

THE RUSTY SPIKE

CENTRAL INDIANA DIVISION - MWR - NMRA



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



Volume 53 – Issue 4 October—December 2023



These are two sections of the T-trak display that was part of the Franklin Train Show this year. It featured kit-bashing of some buildings and lots of interior and exterior lighting.
Photo by Rich Seymour

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AP Certificate Recipients

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

**Association
Official**
Michael Roderick



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 or not you are a member of the NMRA or not. We believe that we can help and be of service to you. If you can get your problem or problems solved, you can better enjoy the hobby of model railroading.

Contact: cidnmra@comcast.net

Attention – All notices of club open houses, or other shows & meets will be included in the **Extra Board** only if the official request form is used. This form may be printed off the CID website at: <http://www.cidnmra.org/rusty-spike-back-issues> and click on Extra Board Request Sheet. Fill out the form and send to the address listed on the form. Upcoming deadlines for each Rusty Spike are listed in the Spike or may be obtained from Keith Clark (see pg. 3). Events not sent on the request form cannot be included.

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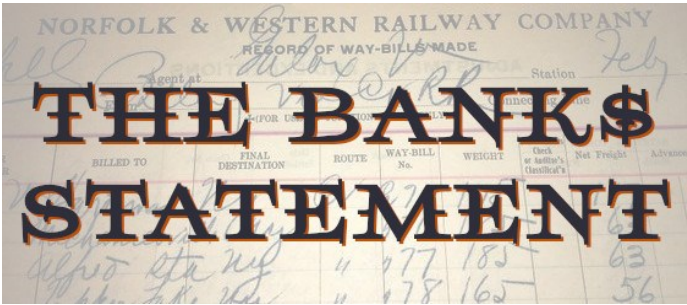
CID web site <http://cidnmra.org>

Rusty Spike Closing Dates

Volume 54 Issue #1 - December 3, 2023
Volume 54 Issue #2 - March 3, 2024
Volume 54 Issue #3 - June 2, 2024
Volume 54 Issue #4 - September 2, 2023

Dates are tentative and subject to change.

The **RUSTY SPIKE** is the official publication of the Central Indiana Division, Midwest Region, National Model Railroad Association, and is published quarterly. It is located on the CID website at www.cidnmra.org/. Articles for publication are welcome for the benefit of the readers and the hobby but cannot be paid for. Articles should be approximately 800 words and no more than 4 photos. Submit articles for publication to the Editor; address changes or mailing problems to the Circulation Manager; and advertising or advertising inquiries to the Publisher.



Hello CID!

If you are new to the CID welcome! I know some of you took the opportunity to attend the Track Talk at Eric Peterson's house. I am sorry I couldn't make the meet up but I am glad you all had a great time.

It's been an exciting summer in the CID. We had the Franklin Train Show that brought in over one thousand attendees over the two days. We had attendees and vendors from multiple states.

Michael Roderick, the Franklin Train Show manager, put in a lot of work bringing in vendors, tweaking pricing for vendors and attendees, and it get info so we could heavily market the show. It was all wildly successful.

I also want to thank our Paymaster, Phillip Burnside, for developing show budgets for our three train shows. It takes a lot of work to plan out shows, figure out a budget and projections for what the show will earn. Phillip has stepped up into that role this year and not only provided a very profitable Franklin show but also has assisted our two new show managers for the upcoming Danville and Lebanon shows.

Thanks to the hard work of the managers, board, and volunteers who step up to make our events successful, the CID has been increasing our bank account. Over the past year we have had several CID members want to start larger projects, projects that cost money. It is my goal over the next few months to spin as many of those projects up as possible. What kind of projects are we planning?

First up, we are going to be starting up some modeling programming at local libraries in the CID. That programming is likely to take multiple forms but all involve the idea of bringing new modelers to the table to build something. That might be a pizza style layout that they then take home, it might be a T track module that they can take home and bring back to future CID events. The idea is for the builders to have something to bring back to our shows and add them to a layout. These programs will not require NMRA membership but the goal is to provide a great time, learning experience, and friendly faces so that they want to join. These events will be for anyone wanting to participate but will also be geared towards families as a way for families to participate in the hobby together. Libraries are very often eager to work with people who want to provide free programming for the library. Chances are your local library will handle some of the tasks like promoting the event and sign ups. I have conducted a make and take build of a very simple kit. If working with a library group sounds like fun shoot us an email and let us know you want to help.

Another interest is forming a CID Free-mo group. My goal for a CID Free-mo group is to have a layout at CID shows where the operators of that layout do their best to put throttles in the

hands of those passing by, kids included. This could be a great way to get people one step closer to taking their first steps at getting in the hobby. It is also a great chance to build a module for a location/era other than your normal layout.

Want in on any of this? Email me at cidmra@gmail.com and let me know what you want to participate in. None of this is established yet. We are at the ground floor and I am happy to put you in touch with someone beginning to work on the same project. Send me an email and I will help make up the connections for the various projects. I look forward to seeing these great ideas take shape as we begin to reach out to people and help them get started with a build in the World's Greatest Hobby.

Daniel Banks

New Members

These are new members that have joined the Central Indiana Division. If you know one or more of these people, please be sure and welcome them to the CID.

July

Charles N. Miller
D. Laux
Robert Talbot
Trusten Buzz Lee
Steve Picket
Kyle L. Reagan
Russell Allen Curry

August

Joe Slash

September

Chris Clouser
Daniel Goreham
Troy Jones
Stephen Kelly
Thomas Martin
Chistain T. Verfenstein
Theodore Latham
Ron Crane

Michael Roderick
Membership Manager





Central Indiana Division
of the
National Model Railroad Association
Presents the 2023



Danville Train Show
Saturday - November 18
10 AM to 3PM

Admission
\$3.00 per adult
Under 16 free with parent



Hendricks County Fair Grounds

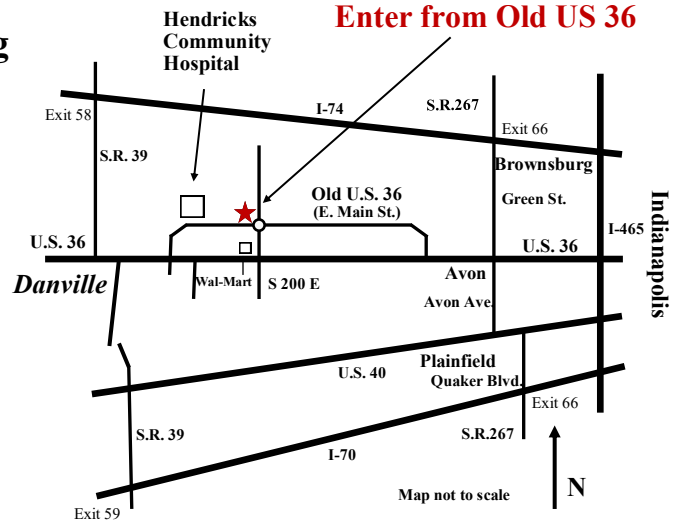
ON OLD US 36 (E. MAIN ST.) – 12 MILES WEST OF I-465

Show Features

Over 29,000 Sq. Feet With:

- Operating Layouts
- Dealer Tables
- Food
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- Dedicated 2 Rail O & S Scale Room
- Model Judging
- Door Prizes
- Free Parking

Hendricks County 4-H & Conference Center
Enter from Old US 36



- **Popular Vote Contest**
- **100x100 Scale Foot Diorama "Freight Loading"**

Model registration: 10am to 11am
Voting open: 11am to 1:30pm
Winners announced: 1:30pm

2 Expo Halls - 8 Foot Vendor Tables \$16 each
2 Rail O & S Scale Room - 6 Foot Tables \$12 Each (limited availability)
Setup Fri. 3-6 pm; Sat. 7-10:00 am
Vendor table rental forms at <http://www.cidnmra.org>

The Next CID Train Show Will Be at Lebanon, IN on January 28, 2024

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

Upcoming Events

– Division Schedule –



Danville Meet - November 18, 2023 - Danville, IN

Hendricks County Fairgrounds, 1900 E. Main St., Danville, IN

Dealer Show & Meet – 10am to 3pm Admission: \$3:00 per Adult / \$5.00 per Family / Under 16 Free w/Adult

Operating layouts, vendors, door prizes, contests, food and free parking

Dealer Tables - \$16.00 for 8' table - request form available at www.cidnmra.org

For more information or tables: Dave Mashino at (765) 860-1560 or danvilletrainshow@gmail.com

Lebanon Train Show - January 28, 2024, Lebanon, IN

Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds, 1300 E. 100 S., Lebanon, IN

Dealer Show & Meet – 10am to 3pm Admission: \$3:00 per Adult / \$5.00 per Family

Operating layouts, vendors, door prizes, contests, food and free parking

Dealer Tables - \$16.00 for 8' table - request form available at cidnmra.org

For more information or tables: David Nance at (765) 894-7041 or David@nanceplumbing.com

If you can help with the show please contact David

– Extra Board –

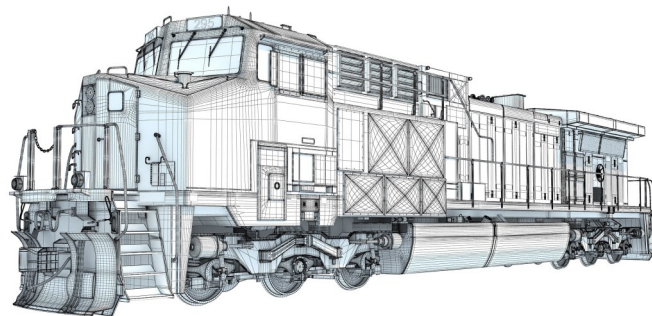


2024 NYCSHS Convention - April 26 - 28, 2024 Indianapolis, IN

Indianapolis Airport Crowne Plaza

We want to tell you a little about the NYCSHS 2024 Convention in April 2024. Also take a look at these new and exciting models and books we have for you. Check out the N-Scale diesels, HO-scale Dreyfus Hudsons, a unique flat car, and Bowser HO-scale Baldwin NYC VO-660 and CASO 70-ton 1- panel hopper. We are producing two Big Four caboose kits from American Model Builders and they are in production now. Now is the time to place your order for these kits. They will be selling fast as we got a very large number of expressions of interest in the two cabooses. Don't miss out on these NYCSHS exclusive kits. John Taibi's newest book is at the printers and available to order now. Another great book from John.

For more information: <https://mailchi.mp/b28e50c377a9/now-is-the-time-to-add-to-your-models-in-n-ho-scale-6070262?e=73f5fff9e5>



If you are 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 also go to WWW.TrainShowList.com/listings.pdf

JOHN'S JUNCTION

by John Robert Coy, MMR®

Here is the fourth installment in a series of articles involving the Achievement Program (AP). (AP Official Certificate)

We, your CID board, are following a NMRA directive: "Whenever possible, Division events should include a short reminder about the AP..."

So with that in mind, let's make it OFFICIAL!

This is the time of year that Election Committee members are seeking out candidates for next year (2024). In May of 2024, the CID will "seat" a "new" board; and the Midwest Region Board will do the same.

It is an awesome experience; education and it will certainly keep you up-to-date on all things NMRA when you serve on a Board. It is a great way for you to be able to provide direct input into the future direction of the NMRA.

As far as obtaining the AP Official Certificate, there is something to be aware of, and that is at Division level, the ONLY position eligible for the Official Certificate is the Superintendent. A Division Superintendent must serve three (3) years in total to earn the Official Certificate.

Regional and National Board voting Member positions are all eligible for the Official Certificate. The following paragraphs are taken word for word directly from the NMRA Achievement Program site. To qualify for the Association Official Certificate, you must:

1. Serve in an office of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, National Department Head, National Legal Counsel, or National Director and have completed satisfactory service in one of the following:
 - At least one year in the office at the National level.
 - At least two years in the office(s) at the Region level, of which one year shall be that of Region President.

At least three years in the office(s) at the Region level (Region Officer or Region Board of Directors) if other than that of Region President.

Region Directors who serve as voting members of the Region Board of Directors either by election, appointment or automatic by-law provision eligible



for the Certificate on the same basis as any other Region Board member.

Sometimes there is a question about whether a particular office qualifies for "Association Official" or "Association Volunteer." In general, the test is: if holding an office makes you a voting member of the Region (or National) Board of Directors, then it counts toward "Official."

It is a fabulous experience to serve on a board! I have served on the Division Board for 4 years plus and served on the Regional Board 4 full years. I have only been a Member of the NMRA since August of 2018, a little more than 5 years, and have been a voting board member all but three months. The NMRA could use some "new blood", fresh ideas, fresh outlooks on our boards. I strongly encourage all of you to consider this as a wonderful opportunity.

And truly, the NMRA needs you! The last few elections, it has been tough finding enough candidates to fill a slate. I can't understand it, because I have had a great experience in serving on NMRA boards for several consecutive years. It is challenging, interesting and enjoyable. And, you can work toward earning your Official Certificate.

I hope to see some "new" names in the near future!

John Coy

A very nice N Scale layout almost always featured at the CID train shows is the Middlefork & Cedar Ridge Railway. It has been nice to watch it develop over the years. Hats off to the members of that group for the display of their layout at Franklin.

Photo by Rich Seymour



About the Pocket Watch

a very interesting story...

- Submitted by Jeffrey Melin -

If you were in the market for a watch in 1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right?

Well, of course you could do that, but if you wanted one that was cheaper and a bit better than most of the store watches, you went to the train station. Sound a bit funny?

Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found.

Why were the best watches found at the train station?

The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all. The telegraph operator was.

Most of the time the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town.

It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-way had already been secured for the rail line.

Most of the station agents were also skilled telegraph operators and it was the primary way they communicated with the railroad.

They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their next station.

And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches.

As a matter of fact, they sold more of them than almost all the stores combined for a period of about 9 years.

This was all arranged by "Richard", who was a telegraph operator himself.

He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of watches arrived from the East.

It was a huge crate of pocket watches.

No one ever came to claim them.

So Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the watches.

The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them.

So Richard did.

He sent a wire to every agent in the system asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good, pocket watch.

He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit.

That started it all.

He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all the travelers.

It worked!

It didn't take long for the word to spread and, before long, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches.

Richard became so busy that he had to hire a professional watchmaker to help him with the orders.

That was Alvah.

And the rest is history as they say.

The business took off and soon expanded to many other lines of dry goods.

Richard and Alvah left the train station and moved their company to Chicago -- and it's still there.

YES, IT'S A LITTLE KNOWN FACT that for a while in the 1880's, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at the train station.

It all started with a telegraph operator:

Richard Sears and partner Alvah Roebuck
Bet You Didn't Know That!

OK, maybe you did; I didn't!

Now that's History.



Franklin Train Show 2023 Wrap-up

What a great train show we had just last month. First of all, I want to thank everyone that help with the show because without you I could of not done it. We had over 1.400 people including attendees, vendors, volunteers.

We are looking forward to a great show again next year which will be held on August 3rd and 4th.

We did a lot of marketing for this show all over the Midwest Region Area along with the surrounding Regions. We add new vendors and 4 new manufacturers. Everyone express what a good time they had and was looking forward to next year. I had vendors asking me to sign up for next year before the 2023 train show was over.

We advertise in the following magazines for the Franklin Train Show 2023 which some of them are new to the Central Indiana Division but are familiar to the Midwest Region especially in the St. Louis area. Other ways we continue to get the word out about the show. We are using all forms of social media to promote this show to maximum ability within our budget that we have, and where I can get free advertising, I take full advantage of it at the local level and regional and national level. We also have newspapers information about the show to publish in their local newspaper on local events happening in the area we canvas the whole state of Indiana parts of Ohio, Kentucky.

Model Railroader

Classic Trains

Trains

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NMRA

SRHA

Rail Model Craftsman

Model Railroad News

Model Railroad Hobbyist

Rusty Spike

Owl Car (WISE Div.)

Illinois Terminal Division

DuPage Division

Michiana Division

Waybill

Facebook

State Newspapers in IN, KY, OH

Will be on WFMS in August

Festival Country Indiana will promote our show on the radio in Franklin closer to the show.

We sold a total of 261 tables to vendors. The American Legion, VFW Post and Ladies Auxiliary was a great help with looking for arm bands at the doors. We let them have tables to promote their organizations in return. The Beech Grove Moose Lodge provided the lunch for a reasonable cost to the attendees and vendors, without the support of these two groups this show would have a higher cost overhead. Between all of them we had 18 come out and help us.

We had one of our NMRA member Randy Bowman's wife and two sons who help set up and tear down table this year and that was a great help. We appreciate them very much. The boy scout troop double booked themselves and was unable to help but we will get them for next year.

With the increase in table cost this year we still had vendors on the waiting list. We grew the manufacturing side of the vendors and that has been paying off for this year alone. We continue to make this show to have the best mix of manufacturers and mom and pop vendors which are the Divisions main source of vendors.

With a developed base of manufacturers that will draw attendance we will build a strong and loyal attendance base for years to come that will draw from not just the local area but the surrounding states as the best 2-day division show in the Indianapolis Area we are starting to see the fruits of the ground work that I laid out five years ago when I took over the show in 2019.

We had the following layouts at the Franklin Train Show 2023, Trevor Jones, Cintrak, Pacific & Eastern, Indiana Large Scale Railroaders, Indiana Live Steam, Middlefork Railroad Club, Johnson County Live Steamers, Ella Shelton and Dave Little, these are just a few of the layouts that was at the Franklin Train Show.

Clubs are an integral part of the train show and I have been working with the following clubs to get them back at the show again next year. The following clubs were Middlefork, Cintrak, Pacific & Eastern Club and Naptown. Yes, these are just a few of the clubs that were at the show.

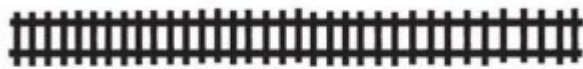
We had an American Rail Passenger Representative to present information on Amtrak rail safety free to the public. We will continue to bring them back as Passenger service is a very integral part of our history and our future.

We are going to use Facebook again to help with marketing. There was a change in the Franklin Train Show flyer, one is designed for Facebook, Reedit, and other social media platforms. I have a Vendor Show Flyer that is produced in house and a Train Show Flyer that is now sent to the printer that shows attendees will pick up more often because it is geared for them and not the vendors.

We will be having door prizes like we do every year. We always have plenty of door prizes for Saturday and Sunday. You do not have to be present to win these but you must fill out an attendee registration form with complete readable information so we can contact you. The attendee registration form will be used for the door prizes so please fill one out if you would like a chance to win. There will also be some door prizes during each day that you must be present to win. We have some door prizes already for the train show.

I will be sending out vendor registration before long because I have had vendors call me asking for them. They want to get their tables paid for all ready for next year. Looking to have a great train show again in 2024.

Michael Roderick
Franklin Train Show Manager
Central Indiana Division
NMRA



A Tribute To Lou Venema

We have lost a fellow CID member of many years, Lou Venema. He past away August 17, 2023 in his sleep after a long bout of medical issues in the last few months. He was 76. Lou has been a CID member from long before me and was the first to greet me to the NMRA by phone. After a long talk we met for lunch to talk trains and what was around the area. He was the first to talk me into trying both the Regional and National Conventions, not to mention going to the Michiana clinics and the big Train Fest in Milwaukee Wis. Lou was at a lot of our modeling spring and fall CID clinic gatherings. So as I heard of his Passing, Connie and I were already heading to this year's National Convention.

Consider some Prayers for Lou's Family and especially Pam. May His Train Stay on Schedule from here on. Thanks Lou for everything you have taught me in Model Railroading. And Thanks for your Service and a Veteran of the Vietnam War. As I already head for Dallas Express I consider this Convention Trip in remembrance of you Lou.

Newman Atkinson

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Dave Mashino
Superintendent
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John & Connie Coy - Avon, Indiana
modelrailroadcustomdesigner@hotmail.com

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Superintendent

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Phone (812) 876-6799
gtwan@bluemarble.net

In the 1970's

The Flint, South Bend and Kalamazoo Subdivisions

"Rusty Spike"
CENTRAL IND. DIVISION
MWR-----NMRA
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Vol. 53 - Issue 4



Advertising Space Available

**Contact Keith Clark
For Information
(See Page 3)**

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Tuesday thru Saturday - 10:30am to 6:00pm