



# *The Kingpin*

Newsletter of the  
**Mid Central Region**  
National Model Railroad Association

June 2025



2025 MCR Convention Photo Best of Show Keith Devault



## 2025 NMRA National Convention

Station No. VI - hosted by the North Central Region of the NMRA



July 14-19, 2025

Open to ALL model railroaders! You do not have to be an NMRA member to attend!  
**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

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**MCR Convention Awards**



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## **MCR PRESIDENT'S REPORT SPRING,2025**

The Mid Central Region of the NMRA encompasses twelve divisions which are functioning very well. Membership is relatively stable over the Covid era downturn, with overall membership approaching 1300. Some Divisions have seen a slight membership decline, while others, especially those with vibrant recruitment and retention activities have experienced a slight increase. In general, monthly attendance at local meetings and meets number 35 to 40 percent of total Division membership. Activities include modeling clinics, sometimes hosted by zoom from clinicians outside the Division or even the Region. Contests and 'bring and brag' are popular, as is sharing and discussion of specific modeling opps and problems, which keeps the attending members engaged in conversation. Many members within each Division are actively engaged in pursuit of the Achievement program. Most Divisions have conducted meets for the public during the past holiday season with modular layouts in several scales, including the newer T-trak . Attendance and appreciation by the public has been good as the hobby has been promoted, open resulting in signing up new members; however retention has been spotty beyond the six month trial membership. Revenues generated during many of these events have helped Divisions remain financially stable. Concerns throughout all Divisions in the region involve gaining younger members as well as seniors, member retention, and succession planning of Division officers and committee chairs.

Dave Neff

## **EDITOR'S REPORT**

Hello All, I hope summer is going well and you're able to find time for modeling during the busy summer month's. The MCR Convention report submitted by Frank Trocchia indicated another successful convention enjoyed by all in attendance. Please take the time to review Frank's submission that begins on page 5. Dave Williams contributed all the photo's of the awards for individual categories that were given at the regional convention.

I find the summer season typically challenging to find time for modeling. However, here in the area I live in North Central PA it's been quite wet over the last month and half. As far as my modeling goes I've taken advantage of the wet weather and got after some projects that were on the "to do list". There's an old saying that states "You have to make hay when the sun shines". As model railroader's maybe the saying would be "Get to modeling when the rain pours".

The National Convention and Train Show will be held next month. Good luck to all who are planning on attending. If you're on the fence there's still time to register. I'm sure it'll be worth attending.

Happy modeling!

Jim Heary



## 2025 MCR CONVENTION

Submitted by Donald Wilke Photo's by Donald Wilke



Jerry Doyle presents David Neff with a Certificate of Appreciation



Scott Brown presents Bob Weinheimer with a \$100.00 Scale Trains Gift Certificate Door Prize



# A Weekend of Inspiration and Fellowship

Submitted by Frank Trocchia

Last month, model railroaders from across the Mid-Central Region gathered in Dublin, Ohio, for the NMRA MCR 2025 Buckeye Express Convention, and what an unforgettable weekend it was. From the moment the doors opened on Thursday afternoon at the Embassy Suites Hotel, you could feel the electric buzz of excitement in the air.



Whether you're a seasoned prototype modeler, a newcomer eager to learn the ropes, or simply someone who loves trains, this year's convention offered something for everyone. As we look forward to the Whistle-Stop Dayton 2026 convention, allow me to share some of the highlights and memorable experiences that made Buckeye Express such a success – and why you'll want to be in Dayton next June.

The convention kicked off with a warm welcome from our Division 6 hosts, who did an outstanding job coordinating dozens of clinics, layout tours, and other events. Registration lines moved swiftly, thanks to a team of volunteers in bold red shirts. Every attendee received a bag loaded with details about the convention and local tourist information, and a name badge on a lanyard. Once checked in at registration, many went to the company store to either set up or to see what was available, while others simply mingled and greeted friends that haven't been seen in a while.



## Clinics: Learning from the Best

One of the cornerstones of any NMRA convention is the clinic program, and the Buckeye Express did not disappoint. Over 30 clinics ran throughout the weekend, covering topics from basic scenery techniques to advanced DCC programming. Here are a few examples:

- **“Operations 101”** by Mike Wolf, MMR: At Mike’s clinic, attendees were introduced to the world of operations in model railroading. He covered the essential lingo and fundamentals before moving into the specifics of developing an operating scheme, handling car forwarding, scheduling trains, and dispatching and controlling movements. Participants also learned how to assemble and train an effective ops crew. Whether you were adapting your layout for operations or preparing for your first operating session, this clinic provided everything you needed to get started.
- **“Modeling Oil Fields and Railroads in Southeast Ohio”** by Greg Short: At Greg’s clinic, attendees explored the history of oil and gas production and examined the recent boom in Southeast Ohio. He detailed how railroads have supported this vital industry over the years, outlining the specific operations in the region’s oil and gas fields and the specialized equipment railroads deployed to serve these customers.

- **“Using Neat Tools to Build Your Models”** by Randy Allio, MMR: During Randy’s session, attendees explored an array of model-building implements he’s come to rely on. He guided participants through tools suited for crafting scenery, detailing rolling stock, and erecting scale structures. A standout demonstration featured his Cricut cutter, used to fashion precise parts from styrene, sheet-wood, cardstock, and vinyl. To close the clinic, everyone had the chance to handle several of these tools hands-on.



## Home Layout Tours: A Glimpse into Central Ohio Railroading

One of the true joys of an NMRA convention is the opportunity to visit private layouts, and this year The Buckeye Express delivered a diverse selection. Here are just a few:

- **“C&O Columbus”** by Dick Argo: This HO layout is modeled after the C&O Railroad in Columbus, which he spent time working on. One of the features was the Ohio State Penitentiary, which you don’t see every day on a layout.





- **“Norfolk & Western Scioto Valley Division”** by Matt Goodman: Matt’s layout focuses on his hometown of Circleville, Ohio in 1938. The layout is still under construction with many interesting features including a fourteen-foot-long slide-out staging yard.



- **“Olive Grove TT. & Lumber Co.”** by Howdy Lamprecht, MMR: This is a fictional layout featuring the logging town of Olive Grove in Montana. The town can only be reached by switchback, with Shays running loads on the hill.



## Operating Sessions: Bringing a Layout to Life

An operating session is a chance to join friends at a local model railroad layout and run the trains. Your host will first give you a guided tour of the layout, pointing out all the key locations and procedures—then assign you your very first train to operate. Many layouts even feature working signals and dispatchers, so you'll experience prototypical operations firsthand. It's an incredibly fun way to bring a layout to life!

Below are a couple of photos from Dan Adair's **"PRR Marietta Division / Cleveland & Marietta (C&M)."**





## Local Attractions: If You Need a Break from Trains

Who am I kidding? We don't really need a break from trains, but when the family comes along to the convention, exploring the local sights is a great way to discover what the area has to offer—and to spend some quality time together.

Some of the attractions that were featured at the Buckeye Express were the Columbus Zoo, Center of Science and Industry (COSI), the Jack Nicklaus Museum, and the Nation Veterans Memorial and Museum.

## T-Trak

This year at the Buckeye Express, the sole layout on display was a T-Trak N-scale modular setup. Participants brought their own modules—most two-foot doubles—that snapped together to form an expansive layout. Under Bruce DeMaeyer's coordination, the assembly was swift, and once powered up, the layout ran flawlessly.





Finally, the Raffle takes place in the Company Store room. After you've purchased your raffle tickets, drop them into the container in front of the prize you'd like to win. If your number is drawn, you get to walk away with that prize.



## Model Contest and Photo Competition

No NMRA convention is complete without the contest room. Many great examples of locomotives, rolling stock, and dioramas were on display. These were judged by a panel of volunteer AP evaluators.

The photo competition ran in parallel, with categories for color and monochrome shots, roster shots, and prototype scenery.

Prizes for the winners were given out at the Awards Banquet.

## Awards Banquet

Saturday's Awards Banquet capped off the weekend on a high note. Registrants gathered for a plated dinner, choosing between top sirloin steak, grilled salmon, or eggplant parmesan. Included were honey glazed carrots, herb-roasted red potatoes, and chocolate cake for dessert. During dinner a wonderful slideshow was displayed showing fun photographs from all the events that happened at the convention.

The keynote speaker that evening was Stu Nicholson of the Rail Passengers Association. Stu spoke in depth about why developing passenger rail service is so important for Ohio's residents and visitors—and why it holds such appeal for model railroaders.

Following the keynote address, Susan Werner *MMR* presented the contest plaques and encouraged more entrants to participate next year—so get started now to ensure you have something ready to submit!

## See You in Dayton!

As the Buckeye Express convention ended, there was a palpable sense of accomplishment – and a tinge of reluctance to leave. Whether you came for the clinics, the layouts, the contests, or simply to reconnect with longtime friends, you left invigorated with new ideas and a fresh motivation for your next modeling project. The success of the Buckeye Express is a testament to the dedication of the Division 6 volunteers and vibrant passion of the MidCentral Region members.

Now it is time to turn our attention to Whistle-Stop Dayton 2026, scheduled for June 4-7 at the Marriott at University of Dayton. If you've ever wondered about participating in operating sessions, master a new modeling technique, or make lifelong friends who share your love of railroads, don't miss this opportunity. Registration opens this fall, with early registration beginning in September.

Mark your calendars, get your models ready for submission, and prepare to experience the camaraderie, creativity, and fun that only an NMRA convention can deliver. The Whistle-Stop Dayton 2026 convention promises to be a great convention. I hope to see you there!







# ***WHISTLE-STOP, DAYTON***

**2026 Mid-Central Region Convention**

**4-7 June 2026**

**Marriott at University of Dayton**

## **2025 NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**Experience Model Railroading Reimagined: A Convention Like No Other**

The 2025 NMRA Convention breaks new ground with an innovative approach that puts you first. Get maximum value at minimum cost - featuring 90+ expert clinics, 60 spectacular layouts spanning up to 3,000 sq. ft., and exclusive prototype tours including Ford plant access and Detroit River industrial cruises.

Enjoy unlimited layout visits and operating sessions, free parking, flexible scheduling, and convenient suburban location - all at just 40% of traditional convention costs. Whether you're an NMRA member or newcomer to the hobby, join us Monday through Saturday for an accessible, value-packed celebration of model railroading.

Register now to secure your spot at this groundbreaking event, where tradition meets innovation.



NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD  
ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:



JULY 19-20, 2025  
10:00 AM - 04:00 PM

### About Our Event!

Thank you for your interest in exhibiting at the 2025 National Train Show® in Novi, Michigan! The National Model Railroad Association® (NMRA®) is excited to bring together model railroad enthusiasts, retailers, manufacturers, and hobbyists for this premier event at the Suburban Collection Showplace on July 19-20, 2025. As one of the industry's most anticipated shows, the NTS offers unique opportunities to showcase products, connect with dedicated enthusiasts, and share the joy of model railroading with the public.

# 2025 NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW

### Event Highlights

#### Demonstrations LIVE

Multiple manufacturing demonstration: Woodland Scenics, Craftsman corner for the hands on experience and so much more!

#### Product Announcements & Vendors Market

yes, you will be able to buy all of the things

#### NMRA 90th Anniversary Celebrations

Help us celebrate our 90th anniversary with several events throughout the show.

#### Over 25+ layouts

Over 25 layout of ALL scales and counting

*Oh and did we mention  
that THOMAS is coming?  
Bring the kids!*



Website  
[www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)



Contact us  
[ntared@nmra.org](mailto:ntared@nmra.org)





# MCR CONVENTION AWARDS BY CATEGORY

Submitted by David Williams

All Pictures David Williams

## Peoples' Choice Awards

**Favorite Locomotive**

Sam Delauter

Nickel Plate Road 587 in HO

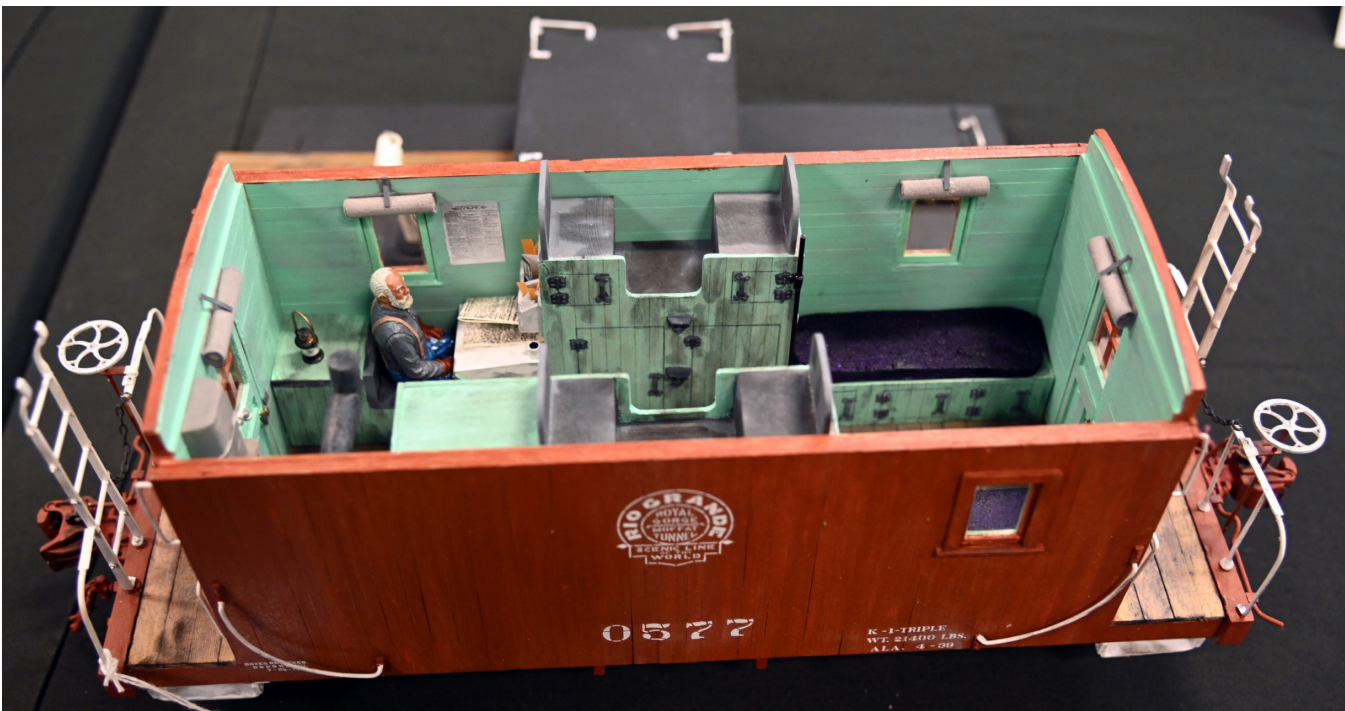


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**Favorite Car**

Roy Allen

D&RGW 17 foot Narrow Gauge





**Favorite Structure**

Keith DeVault

Champion Supply



**Favorite Display**

Randy Allio

Old Barn



**Favorite Prototype Photo**

Herbert Parsons

At the Water Tank, Cass WV



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**Favorite Model Photo**

Joe Kurilec MMR

Morning Trick





**My First Bestie Bag**



**Lake We-Go, Camp We-Go & North**





**1st Place: T-Trak Modules**

Robert Osburn

**Lake We-Go, Camp We-Go & North**



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**2nd Place: T-Trak Modules**

Herbert Parsons

**Fire Creek WV (3 Units)**





**3rd Place: T-Trak Modules**

Donald Cipolla

### Comstock Mining



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**1st Place: Steam Locomotive**

Sam Delauter

### Nickel Plate Road Mikado 587



**1st Place: Passenger Car**

Brian Fowler

MP-54 Commuter Coach



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**2nd Place: Passenger Car**

Brian Fowler

EBT Coach #5 in 1/32n3 Scale





**1st Place: Freight Car**

Robert Belt MMR

DRGW Stock #5627 HOn3



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**2nd Place: Freight Car**

Sam Delauter

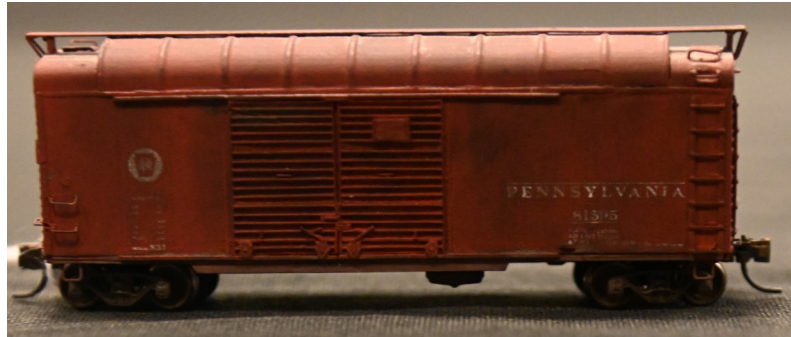
PRR FM Flatcar with Containers



**3rd Place: Freight Car**

Sam Delauter

PRR X31F Boxcar Turtle in N Scale



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**1st Place: Caboose**

Harry Sage

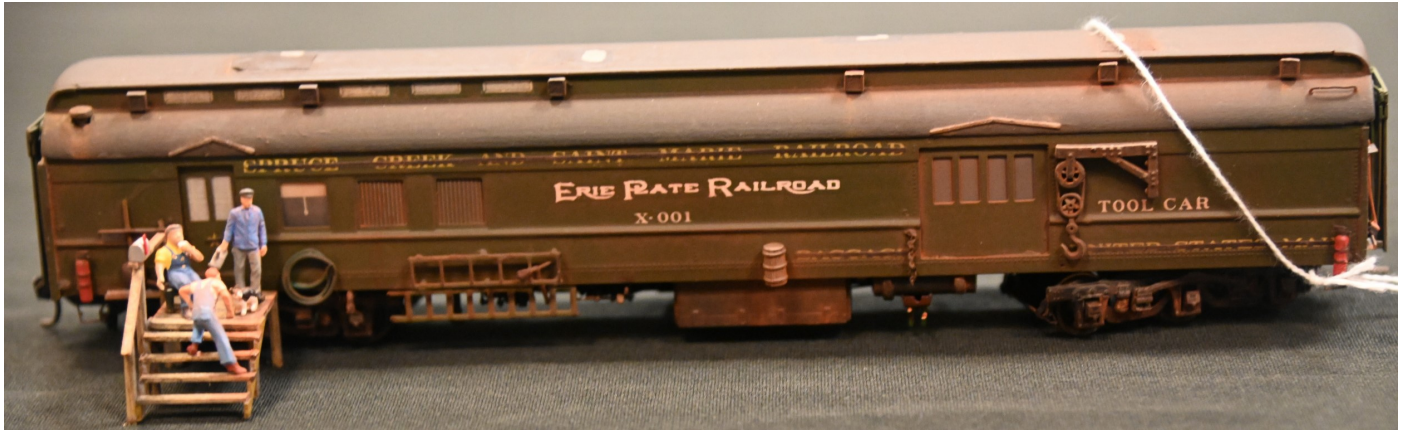
Kimball Lumber Co. Caboose



**1st Place: Non-Revenue Car**

Joe Kurelic MMR

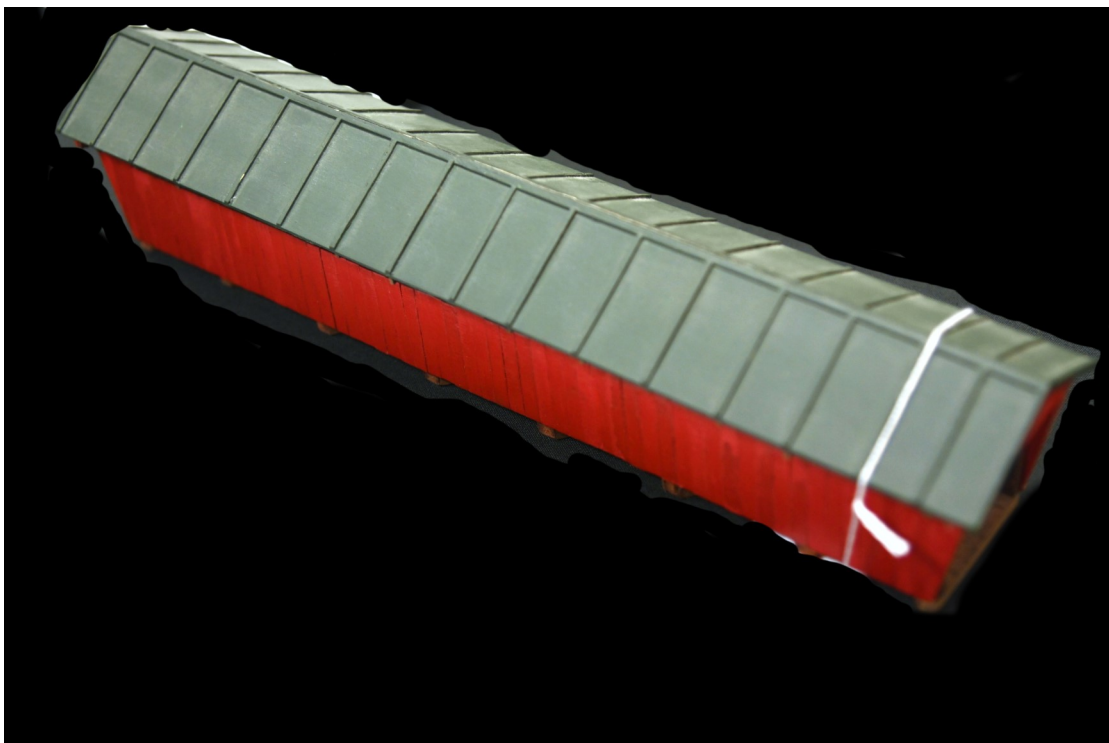
Erie Plate Railroad MOW Tool Car



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**1st Place: Structure**

Keith Devault





**2nd Place: Structure**

Keith Devault

Champion Supply



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**3rd Place: Structure (tie)**

Joe Kurilec MMR

"Invisible" Water Tower



3rd Place: Structure (tie)

Jim Grell

LE & WV Yard Office

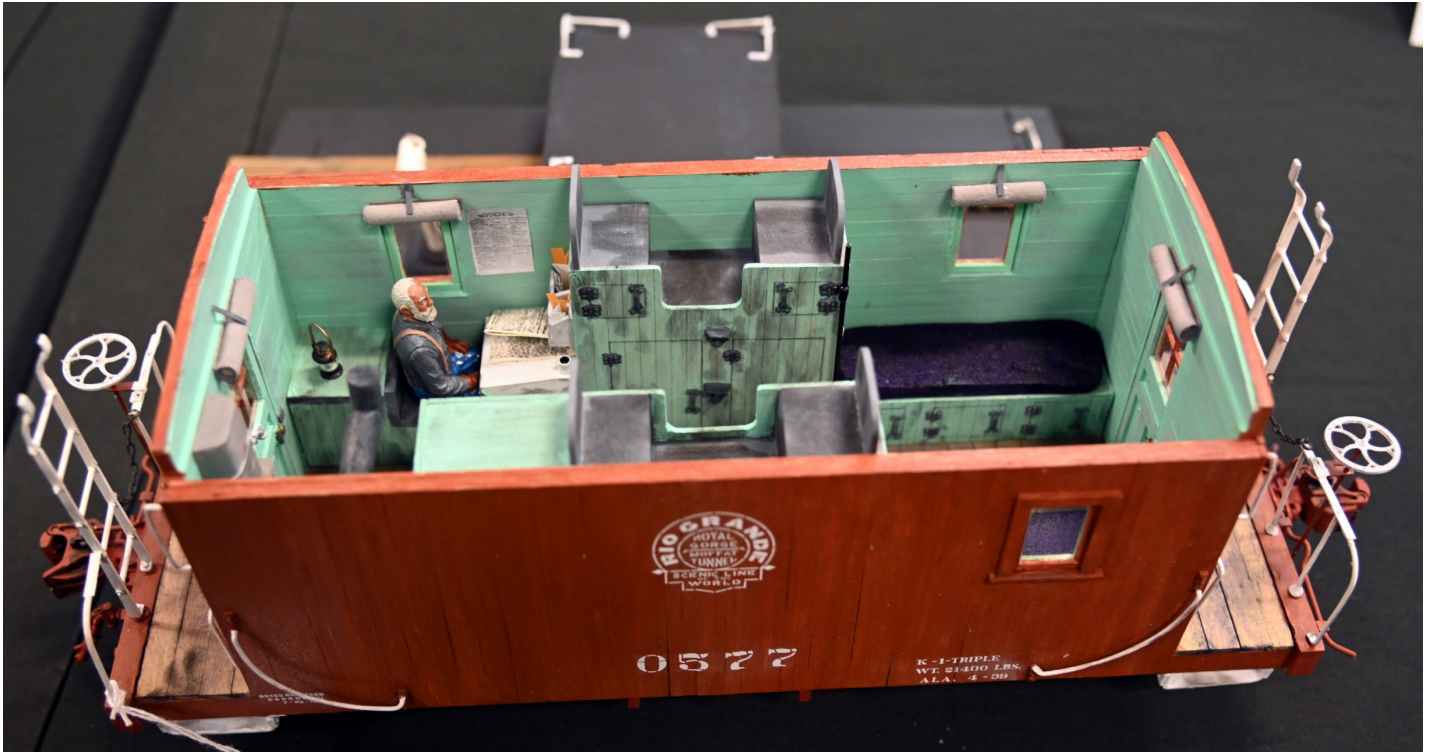




**Model: Best of Show**

Roy Allan

D&RGW Caboose: 17 foot Narrow Gauge



**1st Place: Display**

Charles Endreola

Delayed Honeymoon at Skidmore Tire





**2nd Place: Display**

John Hemsath MMR

Harshaw Chemical Company



**3rd Place: Display**

Randy Allio

Old Barn



**1st Place: Model Color Photo**

Michael Wolf MMR

CNJ Boxcab over Swisher Creek



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**2nd Place: Model Color Photo**

Keith Devault

PRR on Mainline





**3rd Place: Model Color Photo**

David Matheny

Huntington Calm



**1st Place: Model B&W Photo**

Michael Wolf MMR

PRR 3 Rail O Scale





**2nd Place: Model B&W Photo**

Michael Wolf MMR

PRR IIs Coal Drag



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**3rd Place: Model B&W Photo**

Michael Wolf MMR

Political Whistlestop Tour





1st Place: Prototype Color Photo

Keith Devault

1776 Over the Cheat



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2nd Place: Prototype Color Photo

Keith Devault

Winter at Oakland





**3rd Place: Prototype Color Photo**

Keith Devault

MRY Coal Drag at Brave



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**1st Place: Prototype B&W Photo**

Keith Devault

B&O 6528 Leaving Plant





**2nd Place: Prototype B&W Photo**

Keith Devault

B&O 3548 at Altamont



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**3rd Place: Prototype B&W Photo**

Herbert Parsons

At the Water Tank, Cass WV





**Photo Best of Show**

Keith Devault

Spring Day in the Forest #6419 CSX



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**1st Place: Arts & Crafts: General**

Dick Briggs MMR

Rural Scene





**1st Place: Arts & Crafts: Needlework**

Barbara Soward

Oliver's Afghan



**Best of Show: Arts & Crafts**

Barbara So-

My First Bestie Bag





**Seventh Annual NMRA Division 6**

# **Train Show**

## **Cambridge Ohio**

**Sunday**

**October 26, 2025**

**10 am to 3 pm**



**Easy Access from I-70 and I-77**

**Pritchard Laughlin Center**

**7033 Glenn Hwy**

**Cambridge OH 43725**

**Free Parking**

**ADMISSION \$5**

**Kids 12 and under are free**

**Tables only \$15 Each**

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**Check out our website for a listing for more information:**

**<https://div6-mcr-nmra.org/trainshow.html>**

**Vendors Contact Greg - (740) 607-3223 - [trainshow@div6-mcr-nmra.org](mailto:trainshow@div6-mcr-nmra.org)**

# NER CONVENTION 2025



## THE CONCORD FLYER

CONCORD,  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

SEPTEMBER 11 - 14, 2025



- PROTOTYPE TOURS • OPS SESSIONS • LAYOUT TOURS •
- NON-RAIL ACTIVITIES • CLINICS • BANQUET •
- OUTSTANDING GUEST SPEAKERS & CLINICIANS •
- MODEL CONTESTS & DISPLAYS • PHOTOS • RAFFLE •



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THE CONVENTION WEBSITE!

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RAILROAD ASSOCIATION