

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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Jay & Brook Qualman's Michigan Lines

Jay and Brook Qualman started building the layout in 2007 and they have been working on the railroad ever since. Brook Qualman (MMR® #665) earned her Master Model Railroader® certificate in the process of creating this awesome layout with her husband Jay. The layout models the Michigan area in the 1950s and many, many structure models represent actual buildings in towns dear to them during that period. You really should make time to visit this special historical look at this area of Michigan that they have created with this exquisite HO scale model railroad! This is but one of many layouts that will be on tour during the 2025 NoVI NMRA Convention next month.

[More information on the list of layouts on tour during the convention can be found here.](#)

Norm Charbonneau's



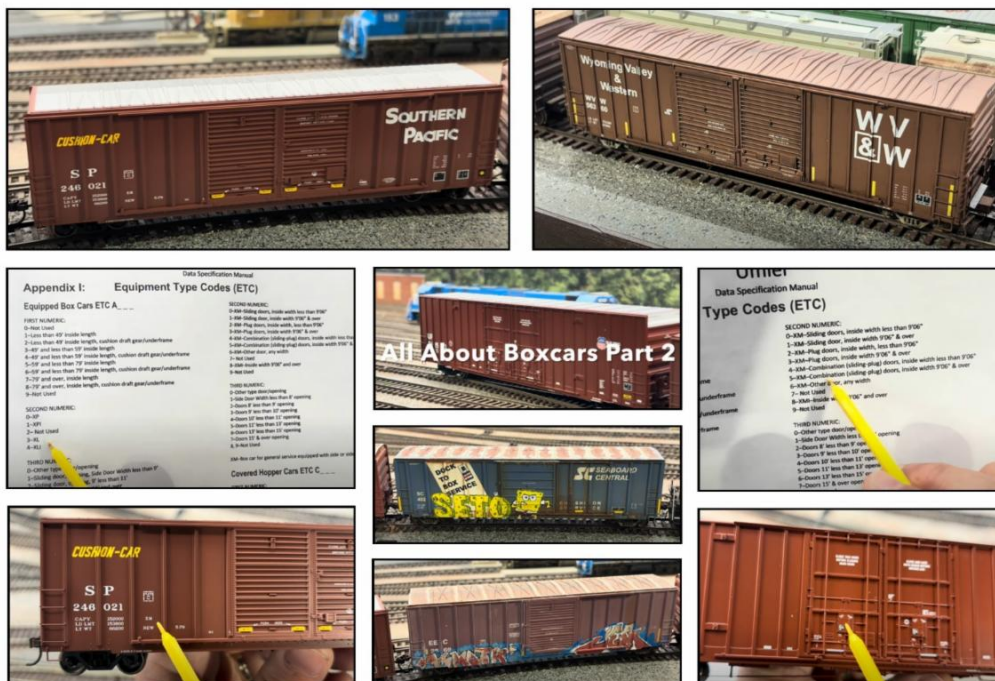


Northbrook Railroad

An Amazing O scale 3-rail layout. Full scenery and beautifully weathered equipment. This is one of the layouts that will be on tour during the NoVI 2025 Convention.

[More information on the list of layouts can be found here.](#)

All About Boxcars - Part 2



All About Boxcars - Part 2

In this Part 2 of a two-part series, Tim (Seaboard Central) gives a detailed look at the various kinds of boxcars that can be found on today's railroads.

In the previous [Part 1](#) of this two-part series on Boxcars, Tim talked about how they were similar but different in many ways. In that video items discussed were characteristics, distribution and typical commodities transported in boxcars.

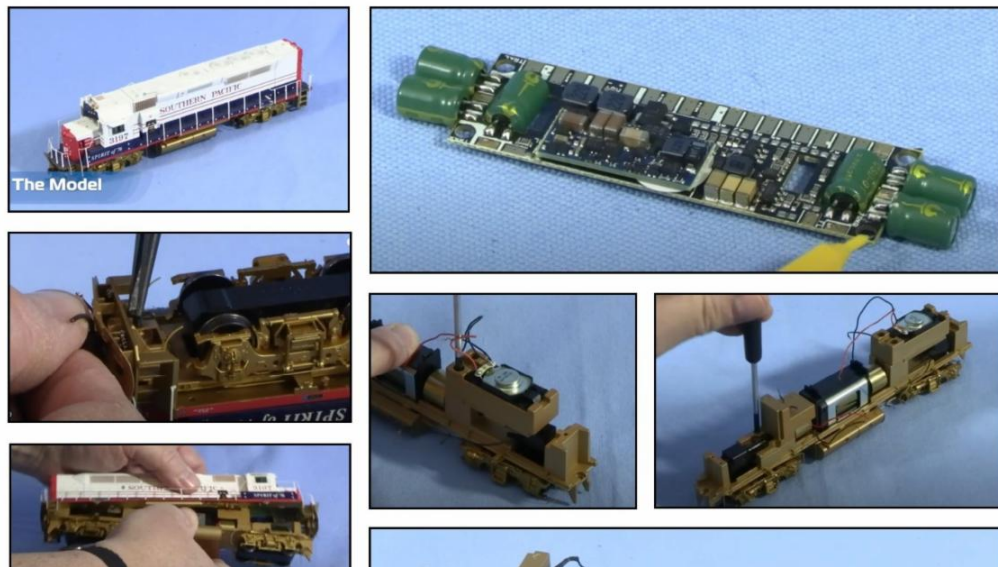
The Master Builder - Cars Certificate

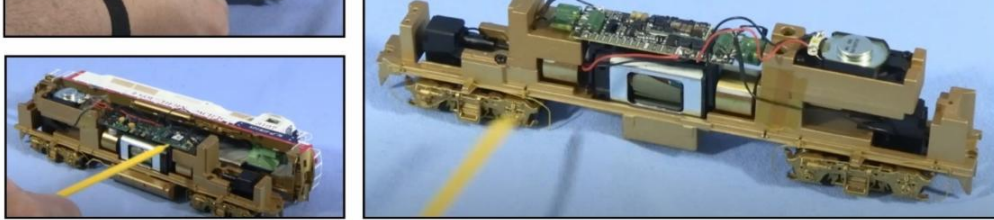


The Master Builder - Cars Certificate

Interested in working towards the NMRA's AP certificate for Master Builder - Cars? Follow along as Timothy Horton reviews the requirements for this certificate and how he earned his.

DCC Shop HO Athearn SP GP40P-2 Part 1 Replacing a Tsunami with a LokSound!





Replacing a Tsunami with a LokSound!

The Athearn Genesis GP40P-2 is a highly detailed and accurate model of an unusual Southern Pacific prototype.

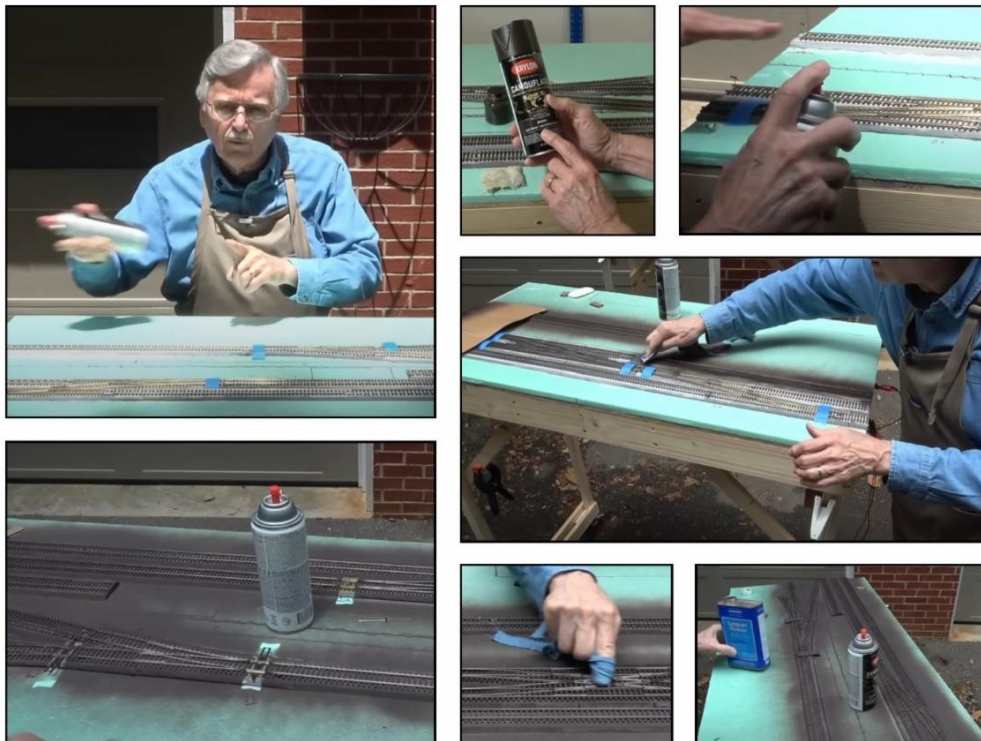
This model is new enough to have come from the factory with a SoundTraxx Tsunami 2 sound decoder, but old enough to have bulbs for lights.

Since Daniel Cortopassi has standardized on Loksound DCC and sound decoders for all his model train locomotives, he wanted to replace the Tsunami in this engine.

Another goal is to replace the bulbs with LEDs and to make some of the model's non-working lights operational.

If you want to see how to improve an already very nice model, be sure to follow along as Dan works his magic on this engine!

Painting Rails The Right Way



Painting Rails The Right Way

Painting the rails on your model railroad might sound like an easy job but it can quickly degenerate into a sticky mess with paint hopelessly dried on everything and your switch points permanently stuck together. However, with a little preparation you can prevent a lot of headaches and finish with a paint job that will leave your track looking like the real thing. In this video

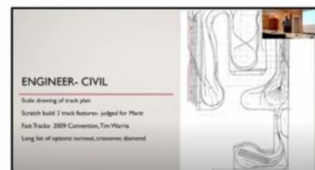
Larry Puckett shows you his tips and tricks for getting it done the right way.

Review: Aurora Miniatures Greenbrier 7550 cf 60' Plate F Boxcar



Review: Greenbrier 7550 cf 60' Plate F Boxcar

Today is the unboxing and review of another Aurora Miniatures model, a Greenbrier 7550 cubic ft 60' Plate F High Cube boxcar in the LRS (Laurinburg and Southern Railroad) livery. This model has amazing print detail, rotating roller bearing caps, and a very striking blue paint.





The [**NMRA Achievement Program**](#) (AP) is a guide to help you on your journey through the world of model railroading. The AP provides incentive to learn and master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading. With the mastery of each skill, you will be issued a certificate acknowledging your achievement. There are three groups of awards within the AP - the Golden Spike Award, the AP Certificates program, and the Master Model Railroader® Award. All awards earned in the Achievement Program are recognized in the NMRA Magazine.

Getting involved in the AP is incredibly easy - you just decide to do it! If you are not yet involved, to start you off on the right foot we suggest you contact your local division AP manager. Most divisions list that person in their contact list. Alternatively, you can visit the AP Staff Roster page to find contact information for your Regional AP Manager or contact the National AP Manager.

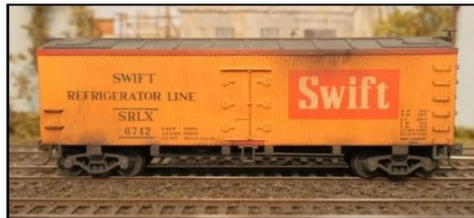
Official YouTube Channel for the NMRA



Official YouTube channel for the National Model Railroading Association (NMRA). The channel contains over 390 videos covering a wide range of

subjects including how-to projects, railroad history, prototype and model railway operations, and many more subjects. More videos are being added to the collection all the time, mostly through the NMRax online video presentations that take place every month. Take a look and see what has been added recently!

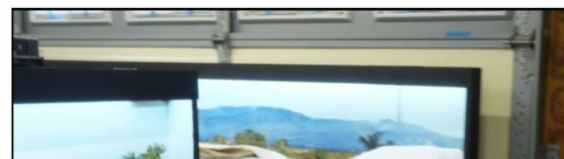
Save Money & Learn Skills With Old Kits



Save Money & Learn Skills With Old Kits

Older HO Kits and Train Set Cars can be built into credible HO models with some detailing. By searching out information from out of publication magazines like Rail Model Journal and finding older cars and kits at swap meets or garage sales you'll see (or remember) how fun the hobby can be. Build unique cars and learn new skills without worrying about "New Products", "Order Deadlines", or "Cancellations"

Operations, Yard Work & Future Plans





Operations, Yard Work & Future Plans

It's time to take it easy and do some yard work. Talk about the future of the layout and how best to balance model railroading and making YouTube videos.

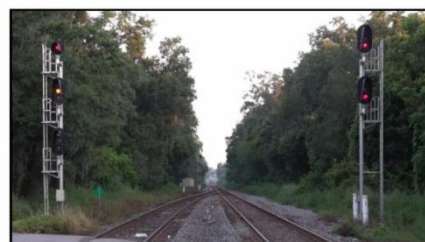
Great Western Railway Shunters' Trucks

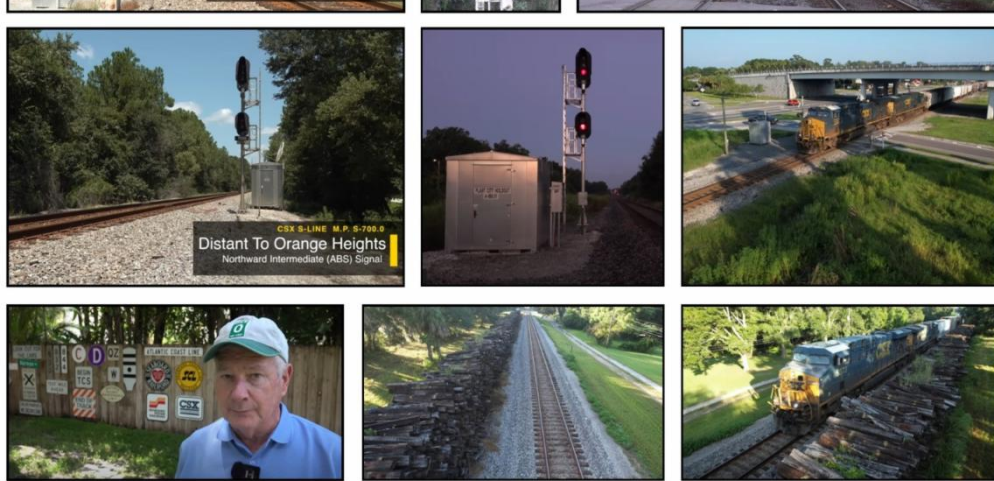


Great Western Railway Shunters' Trucks

In today's video, we take a look at the Great Western Railway's shunter's trucks. One of these cars can be found in the Great Western STEAM Museum in Swindon, England.

Distant Signals, Holdouts & Other Railroad Secrets





Distant Signals, Holdouts & Other Railroad Secrets

A question from a viewer prompted Danny Harman to take a day long trip out to the main lines to try and explain what some of these railroad terms are.

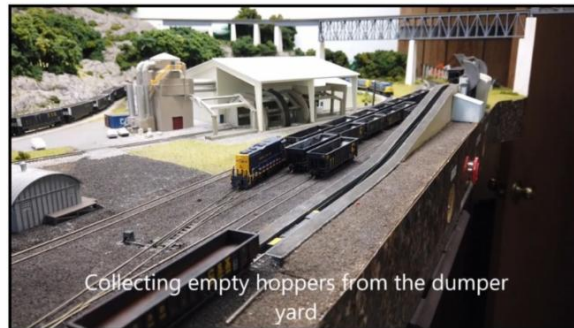
Last Semaphore Signals on an Active Main Line?



The Last Semaphore Signals?

See some of the remaining semaphore signals still in use on the former ATSF Raton Subdivision in northeast New Mexico. It is the final stand for these classic signals on a main line railroad.

Kevin Guthrie N-Scale C&O Coal Hauling



[Kevin Guthrie N-Scale Coal Hauling](#)

Amazing videos of Kevin Guthrie's N-Scale Chessie System. A coal focused layout with actual loading and unloading facilities. This is one of the layouts that will be on tour during the NoVI 2025 Convention.

[More information on the list of layouts can be found here.](#)

National Model Railroad Association 2025 National Convention & Train Show

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Model Contests and Display Areas

NMRA Model Contest

As part of a National Convention, **STATION No. VI** will be hosting the annual *NMRA Model Contest* in the St. Clair conference room for those that wish to enter a model into this contest. Detailed information and room schedule is on our [NMRA Model Contest page](#).

STATION No. VI Model Display Area

If you would like to display a model, but are not interested in getting it judged for an NMRA award or points, we've got you covered at **STATION No. VI**! In Ballroom C, we'll have several model railroads displays/operating *plus* many tables for model displays. There will be several different categories, so your model will need to be placed at the proper table.

People's Choice Model Contest

If you're displaying your model in the **Model Display Area** in Ballroom C, you can fill out a form and your model will be entered into the *People's Choice Model Contest*. The convention attendees will get to vote on their favorite models in each category. Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category, plus the 1st and 2nd place winners will receive gift certificates of **\$100 (1st)** and **\$50 (2nd)** from the sponsor of that category. Yes, we're getting manufacturer sponsors for each category and they will give out these certificates to the winners!

Models will need to be brought to the room on Tuesday and picked up on Friday evening! *People's Choice Model Contest* winners will be announced at the Friday Night Pizza Party. There is no additional charge to bring in and display a model and you can display as many as you wish! The one and only restriction: you cannot enter the *People's Choice Model Contest* and the *NMRA Model Contest* with the same model. You must choose one or the other for your model. You can enter different models in each contest if you wish (a locomotive in the *NMRA Model Contest* and a different locomotive in the *People's Choice Model Contest* is OK to do!).

To register for the *People's Choice Model Contest*, please print out the following form, fill it out, and bring it with your model to the *Model Display Area* in Ballroom C.

[People's Choice Model Contest Entry Form](#)

NMRA Model & Photo Contest Schedule

Activities within the NMRA Model & Photo Contest room (**St. Clair conference room**) will be conducted during the following timeframes. The only exception is The NMRA Model Contest Clinic, which will be conducted in one of the clinic rooms, per details defined in the convention timetable.

Monday, July 14

1pm to 6pm – St. Clair conference room – Model and photo entry.

Tuesday, July 15

9am to 11:30am – St. Clair conference room – Model and photo entry. All contest entries must be received by 11:30am!

1pm to 2pm – Model evaluation clinic (*check the Agenda for the clinic location*).

2pm to 6pm – St. Clair conference room – Contest model and photo evaluation.

Wednesday, July 16

9am to Noon – St. Clair conference room – Model viewing, score sheet review, and *Meet the Model Builder* (contest participants discussing their modeling techniques with interested attendees).

1pm to 4pm – St. Clair conference room – *NMRA Magazine* model photographs (room closed to attendees).

4pm to 7pm – St. Clair conference room – Model and photo retrieval. All contest room entries must be picked up by 7pm!

Thursday, July 17

10am to 11am – St. Clair conference room – Awards presentation.

NMRA Model & Photo Contests

We encourage all folks interested in the NMRA's achievement program to bring models and photos to the **NMRA Model & Photo Contests**. Merit awards, place awards, and manufacturer-sponsored awards will be presented to participants. Model evaluators and contest staff will be available throughout the week to assist modelers in building better models, from construction to detailing, painting, weathering, and prototype conformance.

In addition to your models, you'll need a couple of forms to accompany each item. One form is for modeler entry information (**Form 901**) and the second, for model description and evaluation (**Form**

902). Both forms are available on the NMRA website (www.nmra.org/education), along with information of how your models will be evaluated. **NOTE:** The NMRA Photo Contest only uses a **Form 901** for each photo entered, **NOT** a Form 902!

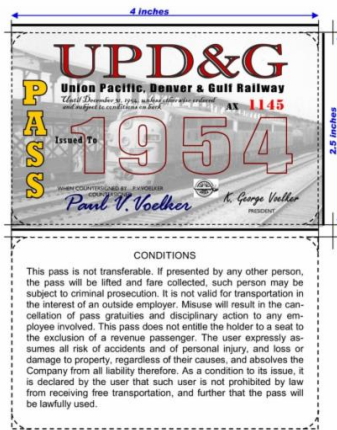
Much of that information will be reiterated at the convention during a Tuesday afternoon clinic. All those participating in the NMRA model contest, from those entering models to those evaluating them, are encouraged to attend this presentation and discussion. Check the [Agenda](#) for the clinic time and place.

Contest staff will also be available throughout the week to assist those participating in the achievement program and interested only in Merit Award evaluation and documentation completion for their models.

NMRA Contest Forms - Entry Form 901, Model Contest Scoring Sheet Form 902

Note that only the NMRA Model Contest requires the additional Form 902 for scoring purposes. All other NMRA contests Photo, Arts & Crafts, Railroad Pass, etc., only require an Entrant Form 901 for each entry in the NMRA Contest.

NMRA Judged Railroad Pass Contest



Sample of a Railroad Pass

Definition - Competitive event for entrant-made railroad passes: all entries are judged by a team of experienced judges using a simple ranking system.

Additional Requirements - In addition to the general requirements listed under General Contest information the following also apply.

Two (2) entries are required for each pass in order to show both sides of each pass entered.

Any type of railroad pass is eligible in the form of a business card of flash card size. All other forms, letters, documents, stock certificates, etc. will not be allowed and will only be accepted as display-only (non-contest) entries.

A Contest Entry Form #901 will need to be filled out for each entry.

NMRA Judged Photo Contest

Definition - Competitive event for photographs: all entries are judged by a team of experienced judges using a ranking system that is explained in the **National Photo Contest Judging Guidelines**.

Additional Requirements - In addition to the general requirements listed under the General Contest information the following also apply.

Photos produced using either film or digital cameras are permitted.

Each entrant shall be limited to a maximum of ten (10) entries with a maximum of five (5) entries in one category. A Contest Entry Form #901 will need to be filled out for each entry.

Prints shall be mounted on flat, rigid board or matted with similar material. No folders or glass frames are allowed. Photo and mount shall not exceed 12" x 16" (30cm x 40cm) in size. Minimum mount size is 8" x 10" (20cm x 25cm) and minimum print size is 5" x 7" (13cm x 18cm).

A Panorama print photograph will be defined as any photo whose width exceeds the dimensions listed above by a factor of two, three, or four (such as 5" x 14", 5" x 21", 5" x 28") and is limited in height to 8".

Prints shall have entrant's name on the back. Prints may be titled on the front. Prints with entrant's name on the front will not be accepted.

Exposure of the original photo must have been made by the entrant and cannot have won a first place at any previous National Convention.

Categories - Each entry shall be placed in one of the following categories:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Model - Black & White Print | c. Prototype - Black & White | e. Working on the Railroad |
| b. Model - Color Print | d. Prototype - Color | f. Panorama Print |
| g. Display Only - Not to be judged | | |

Photo Contest Judging Guidelines

The procedure used for judging the photo contest and an explanation of what the judges will be looking for in general.



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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[New Partners in RED*]

June 2025

Partnership Program Member List



Division Business Car

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Region & Division News by Jim Zinser, MMR®

Journey's End

The Division Business Car is heading into the station to make its last stop for 2024. But before we disembark, I'd like to thank everyone who's made these bi-monthly journeys possible. First, thank you to all the authors and newsletter editors who've provided the content that makes up this column. Without you, I'd literally have nothing to say!

Next, big thanks to *NMRA MAGAZINE* Editor Cynthia Priest, who makes this and every column and article in every issue look and read so well.

Also, big thanks to proofreaders Bob Hans, Laura Hughes, Steve Marquess, Lloyd Thompson, and Jim Wilson, who make grammatical and spelling errors disappear like magic.

Then there's the "Poster Boy," Chuck Diljak, MMR®. He's the guy who extracts and reformat's the articles from the newsletters I feature and posts them on the NMRA.org website for you to read.

Finally, thank you to all of you for reading the column and for taking the time to email me with your comments and suggestions for improving it.

From my family to yours, may 2025 bring peace, happiness, health, and a better world for us all. 🌍

Division Business Car Archives

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.

Editor: [Paul Voelker, HLM](#)

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