



The Kingpin

Newsletter of the
Mid Central Region
National Model Railroad Association
January 2022



In this issue:

•Information for the Indy Junction 2022 Convention. This convention is our usual Regional combined with two other regions. Registration is online.

This issue is mailed to all MCR members.



The Virginia end of Auto Train about to receive vehicles going to Florida.

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The terms *Master Model Railroader*, *MMR*, and *Modeling with the Masters* are all trademarked by the NMRA. All uses of these terms in this newsletter are to be considered trademarked whether or not they are individually so indicated.

President's Report

The Mid Central Region's twelve Divisions have rebounded reasonably well over the past several months from the pandemic's low ebb.

Membership

Numbers of NMRA members in most Divisions have held steady, with the inevitable loss of some advanced-age members due to incapacitation and death. Re-established members have come back on board with the renewal of actual and/or virtual meetings, resulting in a numerical status quo or even a slight gain of members in most instances. Early-on lack of train shows has resulted in fewer new members joining, but that will change as shows rebound.

Meetings

It's an ill wind that blows no good....The pandemic has forced all Divisions to reconsider their meeting policies as some usual meeting sites were closed to groups, and in cases where members met in their homes, hosts were also not available for in-home gatherings. As months went by, many Divisions turned to Virtual meetings via Zoom with good result. It therefore became possible to attract programs/speakers given by members of other Divisions/other Regions as well. When group meeting sites became available, several Divisions have been successful in utilizing video technology to conduct hybrid virtual/in-person meetings. That has been a boon to those members who were too remote or unable to travel easily to the meeting site. One of our Divisions have embarked on a multi-month virtual make-and-take Modelling with the Masters (MWTM)TM event.

Shows

In many areas throughout the Mid-Central region, Division-sponsored modular layouts, train shows, and other model railroad events. have re-emerged. Pent-up demand has been good, at least among modelers, although 'civilian' folk numbers are down, as have been the number of vendors attending. Those who have, however, have reported very financially successful results. Several Divisions have also participated in re-emerged Christmas season shows with model train displays.

Several individual Region members are actively engaged in the organization and planning for the special IndyJunction tri-regional 2022 Convention together, with the Railroad Prototype Modelers Chicago-Land Group. Action has also begun with Division 2 on the Mid Central Region 2023 convention slated for Pittsburg area..

All told, the Mid-Central Region (MCR) is coming back healthy from the COVID-19 pandemic and all members are looking forward to a continuing and ever-upward rebound.

Dave Neff, MCR PRESIDENT

Request for Zoom Clinicians

Jerry Krueger, Division 4's Clinic Chair, is looking for clinicians interested in giving Zoom presentations during Division 4 meetings. Meetings are almost always held on the second Friday evening of each month, with the clinics usually starting about 8 pm.

Contact Jerry at: jakrueg@neo.rr.com

Editor's Notes

A special thank you to the Indy Junction 2022 for sending me the information in this issue early in December.

Sorry for the slight lean toward Division 04 this time around - I haven't been able to get out much recently.

I had hoped to have some pictures of the Indianapolis 2016 National in support of the upcoming Indy Junction convention. As luck would have it, it seems to be the one set of pictures I can't find. The Beech Grove Shops were a great tour. I was a little hesitant to go but then discovered that Beech Grove's buildings are from about 1904 when they were used by the Big Four- a lot of history in those walls even if Amtrak isn't a top priority in your life. Of course, if Amtrak is big for you, then, yeah, you'll definitely want to go.

A Visit to a Recording Studio

Division Four member Ramhog Shearer is a recording engineer. When he's not on the road to places like Nashville, you may find him in his recording studio in Cleveland. And when he's not working, you'll probably find him involved with one of his two layouts sharing the studio's space (there's plenty of room for everything).



Ramhog's office contains his N scale layout.



all photos: David M. Williams

One of several yard scenes. Ramhog is currently using sectional track instead of flextrack in order to quickly (and thoroughly) try out different track configurations.



The HO layout doesn't neglect its residents as this peninsula demonstrates.



Easy-to-see markings such as the numbered turnout posts, make routing clear to visiting engineers.





Indy Junction



RPM
CONFERENCE



www.IndyJunction2022.org

Indy Junction 2022, hosted by three NMRA regions and the RPM Conference, will run Wednesday through Sunday, May 18-22, 2022, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Indy Junction 2022 replaces the traditional Mid Central Region convention for 2022.

Over the course of four full days, the resources of three NMRA Regions (Midwest, North Central, and Mid Central) and the RPM Conference will be on full display. Included in this convention is a three-day train show, in the same facility, that will wrap-up on Sunday, May 22.

During this convention, in addition to the three-day Train Show, you will have the opportunity to experience clinics, layout tours, operating sessions, prototype tours, non-rail activities, a Rail Yard Sale, and contests. More on each of these later.

This won't be your usual Region Convention. Instead, you will see and experience the best of what you'd expect when attending an NMRA Region Convention (times three), an NMRA National Convention, a National Narrow Gauge Convention, and an RPM (Railroad Prototype Modeler) Conference Meet – all in one place during a single four-day convention. Keep in mind that neither the NMRA National Convention nor the National Narrow Gauge Convention group are directly involved in this convention in any way. We're just applying the best features of each of these events into our own Indy Junction 2022 convention.

Expect the Best of
NMRA Region Convention
NMRA National Convention
National Narrow Gauge Convention
RPM Conference Meet

Four Full Days
Three NMRA Regions
And the RPM Conference
Three-Day Train Show
One Convention
May 18-22, 2022



Clinics
Layout Tours
Operating Sessions
Prototype Tours
Non-Rail Activities
Friends of the Freight Car
Dinner
Rail Yard Sale
Contest

One Convention

Keep in mind as you read further – all this, in one convention, and except for tours and operating sessions, all in one location. No matter how you look at it, this is a lot for one convention, especially when you consider that it's happening in a single 4-day event.

Indy Junction 2022 Convention Hotel & Surrounding Area



The convention hotel, where almost all convention activities except tours and operating sessions will be, is the Indianapolis Marriott East, located on the east side of Indianapolis. The address is 7202 East 21st Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219. The cost for a room is \$132 per night (plus local tax). There are restaurants, and bars in the facility, and we'll have a sandwich/snack bar setup near the clinic room so if you want to, you can stay inside the entire time you're at the convention. There are also several fast & casual dining options in the immediate area if you'd prefer. The hotel is near the intersection of I-70 & I-

465 so it's pretty easy to find your way there. No downtown traffic and we're on the other side of Indianapolis, well away from any pre-race activities or traffic for the Indy 500 that's happening the next week. Regardless of what the hotel website states, there is no charge for Indy Junction 2022 convention attendees who park there overnight. And there's no parking garage to navigate, either. You can stay in the same facility as the convention and, unless you're going on a tour, you really don't have to drive or walk outside once you arrive. To register for your hotel room during the convention, go to the convention website (<http://www.IndyJunction2022.org>) and follow the "Hotel Reservations" link on the left navigation bar.



If you DO decide to go outside, and we recommend that you do, there are many activities and venues ready and willing to entertain you in Indianapolis and the surrounding area. The best way to see what's available is to go to the Visit Indy website (<http://www.VisitIndy.com>) where you'll find a list of trip ideas, museums & attractions, shopping areas, arts & culture, sports & recreation, and more. You'll also find a list of upcoming events and guides to help you make the most of your visit to Indy Junction 2022 and the Indianapolis area, and you'll be able to sign up for daily deals. Plan to come early or stay late. Either way, be sure to enjoy what Indianapolis has to offer you while you're in the area.

Clinics



Tony Koester



Bob Weinheimer, MMR®



Bob Frankrone

We have some great clinicians onboard. Here are three Indy Junction 2022 clinicians you probably already know about. Tony Koester, currently with Kalmbach. Tony will present a clinic or two specifically for the RPM Conference. Former MCR President Bob Weinheimer, MMR®, and member of the MCR Coal Division, will present several operations-oriented clinics. Bob Frankrone, well-known author of the "Love Those Loads" column in the NMRA Magazine and member of MCR Division 8 in Louisville, will present clinics on modeling open loads, scenery, and a "past and present" visit to Promontory Point, Utah. Several other members of each of the three regions (Midwest, North Central, and Mid Central) have agreed to present clinics during Indy Junction 2022. There are also clinicians from outside the three-

region area. Most of those clinics have never been seen before, so expect some new and exciting material. All the clinics are at the Indianapolis Marriott East.

The first clinic of Indy Junction 2022 kicks off at 9:00 AM, Wednesday, May 18, 2022. We will have multiple clinics running at the same time so your biggest challenge at this convention may be deciding which ones to attend. To make it easier for you, most of the clinics will be run multiple times during the four days. There will be both NMRA clinics by NMRA members and RPM Conference clinics by RPM Conference members. All convention attendees are welcome to attend all clinics (NMRA or RPM). The bottom line? You will have the opportunity to attend a minimum of 70 unique clinics, and they will all be presented twice during the convention. For an evolving list of clinics and clinicians, visit the convention website (<http://www.IndyJunction2022.org>) and follow the “Clinics” link on the left navigation bar.

Modeling With The Masters®

Modeling With The Masters® or MWTM® is an NMRA program. It allows a small group of attendees to work with a group of Master Model Railroaders (MMR®s) to create a project that they can take home with them. The MMR®s are there to guide and coach the participants in a unique three-to-four-hour hands-on experience. This year, during Indy Junction 2022, Sam Swanson, MMR®, from MCR Division 7 in Cincinnati, will lead the program, with assistance from others. This clinic will feature techniques designed to increase your knowledge and skills with acrylic painting and weathering. The cost to attend this unique experience is just \$20 per person. The fee includes the use of all needed painting supplies (paint, brushes, etc) for the clinic. It is scheduled for Friday evening. As an attendee, you will need to bring a completed model (rolling stock, locomotive, structure) so that you can take your work home with you at the end of the clinic. Find out more on the Indy Junction website (<http://www.IndyJunction2022.org>) and sign up for the event through the registration link on the left navigation bar.

Layout Tours



You'll have several opportunities to visit a variety of layouts during self-guided layout tours, from N Scale to G Scale, from tinplate to fine scale, from Steam era to Modern. There's a wide variety of layouts represented including industrial switching, main line modern freight, and logging railroads. All of the layouts we expect to have on the tour are within an hour's drive of the convention hotel. Layout tours are being scheduled for the afternoon, so you'll miss morning rush hour and you'll be off the road before dark. Don't worry about missing clinics that are held during layout tours & operating sessions. They'll be repeated at other times during the convention. A schedule of layout hours of operation will be made available when you check-in with registration at the convention site in Indianapolis. There is no cost to attend any of the layout tours. Be sure to check out the list of confirmed layouts participating in

this event by following the “Layout Tours” link on the left navigation bar of the Indy Junction 2022 website (<http://www.IndyJunction2022.org>).

Operating Sessions



If you'd like to do more than just watch the trains, Indy Junction 2022 will have a full menu of home layouts open for operating sessions. Sign-up to show your interest to participate in operating sessions when you register to attend the convention. Doing so will add your name to an email list. If you're registered, you'll be notified when sign-ups for specific operating sessions are made available. For now, you can browse a list of layouts in the Central Indiana Division (Indianapolis-area). Not all the layouts in CID will participate in either layout tours or operating sessions, but many will. Operating sessions will be scheduled during the day and, because of work schedules of layout owners and crews, during evening hours. All of the layouts we expect to see open for operating sessions are within an hour's drive of the convention hotel.

Rail & Industrial Prototype Tours

We have two confirmed rail and industrial prototype tours lined up for Indy Junction 2022. Sign-up for tours during the registration process for the convention.



1. Whitewater Valley Railroad (WWVR) – All Day Friday bus tour at \$65 per person - Convention attendees who take this excursion will board a motor coach bus at the hotel at 8:30 AM and will arrive at Connersville at 10:00 AM. The train ride begins in Connersville at 10:00 AM and runs to Metamora, arriving at 11:20 for a 2-hour layover where you can visit this restored canal town. There is a working grist mill, restored canal and lock, and a replica of a horse-drawn canal boat. There are gift shops and restaurants available for lunch at this location. The train departs for a return to Connersville at 1:30 PM, arriving at around 3:00 PM. We are allowing some time at the end of this tour to look around the WWVR

to see their rolling stock and equipment. The bus will board for return to the hotel at 4:00 PM to be back at the hotel by 5:30 PM. This tour is limited to 40 participants.



2. Amtrak Beech Grove Shops – Saturday afternoon self-driving tour with a \$20 per person admission fee. The Amtrak staff will give us a tour of their facility where they are refurbishing existing Amtrak equipment. The Beech Grove facility is capable of not just refurbishing equipment but totally rebuilding them as well. They work on all types of Amtrak rolling stock including HI level Superliner cars and Amfleet cars. Locomotives can receive complete services as well. The facility was originally constructed between 1904 and 1908 by the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis Railway known by locals as the “Big Four.” It was later acquired by the New York Central Railroad, then the Penn Central, and eventually purchased by Amtrak in 1975. The Beech Grove Amtrak yard is 108 acres in size and has more than 15 buildings that are in use today, including a 21-track transfer table. This tour is limited to 20 participants.



3. Nickel Plate Express – Wednesday or Thursday self-driving visit to the 12.5 mile excursion train ride on the former Nickel Plate Road between Noblesville and Atlanta, Indiana. This tour is currently limited to 40 participants. Although the tour is confirmed, details (date, time, and cost) are still being worked on between the convention committee and the Nickel Plate Express organization.



4. Pete Pedigo's New Unionville and Western Railroad – Not exactly a “prototype tour,” but this will be a bus tour – 1.5 hours each way. The details are being worked on to get a group to this Bloomington, Indiana, 1/8 scale outdoor layout for a tour which will include lunch. Stay tuned for more information.

Railroad Prototype Modeler (RPM) Activities

RPM CONFERENCE



Every effort is being made to make this the event Railroad Prototype Modeler (RPM) attendees have enjoyed for so many years, and then some. The RPM Conference was formerly known as “RPM Chicagoland.” We will have a large room for RPM Conference activities which will include two modular layouts and display tables for models just like Chicagoland RPM meets.

Clinics will be offered by many of the regulars who have presented at RPM events over the past several years. As either an NMRA attendee or an RPM Conference attendee, you'll be able to attend both NMRA and RPM-specific clinics. To view Indy Junction 2022 clinics listed on the RPM Conference website, follow the “Clinics” link on the left navigation bar of the Indy Junction 2022 website (<http://www.IndyJunction2022.org>).

Non-Rail Activities



Several non-rail activities are being planned for the convention. Most of the activities won't cost you a dime! Non-rail activities have a dedicated clinic room so any activities in that room will not be disrupted if the group decides to "go long" on some activity because it's taking a little longer or y'all are just having so much fun with it. Several activities are being planned in conjunction with the VisitIndy.com group.

Friends of the Freight Car Dinner

The traditional Mid Central Region convention banquet has been replaced by the non-traditional RPM Conference Friday evening get-together called the "Friends of the Freight Car Dinner." It is open to all convention attendees (NMRA, RPM Conference, and family). You have three menu options (Breaded Pork Cutlet, Angus Pot Roast Jardiniere, and Tilapia) for \$55.00 per person. This event will be held at the convention hotel. Join us for lively conversation and discussion about model railroading, prototype railroading, and just having an enjoyable meal and a good time together with friends, new and old.

Rail Yard Sale



The Rail Yard Sale is an opportunity for all convention registrants to sell your excess good quality model railroad items. . . and to buy more! There is no pre-registration for this activity. Article registration in the Rail Yard Sale room begins 8:00 AM, Wednesday and buying begins 1:00 PM, Thursday. The Rail Yard Sale closes at 5:00 PM Friday. Fixed pricing will be in \$5 increments. All sales are cash only. Sellers will pick up any un-sold items and receive their proceeds (less a 10% sales fee rounded to nearest dollar) between 8:00 AM and 12:00 noon, Saturday morning.

Contest

The Indy Junction 2022 contest is a common theme in many Regions. This year, the contest is open to any attending NMRA member and for the Arts & Crafts portion, any family member as well. There is no cost to enter the contest. Entry forms that include detailed rules are located on the “Contests” link in the left navigation bar of the Indy Junction 2022 convention website (<http://www.IndyJunction2022.org>). The contest room is open every day for viewing by convention attendees with judging on Saturday morning and afternoon. The award ceremony is not being held in conjunction with the “Friends of the Freight Car” dinner on Friday. Instead, it will be a stand-alone event Saturday evening.

Three-Day Train Show

As an Indy Junction 2022 convention attendee, the cost to attend the three-day train show is zero. That includes family members who are registered at the convention. You also have exclusive access to the Train Show for four hours Friday (10:00 AM to 2:00 PM), before it’s opened to the public Friday evening. The event is being held at the convention hotel so if you’re staying on-site, there’s no driving involved to get there.

Unlike other convention train shows, no exhibitor will be there to only display products - all exhibitors will be selling their products. We expect that most of the exhibitors will be small and unique model railroad hobby manufacturers. We’ll have door prizes, modular layouts, and food concessions during the show. For anyone not registered to attend the Indy Junction 2022 convention, there will be an \$8 charge per individual to attend the show. That \$8 charge is good for any and all three days of the train show.

T-TRAK Modules & Layout

Speaking of modular layouts, we have a room set aside just for T-TRAK modules. Bruce DeMaeyer, from Division 8 of the Mid Central Region, is coordinating that activity. Either work through your local T-TRAK coordinator or contact Bruce directly to participate in the T-TRAK layout. Additional information is available through the “T-TRAK” link in the left navigation bar on the Indy Junction 2022 website (<http://www.IndyJunction2022.org>).

Convention Fares

We’ve worked hard to keep the cost low for everyone attending the convention. The full fare is \$95 per person. If you wait until the last minute, it’s going to cost you a little bit more - \$110 per person. With a full fare registration, you can bring your family and pay one rate for the family - \$25. If you can only attend on Saturday, it will cost you \$40 per person and there is NO Saturday rate for family. There are

additional costs associated with Rail & Industrial Prototype Tours, Modeling With The Masters®, and the Friends of the Freight Car dinner. No matter which fare you pay for, you will have access to all clinics, all layout tours, all operating sessions, and the three-day train show. There is no additional charge for any of those.

\$110 Full Fare individual registration. Includes access to all activities except MWTM®, Rail & Industrial Tours, and Friends of the Freight Car dinner.

\$25 Family Fare registration. Includes access to all activities except MWTM®, Rail & Industrial Tours, and Friends of the Freight Car dinner.

\$40 Saturday only registration. Includes access to all activities except MWTM®, Rail & Industrial Tours, and Friends of the Freight Car dinner.

A New Conference Model for a New Era

Indy Junction 2022

- Less Cost (4 days - \$638)
- Fewer Days Away (4 days)
- NMRA *and* RPM Clinics
- Unlimited Self-Driving Layout Tours Every Day
- All Exhibitors SELLING at the Train Show

“The Old Model”

- Higher Cost (7 days - \$1,850)
- More Days Away (7 days)
- NMRA clinics only
- One Self-Driving Layout Tour Included; All Others are Extra-Fare
- Many Exhibitors Only Displaying at the Train Show

* The prices for the hotel room do not include tax.

* Travel costs are beyond the scope of the convention committee to analyze because everyone’s situation will be unique.

Based on the needs of our times, we’ve developed a new model for large model railroad conventions, and dare we say, for the National Convention. Most of today’s model railroaders find it hard to dedicate an entire week and a mortgage payment or two to attending a single annual convention. It’s challenging for most of us to be able to afford the time or the money to attend a traditional convention.

When you do the math alone, you’ll see this is a bargain. . . Especially when you figure the “per day” cost is \$160 versus almost \$265 – more than \$100 difference from a convention later in the year. And that’s “before tax” on the room which will be less at Indy Junction 2022. And don’t forget that parking fee, which doesn’t exist for us at the Indy Junction 2022 convention hotel. None of this, of course, figures the cost of dining “downtown” versus dining in a more suburban environment during the Indy Junction 2022 convention.

What will you do with the time and money you save by coming to the four-day Indy Junction 2022 convention instead of a 7-day convention? Maybe spend some of it at the train show and then use the extra days to work on what you buy at the train show.

Make the right choice by coming to Indy Junction 2022 next spring where you’ll be met by a lot of smiling faces, just waiting to show you some exciting and informational times and places in Indianapolis!

For More Information

Looking for more information about Indy Junction 2022? Ready to register? Check out these links.

<http://www.IndyJunction2022.org>

Convention website

Registration Link

Hotel Room Registration Link

Additional Information

<http://www.facebook.com/indyjunction2022>

Convention Facebook page

Updates & additional information

<http://tinyurl.com/IndyJunction2022YouTube>

Indy Junction 2022 Promo Video

Visit Indy Videos

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