



*The newsletter of the Central Indiana Division of the
Midwest Region, National Model Railroad Association.*

Volume 55 – Issue 4 Fall 2025



Annual Membership Meeting

Held on August 23 at the Johnson county Park at Camp Atterbury



Members receive a job briefing from Indiana Live Steamers president Peggy Racke taking before a ride.

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NMRA Achievement Program

The CID congratulates the following members of the division for being awarded AP Honors.

Gregg Burks - Volunteer AP

Robert Perry - Official AP

Dave Mashino - Official AP



Need Some Help?



Back Shop

The CID has members with the experience to help solve your modeling problems and are willing to help ALL modelers, whether you are a member of the NMRA or not. We believe that we can help and be of service to you. With your problems solved, you can better enjoy the hobby of model railroading.

Contact: cidnmra@comcast.net

Notices of club open houses, or other non-CID shows & events will be included in the **Extra Board** first come, first served, space permitting.

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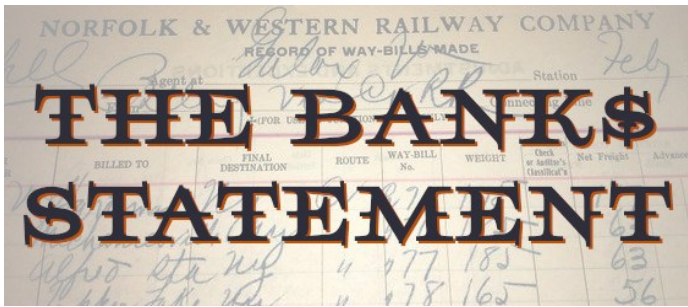
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Rusty Spike Closing Dates

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Email: cid.rustyspike@gmail.com



Hello Central Indiana Division!

While the Rusty Spike will go live right around the first day of fall, I am writing this on the evening of Labor Day, and what a great couple of weeks it has been! In case you missed it, and by the numbers, most of you did, we had a great Division Picnic on 8-23. I see in division jottings and history that the division used to do a picnic but hasn't in many years. When a board member suggested we do that again, I thought it would drastically improve our annual membership meeting. Typically, those are fairly boring. Get the financial info, a bit about what is going on, has happened, and we are done. I had it down to a twenty-minute meeting, tops. It became pleasantly interactive, and the membership added another 20 minutes to the length of the meeting. I am sure you will find a better account of the picnic elsewhere in the spike and it is not my intent to recount the entire event but there were some things that stood out. Spouses joined in on the fun. Sure, they endured the meeting, but they engaged in conversation at lunch and when the train arrived to ride, they were on the train! We had a lot of laughs and enjoyed some great fellowship.

Today, many of us celebrated the NMRA's 90th birthday at MCL in Carmel. I will again avoid a recounting of the event as a whole as I am sure that a much better write-up can also be found elsewhere in the Spike, but of note, we again had spouses, and we had guests. Fred Soward and Ray Persing drove from the south and southeast to join us. They both spoke and the underlying message was that the NMRA provides something great, fellowship. The fellowship of divisions and working with neighboring divisions. Hanging out with fellow modelers, learning about each other, enjoying the hobby together! We then went to Dan Hindel's house to run some trains, and of course, hang out and fellowship

some more. It was a fun day and I want to thank John Coy, the Midwest Region President, and his crew in the planning of this event and Dan Hinel for opening up his layout. If you didn't attend either event, not only did you miss out, you were missed.

It's been a hot and busy summer, with the approaching cooler weather and winding down of yard work and daylight, we have more time to get back to hanging out in the train room, and with each other. We have a lot of events, both sponsored and non-sponsored in the CID area. We have the CID Modeler's Meet on Oct 11. If the modeler's meet isn't your thing, there is a train show that day at Garfield Park. I encourage you to attend one of those events as well as others. You can find them all on the calendar page of the CID website.

We also want to revive the Track Talk in person events. On my list of meets to work out a date for is Thomas Farrel's layout. An outstanding bit of On30 modeling featuring the absolute best limestone modeling I have ever seen. To be fair, Thomas might have spent quite a few years staring at limestone as the former President and CEO of the Indiana Limestone Company. At lunch today, I spoke with Jack Simpson who has been working away and adding to his Monon layout. There have been quite a few additions since Jack last opened his railroad for a large number of visitors back in 2022 for Indy Junction. Jack has agreed to open his layout and provided two potential lunch spots in the area. We'll get a date set with him and go for a visit. That is literally all it takes. Tell us what restaurants you think could accommodate 35 to 40 people and what layout, railroad place, model railroad club, etc. we should visit. We'll work out the rest. We would love to hear your suggestions!

I sat down with CID member Matt Hewitt to interview him for the spike, That article continues the excellent work that has been in the last couple of issues where a modeler is interviewed about their layout. I had planned a quick 20-30 minute chat and be on my way. That quickly turned into a bit over an hour talk and was stopped only because I had to get back to work. Matts retired. He didn't have to worry about how long of a lunch break he was taking. We

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Upcoming Events



– Division Schedule –

CID Fall Modeler's Meet

Saturday, October 4th, 2025, from 10 A.M. To 3 P.M. At the Irvington Presbyterian Church, 55 Johnson Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana.

18th Annual Danville Train Show

Saturday November 22, 2025 from 10 PM to 3 PM at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds. Over 29,000 sq. feet of displays, dioramas, operating layouts, with model railroad equipment and supplies for sale in all popular scales. Show hours are 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Admission \$3.00 per person, under 16 free with parent, food concession, free parking. Vendor tables \$16.00 each. For more information check out our flyer, [HERE](#).

– Extra Board –

Indianapolis Train Show at Garfield Park Saturday, October 4th 2025 - 10am-3pm
Burello Family Center, Garfield Park, 2345 Pagoda Drive, Indianapolis, IN
Admission is \$5, 12 and under are free.

This space is reserved for non-CID events. If your organization would like to place a notice here for an upcoming event, send your info to:

cid.rustyspike@gmail.com.

The item will be placed here free of charge space permitting.

Are you wondering about upcoming train shows and events in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan? Go to the CID home page under **Train Shows / Master Listing** to find a listing of many events that might be of interest. It has new, regular and cancelled events to help you make plans. This list also includes NMRA events. Updated lists will be posted as received or you can go to www.TrainShowList.com

2025 NMRA CONVENTION



This year's sold-out convention in Novi Michigan was well attended by the members of the CID. This convention had something for everyone. There were operating sessions, layout tours, clinics, modeling with the masters, prototype tours, model contests, and opportunities for fellowship at every turn. The Sheraton hotel in Novi was the host hotel. Hotel rooms and the convention fees were very reasonable. There were no additional costs for anything except the prototype tours and food.

The convention fees also covered entry to the National Train Show on Saturday and Sunday which was located at the nearby Suburban Collection Showcase, featuring vendors and several operating layouts. Hosted by the North Central Region, the managing team, and volunteers, the convention was truly world class.

These are the attendance numbers according to the Station VI Facebook page:

- 950 registered, limited only because of the hotel limit on capacity (we're pretty sure we could have reached 1050+)
- People attended from 8 Countries and 44 of 50 states, including Alaska!
- Scotland, England, New Zealand, Australia, France, Canada, Switzerland, USA!
- One of our goals was to reach those that had never attended a national convention... we had 266 say this was their first time!!
- Another goal was to reach the many model railroaders that are not NMRA members... we had 300 register who did not have a membership number!
- Scales represented by attendees..... HO = 661; N = 296; O = 46; S = 35; Z = 22; TT = 1; OO = 10; Large Scale = 11
- Attendees liked the self-driving to layout tours and attended many!! We've heard that attendance ranged from 125 to over 300 guests!

Some of the activities included were:

- Over 100 Clinics, each given at 2 different times by a crew of 76 clinicians
- 59 layouts on tour scheduled by location over 6 days
- 55 operating sessions on 28 layouts
- The Operations Road Show located in the host hotel had 8 op sessions

Scenes from the Convention



Donn Winn MMR was just one of many excellent presenters at the convention. Every day held opportunities to learn and expand the attendees' knowledge on a variety of subjects.



CID member Mark Perron is caught here working hard to get just the right shot on Bill Neale MMR's PRR Panhandle Railroad. Though Bill passed away in 2023, his wife opened this wonderful layout for the convention.

There were so many wonderful layouts on display during the convention! There must be something in the water in the Detroit area that makes so many great modelers up there. This is a scene from Gregory Rich MMR's New Baltimore & Fairhaven.





There is snow in the upper mountains on the Great Northern Railway Cascade Division. Scott Kremer MMR was the chairman of the convention, but he took the time to open his layout for the tour on Monday.



(left) Eric Peterson took this shot from the street. The Detroit Model Railroad Club has owned and filled the Holly Theater building with an O Scale 2 Rail layout for 51 years.



The giant O scale layout takes advantage of the old theatre's sloped floor to create the large variation in elevation for scenery. There is also hidden staging in the basement.



CID member Roger Scroggins looks amazed as he peruses Thomas Dart's Durango and Silverton. The On3 layout is located in a large upper room of his rather large home where it shares space with a Two rail O gauge layout. The HO scale Jockton, Daniels, & St. Marten Railroad resides in another room on the lower level.



By the time you are reading this, this Mountain scene on Doug Tagsold's Colorado & Southern Clear Creek Division will be gone. He plans to demolish this layout and build another in it's place.



Early entry to the National Train Show was included in the convention registration fees. Many of the convention attendees took advantage of the extra hour to avoid the crowds.





(left) CID member Roger Scroggins Took this picture - "This is a view of about half the Blissfield Model Railroad Club. It was a three level, highly detailed layout. One of the top club layouts I've seen."

(below) CID member Phillip Burnside took this shot - "I got to meet Lucy at the convention." Lucy seemed to be everywhere and I'm sure showed up in countless selfies at the convention.



Mike Johnson sent this photo - "Me, Brad Rotert, and Joe Mattick operating at Mike Burgett's." These guys are all CID members attending many of the convention's operating sessions.





CID member Eric Peterson liked this photo - "Joe Barker and Eric Peterson with the O Scale Central display table in the Special Interest Group space."

CID member John Coy sent this photo of Ray Persing, Lucy Dormont, and Gordy Robinson being photo bombed.



John Coy also sent this photo taken at the banquet held on Saturday in which Ray Persing is receiving his MMR plaque and certificate from Gordy.

The CID Mourns the Passing of Connie Coy MMR #763



We will all miss Connie's smile.

Obituary for Connie Sue (Jones) Coy 1952 to 2025

Connie Sue (Jones) Coy was born in Wayne, Nebraska on November 2, 1952 to Earl Ross Jones and Fern Emma (Hesemann) Jones. The youngest of three children, she and her siblings; Judy Ann (Jones) Richards and Kenneth Earl Jones lived on a farm south of Wayne. In 1955, her family moved into Wayne as her dad made the transition from farming to housing construction and carpentry.

Connie attended Hahn Schools from Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. Hahn was affiliated with Wayne State Teachers College, (later Wayne State College.) The school was a training ground for student teachers and Hahn was more like some of today's charter schools. It was there that Connie learned to love learning and began her life-long love of music. In the Third Grade she learned to play the Violin and performed in the Elementary School Orchestra.

Through her growing years, Connie learned many instruments: piano, clarinet, oboe, cymbals and glockenspiel. She sang in choirs at church and school into her adult life. Throughout High School, she played in the marching band, concert band and orchestra. She also was a self-taught guitarist, having taken it up when she fell in love with the Beatles

in the early 1960s.

Connie moved to Florida and worked as a dental assistant, went to college at Florida Atlantic University and then felt the call to ministry. She attended a seminary in Ohio and served different parishes but ultimately shifted to chaplaincy.

Connie was the Director of Pastoral Care for St. Vincent Hospital in Billings, Montana and also for the Community Health Network in Indianapolis all while still performing chaplain duties.

Connie met her husband John Coy at the Indianapolis Museum of Art on April 5th of 1991. Shortly thereafter moving to Billings, Montana, where her son Joseph was born. Connie had 40+ years of service in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

On her honeymoon in 1991 is when Connie and her husband discovered their enthusiasm for model trains! That is too long of a story to tell but the ending was Connie is only one of twelve women ever to earn the distinction of Master Model Railroader (#763) by the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). Connie was an Executive Officer for the Midwest Region of the NMRA.

Connie was truly a light that brightened every room she entered and every life she touched. Her dedication to our hobby and organization was unwavering, and we were blessed to spend time with her and husband John at this year's convention in Novi, where her enthusiasm and joy shone as brightly as ever.

As both a pastor and Master Model Railroader, Connie brought compassion, wisdom, and excellence to everything she did. Her contributions to the NMRA will be remembered and cherished for years to come.

In addition to all her other activities, in retirement, Connie was a lead singer, lead guitar player and co-manager for her and her husband's own band: the Glacier Line Jammers Band. Connie had performed hundreds of performances including one two weeks prior to her passing. Connie had also delivered a sermon on July 6th, 2025 at her church, a few weeks before her passing.

The week prior to her passing she attended the NMRA National Convention in Novi, Michigan. She was determined to keep right on going regardless. She fought bravely and with great courage!

She was survived by: John (husband), Joseph (son), Judy (Sister) and Ken Jones (Brother) and Patti Lynn Ortiz (Sister-in-law), and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews scattered throughout the US.



Central Indiana Division Membership Meeting August 23, 2025

By Eric Peterson

The plan was to start the meeting at 11:00 am, however, construction traffic restrictions on both sides of the Indianapolis Beltway delayed many arrivals at the Indiana Live Steamers headquarters and adjacent shelter.



Dan Banks ran the annual meeting and discussions. Here are a few key points: Eric Smith is now the CID Assistant Superintendent replacing Jon Coy, now the president of the NMRA Midwest Region. The Franklin Train Show was cancelled as we look for a different venue. Financial support has been provided to the Purdue Railroad Club as well as visit by CID members. The club participates in CID events. Calendar events were highlighted including a new Indianapolis Lawrence Library train display day April 4, 2026. The major improvements in the Rusty Spike by editor Dave Mashino are much appreciated. We all need to support Dave by providing content such as pictures and articles. Featuring individual modelers and layouts in the Rusty Spike as well as other media is encouraged.

Eric Peterson recommended modelers adopt the attention to safety practices including job briefings that have continue to make prototype railroading a very safe but unforgiving industry. Our Superintendent then lead the grilling of hot dogs and hamburgers for all attending. Those attending



Just about ready to cook the hot dogs and burgers!

shared a wide variety of additional food items including deserts for all to enjoy.

As we finished eating two diesel (really gas/hydraulic) trains pulled into the loading tracks adjacent to the shelter meeting area. The Indiana Live Steamers was established in 1957 and operates a well-organized model railroad with substantial on-site resources including 12,000 feet of 7-1/2" track in the Johnson County Park. <https://www.indianalivesteamers.org/index.html>

Pat and I rode one of the trains together after signing the waiver. Loading required a step over balanced



After filling up on hamburgers and hot dogs, members of the CID went for a ride on the ILS trains.

approach to avoid derailments. Before departure the club president provided a railroad job briefing. You have to ride this railroad to appreciate not only the equipment and track including highway-rail grade crossings, bridges and multiple passing tracks but

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also the excellent members. I took a second longer trip and sat ahead of the conductor on the last car. As many of you know I worked for CSX and other



The train prepares to go under one of the many bridges on the ILS 7-1/2" gauge layout.

railroads in the Engineering Department. I had a lot of questions and the answers were all interesting and very good. I am tempted to join as an Associate Member and volunteer to work on the track during work sessions. Let me know if you want to join me for a work session. Track maintenance has many similar needs and methods for 7-1/2", 1-1/4" and 4'-8-1/2" gauge. I like it all.

It was a great meeting, food, train trips, and best of all fellowship with our leadership and members. I rode a passenger train pulled by CSX 9036 GE wide cab locomotive.



Pssst...wanna build a CID module?

You may have seen the recent email blast regarding building a CID Module. Mark Perron and Roger Scroggins have (been) volunteered to head up this project. Several members have already been in contact with Roger asking for information.

This is an HO scale layout that will be at CID shows and any other shows/events the group decides to attend. We are trying to get an idea on how many modules would be available for the Danville Show in November. Modules still under construction are welcomes.

What's done for me?

Framing and buss wiring would already be done. Mainline spacing and other specs would be provided to everyone.



This is one of the prototype 2' x 4' modules that Roger and Mark have put together.

What do I have to do?

Each person would be responsible for finishing everything from the foam up and dropping feeds from track to buss. You layout the mainline track, and any other track you want on the module. We are still crunching some ideas and generating guidelines on theme, era, but you pick the scenery, structures, etc.

Who owns the module?

Since the CID is funding it (within reason), the module belongs to the division should you leave the division or decide you no longer want to participate in the modular group, but otherwise, you are the modules custodian.

Interested? Let Roger Scroggins know at:

rscroggins55@comcast.net



Preparing For National Model Railroad Month

Richard Seymour, Muncie, IN

The National Model Railroad Association, the parent organization to the CID and MWR, designates the month of November as “national model railroad month”. Annually, this 30-day window is seen as an excellent time to promote our hobby. Individuals and groups are encouraged to participate in educational workshops, layout tours, operating sessions, train shows, and so much more.

<https://www.nmra.org/news/national-model-railroad-month>

This article is about exploring opportunities associated with “national model railroad month”. Suggestions are divided into broad categories, including knowledge and education, hosting a layout tour, and activities during Fall 2025 train shows. Hopefully some ideas in this article will be helpful as we all strive to promote the best hobby in the world.

EDUCATION

Model railroaders often work in a private world . . . alone in a basement, upstairs in an attic, or in a spare bedroom. There is often limited interaction with neighbors or friends while kit-bashing a new structure or installing wiring under a layout. That can change during a widely-publicized month when train show attendees drop by a booth or when guests stop by your home to see the progress on your pike.

The “public”, whether familiar friends or strangers who attend an event, often come up with tricky questions in regards to real railroads as well as model trains. How might you address a basic question regarding these concepts?”

- * What is scale versus gauge?
- * What is a fallen flag railroad?
- * What is a flange? a frog? an interlock?
- * What is a reverse loop on a layout?
- * Why are railroad tracks always positioned on a bed of rocks (ballast)?
- * How are DC and DCC different?
- * How are water features made to look so realistic on layouts?
- * Many others!

Prior to the month of November, take time to unearth your collection of train-related publications or

watch instructional videos on the Internet. Magazines have informative (features) articles but also showcase new and exciting products. Look at where the “momentum” is in model railroading when it comes to locomotives, rolling stock, scenery techniques, structures, signal systems, electrical components, etc. Explore the newer vendors, compared to Lionel, American Flyer, and other common names from when you first started in the hobby. Note how 3D printing has impacted the hobby, as has wireless technology for control systems and throttles.

The exchanges between interested individuals and model railroaders should always be positive, informative, and fun. But realize that we enjoy a hobby that involves complex tasks related to electricity, woodworking, skilled model building, and transportation system planning and operation. The range of questions might surprise you (and, yes, some will seem bizarre!). Interactions with guests are enhanced when a knowledgeable and courteous model railroader treasures the opportunity to share details and describes activities within the hobby based on sound principles. So, take some time in the upcoming weeks to glance back through those stacks of issues of Model Railroader, Railroad Model Craftsman, the NMRA Bulletin, Trains magazine, and similar publications.

While taking time to refresh your memory about terms and concepts, explore new topics yourself. Remember, national model railroad month is a time when you can re-ignite your own encouragement and help identify opportunities for your model empire. Online videos (on Vimeo.com, Youtube.com, etc.) related to benchwork, scenery, wiring, weathering, operations, and scratch-building might spark an interest into future projects or actions.

To highlight one specific area about know-how and education, there is a wonderful series of videos on Youtube.com under the main heading of “practical engineering”. Among other topics, the host has one video that outlines why railroad tracks need expansion joints, while another addresses why locomotives have wheels versus tires. One excellent segment covers “why are rails shaped like that?”. Understanding the physics of wheelsets, flanges, and solid axles on curved sections of track can be complicated. The “practical engineering” video linked here explains the concepts in a simple yet thorough manner:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nteyw40i9So>

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When it comes to national model railroad month, you may have young children or even adults that ask about how wheels stay on the track as they roll through right curves or switches. If you have a track inspection car with a clear acrylic bed, use it to show your guests how all elements work together on a layout (just as they do in full scale), **Figure 1**. Again, glean information from magazines, workshops, and online videos will help you address many of the



Figure 1 – Railroad inspection cars are used to assess whether switches or track are installed correctly to avoid derailments or to prevent the striking of objects along the right-of-way. The clear acrylic base allows you to see what is happening as wheels roll on tracks underneath the car. Cars like this are available from MicroMark, Walther's, or other vendors.

odd questions related to railroad engineering and actual operations.

SHOWING-OFF YOUR LAYOUT

Modelers have various means for showcasing their layout-building skills with friends, colleagues, and guests. Taking part in a formal layout tour is one example. Hosting an individual open house for neighbors or fellow modelers is another example. Some modelers take sections of a layout to trains shows (think of Free-Mo modules or sections added to T-Track displays). Others might leave the layout at home and just take rolling stock or structures to events such as RPM meets.

When you think about it, November is an ideal time to open your home layout for neighbors, local modelers, and other groups. Perhaps a local Scouting troop or group of 4-Hers would be interested in your model railroad. Might there be a STEM Club in your community which routinely explore content related to science, technology, engineering, or math principles? Layout work and projects completed over the vacation periods of the summer or early fall

may now be ready to show-off to various groups. Or think about the up-coming winter months; perhaps you might want to host guests prior to getting too far into a major endeavor like adding a waterfall or installing lights in an industrial complex.

In the days just before hosting friends and fellow modelers, remember to “tidy things up a bit”. Trains run better on clean track. Dust and cobwebs can be cleared with a vacuum or small brushes. On my layout, I have several forested areas, so regularly use cans of compressed air to clear accumulated dust off the greenery (technically it's cleaning off the canopy of the forest). Dusting off the foliage with a shot of compressed air works well, as I refresh the natural look to trees and shrubs.

Another thing to remember, most guests leave a layout visit impressed with the size, benchwork, operation, and attention-to-detail of most pikes. That means you need to educate them somewhat before they attempt to describe your model empire to others. Plan to share information about your set-up, either with a simple handout or via the URL to a website (blog). A half-page handout might include mentioning the inspiration behind the layout, sharing details about actual railroad activities in a specific region, and providing basic facts about your own pike. Assorted details that interest others involve the total size of the layout, number of feet of mainline, number of locomotives and cars in your collection, height of the table, ruling grade, and the minimum radius of curves. In addition, highlight media that might have provided insight (or inspiration) during the design and building of your own empire, **Figure 2**.

TRAIN SHOWS & CONTESTS

The Central Indiana Division hosts show and displays around the region throughout the year; the one during national model train month is at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds in Danville, IN. This annual show is among the biggest in the Midwest, with unique displays and vendors for all scales. One special activity during the show is the 100' x 100' contest, a challenge that involves preparing a model that aligns with a specific theme on a platform that measures 100 feet x 100 feet maximum in your desired scale. For example, an entry in HO scale would be on a base about 14 inches square in size while an N scale entry might be on a square base that is 6.25 inches on each side. This website is helpful determine actual feet and inches in each scale:

<https://exactrail.com/pages/exactrail-calculator>



Figure 2 – Plan to share information about your layout’s theme or era when guests drop by. This might include showing off personal photographs taken during railfanning trips, highlight examples of online or commercial videos, suggest the reading of books or magazines, or share examples of media from the railroad itself. Examples of my prior research (for my “Rathole” line layout) are shown in this image

So, an opportunity for Fall 2025 is that you attempt to build a model for the 100’ x 100’ contest, and enter it in the Danville Train Show this coming November. The theme this year is “engine service facility” and we’ll likely see entries that show above-grade and underground elements. More information can be found on the CID website at the link below. Also note that we’ve included a rotating gallery of photographs from previous contests on that page and remember that a few of the entries aligned with former themes of the favorites competition.

<https://www.cidnmra.org/favorites-contest-danville>

A note about the Danville contest; the winning entries are determined via a popular vote methodology. Attendees of the show cast a ballot for their favorite display. So, modelers need to be creative as they design and fabricate their unique entries. Clever ideas and superb craftsmanship are rewarded with more votes! Finally, award plaques are given to the top 3 placers, and the entries are promoted in CID media.

There are many other shows, exhibits, and displays in the Midwest each fall (some NMRA sponsored, others not). Plan to attend these events to (a) purchase new and used products and (b) admire the layouts on display, and (c) celebrate the “World’s Best Hobby”.

Plan to take advantage of the month of November each year, to celebrate national model railroad month both at home and with colleagues. We all

share a fascinating hobby and should strive to promote it in a positive, fun way. And certainly drop by the CID / MWR / NMRA booth in Danville, Indiana on November 22, 2025 to say “HI” to fellow modelers. Happy modeling!



Matt Hewitt's Shadowtown Ridge Northern

Story and photos by Dan Banks

On a beautiful late summer day that felt very fall like, I sat down with CID member Matt Hewitt. Matt lives about a mile from me and it is always a treat to visit him. While I will leave it to the reader to decide if I have done justice to past few excellent articles on layouts, I hope that you enjoy it. Matt’s work has been seen by many in the CID, and his layout has appeared in Model Railroader Magazine. Most of the CID is familiar with the layout. If you are not, I hope this encourages you to visit. What I decided to do instead of focus on the railroad, is to instead focus on Matt and how he got to the railroad. It turns out Matt is a very interesting guy.

Matt’s two hobby loves developed alongside each other, though during this development, he didn’t know it. Matt’s love for art, and art is the essence of his modeling, was sealed while in the military. He did artwork and illustrations. While Matt is a big fan



Matt’s current truck - 1:1 scale

of artwork in a more traditional sense, he is also a huge fan of artwork in the form of horsepower and cool rides. Matt says he has always built cars. One of his early jobs was building race cars. Later he joined his love for art and automobiles by painting custom

vans. He didn't realize it at that point, but both would factor into years of hobby enjoyment and frequently intertwined with each other.



Continuing the blend of both loves, Matt dresses himself and his truck up for a Trunk or Treat event.

In the early 2000's, Matt was enjoying the hobby of slot car racing. One day while at a hobby shop racing the cars he saw an Allen Keller Great Model Railroads video. It caught his eye, he bought it, and took it home.

Matt started two building projects in 2002. First, he started his first hot rod project. Matt is a build it from the ground up, and do all the work, kind of guy. Matt does the mechanical, body, and paint work. Along with an awesome model railroad, Matt has an awesome machine shop. Each car takes about three years to complete. Matt is starting his 6th, and what he feels will be his final, hot rod build. It takes a lot of work to build a car and Matt is getting older, making the work more challenging.

At the same time he was building that first hot rod, he found the Allen Keller video. He watched in and was amazed. Matt decided he needed to build a railroad. The problem was, that while Matt knew how to build cars, he knew nothing about building a model railroad. He did what any newbie modeler did, he began researching. He bought books on modelling, he bought books on how the real railroad works. Matt had explored West Virginia in the 80's and 90's and thought that would be a great location for his model railroad. He also knew he wanted to be a freelancer. Like many model railroaders who approach the hobby as art first, the prototype can feel a bit restricting and freelance gives you the ability to adjust the location, scenes, etc, while using a real prototype as your operating base. It gives structure without constriction. Having a location established, the era was influenced by Matt's love of hot rods. Of course the 50's and 60's era had the best cars, and made a great match between both hobbies.

Next came the actual building. Matt built his benchwork and was ready for track. A Tony Koester article on handlaying track was all it took to give Matt the push he needed. With some expected sections using pre-made track, the rest of the railroad is hand laid. Matt takes the approach of building his track in place on the railroad so he gets exactly the shape he wants. For scenery, Matt's explorations and need for realism served as his motivation. He enjoys that the hobby brings sculpting, color use, and experimenting with materials. The dirt in Matt's scrapyard looks like it belongs in the scrap yard because it came from a real junk yard. He is always experimenting with weathering techniques.

A great scene on Matt's layout is of a body shop re-



Grade crossing where the road and structures blend from the foreground to the printed and painted background.

pairing a car window. It perfectly demonstrates the influence of one hobby on the other. Matt acquired a broken down little HO scale car for a dollar. It didn't have wheels on it. It didn't have windows. It was in rough shape. As Matt began to fix the car he had an idea. Fueled by all the cars Matt has worked on or built over the years, he decided that instead of just adding all the windows in the car, it would be best to

To the right is Matt's body shop scene. The young man is trying to explain what happened to his mom.



add the side windows but then have some workers replacing the front window of the car. That required a body shop so Matt got to work on the structure. Now he had the shop, the car window being replaced, everything was in place but the why. He decided that a couple of figures would round out the scene and provide the why. A mom listens as her son does his best to explain how it was an accident that the window was broken. The scene is so great because every guy looking at that scene understands what is going on because they have had a conversation just like that with their parents.

Matt has been working on the railroad ever since. He has been building his rods ever since. The last new area added to the railroad was in 2022, for Indy Junction. Matt related one more great story, with a bittersweet ending. In 2010, when Lou Sassi was working with Matt on his Model Railroader magazine article, he was so impressed that he told Allen Keller he had to come do a video on the Shadowtown Ridge. Allen agreed. Just a few weeks prior to Allen's visit, he received a phone call from Allen. It was some bad news. Matt was slated to be video number 68, but that was not going to happen. Allen was retiring and not doing any more videos. Matt was really down about it for a while. Today he looks at it as a great accomplishment that his railroad, inspired by one of the videos that Allen Keller made, was worthy to be featured in the very video series that kicked off Matt's journey into model railroading. While the video didn't get made, it is a great example of coming full circle in the hobby.



Matt operates the layout as the landscape of mountains continues on in the distance.



LABOR DAY NMRA 90 YEARS LATER

By John Coy, Midwest Region President
Photos by Rich Seymour



brated nine decades of existence! Those 71 men back in 1935 couldn't have possibly realized that their brand-new creation would go world-wide! In fact, it was written in the Bulletin in July of 1944 about the possibility of re-branding the Association the: International Model Railroad Association. I hope to see that one day., because ladies and gentlemen, we are world-wide!

The day began at about 11:15 A.M. With opening remarks from myself: Midwest Region President, John Robert Coy. Shortly afterward, Fred Soward,



Ray Persing NMRA AP Chair speaks to the group.

Central District Director from the NMRA spoke to the group about our future vision for 2035; and that includes having 35,000 members.

That is an ambitious goal and WE and I emphasize: “WE” can achieve that. It would be as simple as each current Member getting a couple of friends to join—which would put us far past 35,000. I personally have gotten ten plus people to join in the last seven years.

The leadership of your organization will not be able to make this happen without YOU. You are the backbone, the heart and soul of this organization. This truly indeed is YOUR NMRA. I hope at some point the membership may have an opportunity to hear Fred speak as he is dynamic and informative.

When Fred had concluded, Ray Persing our new NMRA Achievement Program Chairman spoke. Ray was very encouraging and spoke of many things including the most important thing in the NMRA are its people and relationships. Even back in 1935, one of the two reasons given for our creation was the social aspect of gathering with other enthusiasts.

Central Indiana Division Member and MMR #700,



Fred Soward NMRA Central District Director was the first guest speaker.

Once upon a time, in a state far away, Wisconsin—in Milwaukee, a group of men gathered on the 4th floor of the YMCA in downtown Milwaukee on Labor Day 1935 and at 2:31 P.M. that afternoon created the National Model Railroad Association.

Labor Day 2025, a group of people gathered at the MCL Cafe and Bakery in Carmel, Indiana, to cele-

Dan Hinel followed Ray with an explanation and invitation to visit his railroad which is absolutely one of the most impressive model railroads on the planet. Dan routinely and often hosts operating sessions. Dan is a great ambassador for the hobby!

I presented four certificates at this event. These certificates were a thanks for making this event possible



John Coy and Bob Perry present a special award recognizing her as an Honorary Member of the Midwest Region.

and successful. HOWEVER, one certificate had nothing to do directly with this event.

In short, Barbara Soward, MCR Div 8 Member was recognized as an “HONORARY MEMBER” of the Midwest Region for her grand gesture of kindness involving a blind gentleman (Chuck) at the Louisville train show in November of 2024. Barbara learned of Chuck's plight of being dropped off at this show by himself. Barbara took it upon herself to assist and guide Chuck, which went on for several hours. This was a magnificent demonstration of human kindness and compassion as you will ever hear about.

If all of us, each member, had that kind of compassion, caring and empathy toward others, the NMRA might have 100,000 Members. I was honored to present Barbara with a piece of paper as a public acknowledgement, but her true reward will come one day from somewhere far more important than a model railroading organization. I am honored to have met her.

The “last” part of this celebration event was the visit to Dan Hinel's Railroad RX. Dan is a retired pharmacist, hence the name. This railroad is HUGE and covers 2800 square feet and is a marvel to behold! Several folks were running trains and visitors could team-up with these operators to run on Dan's layout.

What a great time!

In closing, it's much, much more than just the trains. Yes, we are all over-the-top enthusiasts, but what would model railroading be if you were still that lone wolf running the plywood pacific all alone?

Please always remember that when people visit or speak with you at your layout or a club layout, or wherever in the NMRA, they may or may not remember the layout, but they will absolutely remember how they were received and treated.



The guests all received certificates of appreciation for participating in the event.

Barbara Soward is a shining example of how all of us should strive to be. Peace to you!

John Robert Coy, Midwest Region President.



Improve your modeling with a few sheets of paper.

That's just what happens when you join the National Model Railroad Association and take part in the Achievement Program.

No, it's not a bunch of contests. It's modelers helping modelers become better modelers, to get the most out of their hobby. It's a way to hone your skills and become the modeler you've always wanted to be.

And it's just one of many benefits of NMRA membership.

Join the NMRA at www.nmra.org. Then start improving your modeling skills. And your hobby.



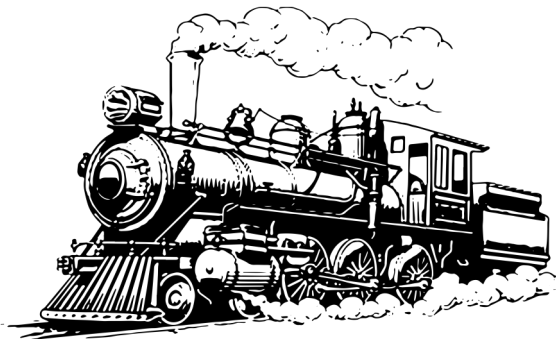
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Continued from page 4

sat and had a great conversation. I asked him questions and jotted down his answers. If you know of a great layout that doesn't get the attention you think it should, I encourage you to write one of these articles. They are really simple and we are happy to help if you need some assistance and ideas on how to approach it. It is a GREAT time with another modeler and what you learn may really surprise you! If you just aren't comfortable interviewing and writing, let us know who we should talk to, and we can get someone to interview them.

Take in a breath of fresh fall air. Enjoy an amazing Hoosier, or Kentucky, fall full of festivals and all the tourist railroads out there. Hang out with some fellow modelers. Working in trains and an evening fire is an op session that is hard to beat! If you need help with your layout, invite some people over to give you a hand. Eric Peterson has an ever-rotating group of modelers on most Thursday nights. It's a great time working on his 2 rail O scale layout, some expert help and advice, and most of all, some really great fellowship!



Back Pressure

From the Editor

Summer is wrapping up and now we're on to fall and the start of model train season. I must say this summer has been pretty good for model railroading around here, though. I have had a few folks question me lately about the value of joining the NMRA. Well, much of the value is found in your participation! There are many activities available in our area.

We had a great convention close to us in the Detroit area in July. My wife, who tolerates my model rail-

roading oriented activities, accompanied me to the convention. Imagine my surprise when told me she was in for next year's convention in Chattanooga. While she did not attend any clinics or participate in ladies night at the Operations Road Show, she did enjoy the layout tours and the friendly atmosphere that surrounded the convention. Wow, maybe there is hope for her as a train geek after all! I'll keep working on it.

There was the CID Membership Meeting held in August down at Camp Atterbury. I was unable to attend, but I understand that those who did had a great time. I hope that we can do this again next year with a really big member turnout.

There was also a couple of Midwest Region events held in our area, thanks to John Coy, the new Midwest region president. A field trip to historic Linden, IN Depot Museum including lunch at Messer's Bar and Grill. There was also the Labor day NMRA 90th birthday celebration held at the MCL Cafeteria in Carmel, IN.

Do not forget the upcoming Modeler's Meet Saturday, October 4, 2025 from 10 AM - 3 PM at the Irvington Presbyterian Church (Indianapolis). Bring your latest projects to showcase your ideas, plans, skills, work, etc. You can bet that I will be there!

There is also the CID sponsored Danville Train Show. I am still managing this show and ol' Dave needs all the help he can get, as usual. Please volunteer and join the fun and comradery! The Lebanon Train Show is also coming in January.

There are monthly modeling contests and monthly Track Talk meetings in person or via Zoom. As you can see there is much going on! If you are not getting emails about the events, then you probably have asked to be removed from our email list. That means you may not be reading this. Shame on you! LOL. Get on the web site at <https://www.cidnmra.org> and contact us to be placed back on the mailing list at once.

We have had some really great contributions to the Rusty Spike since I have taken over as the editor! This has made my job much easier. I would really love to see some more of the division's membership contribute to the newsletter, though. Whether it's just a favorite picture with a description, a modeling tip, an article about a friend's layout, or anything else that would be helpful or of interest to other members, please send it to:

cid.rustyspike@gmail.com.





The
Central Indiana Division
of the
National Model Railroad Association
Presents the 18th Annual



Danville Train Show

Saturday - November 22, 2025

10 AM to 3PM

At the Hendricks County Fair Grounds

1900 E Main St. Danville, IN

Admission
\$3.00 per Person
Under 16 free with parent

NMRA Members Only
Admission at 9am
with your card!

Show Features

Over 29,000 Sq. Feet With:

- Operating Layouts
- Dealer Tables
- Food Vendor
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- Model Judging
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100x100 Scale Foot Diorama
"Engine Servicing Scene"

Model registration: 10am to 11am

Voting open: 11am to 1:30pm

Winners announced: 1:30pm

2 Expo Halls - 8 Foot Vendor Tables \$16 each

Setup Fri. 3-6 pm; Sat. 7-10:00 am

Vendor table rental forms at <https://www.cidnmra.org>

Contact Dave at danvilletrainshow@gmail.com for more information

The Next CID Train Show Will Be at Lebanon, IN on January 25, 2026

See the CID NMRA website for more information: <http://www.cidnmra.org>



MONON
"Jack's Hoosier Line"

Jack Simpson - Indianapolis, Indiana
jackshoosierline@aol.com

PIKE ADS



CID members can advertise their model railroads in the Rusty Spike at no cost. We will make room for all the ads possible and will include a link to a web site or the NMRA Pike Registry if requested. If you would like us to include your railroad, send a high res business card size file with information on links (if any) to:

Cid.rustyspike@gmail.com



Dave Mashino
Superintendent
dave@mashinos.com

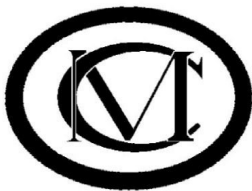
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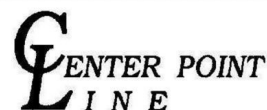
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Area Model Railroad Clubs

Posted here as a service to our members.

The Central Indiana Yardmasters' club is located in Kokomo, Indiana, but has members from all over central Indiana. Our layout is approximately 45x25' and has both DC and DCC lines. We have a large yard and various online industries. We have openings for additional members. Check out our Facebook page.... [Central Indiana Yardmasters](#).



The Midwestern Model Railroad Club of Kokomo IN is a round-robin club. Members take turns hosting a monthly meeting from 2-4pm on the third Sunday of each month which includes a business meeting, refreshments, a tour of the members' pike or other activity, and general model railroad discussion. Contact Dan Macaluso at (765) 438-9385 or email: dan.macaluso@aol.com for further information.



MEETS TUESDAYS
MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

The Morgan County Model Railroad Association meets every Tuesday at 6 PM at Mayfield Insurance located at 50 South Madison St, Mooresville. We have two layouts. One permanent and the other is a large modular layout we take to trains shows. Dues are \$50 a year and we welcome all modelers regardless of any experience. Every one starts sometime. We spend time just talking trains as well as running trains. Contact Dan Goins at (765) 516-2242

Naptown & White River Model Railroad Club

1115 McDougall Street, Indianapolis, IN 46203

Visitors always Welcome Monday nights 7 - 9 PM

Memberships available



For information contact:
(317) 643-0779
naptownmrr@gmail.com



Web address: www.naptownmrr.org

Contact the editor at cid.rustyspike@gmail.com with your club information to have it placed here.