



Volume 8, Number 12

December 2024

The NMRA's *Turntable* is a monthly publication that, like a railroad turntable, will lead you in several directions on the internet.

This e-publication is a collection of railroad and model railroad videos, podcasts, websites, and/or other information freely available on the internet that we think may be of interest to you. The NMRA claims no ownership of this information, nor do we endorse its creators or their websites. The *NMRA Turntable* will not promote individuals or their for-profit ventures.

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[UPRR Evanston Sub Cab Ride!](#)

This video features WESTWARD Cab Ride on the UPRR Evanston Sub Large HO Scale Model Railroad in Action Union Pacific. If you liked this video, you may also like to watch their [EASTWARD Cab Ride](#) video.

Building Free-moN Yard Modules





Design Goals for Staging Yard

- Fits in Mini Van for Transport
- Light Weight Module Design
- Attached Folding Legs
- Casters
- Levelers for Legs Operated from Standing Position

Construction Style

Waffle Module



Illustration of Waffle Construction



Building Free-moN Yard Modules

An NMRAx video on how John Young & Speed Muller built their N scale yard modules which had to be portable-enough to be transported in their vehicles.

Model Building on Vacation



Taking Model Trains on the Road!

Going on vacation? Want to take some model trains to work on?

In this program, Dan takes some modeling supplies and a couple of freight car kits on the road. He talks about creating a minimal travel-friendly modeling kit. Dan goes through all the essential tools, glues, and other modeling supplies needed to build a basic model kit.

Then he starts building an old HO scale Branchline Berwick Boxcar kit. Does he finish it on vacation? Does it matter? It's vacation!

Review of Tangent's HO Scale Rock Island UP Caboose



Tangent's Rock Island UP Caboose

In the 1960s and 70s, International Car Company built a total of 130 cabooses for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific. The cars were delivered in four different orders with some detail variations between the different batches.

Union Pacific and Rock Island were planning a merger at the time, and the cars were owned by UP but leased to Rock Island. The merger never actually happened.

Rock Island retired three of the cars prior to its shutdown in April 1980. The remaining 127 cars were returned to Union Pacific at that time and became UP's CA-13 class.

This particular car, UP 24591, was built in December 1967 as Rock Island 17173. The caboose was renumbered as UP 24591 in April 1980 and retired in July 1990. The roster doesn't have any information about the disposition of the caboose after that time. The model would be most appropriate for the 1980-1990 time period.

This is another highly detailed, lighted HO scale model train from Tangent Scale Models! If you're a fan of model trains, cabooses, or just like trains in general, be sure to check out this unboxing and product review!

Southern Pacific Layout Tour





Southern Pacific Layout Tour

Pat Bray's Southern Pacific HO scale layout is an operator's dream, with every kind of interesting job you could ask for. It's set in Southern California where the SP was king for decades, and includes Santa Fe and Union Pacific as well.

Since Pat worked for Southern Pacific and then Union Pacific for decades, the layout's operations are informed by prototype operations with some extra elements thrown in to keep the model operators busy. This is one you won't want to miss!

(A video from TSG Multimedia.)

What's Neat This Week...



...in Model Railroading?

This week, the special guests are Deb and Dave Zucker from Spring Creek Model Trains. Daniel discusses his new Lionel Berkshire, while Mike delves into model cars. The conversation also encompasses the new Bachmann NYC Streamlined Hudson in HO scale, among other locomotives and special projects. all that and more in 45 minutes.



NoVI 2025 Detroit, MI

NMRA Convention

Sheraton Detroit Novi with 143 Rooms
accessible via our website



Plus 4 other nearby hotels all at our website



2025 NMRA National Convention

An NMRAx clinic where Byrne Blumenstein and Scott Kramer discuss what the next NMRA National Convention will have to offer in 2025!

nmra

What Happens To Your Model Layout &
Trains When You Are Gone?

Richard Frazier

What Happens to Your Layout & Trains When You Are Gone?

MODEL TRAIN LAYOUTS

- Disassembling a Model Train Layout.....
 - How is done?
 - Did you plan for this?
 - Can you plan for this? **YES!!**

- Start Now!! How does your layout come apart?
 - Do you have a layout that could be disassembled? Does anyone but you know the process?
 - Do you know it will have to be 'sliced & diced'? Where is the best places to cut? What tools are needed?



What Happens When You Are Gone?

The Milwaukee Road in HO Scale





The Milwaukee Road in HO Scale

In this video we chase and railfan a rare EMD SDL39 as it makes its way over the pass while assisting an eastbound freight.

2024 Rivarossi HO Scale Allegheny



2-6-6-6 Steam Locomotive Review

In this video, James is diving into the incredible Rivarossi HO Scale Allegheny 2-6-6-6 Steam Locomotive, featuring ESU LokSound V5, LED lights, and DCC for a top-notch model railroading experience. This powerful locomotive is loaded with details, from its smooth drive to the separately applied detailed parts that make it a true standout.

With two cabs for added realism, a stunning presentation box, and a parts bag included, this model is the complete package for collectors and operators alike. The precision engineering ensures a seamless performance on the tracks, making it a must-have for any HO scale enthusiast.



Understanding Train Radio

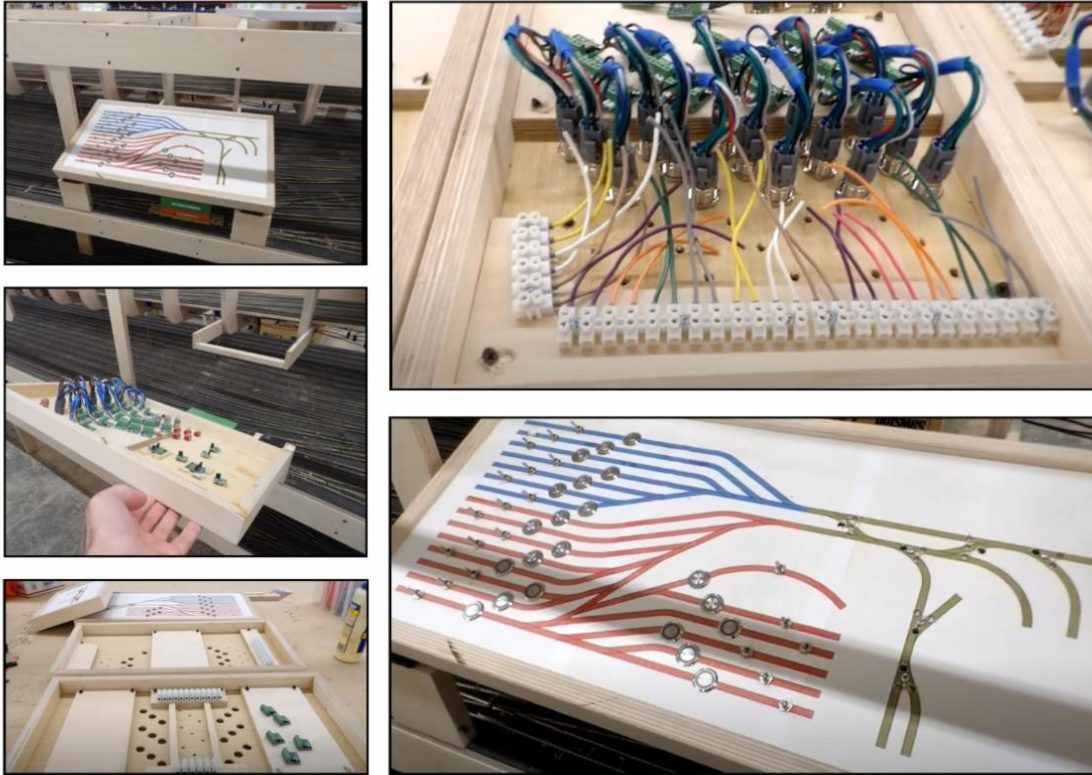
Railroaders make heavy use of the radio in their everyday operations. Listening to those conversations can really add to your railfanning experience. Here's a video that helps to explain what the CSX folks are saying over the radio.



New Techniques for Speed Building

In this video, Jason shows some new techniques for building structures fast. If you are limited on time and need to build structures fast, then this video is for you!

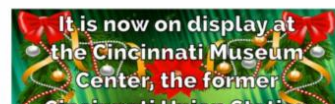
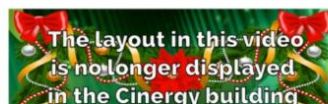
The Sydney Project—Control Panels



[The Sydney Project—Control Panels](#)

In this video, the presenter will show how he builds and installs numerous control panels to control some staging yards on this layout.

Christmas Layout in Cincinnati





...during the Christmas season.

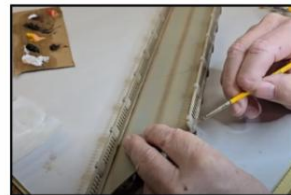
Cincinnati Union Station building in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio.

[Christmas Layout in Cincinnati](#)

Andrew Morris wrote in part on YouTube about this video: "It's been probably 30 years since this was filmed. It was an O Gauge Railroading Christmas special that I never thought would air. I have looked everywhere for it. Jim Barrett, Rich Melvin and I all went down to CG&E to film this. I was probably 10/12 years old then. After hours I got the run the trains so Rich could get slower and close up shots. Brings back so many memories. Jim Barrett passed away a few years ago."

(A vintage video from O Gauge Railroading Magazine.)

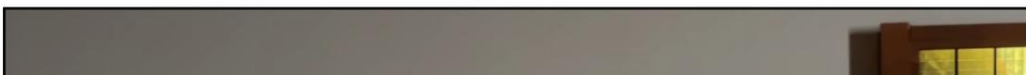
The North Canyon Highway Overpass Bridge



[The North Canyon Highway Overpass Bridge](#)

In this video, SP Steve will take you through his process of building, painting, weathering and installing a Rix Products Early Highway Overpass bridge kit on his layout. The kit is built from the package with no modifications other than trimming to fit the layout. The model is painted with acrylics and weathered with oil paints. This video covers the entire process from beginning to end.

Extending Your Layout Beyond The Wall





Background Flats With Depth

The presenter will take an extra wall from a building kit, and with a little bit of DIY creativity, and LED lighting, create the illusion that there is more depth to this building than may appear at first glance.



Saturday April 5, 2025, is the date for our last-ever event.

Admission cost is still only \$15.00

<https://pacificmodelloggerscongress.org>

End of the road

The 2025 Pacific Model Loggers' Congress will be the last one that Pam and Jeff Johnston host. We have had serious discussions about this for some time. We've considered all the angles, asking ourselves why we feel this way about shutting down an event with a roughly 20 year history and, unfortunately, an ever-smaller but much-appreciated cadre of enthusiastic supporters. My first records of the event are dated 2005, it's been a good run, and we've had fun.

Some reasons are "mechanical" in nature, such as the dwindling attendance and smaller model contest participation, the difficulty of rounding up clinic presenters and so on. The financial angle is the least of our worries and not a significant factor. Other reasons are more personal, for example, the recent death of Lyle Spears hit both of us pretty hard, as did the loss of our leader Lon Wall a few years back, to say nothing of losing Glen Comstock, John Cummings, Bill Roy and the other terrific old timers in the group. These older guys were literally the ones who shaped the model railroad logging hobby we now know. The details all add up to us feeling this is a good time to call it quits.

It's time for someone from the newer generation of modelers to take charge. If someone out there has any interest in taking this over and continuing the event, either here or elsewhere, please let us know.

Jeff Johnston



Layout Tours

Photo: Bob Chaparro



Clinics



Excursions

Photo: Bob Chaparro

We look forward to you joining us for the Pacific Coast Region's annual convention March 27-30, 2025.

This year's convention is on the central coast in beautiful San Luis Obispo. If you can't join us in person this year, join our virtual event! We are offering:

- Popular daily schedule – tours and excursions occur in the afternoon
- 3 full days of clinics – Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
- Layout tours, Operating sessions & Excursions
- Modeling With The Masters clinics w/Clark Koening
- 10+ hours of content/day for virtual event
- In person full fare = Sunday breakfast AND a free full companion fare!
- Great location accessible by Amtrak
- All suites hotel with free breakfast, free cocktail hour and free parking



This year we are also collaborating with [BayRails 10](#), a popular operations event hosted in the Bay Area March 22-24, to make it easier for folks to participate in both events.

Pacific Coast Region Convention

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STATION No. VI

2025 NMRA

Novi, MI

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

national model railroad association

STATION No. VI

2025 NMRA National Convention of the National Model Railroad Association

July 14th- July 19th, 2025

BIRTHPLACE

NOVI SPECIAL

90th National Model Railroad Convention

For more information on this convention, or to register for the convention, go to the Station No. VI's website at: <https://nmra2025.com>

NMRA's Partnership Program



PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

NMRA members can log in and click on the **Benefits** tab to view the **NMRA Partnership Program**. Please patronize all of our partners for some fantastic discounts as an NMRA member!

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CatzPaw Innovations
CB Train Junction
Clever Models, LLC
Coastmans Scenic Products
Composite Designs, Inc.
CMR Products, LLC
Conowingo Models
Cowcatcher Magazine
Daylight Sales (Merchandise)
Deepwoods Software
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Diorama Hobbies
Dwarvin Enterprises, Ltd
East Coast Circuits
Enterprise and National Car Rental Services
Evan Designs
Feight Studios
Fusion Scale Graphics
Gatorfoam
Great Decals!
Green Frog Productions
Highways and Byways Model Railroad Graphics
Hot Wire Foam Factory
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ITLA Scale Models
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LaBelle Woodworking Co.
LARC Products
Logic Rail Technologies
MAC Rail
Mainline Model Railroad Products, LLC* (Hobby Shop)
Micro-Mark
Mine Mount Models
Miniprints
MrTrain.com
Model Railroad Benchwork
Model Railway Backshop
MRC (Model Rectifier Corp)
Model Train Catalogue
Modelers Decals & Paint
Motrak Models
Mudd Creek Models
New Creations Victorian Railroad Buildings
Nick and Nora Designs
Northlandz
NScale Works by Mike Holly
Old Depot Gallery
Old West Scenery
RAM Track

RR-CirKits
R & J Details
Scale Model Plans
Scale Railroad Models
Scenery Solutions
Showcase Miniatures
T-Trak by Denniston
Team Track Models
The N Scale Architect
The Old Depot Gallery
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Yelton Models

[New Partners in RED*]

Dec 2024

Partnership Program

NMRA@HOME



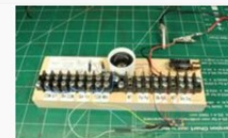
The Baltimore Streetcar Museum

Featured in the Division Business Car Column appearing in the December 2024 issue of NMRA Magazine.

Division 11 of the Mid-Eastern Region shared their outing to the Baltimore Trolley Museum in the *Susquehanna Sidetracks*, the newsletter of the division. Members had the opportunity to ride vintage trolleys dating from the 1920s to the 1950s.

Fixtures for electronics projects

Featured in the Division Business Car Column appearing in the December 2024 issue of NMRA Magazine.



Peter Leach MMR® is not a fan of electronics. But that didn't stop Peter from creating fixtures for testing, installing, and programming DCC decoders along with other electronics projects. He shared them in *The Derail*, the newsletter of the 100% NMRA Member San Jacinto Model Railroad Club.



Adding weight to closed up cars



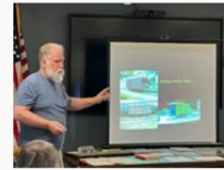
Featured in the Division Business Car Column appearing in the December 2024 issue of NMRA Magazine.

What do you do when a car that you have needs more weight added to it, but the car is glued shut? Tony Pawlicki of the Rocky Mountain Region's Pikes Peak Division shares some of the techniques he uses on covered hoppers in the division's newsletter, *The Milepost*.

How to present a clinic

Featured in the Division Business Car Column appearing in the December 2024 issue of NMRA Magazine.

The newsletter of the Mid-Eastern Region's Potomac Division, *The Potomac Flyer*, contained an article providing great tips on how to present a clinic from a few of its members. Take a look at their tips and turn your clinics into great clinics!



John Schuhle's HO scale Pennsy

Featured in the Division Business Car Column appearing in the December 2024 issue of NMRA Magazine.

John's 45 by 47 foot HO scale layout of the Pennsy between Harrisburg and Altoona Pennsylvania appeared in the *Crossties*, the newsletter of the Mid-Eastern Region's James River Division. His layout, with a 350 foot double track mainline, is this month's layout tour.



The ***Division Business Car*** column appears in even-numbered months in NMRA Magazine. It's loaded with great modeling ideas, plus useful information that can help make your Division, Region, or 100% NMRA Club even better. The information comes from articles published in Region, Division, and Club newsletters. The best of these articles are posted on the NMRA website. You can read the entire archive, from as far back as 2011 right up to the latest posting, by clicking [here](#).

Previous issues of the ***NMRA Turntable*** are available on the Turntable Archives page. You must first log in as a member at: nmra.org After you are in the members-only section, then you must hover over 'Publications' on the menu bar, then 'NMRA Turntable', and then click on one of the list of back issues.

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