



Volume 8, Number 11

November 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.

Having trouble seeing this email? [View as Webpage](#)

A Basic Briefing of Helium Tank
Car Operations
and
Building a Helium Tank Car From a Kit



Bruce McKeown
Master Santa Fe Modeler #6

1

Helium Tank Cars

Bruce McKeown, Master Santa Fe Modeler #6, tells us all about Helium Freight Cars, both prototype & model. We left ALL the Q&A in this video, even though it went way off track toward the end, including a brief discussion of the Hindenburg, balloon stores, and electric companies.

NOTE: This clinic was presented at the October 19th (2004) Division 8, Mid Central Region meeting and, as is sometimes the case at a live meeting, there were a few minor glitches early on in the recording of this very good presentation.

3 Industries You Can Model



3 Industries You Can Model

Amazing drone footage of three different industries you can have on your model railroad.

George Sellios - Franklin & South Manchester

October '24 Open House
Franklin & South Manchester

George Sellios - Franklin & South Manchester

A crisp Fall New England Saturday morning and there is no better place to be than at George Sellios' Franklin & South Manchester (HO Scale) layout

on Saturday, October 19, 2024, in Peabody, MA.

No new additions or modifications this month, but creator George Sellios has assured us that there will be something new to see at the next Open House on Black Friday.

British Region Convention & Exhibition 2024



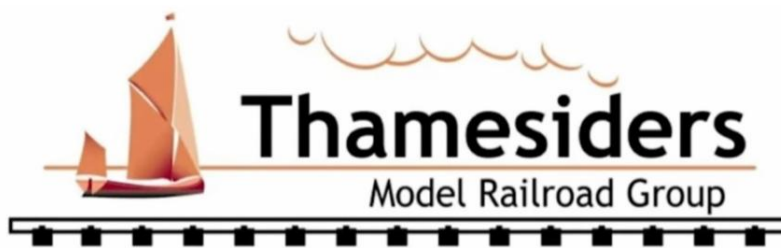
THE BERKSHIRE SPECIAL

For those of us over here in the UK that love modelling North American railroads, this is the show of the year. Full of great layouts and specialist dealers, this is the place to be. It was Steve's first time, and he got to meet loads of great people, catch up with old friends and make some new ones.



"Dawn Quest has very kindly uploaded and shared her speech from the NMRA British Region's 79th Annual Convention, 'The Berkshire Special' that was held in Cookham, England. For those who couldn't attend, here is a chance to find out how Dawn got started in model railways, and for those who were there, a chance to hear the speech again." *Peter Borchers, NMRA British Region President*

Dawn Quest's Speech at British Region's "The Berkshire Special" 2024 Convention

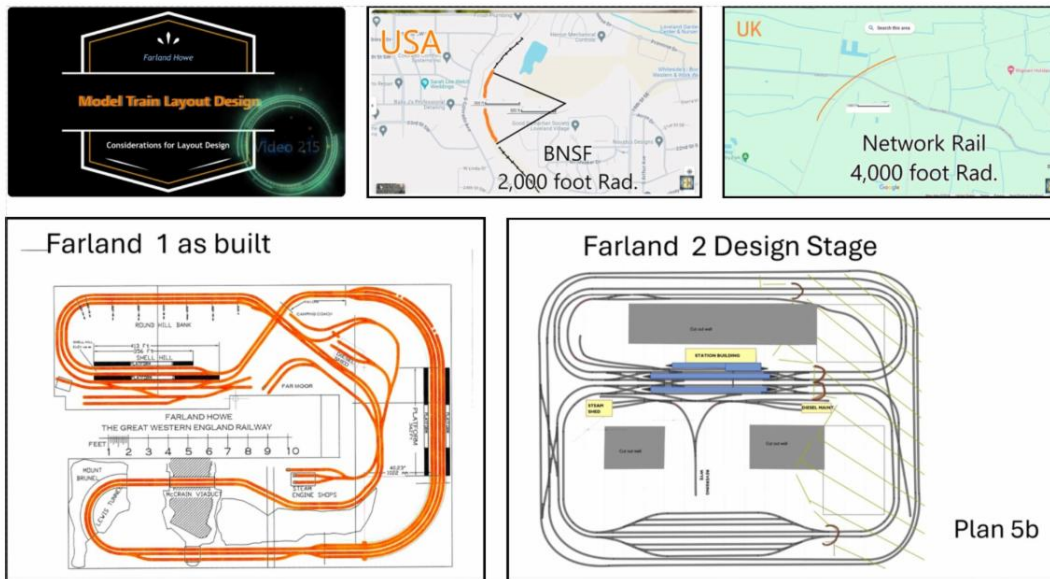


WHO WE ARE:

We are an active group of North American railroading enthusiasts based in the east of England modelling both HO and N scales in a variety of eras. The majority of the group are also members of the NMRA and have a wide range of experience tailored to the needs of any individual whether they are a master modeler or only just getting into the hobby.

This [intro video](#) was created originally for the use of the NMRA BR convention, *The Berkshire Special*, but since it is now over we have decided to bring it over to our channel.

Train Layout Considerations



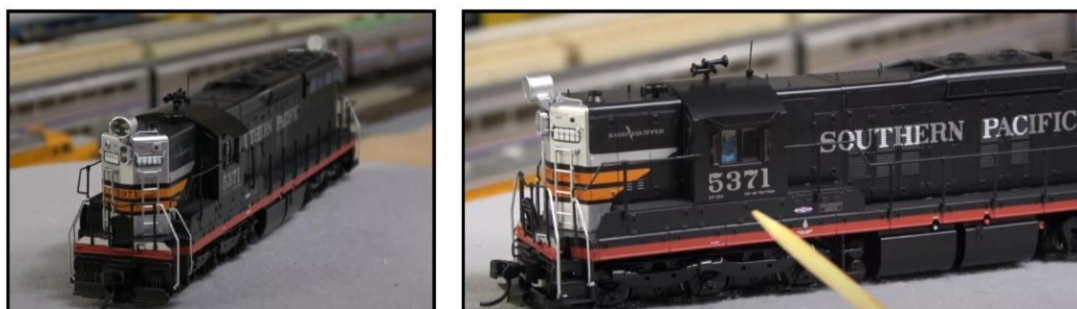
[Train Layout Considerations](#)

If you are considering building a model train layout, watch this video. In it will be discussed curves, grades and many other bits of vital layout knowledge and experience.

Step by step building a model train layout.

In North America, equipment for unlimited interchange between railway companies is built to accommodate for a 288-foot (87.8 m) radius, but normally a 410-foot (125.0 m) radius is used as a minimum, as some freight carriages (freight cars) are handled by special agreement between railways that cannot take the sharper curvature. For the handling of long freight trains, a minimum 574-foot (175.0 m) radius is preferred.

Walthers Proto HO EMD SD9 w/SP Lights






[Review: Walthers Proto EMD SD9 w/SP Lights](#)


Walthers has recently released the SD9 in SP and other schemes. Check out the review!

An Adventure in Laser Cutting




Building Apoahqui Station: An Adventure in Laser Cutting
James Whatley

The Completed Model...




Assembly

- The laser cut sub-walls (1/32" basswood sheet) were removed from their trays and labeled.
- Separate pieces of Northeastern 1/32" scribed and plan basswood sheet and a strip of 2 x 4 were individually cut and fitted for the interior windowcutting, chair rail, and "drywall" panels, forming a laminated sandwich.




DraftSight Screen

- Like all CAD programs, DraftSight includes standard features for manipulating drawings, such as the zoom command illustrated here.




The Completed Model...



CAD Files for Laser Cutting

- The individual window sash and trim components were drawn separately for laser cutting.
- The three-dimensional aspect of the window sashes and trim is created by 2D plane and layer stacking.
- As many similar pieces as possible are grouped together on one sheet.
- By working in full-size dimensions, CAD files for laser cutting can be used on any machine with the 1:1, 1:1 scale.
- The machine takes whatever it receives and cuts the pieces to exactly that size.
- Laser cutting machine software can accept various drawing formats, such as .dxf, .dwg.




[An Adventure in Laser Cutting](#)


This clinic by James Whatley, and the one listed below by Joseph Giunto, are just two of the many monthly NMRAX clinics that are available on our NMRA-X YouTube channel located [here](#).

NMRAX Clinic - 'The One Town Approach'

- Marion Sub Switching Layout



- One Town Approach
- Modeling a Specific Location
- Rail-served
- Trains Passing Through
- OR BOTH
- Not Limited to Space
- Freelanced, Prototype, Proto-Freelanced
- SKIES THE LIMIT



- THE GOAL (c)







THE GOAL(S)

RAILFANNING

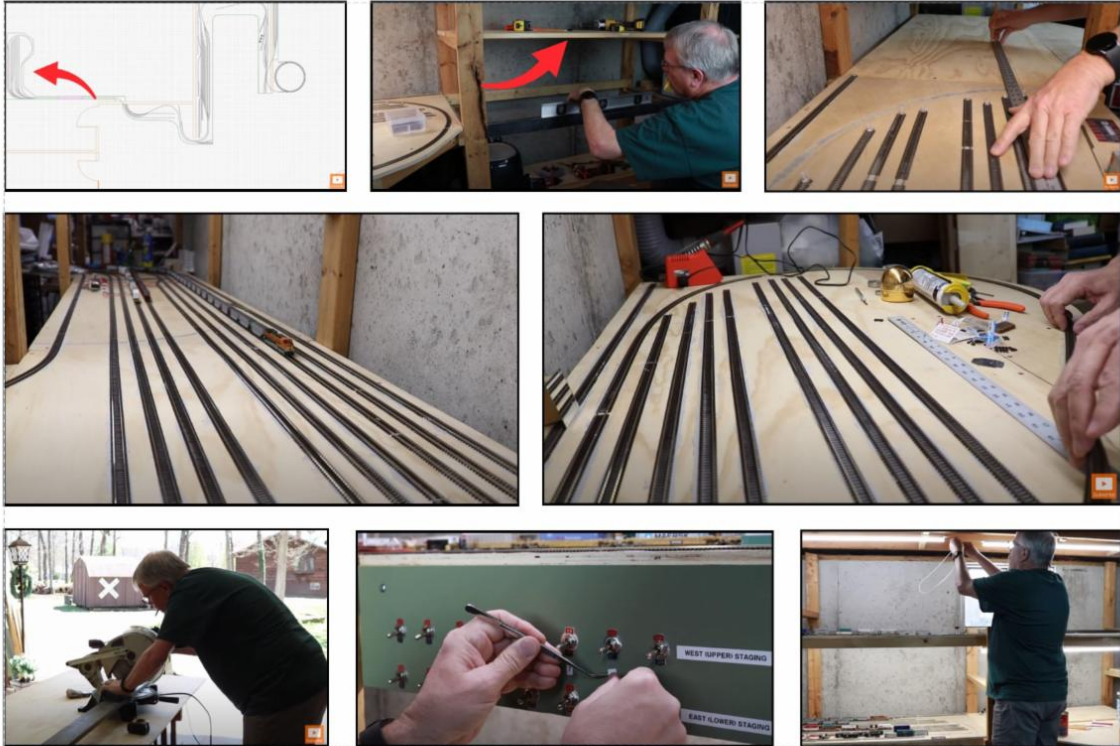
- The Enjoyment of Watching Trains Passing Through the Town
- The Trains May Not be the Main Attraction

OPERATIONS

- The Enjoyment of Switching Industries
- Operating Your Layout Like the Prototype Where the Trains are the Main Attraction

[NMRAx Clinic - 'The One Town Approach'](#)

Functional Model Railroad Staging Yard



[Functional Model Railroad Staging Yard](#)

This video discusses functional model railroad staging yard design as Ron rehabs and upgrades his staging yard. There are several elements that make a staging yards function well and easy to use. He is upgrading his old staging yards and explaining these elements along the way.

Railroad Turnouts - How Fast Can I Go?

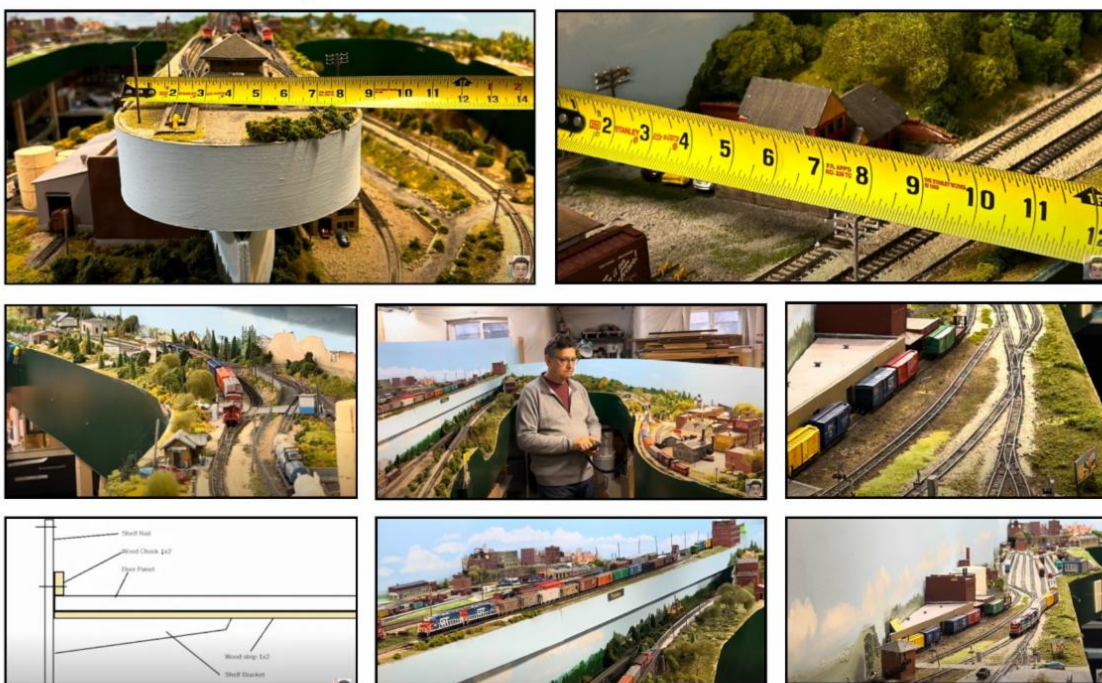




Railroad Turnouts - How Fast Can I Go?

This is a brief study of railroad turnouts, AKA switches, specifically the different sizes of them. Why do railroads use different sized turnouts in different places? Intermixed in the story is a busy railfanning day in Lakeland, Florida... and lunch at a popular BBQ Joint in Plant City.

Shelf Layouts - Maximize Your Space



Shelf Layouts - Maximize Your Space

In this episode from *5 Minute Modeler*, we're looking at the positive side of shelf layouts.

How Model Trains Are Made Micro-Trains Factory Tour



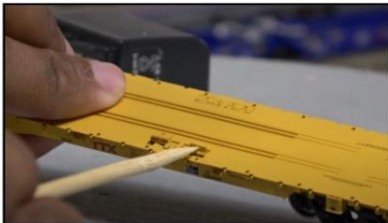


Micro-Trains Factory Tour

Have you ever wondered how model trains are made? Find out the answer in this tour of the Micro-Trains factory in Talent, Oregon. Micro-Trains has been making model trains for decades, and what's even cooler is that they do it right here in the USA.

In this program, President & CEO Eric Smith, with the help of some of the talented Micro-Trains staff members, reveals the entire behind the scenes process of how model trains are made, from start to finish.

An Intermodal/Military Convertible Flatcar?



An Intermodal/Military Convertible Flatcar?

Check out this detailed review of the 2024 Walther's 89' Greenbrier TTX 110-ton Flatcar, a versatile model perfect for intermodal or military transport. This highly detailed flatcar features impressive underbody detail, making it a standout in any collection. The tie-down details are meticulously designed, enhancing its authenticity for securing loads during transport. Equipped with metal wheels for smooth performance, this model offers durability and realism. Whether you're a model railroader or military enthusiast, the convertible design of this flatcar ensures compatibility with a range of freight loads. Watch the full review now!

Yard Ops on the Penn-Reading Industrial Division



Loc	Car	Track	Comments
1	PEA PEA	PEA	Tr. Hoage
2	TRK 1 Engine		
3	PEA 1001 L Flat	PE-3	TRK 2
4	PEA 1001 E Flat	PE-3	Tr. Hoage
5	WAT 1 L Flat		
6	PEA 1001 L Cable	PE-3	TRK 2
7	PEA 1001 E Cable	EM-1	TRK 1
8	SW 1001 E Auto	EM-1	TRK 1
9	PEA 1001 E Water	PE-3	TRK 2
10			
11	TRK 2 Engine		
12			
13	PEA 1001 L O.I.	EM-1	TRK 1
14	PEA 1001 E O.I.	EM-1	TRK 1
15	SW 1001 E Hoage		
16	PEA 1001 E Van		
17			
18	TRK 3 Engine		
19	CAN 1001 C PEA	PE-3	TRK 2
20	PEA 1001 E PEA	PE-3	TRK 2
21	MAT 1001 E Hoage	EM-1	TRK 1



[Yard Ops on the Penn-Reading Industrial Division](#)

This video looks into the Penn-Reading Industrial Division's Yard Job VS-5. If you love yard operations, this lengthy video is for you. It includes mainline operations with sound effects of the bust streets of Emma as well as freight car sounds!

Beechcroft Model Railway - Rundown & Overgrown



[Beechcroft Model Railway - Rundown & Overgrown](#)

In this video from *Grandad's Train Room*, work continues on the derelict farmyard using various scatters/grasses to create the effect of a really overgrown forgotten yard.

Used here is a mixture of fine and coarse turfs, 4mm and 7mm static grass, poly fiber and sea foam trees to cover the area.

Knowing when to stop is always hard and lots more could be added to this area.....

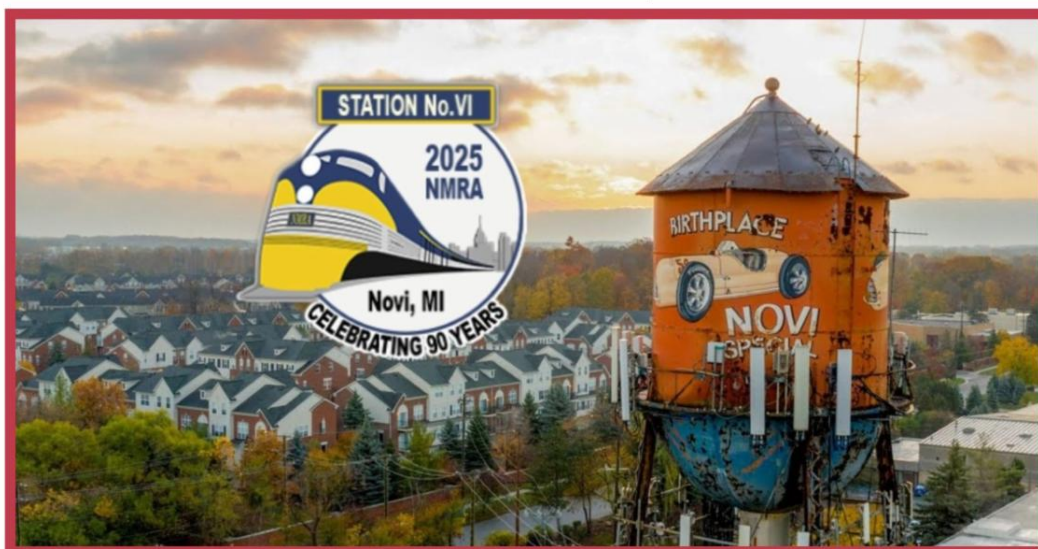
Coast to Coast, the Journey of a Carload of Oranges

<p>"Coast to Coast, The Journey of a Carload of Oranges from California to New York City aboard a Santa Fe Refrigerator Car in 1947"</p>  <p>Bruce McKeown</p>  <p>Mid Central Region National Model Railroad Association</p>	<p>Coast to Coast</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Before large scale refrigerator car and train ops, fresh fruits and vegetables were available to ordinary people only for brief periods, and usually only near where they were grown.</p>  <p>The Santa Fe Refrigerator Department (SFRD) was a pioneer in making it possible to ship fresh items to distant places and to reach wider markets. In 1947 the Santa Fe owned almost 15,000 refrigerator cars, and ran solid blocks of SFRD reefers in "GEX" - Green Fruit Express trains.</p>	<p>Coast to Coast</p> <p>The Santa Fe made money on reefer traffic, and went out of it's way to provide shippers with the best possible service. It was the norm to have delivery to Chicago from the west coast on the sixth or seventh day, and ninth or tenth day delivery to the east coast with hundreds of carloads every day, every week.</p> <p>We'll go Coast to Coast with a SFRD reefer</p> <p>SFRD 32570 was a No.23 class refrigerator car, manufactured in 1920 as a wood body class car, then rebuilt and modernized as a steel sheathed car in 1936 by the Santa Fe Vinton Topoka shops, finished with a "Scout" logo on the left side and a system map on the right side.</p> 
<p>Coast to Coast</p> <p>Day 6, continued: Passing through Emporia and Ottawa Junction, the train then arrived at the vast Argentine Yard in Kansas City where the train was again re-iced and inspected.</p>  <p>Refrigerator Cars at Argentine Yard 1988-1979, Jordan, et al. SHRM&M, 1984</p>	<p>Coast to Coast</p> <p>Eleven days to cross the continent, less than two weeks from tree to table - that was the kind of ice-refrigerated service the Santa Fe and its partners delivered day in and day out three-quarters of a century ago. It took a lot of manpower, and a lot of the fast running for which the Santa Fe was widely celebrated.</p> <p>It would be a notable achievement even today in the era of mechanical refrigeration, roller bearings, radios, and multi-thousand horsepower diesel locomotives. Seventy-five years ago in the days of steam locomotives, telegraphed train orders and ice refrigeration, it was truly remarkable.</p> 	

Coast to Coast, the Journey of a Carload of Oranges

Bruce McKeown takes us on a trip back in time, moving a carload of oranges from California to New York City aboard a Santa Fe Refrigerator Car in 1947.

WELCOME to the 90th NMRA National Model Railroad Convention, STATION No. VI



90th National Model Railroad Convention

Welcome to "A Convention Like No Other" – where tradition meets innovation in the heart of Detroit. We're redefining what a model railroad convention can be, making it more accessible, affordable, and exciting than ever before.

Take a look at 5 layouts each in parts 1 & 2 (below) of the over 50 layouts that will be open for viewing or operating at the national convention in Detroit in 2025.

[**NMRA 2025 National Convention Layout Preview Part 1**](#)

[**NMRA 2025 National Convention Layout Preview Part 2**](#)

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!

Bespoke Rail
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
Deluxe Materials
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

Ipswich Hobbies
ITLA Scale Models
K.I.S.S Method, Inc.
LaBelle Woodworking Co.
LARC Products
Logic Rail Technologies
MAC Rail
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 Architech
The Old Depot Gallery
Tichy Train Group
Touch of the Brush Model Weathering
Train Installations, LLC
Train Show, Inc.
Trainmasters TV/Model Railroad Hobbyist Store
TRAINZ.com
TSG Multimedia
UGEARS
USA Airbrush Supply/
Badger Airbrush
White Rose Hobbies, LLC
WiFi Model Railroad, LLC
Yelton Models

[**New Partners in RED***]

Sept 2024

Partnership Program

NMRA@HOME

Railway Transportation History

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



In *The Derail*, the newsletter of the 100% NMRA Member San Jacinto Model Railroad Club, Mark Couvillion and Brian Jandy created a digitally restored copy of an instructional package for elementary and middle school teachers written by the American Association of Railroads in 1944 to teach students about the history and importance of railroads and their impact on daily life.



The Codorus Valley Traction Company Layout Tour

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

The Codorus Valley Traction Company is a compact modular layout designed and built by Don Yingling. Don's layout was featured in the *Susquehanna Sidetracks*, the newsletter of the Mid-Eastern Region's Susquehanna Division.

The Mud Bay & Southern Layout Tour

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

The Mud Bay & Southern is an N scale layout created by Jim Younkins, MMR®. This 1970s layout features the logging industry of Washington State and was featured in the *Switchlist*, the official publication of the Pacific Northwestern Region.



To Tip or Not to Tip

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

Chris Carfaro, editor of the Northeastern Region's *NER Coupler* magazine, calls out some model railroad equipment manufacturers for not providing easily understandable instructions for their products. His stance is that you shouldn't need an engineering degree to understand a model railroad product manual.

Defect Detectors

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



David Bristow of the Rocky Mountain Regions explains how and what defect detectors are in the region's publication, *The Milepost*. If you model the contemporary railroading, David also included photos to help model them.

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.

Editor: [Paul Voelker, HLM](#)

Executive Editor: [Rick Coble](#)

The NMRA Turntable is an official monthly production of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Publishing Department (Riley Triggs Manager). Its purpose is to introduce NMRA members to a selection of instructional videos and online publications that they may find of interest. If you know of an NMRA member who is not receiving this mailing, please direct them to [here](#) to update their email address. If you no longer wish to receive these mailings, please don't mark them as SPAM. Instead, click the Safe Unsubscribe link at the bottom of this page. ©2021 National Model Railroad Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy TN 37384.

