

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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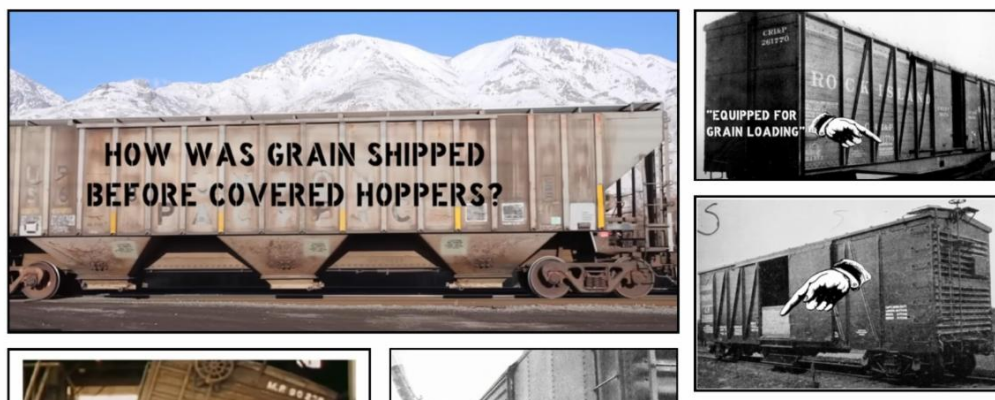
South Olympic Branch Update 103 2025 Pacific Northwest Region Convention



[South Olympic Branch Update 103](#)

A trip to the Pacific Northwest Region Convention that was just recently held on May 9-11, 2025, in Pasco, Washington.

What is a Grain Door? Shipping Grain in Boxcars



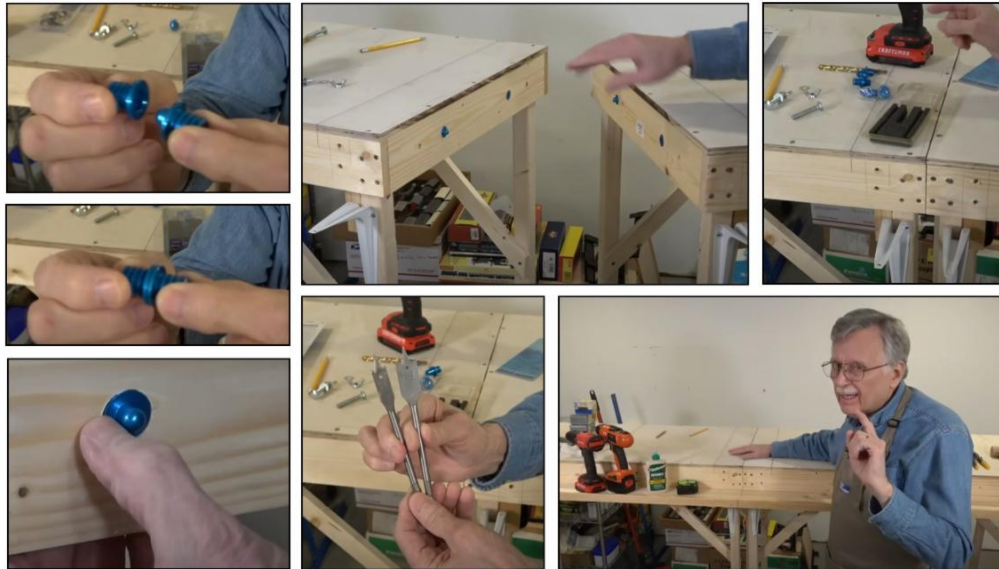


Shipping Grain in Boxcars

Before the adoption of covered hoppers, bulk grains - corn, wheat, oats, beans, etc. - were shipped in boxcars, necessitating a piece of technology (if it can be called that) called a "Grain Door." Learn about what it did and why it is no longer used.

This is the first episode what may become a series on extinct and obscure train technology.

Alignment Dowels & Shelves

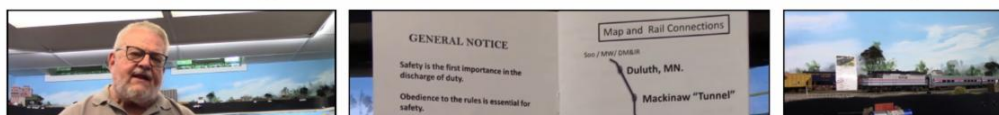


Alignment Dowels & Shelves

Larry Puckett continues the new layout build by installing alignment dowels between the two modules and also adds shelves to the fascia. All of this is made easy with the DCC Concepts alignment dowel installation kit and the use of metal shelf brackets. The dowels guarantee a perfect alignment between the modules and the shelves are a professional touch that add a lot of convenience and are well worth the effort.

The DCC Concepts Alignments dowels come in an installation kit having the necessary drill bits and a pair of dowels, plus there is another product that provides 4 pairs of dowels.

Norm Logan's Operations-Oriented Michigan Southern Railway

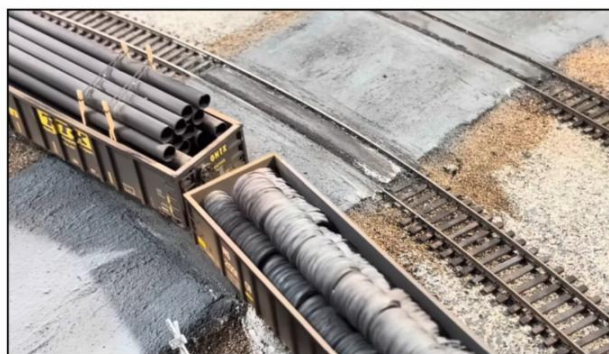




Michigan Southern Railway

A video by William A. McMillan showing the HO scale Michigan Southern Railway of Norm Logan. The layout is designed for operations and will be one of the many layouts that will be available to be operated during the NoVI 2025 NMRA National Convention. More info can be found at: [Operating Sessions](#).

All About Gondolas



All About Gondolas

Tim (Seaboard Central) gives a detailed look at the various kinds of gondolas that can be found on today's railroads, what types of loads that they haul and their various type designations. Did you know that coil cars are classed as gondolas?

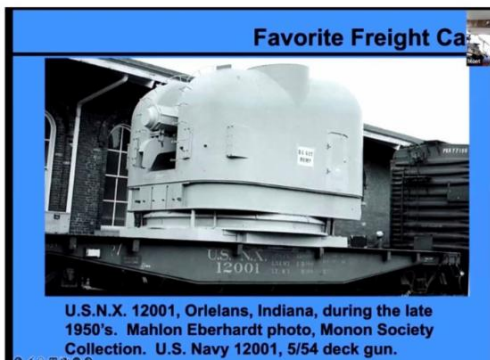
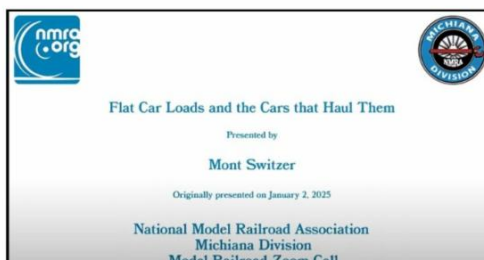
Soo Line SD9 #2381 in HO Scale



Soo Line SD9 #2381 in HO Scale

Building the Soo's only SD9 in HO Scale is a fun project, until something breaks and you need a replacement part. Painting and decaling it in the original maroon and gold is its own challenge. See the results in this video.

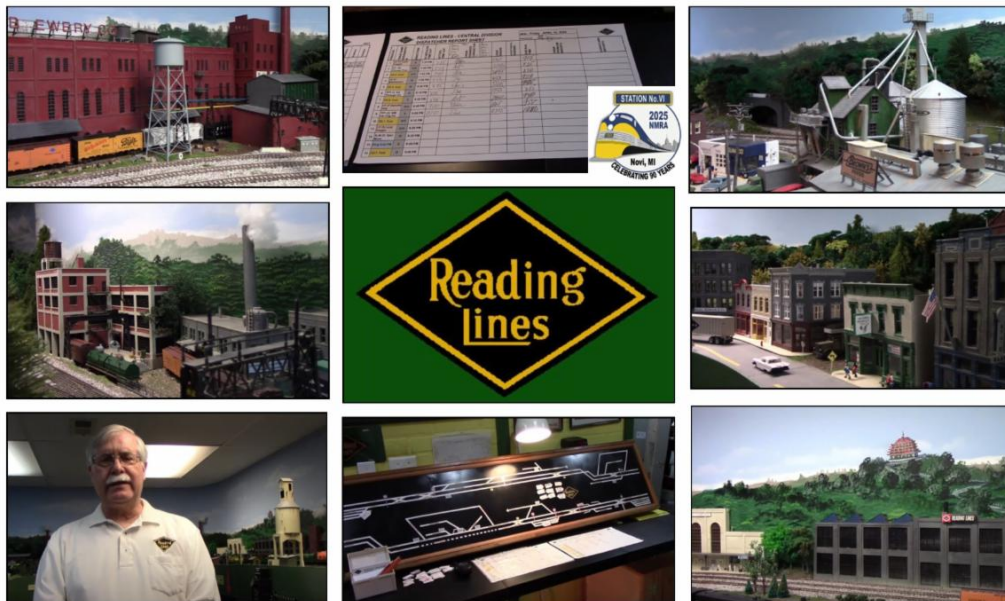
Flat Car Loads And The Cars That Haul Them



Flat Car Loads

A video presented during a Michiana Division Zoom Call on loads found on flat cars and the various types of flat cars that hauled them.

Barry Hensel's Reading Lines - Central Division



Reading Lines - Central Division

Another video by William A. McMillan, this time showing the HO scale Reading Lines model railroad of Barry Hensel. This layout is also designed for operations and will be one of the many layouts that will be available to be operated on during the NoVI 2025 NMRA National Convention. More info can be found at: [Operating Sessions](#).

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The National Model Railroad Association - NMRA

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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!

The Layout Insanity Built Part 7 What Has Adam Wuiske Done Now?



What Has Adam Wuiske Done Now?

In this video, Adam shows you his progress on "The Layout Insanity Built" build. He does a quick run through of making the first 200 feet of backdrops.

He also gives a bit of a tour and shows you what his plans are for those areas.

Eric Lalonde's Layout Tour UP Geneva Subdivision



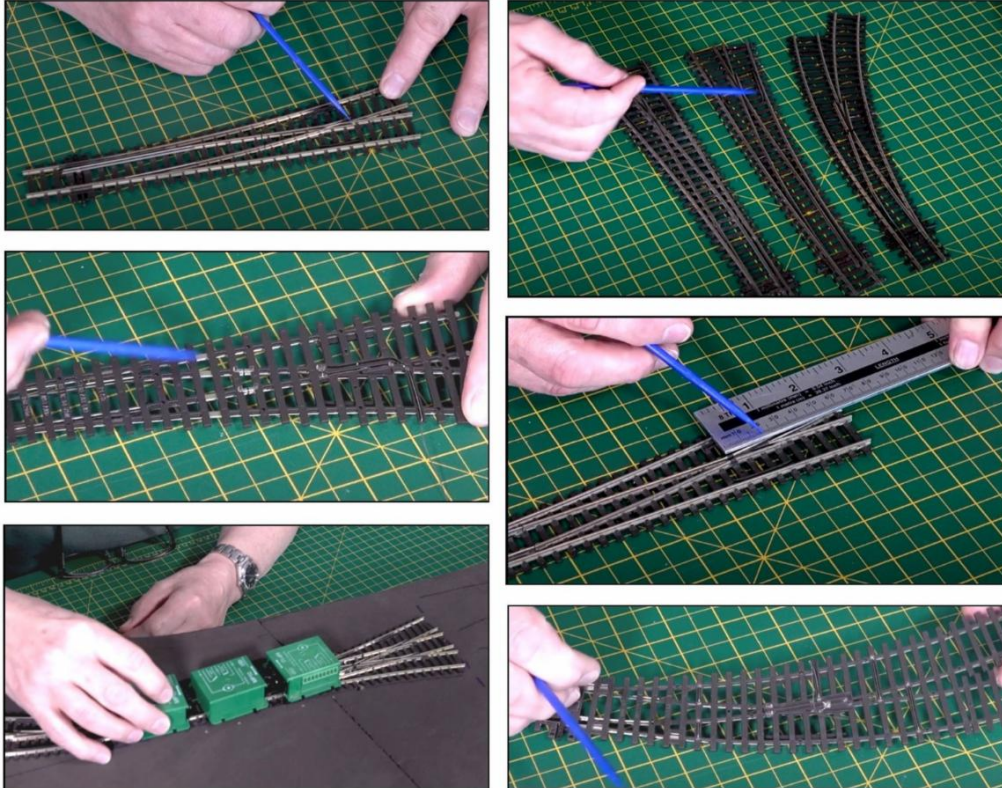
Eric Lalonde

UP Geneva Subdivision

UP Geneva Subdivision

Three levels of the Union Pacific Geneva Subdivision train layout of Eric Lalonde. This was one of several layouts that were on tour during the recent Northeastern Region Convention, Concord Flyer 2025.

Peco Unifrog vs Electrofrog vs Unifrog Turnouts

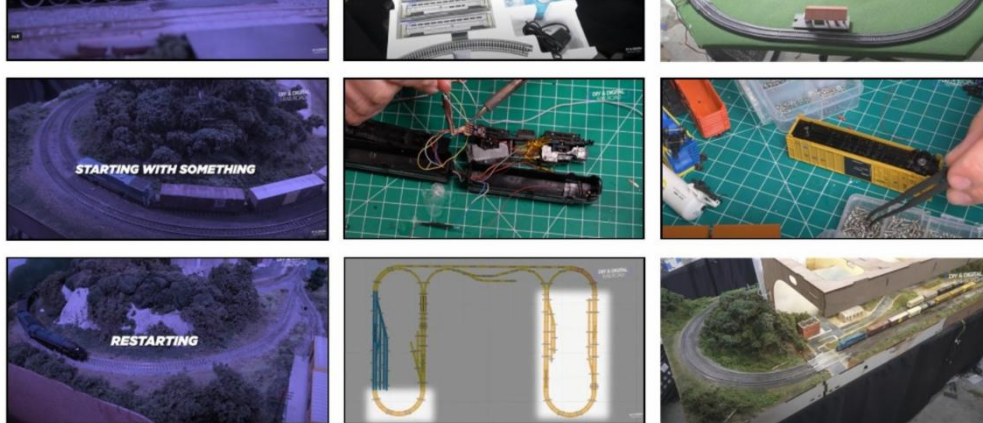


Peco Unifrog vs Electrofrog vs Insulfrog Turnouts

What is the difference between Peco Unifrog, Electrofrog and Insulfrog turnouts? Today Peco's first code 100 Unifrog turnout will be installed at the Chadwick Model Railway.

When Model Railroading, You Have To Start Somewhere!





You Have To Start Somewhere!

When model railroading, you have to start somewhere! Jimmy (DIY and Digital Railroad) will give you some ideas about where to start or restart in our hobby.

How Jonathan Designed the Newark Branch Layout Concept & Track Design

Thoughts on a New Approach to Modeling

1. Exact replication is not the only approach available.
2. All items do not have to be modeled the same.
3. A less realistic approach can be more powerful.
4. Techniques from other visual arts can be applied to model railroading.
5. To make our approach more like "art", we have to do what artists do.
6. Our railroad can be thought of as "artistic".
7. A new approach may require new techniques or new applications of old techniques.
8. How can I think differently about model railroad design?

Artistic Representation for Prototype Modeling

Signature Scene: How it was Modeled

Early Sketches: Newark to Brills Junction + Staging

Signature Scene: Crossing the PRR/N.E. Corridor

New Track Plan: Newark to Brills Junction + Staging

How Jonathan Designed the Newark Branch

A Layout Design Special Interest Group (LDSIG) virtual clinic presented on July 14, 2024, by Jonathan Jones covering his concept for a layout and its track design.

Thoughts, Ideas, Where It's At & Where It's Going





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NOW**

STATION No. VI

**2025
NMRA**

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CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

2025 NMRA National Convention

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

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.



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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Badger Airbrush
Wallace Locomotive Works
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WiFi Model Railroad, LLC
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Apr 2025

[Partnership Program Member List](#)



Region & Division News by Jim Zinser, MMR®

Division Business Car

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 Cinthia 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 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.

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