit	Steam	1921

Candidates for MWR Elections

For President
John Robert Coy MMR (incumbent)



My name is John Robert Coy, MMR #730. I am respectfully requesting your vote to be re-elected as President for the Midwest Region.
I have thoroughly enjoyed representing all of you as President since May of 2025. To say I'm heavily involved in the NMRA would be the understatement of the year.

Since becoming President, I have, with the assistance of others, successfully updated our Midwest Region Constitution and By-Laws. I appointed an Audit Committee which began the task of ensuring our finances were as they should be.

I orchestrated and promoted “field trips,” in lieu of a Regional Convention, due to the fact the national convention was held in close proximity to our Region. Dan Banks and I are currently planning a Regional Convention to be held in Carmel, Indiana, in 2027, as the National Convention will be held in Oregon. The field trips have included a museum, Big Boy viewing, and a 90th celebration event.

I organized, promoted and conducted a 90th Anniversary NMRA celebration on Labor Day as was on the wish list of NMRA National President Gordy Robinson. Very recently, Gordy reached out to me and Dan Banks requesting we organize a National Convention proposal to submit for Indianapolis being the host site for 2029.

I, with assistance from others, have done a lot in a relatively short time and there are already future tracks being laid ahead for events. Please vote for me.
Thank you.

For Vice President
Michael David Roderick



I am running for the Vice President for the Midwest Region.
I have enjoyed trains most of my 57 years of life. My father & grandfather’s collected N-scale and HO trains when I was a child, and I have some of their trains today. I currently model in HO scale trains. I plan to have a layout in my home and will have operation sessions once my layout is completed.

Over the last 8 years as Membership/Outreach Manager I have crossed many states, which make up divisions and regions of the NMRA to recruit new members in the NMRA at train shows. I was awarded the NMRA President Award for service to the division signed by Gordy Robinson, and this was mentioned at the National Convention in Chattanooga, TN.

I decided to devote my time to CID as a Manager for the Great Train Show. I am currently the Co-Chairman of FallFest Train Show. This show is one of the biggest shows in the state of Indiana and is held in September. I am currently working toward my NMRA-MMR and have completed three of the seven requirements completed and I am working on three more to complete in the near future.

I will do whatever I can to help in this position as Vice President of the Midwest Region.
Respectfully

Michael David Roderick

For Vice President
Dan Banks



I am a member of the Central Indiana Division. I have been married for 26 years and have an adult daughter who just got married and flew the coop this year. I have been a member of the NMRA since 2018. I joined and ran for a board position the same year, serving four years in total. I was then elected as Central Indiana Division superintendent for a total of four years. I spent my years in office working with and listening to members and other board members. I have worked extensively with our region president. He served as my assistant before flipping the order and running for president. Over that time we worked on multiple events and projects, always trying to improve members' engagement and experience. I currently serve as past superintendent and AP chair, as well as convention chair of the region.

If elected, I will continue to work closely with John and bring things to the regional level. I have worked with many individuals over the course of my terms, listening to great ideas, putting support behind them by championing and helping flesh out the details, and ultimately empower the individual who had the great id by getting out of the way and providing support for them.

I believe the region serves only to support the division where members interact. Thank you for your consideration for this office.

Daniel Banks
Past Superintendent Central Indiana Division

For Director at Large
Bill Drzal



My name is Bill Drzal and I am interested in serving as a Director at Large for the Midwest Region.

I have been an active member of the DuPage Division the past forty years, serving on the BOD as Contest Chairperson and Assistance Superintendent at various times. I have attended several National and Region Conventions.

I model in HO scale and am currently building my third home layout. I have had hosted "open houses" for layouts. I model the C&NW railroad set in the Fall of 1976 around the greater Peoria area. MSt&L is included in the current layout. This limits my purchases, but I can put together period correct steam power to run if the moment hits.

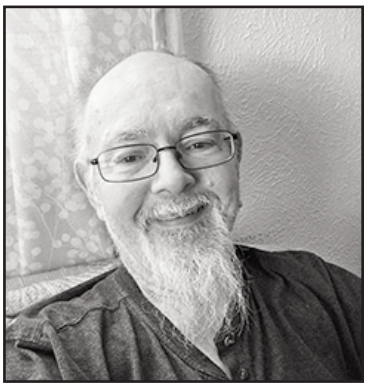
I am a member of the C&NW Historical Society and am currently the Company Store Chairperson the past three years. I have instituted an inventory control system using an available ordering software which was no cost to the Society.

I am past Financial Secretary and Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus.

Personal information, I have been married to Emmy Lou for 51 years and have two adult daughters. Emmy has her own trains (RI Aerotrain & Santa Fe Blue Goose) and she is responsible for the apple orchard on the layout.

I believe there needs to be more communication between Divisions in the Regions, we need to tear down the silos, we need to be more welcoming of new members, we need to reach out to inactive members, we need to have more small group hand on type clinics allowing members to try different techniques.

For Director at Large
Bob Petit



I would like to introduce myself to our Region. A little bit about me, I've been interested in trains and model railroads from a very young age. I got my first Lionel set around age six or seven, it helped that my neighbor was one of the largest Lionel dealers in Chicago! From there, it was a MARX tinplate HO tinplate set, a 4x6 underbed layout with Atlas brass track, and Athearn locomotives and rolling stock. In my career, I have been an electrician and foreman for Amtrak, and Metra Rail.

My vision is for our region is where people can come together, enjoy the hobby, help everyone needing a hand. When I was training apprentices, I would tell them that there were no dumb or silly questions. If you want to know something, just ask. And when I answered them, do so in a kind and courteous manner. I would love to see the Region and Division membership grow.

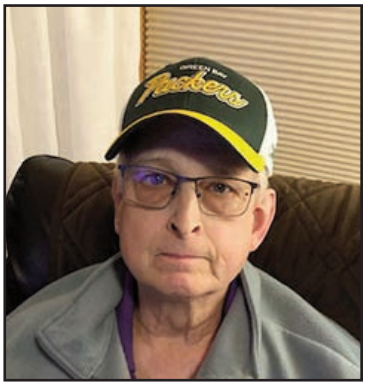
My areas of interests in the hobby include DCC Installations, Trackwork, Carpentry, Painting and Weathering. I love the upper Midwest Granger roads, in the loose boxcar era. With my career in passenger railroading, Amtrak and Metra equipment is my love as well! Operation is also one of my favorite areas of the hobby. Other interests include rail preservation, including various historical societies.

I recently started a Facebook page for the Michiana Division, NMRA Michiana Division. I have a page for my railroad, The Northern Michigan and Wisconsin Model Railroad.

I hope to have the pleasure to serve our region!

Bob Petit

For Director at Large
Steve Preston



I am currently a board member of the S.C.W.D. I joined the board a few years back so I could get a better understanding of the going on's in our division. I am also membership chairman and youth group director. I revived our youth group after covid with the help of a few members to bring some life back to what seems to be dying out at the N.M.R.A. level in a lot of divisions. I would like to join this board to also get a better understanding of the going on's at a greater level. I also would like to represent our S.C.W.Division since we lack representation in our area.

Steve Preston
Membership Chairman
Youth Group Director of the S.C.W.D

Midwest Region 2027 Mail-In Waybill Ballot

(This ballot is for use only by resident members in good standing of the Midwest Region)

We prefer that you vote on-line at the MWR secure website
https://www.mwr-nmra.org/ -- save a stamp & save us time!

For President - 2 year term. (Vote for One)

- ☐ John Coy, Central Indiana Division *(Incumbent)*
- ☐ Write-In _____

For Vice President - 2 Year Term. (Vote for One)

- ☐ Mike Roderick, Central Indiana Division
- ☐ Daniel Banks, Central Indiana Division
- ☐ Write-In _____

For Director-At-Large (DAL) - 2 Year Term. (Vote for up to Three)

- ☐ Bill Drzal, DuPage Division
- ☐ Bob Petit, Michiana Division
- ☐ Steve Preston, South Central Wisconsin Division
- ☐ Write-In _____
- ☐ Write-In _____
- ☐ Write-In _____

To validate your ballot, you must CLEARLY print your:

Full Name _____

NMRA No.* _____

Division Name _____ or Division Code* 28 / _____

* From your membership card, or you can look u p your division based on your zip-code at: https://www.mwr-nmra.org/mwr201 6/mwr.divisionmap.html
(Copy and paste this link into our browser search bar)

Note: "Midwest" is not your Division!!! It is your Region.
If you do not provide all the above information, your ballot will not be counted.
If you vote by mail, return this printed ballot to:

Midwest Region Election Committee,
c/o Jim Osborn, 2202 Bay Oaks Dr. McHenry, IL 60051-3710.
Your ballot must be received no later than Sunday, January 31, 2027.

Tape Here

Tape Here

Fold over last

Midwest Region Election Committee,
c/o Jim Osborn
2202 Bay Oaks Dr.
McHenry, IL 60051-3710

1st Class

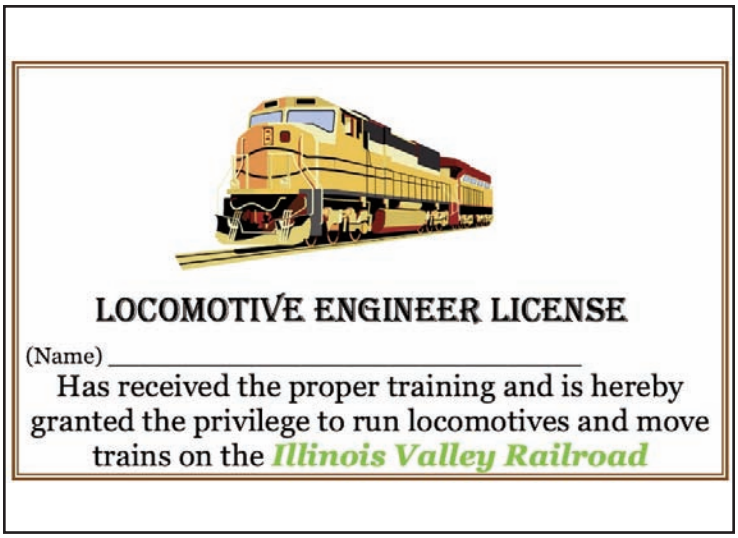
Postage

Midwest Region Election Committee
c/o Jim Osborn
2202 Bay Oaks Dr.
McHenry, IL 60051-3710

Fold in first

Engineer's License
by David J. Leider MMR

This was an idea sent to my by Gary Baker of the Illinois Valley Division. They have a portable layout that they bring to train shows and other events in the area. Of particular interest is that the kids are allowed to operate the trains. In doing so, they get an Engineers license. It is printed on heavy cardstock so that it is more durable than a piece of paper. Gary says that the parents and kids really like it. Something to consider when participated in Public Events.





The portable layout at the Springfield Train Show in March of this year



The portable layout at the Wildlife Prairie Park's Annual Train Day event in May.

Largo Central Railroad

by David J. Leider MMR

The Largo Central railroad is in Largo's Central Park in Largo Florida. The 7 1/2 inch railroad has approximately 1.2 miles of mainline track with numerous passing sidings running through the beautifully landscaped area. Train rides are available to the public on the first full weekend of each month at no charge. The railroad, founded in 1991, was built and now maintained through the work and dedication of the LCRR club members and through generous donations from the people of Largo.

The train snakes its way through the park, that features a mountain tunnel on the otherwise flat Florida terrain. The inside of the tunnel is illuminated with LEDs to give the effect of stars.



The rail is aluminum and laid on either recycled plastic or extruded plastic ties, whose life is many years longer than the wooden ties





that are being replaced. Steel rail was tried, but excessive wheel wear and wear on the rail made it impracticle. The right-of-way has excellent drainage, needed where a 12” rainfall is not uncommon.

Dues are purposely kept low to encourage younger people to join, and the club boasts a large number of teenagers. The club is focused on education; mentoring the next generation of railfans. There is a STEM component in the club, the restoration and operation of their Milwaukee Road Hiawatha #1938, that is known as Project Alpha. The steam program is a STEM style group within the Largo Central railroad that focuses on passing on the knowledge and skill of Live Steam Locomotives, their operation, maintenance and all of the parts production and machining required to keep the locomotive operational.

The propane powered locomotive was acquired thanks to a generous donation from a club member.





Entrance to the tunnel and inside.

Project Bravo is the complete restoration and eventual operation of their 0-4-0 steam locomotive.

A few years ago the club was the recipient of a million dollar grant to build and equip a modern, state-of -he art shop building. By putting 4 levels in the bays, the LCD will eventually have 1/2 mile of track in the shop to store equipment.



Above: View of the new shop area and storage buildings.



Left: Milwaukee Road Hiawatha #1938 was acquired from a private donation to the club. from a member. Nothing more is none of the builder or when it was built.

Another view in the shop. Two locomotives are under construction. The shop is well-lit, bright and airy, with very high ceilings.





The csx branch from Tampa to St. Petersburg runs along the property line of the park. CSX provides twice weekly service from Tampa.

Looking at the racks and elevator that will eventually allow for multiple levels of storage.





Inside a small building where 15' sections of panel track are being assembled. Each section weighs 50 pounds with solid plastic ties or 30 pounds with hollow section plastic ties. The sections are stacked in the back.



Left: Another view inside the shop. Rack system is to the right.

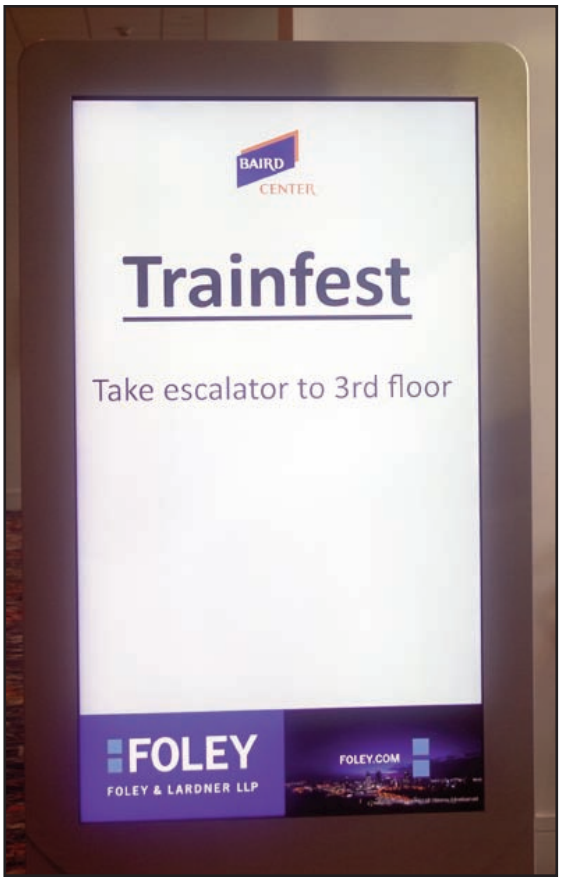
Below: a D&RGW caboose brings up the rear.



Trainfest 2026
by David J. Leider MMR

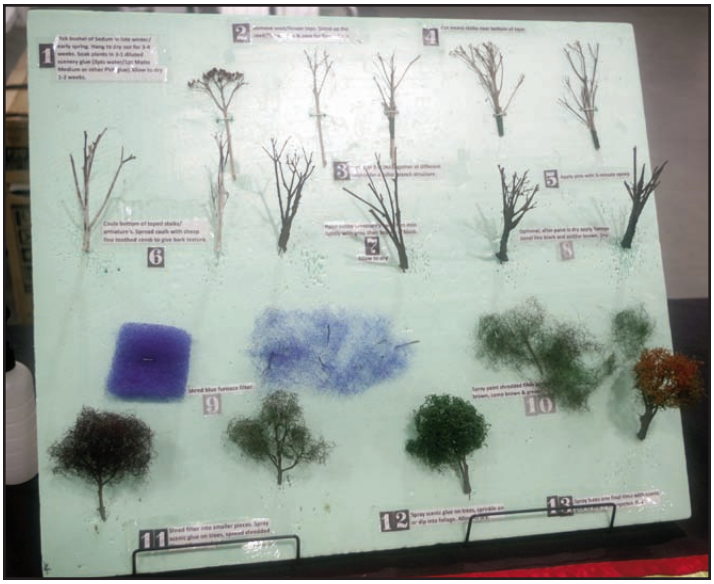
Trainfest 2026 was held on the weekend of November 7-8. Even though I live in Florida, I try to get to it as often as possible. There were several changes this year. It was in a different hall of the massive Baird Center. Last year the hall was at the end of the building and you could see outside. There were 50 layouts represented, from large to small. This is a show that a small layout can get as much attention as a giant one.

Most of the major manufacturers were there displaying their newest offerings. It takes a lot of people and volunteers to make a show of this size a success. i am fairly certain that the estimated 20,000 people who visited on Saturday and Sunday were well pleased.



Sign directing attendees once in the building. There were also people directing them. One of th criticisms I heard (in addition to the high cost of parking) was the scarcity of signage outside the building advertising the event and where to enter. The entrance was different from last year, as the show used a different section of the building.





Above: and **Right:"**Just Ask" had a series of informative display boards on a table that showed various scenic details. The board on the right showed the steps in making a tree from dried sedum branches.





Above: Another display board, this one showing static grass application.
Right: Photo of free literature that was being given away corresponding to each display.



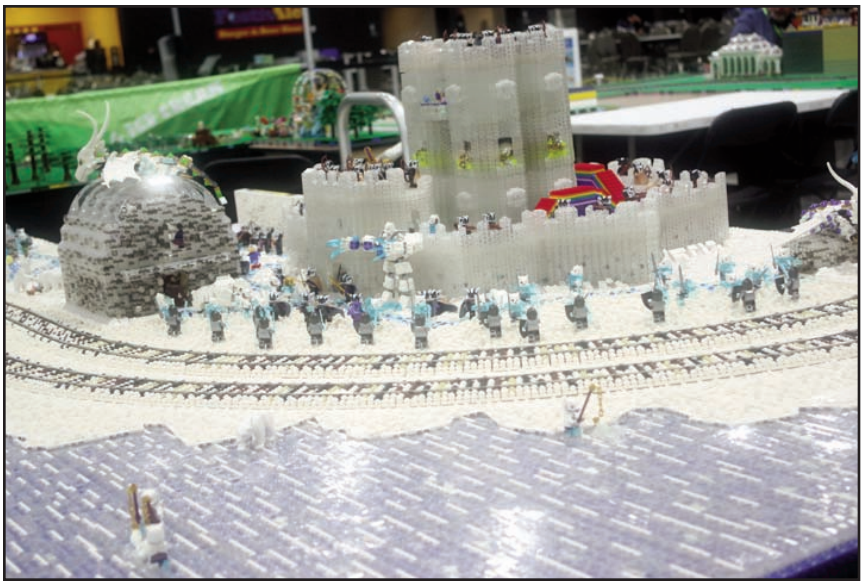
Large on-the-floor layout of the LGB Model Railroad Club of Chicago. This layout is always a hit with youngsters, as the trains are at their level.



Nicely modeled scene of an industrial area on the N-track NorthWest Club's layout.

Of course Thomas was well represented along with his friend on this roundhouse scene of the Northwestern Modelers HO layout.





Winter scenes were prevalent. I especially like this scene of Stormtroopers guarding an ice castle. The snow on the ground and the frozen water complement the scene. This work was done by the WisLUG. (Wisconsin Lego Users Group) Chapters are in Madison and Milwaukee.



A concentrated industrial scene sits on the corner module of the MOO CREW (Milwaukee Operators Organization). Most of the organizations have a web-site and facebook group where one can get addition-al information



Above: Another winter scene, this was courtesy of the Kenosha Garden Railroad Society.





I thought this 3-D printed tree armature was very interesting and realistic. it and the above scene were on the Midwest Mod-U-Trak's HO layout.



Two views of the vendor area. It is not crowded because I took my photos before the show opened



All Photos by David Leider

Announcing NMRA 2027 Keynote Speaker: Lance Mindheim



Acclaimed professional model railroad builder Lance Mindheim will kick off Wednesday's theme, Better Railroad Modeling, at the NMRA's 2027 National Convention with a keynote on how modelers at every level can elevate their craft. Mindheim's 15th book, Student to Master: The Lifelong Journey to Model Railroading Excellence, covers both foundational skills like ballast application and artistic concepts such as negative space and modeling the mundane. Mindheim says, "Model railroaders will look at an attractive layout, and say, 'I could never do that. But if you know how to put your skills to use and begin understanding how to compose a scene, you can do it."

The 2027 Puget Sound Express convention will be held in Tacoma, Washington, August 10–15. Registration is now open, with early-bird rates of $150 for NMRA members and $175 for nonmembers. Hotel rooms are filling quickly, so book early! Register today on the convention website!

Mindheim builds custom layouts for prototypical modelers at his shop in Silver Spring, Md. He primarily does smaller floating shelf layouts with toned-down colors and few highlights. The subdued results are nonetheless remarkable. "We want to be picked up and taken to a time and place that evokes emotion," he wrote in his 2018 book Model Railroading as Art. "My focus really is to make the hobby more attainable." Read our interview with Lance in the October edition of the PSX 2027 Convention Newsletter. Sign up for the newsletter to receive the latest news, including program highlights, tours, and lodging updates.

In the November edition, you'll find our feature on the Port of Tacoma's container terminals and rail operations, one of several prototype tour opportunities planned for convention attendees. BNSF and Union Pacific serve Tacoma and the port's intermodal traffic, while city-owned Tacoma Rail handles freight movements within the port, which has more than 70 miles of track. Tacoma was the first port in the country to extend rail tracks directly to the waterfront for container traffic.



Sign up for the PSX 2027 Convention Newsletter to receive the latest news, including program highlights, tour information, and lodging updates. Join the PSX 2027 Facebook Group to follow updates and connect with other attendees.

Introducing the Railroads of Cincinnati Division 7.

Cincinnati Division 7, of the NMRA Mid Central Region, will be featuring limited edition freight cars showcasing proto-freelanced railroads within Cincinnati Division 7.

The first to be introduced is John Miller's Kanawha & Lake Erie RR. The original K&LE ran from Charleston, WV north to Monongah, WV and remained a valuable connection to the coal fields and other industries. It continued north from Monongah to Pittsburgh and Erie, PA. By 1965 the K&LE ran from St Louis eastward to Monongah, WV. In 1976, when Conrail was created, K&LE formed a partnership with the P&LE railroad, which did not merge with Conrail (like the other NYC lines did).

We used Accurail's 5100 Series 50' Insulated, Riveted, Steel Boxcar with Plug Door for this K&LE project. These cars were used in the 1950's and 60's. This limited-edition K&LE car is offered in two road numbers: 5224 and 5359. Each have a build date of July 1958 (7-58). For orders of three or more cars, decal sets are included free-of-charge for you to renumber the cars into as many as twelve (12) different road numbers.

This is a small-batch offering of cars. Once they are gone, they are gone. So, get yours today! Pricing is $28 per car, plus shipping (and tax if living in Ohio). Shipping within the 48 contiguous United States is $8 for one (1) car and $11 for two (2) cars. For three (3) or more cars, please provide your zip code and we'll inform you of your shipping cost. Ohio residents, please add 7.8% sales tax on the total price of the kits and the shipping fee. For customers outside the 48 contiguous United States, please contact us for shipping arrangements and charges.

To order, please send your name, address, email, phone and selections information along with a check or money order in US dollars, payable to Cincinnati Division 7, MCR, NMRA, to:
Cincinnati Division 7 Car Projects
c/o Paul Maciulewicz
9151 Congress Court
West Chester, Ohio 45069

Contact our Car Projects Chairperson at car-projects@cincy-div7.org with any questions.



THE CHESAPEAKE & OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Presents

THE 2027 GEORGE WASHINGTON TRAIN SHOW

Saturday, March 6th 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday, March 7th 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.



THE TRAIN SHOW WILL BE HELD AT THE CLIFTON FORGE ARMORY * 724 COMMERCIAL AVE., AND AT THE C&O RAILWAY HERITAGE CENTER * 705 EAST MAIN ST., CLIFTON FORGE, VA 24422

ADMISSION: $5.00 Per person and includes admission to the C&O Railway Heritage Center/Museum

The George Washington Train Show will be a fun-filled weekend. The show will include: model layouts, model train vendors, railroad memorabilia, a visit to the museum, food, and so much more!

O Scale
HO Scale
N Scale

Chesapeake & Ohio Historical Society
312 East Ridgeway St.
Clifton Forge, VA 24422
Phone: 540-862-2210 Monday - Friday 9AM-5PM

Become a C&OHS Member and get 10% off of merchandise!

Chessie shop offers a diverse range of models

- Steam & Diesel Locomotives
- Freight Cars
- Cabooses
- Passenger Cars
- MOW Cars
- Structures
- Vehicles
- Scenic Details









Visit
chessieshop.com/product-category/models/
or call us at 540-862-2210!







Product AV-15-195: The entire collection of Mainline Modeler Magazine from January, 1980 to August, 2026 on a 16 GB flash drive.

Join the C&O Historical Society today!
chessieshop.com/membership/

Important!
All Non-Resident Waybill subscribers will need to re-register to continue to receive future notifications. Please click below to continue to receive Waybill publication notices.
https://form.jotform.com/250665560434962
Questions? Contact the webmaster at:
mwr.nmra.webmaster@gmail.com

NMRA

Cincinnati Division 7

Welcome Back!
June 3-6, 2027

Our first NMRA convention since 2018

THE CINCINNATIAN 2027 MCR

We've prepared tons of fun for everyone!



Abundant Premier Layouts!

Tours most Morns, Afts and Eves! Op Sessions all 4 days! All layouts self-guided (no buses)
Special Thurs Afternoon Early-Bird Openings:
Bob Lawson (HO, new) and *Larry Bonhaus* (N)





Awesome Commercial Bus Tours!

Fantastic Rail Industry Prototype Tours
Fabulous General Interest Excursions
Special Tour of Cincinnati Union Terminal





Numerous Clinics & Workshops

Special Guests *Stephen & Cinthia Priest*, *Lou & Cheryl Sassi*, Firecrown CEO *Craig Fuller*
3 Huge Clinic Rooms + Hands-on Workshops





Many Other In-Hotel Attractions

Extra Large White Elephant (Yard) Sale!
Model, Photo and Crafts Contests
Raffle, Company Store, T-Trak Layout
Hotel Layouts, Saturday Night Banquet



Register Now for Priority on Extra Fares & Ops

See https://cincy-div7.org/2027-convention

Printing provided by Peter Paul Office Equipment
Serving the Tri-State Since 1932



Abundant Layout Events

From 100 layouts, 45 published, 11 in GMR
Bob Lawson and Larry Bonhaus on Thurs Aft
Layout Open Houses most Morns, Afts, Eves
Daily Operating Sessions, Hotel Layouts
All layout transports self-guided (no buses)



Fantastic Industry Tours

Tentative

White Water Valley Railroad
Cohen Scrap Processing
Distillery & Flour Milling
Brighton Tru-Edge Vessels
Greater Cincinnati Railfan Tour

Fabulous Excursions

Tentative

Cincinnati Union Terminal Special Tour
American Sign Museum (2X size now)
Findlay Market/Streetcar, Glendale
B&B Riverboat Cruise, Cinti Zoo
Jungle Jims Intl Market, Aquarium
Fire Museum, Conservatory













Wonderful Modern Hotel

Holiday Inn Cincinnati North (513) 874-2744
I-75 & Union Center Blvd, West Chester, OH
$159/nite King or Two Queen Beds, Pre-Tax
Hotel reservations available now, made via on-line hotel link on convention website listed below, and via here MCR 2027

Great Guest Speakers

Craig Fuller, Lou & Cheryl Sassi,
Cinthia & Stephen Priest, …







Register Now!

$90 Primary, $30 Family (Spouse/Teen), Kids under 13 Free w/ Reg. Adult
Early Bird manual reg. form available (sets priority for Extra Fares & Ops) on https://cincy-div7.org/2027-convention – Full reg. package available Jan 2027