

NCR NMRA Division 9 Fall 2013 Newsletter

Update

Division 9 Is Now Official!!

From Superintendent Mike Shirey: The month of November is a month when the weather starts to get colder and a time for family to come together and give thanks. With this in mind we as division 9 have a lot to be thankful for. As of the November 16th, 2013 we are now an official division of the North Central Region of the NMRA. Besides working on getting recognized as a Division, we have also been very busy planning activities for 2014 and beyond. More information follows below from Asst. Supt. Jim Glenn and Trustee Dorman Wilson. The Division 9 Board wishes you and your family a warm thankful holiday season.

From Asst. Superintendent Jim Glenn: Members of Division 9 Board attended the North Central Region Board Meeting in Lansing on Sat, Nov 16th, and the first item on the agenda was the unanimous approval of Division 9 to be a part of the NCR Region of NMRA. Our web page is now live on the NMRA web site. Go to NMRA, NCR, and click on the Division 9 tab to keep up to date on how the NMRA is working to help model railroaders in this area. You can also follow the new Division 9 on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DIV9.NCR.NMRA All current members in the area will see their membership number changed to be part of Division 9 in the near future.

The NCR Board asked us about how they could better help get other new Districts started. We shared that our greatest problem was how to pay for start-up costs. We cannot collect dues, and we could not hold fund raisers until we became "Official". The NCR Board immediately voted a one-time grant of \$500.00 to help us get started. They then amended the motion to pay for the expenses that we incurred to this date. **The support of NCR certainly is appreciated!**

Membership Changes for NCR and Division 9

NCR Board also voted unanimously to allow members not living in the Division county areas a choice of joining Division 9 if they choose. We are working on how this will be officially accomplished. The problem is that NCR is divided into districts by county while the NMRA identifies membership by zip code. I am working with NCR to make this work. So, right now we encourage all NMRA members in the area to join us as we start to build the District. Also, don't hesitate to invite interested model railroaders who are not members of NMRA to join us. We hope to offer activities that will encourage new members.

December 4th Meeting

All members of Division 9 and all interested model railroaders are invited to the December meeting of NMRA, NCR, and Division 9. The meeting will be held at Denny's at 6:30, December 4, 2013. Denny's is located at the intersection of I94 and Sprinkle Road in Kalamazoo. The speaker for the meeting will be Dave DuChamp. Dave is a local modeler, member of NMRA, and presents clinics at National and Regional Conventions on JMRI. Dave is

part of the JMRI Development Team and writes code for the program. He will introduce attendee's to JMRI and one part of JMRI, Decoder Pro. As part of the clinic, Dave will demonstrate how you can program a decoder. Once the clinic is finished, Dave is willing to stay and program decoders for attendees. Bring an engine and Dave will program it for you after the meeting.

JMRI offers the model railroader a wide set of tools to help them all the way from designing a layout to programming decoders. The great thing about JMRI is that it is a free download to your computer, and it is supported by a committed group of model railroaders like Dave.

In addition to Dave's clinic, we ask you to bring one of your projects to share. There will be a table to display the projects and we ask you to bring a short written description of the project. If you need help with a part of the project, ask your questions as part of the description. I know I will be showing a flat car load and asking for advice on how best to tie the load to the flat car.

Rich Mahaney moved out of area for a new job. I am sorry that he is not now available to present his clinic for Division 9 at this time.

From Trustee & AP Contact Dorman Wilson: While we are on the topic of showing off our models, let me present to you the NMRA's Achievement Program. In simple terms, the Achievement Program (AP) is a travel guide, to help you on your journey through the world of model railroading. The AP also provides incentive to learn and master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading. With the completion of each category, you will be issued a certificate acknowledging your achievement.

Earn seven of these awards and you qualify for a Master Model Railroader Award. The AP information can be found on the NMRA website at <http://nmra.org/education/achievement/> . If you have a working railroad, you probably are already close to qualifying for a Golden Spike Award. These programs are designed to be exacting, but not impossible.

If you want to know if you qualify for an award or have questions, drop me a line at Div.9.AP@gmail.com

To help you earn these awards, we will also be starting a Mentor Program. Those wishing to learn new skills will be matched with those who are willing to share their experience in this area. Those wishing to share their skills and those needing assistance should contact me at Div.9.AP@gmail.com Dorman Wilson – Division 9 Trustee and AP contact

Finally, from your Scribe, I am again mailing hard copies of the update to folks that I do not have an email for. If you have an email, please let me know at djglenn922@sbcglobal.net and I can add you to the Division 9 email group. If you do not have email, I am very happy to continue mailing the newsletters to you, communications are important as we build this Division. Thank you for your continued support and participation in the new Division 9, we look forward to seeing you on December 4th at Denny's in Kalamazoo.

David Glenn, Division 9 Scribe