



# THE TIMETABLE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE

## ILLINOIS VALLEY DIVISION



NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

**Volume 36, No.4      September 2017**  
**WEBSITE: [nmra-ivd.org](http://nmra-ivd.org)**

Greetings Fellow Modelers,

We had a great time in Spring Valley. Thanks to District Three Trainmaster Scott Willoughby for organizing everything. Thanks to Marion Brasher and Jim Carrow for opening up their layouts for us. Jim Wise and Scott Willoughby shared their knowledge in two clinics. I learned about an English company that makes drivers for model steam locomotives. I am further pursuing this lead for the possibility of building an N&W 4-8-0 with counterweights unlike those available elsewhere.

Over the summer I had a chance to go to Pennsylvania to the Norfolk and Western Historical Society meeting in Strasburg. We were able to ride trains pulled by two different steam locomotives. One was the N&W 4-8-0 number 475 and the other was 2-10-0 number 90 lettered for the Strasburg Railroad. Of course, our favorite was the 475. We found out that she is due for her federally mandated 1472 inspection and could be out of commission for a long time. She is one of two original N&W steam locomotives in operating condition. I kept telling people that I was born where she was in Roanoke, Virginia...turns out she was born at Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia...That's why we have historical societies.

Museums also help correct our errors. Across the road from the Strasburg RR is the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum. There are lots of Pennsylvania designed steam locomotives with Belpaire boilers and many older, smaller locomotives on display.

Strasburg is also the home of the only steam powered Thomas the Tank engine. All the others are diesel. Thomas was built from an existing steam locomotive and heavily modified to match the locomotive from the PBS series.

During the week, I caught up with an old friend who is a Civil War expert and we went to Gettysburg. It was a tremendous opportunity to understand more about how the troops moved, decisions were made and how hard it really was to have victory. I was also able to spend a few hours at Horseshoe Curve and see four trains. There is a Pennsylvania GP9 there on the track

which replaced the K4 steam. When I arrived in the parking lot, I was looking up at the trains. To get to track level there is a tram that uses two different cars for counter balance. I found out that when they announce that the tram is leaving in 5 minutes, they mean it and there will be no other notice. I had to walk up the stairs!!! There are three tracks that are very busy running 100 trains per day and of course there's a gift shop. Later in the week I was able to go to Steamtown in Scranton. I was under the mistaken impression that Steamtown was a working railroad that ran a bunch of steam locomotives. It wasn't. It was a static display both inside a roundhouse and on tracks outside. We went the additional 20 miles further north to the Lackawanna bridge over the Tunkhannock Creek at Nicholson, Pennsylvania. An elegant restaurant is right across from the bridge and serves a great meal, but who cares about that—you get to watch trains cross the bridge while you eat.

So now we come to September, Lewistown and the meet arranged by District Four Trainmaster Jeremy Bubb. We're sure it will be a good time as Lewistown is ripe with railroad history both from narrow and standard gauge trains.

Also, I want to take the time to remind you that your Superintendent and Chief Clerk are running out of terms and will need replacing. Gary and I have enjoyed serving you, but the bylaws are there to make sure others have the opportunity to lead with new ideas to help the organization grow. Please step up to leadership. You will receive greater rewards than you can measure or predict.

**Mike Shockley**  
Superintendent

Information compiled herein is presented to the membership on an "as submitted by the authors" basis, and is assumed complete and accurate by the Editor as of the "Deadline For Submissions" date for inclusion in this edition of the newsletter, as posted in the previous, most recent edition of the TIMETABLE. Statements contained in this document are strictly the beliefs and/or opinions of the writer presenting them and not necessarily those of, or endorsed by, the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) of Soddy Daisy, TN, USA, its Midwest Region, or its Illinois Valley Division of the NMRA or their officers, agents and designates thereof. Information presented as factual is assumed true and accurate to the best knowledge and intent of the presenter of that information, and are believed to be such in good faith when accepted for inclusion in this newsletter.

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**TRAINMASTER AT-LARGE (2019) - REPRESENTING  
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## FROM THE EDITOR

*by Minton Dings, MMR*

# SO, YOU ARE A MODEL RAILROADER

*by Minton Dings MMR*



This is my 55<sup>th</sup> year in the hobby and as suggested by a friend, I am a “full-time model railroader.” Until I retired I was involved in this “trains thing,” but certainly not to the extent as now. It was a sideline compared to being a firefighter and paramedic. People thought it was interesting that I had such a hobby.

Now that I am retired, I am sometimes asked what am I doing in my retirement. When I explain that I am building a model railroad, write about model railroading and often teach the skills of model railroading, I sometimes get a strange reaction. Why would I dedicate my remaining years to playing with children’s toys? Certainly, they do not understand!

Maybe their concept of model railroading is a circle of track under the Christmas tree. That was the understanding my wife, Karen, had when I made it clear that my retirement would revolve around a layout. In an unusual turn of events, our wedding was the Saturday in September (2008) proceeding an NMRA Illinois Valley Division meeting on Sunday for which I had some responsibility. To her credit and my relief, she did not protest attending a train event during our honeymoon. It was there that she was introduced to a basement sized CB&Q HO layout. I have a picture of her with an astonished look on her face which I choose not to publish here.

Model railroading is an art form. It can involve many skills including carpentry for benchwork and building and scratch-building structures, an understanding of engineering in the building of trackwork, bridges and a great number of railroad related structures, artistic abilities in painting backdrops and creating scenery and an understanding of electricity and electronics to power and light our locomotives, track, signals, etc.

All model railroads are a study in history, whether a study in an era or a point in time or a presentation of modern railroading, which will quickly also become history. Locomotives in themselves represent an era in the history of railroading. Other modelers will study a time and place to model which will be recognizable to some of those viewing the model or scene.

No matter the size or scale of model railroad, it is a work of art worthy to be recognized as such. It can be a 4’ by 8’ table top or 35’ by 60’ full basement rendition of a railroad at a particular time and place. In any case, it is a work of art.

And as to the value of writing and teaching the skills of model railroading? It is worthy of sharing with those who are interested as is any other art-form.

No matter the size, scale or progress made to date on your model railroad, be proud to be part of an artform which is also the world’s greatest hobby.



**Structural Art by Jim Wise, MMR**

## ILLINOIS VALLEY DIVISION MEET

**September 10, 2017**

**Lewistown and Fulton County Visitors Center  
222 South Main Street  
Lewistown, Illinois 61542**

Doors open at 12:00 pm. The meeting begins at 1:30 pm.

The September meeting of the Illinois Valley Division is to be held in the Lewistown and Fulton County Visitors Center, Lewistown. The room is located on the ground floor and accessible to those with disabilities. The Visitors Center is located on the west side of the street. Parking is available on the street and in parking lots both north and south of the building. The entrance is on the street side of the building.

Swap tables are available to members for sale of items to participants. There is no commercial selling at the Illinois Division meets. Selling is closed at the beginning of the business meeting.

There will be a short business meeting followed by two clinics and layout tour. Maps will be provided.

Clinics will be "Freight Car Afterlife," by Jeremy Bubb, and "Upgrading 'Blue Box' Freight Car Kits" by Minton Dings. Rod Price's S Scale Chicago, Priceless & Denver, Jim Tatum's HO Rock Bottom & Santa Fe and Minton Dings HO Green River Branch will be open for viewing.

The contests for September will be (1) Photos of Layouts and (2) Specialty Railroad Cars, Non MoW,

A donation of \$2.00 per member helps to defray division expenses.

## YOUR HELP NEEDED FOR SPOON RIVER DRIVE IVD LAYOUT DISPLAY

Again this year, the Illinois Valley Division will set up and display our "Hands On" portable layout for observers to operate, both children and adults. It will be displayed at the Lewistown Depot Museum. The date for set up is October 7, at 9:00 am. Help will be needed to manage the operation of the layout for Saturday and Sunday, October 7 and 8 and Saturday and Sunday, October 14 and 15. Take down will be about

4:00 pm the 15th.

Other dates the layout is proposed to be displayed: November 19th at the Peoria Train Fair and March 18th at the Springfield Train Fair. If you help, you will certainly enjoy watching and assisting the children run trains.



## 2017-2018 IVD Meetings At A Glance

Our meetings are subject to change. Updates will appear with each issue of the TIMETABLE

**Doors open at noon, Meetings begin at 1:30 pm.**

**Board of Directors Meetings begin at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted. Members of the IVD are welcomed to attend Board Meetings. Members do not have a vote, but are welcomed to voice their concerns and make suggestions.**

**Directions to Lake Whitehurst Club House are: Route 29 south from I-474, left at Velde Ford Truck Dealership, first right on Susan Hope, immediate left down the hill to the club house.**

Event, September 10, 2017 District 4  
Lewistown

Contests: Photos—Layouts  
Specialty Railroad Cars, Non-MOW

Board Meeting, October 7, 2017, Lewistown  
3:00 pm, Caboose, Lewistown Depot

Event, November 12, 2017 District 4, McLean  
McLean Christian Church

Contests: Passenger Cars and Bridges

Board Meeting, December 16, 2017, Pekin  
Lake Whitehurst Club House

Event, January 14, 2018, District 5  
Location to be Announced

Contests: Scenery, any Season and  
Prototype Photos

Board Meeting, February 17, 2018, Pekin  
Lake Whitehurst Club House

Event, March 11, 2018, District 1  
ReMax Building

Election Meeting  
Contests: Scratchbuilt any Category and  
Kitbashed, any Category

Board Meeting, April 21, 2018, Pekin  
Lake Whitehurst Club House

Event, May 20, 2018, District 3  
Location to be Announced

Contests: Freight Cars and Dioramas on-line

### **DID YOU KNOW? by Minton Dings**

One of the more frustrating tasks we model railroaders, who use Kadee couplers, have to occasionally do is place or replace knuckle springs. They tend to fly free during the procedure to no one knows where. Marion Brasher's suggestion is to put a small spot of Goo on one of the prongs to secure the spring at one end, eliminating the tendency for the spring to fly free.

# Layout Tour, Spring Valley Meeting, May 21, 2017

## Jim Carrow, LaSalle, Illinois



## Marion Brasher, Spring Valley, Illinois



Pictures by David Hawkey, Thanks Dave.

# WANDERINGS

by Marion Brasher, MMR

## THE NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS



Back in another time, the US Army had a poster of Uncle Sam saying, "We Need You." Like the armed service of that time, the Illinois Valley Division needs you.

We are an all volunteer organization. In everything we do, there is a need for help. It is nice to see new faces working our new modular layout at various venues.

Superintendent Shockley, in this TIMETABLE referenced that he and Chief Clerk Gary Baker had reached their term limits for their offices and will have to be replaced. Both of these gentlemen have given their time from their real life jobs, which for them involves a lot of travel in the States and abroad. These are busy men who have given their time to help out our hobby and our division.

The Illinois Valley Division vision has survived for over a half century because people like you have come forward. Each administration has supported both the status quo and addressed new ideas for the organization. True, not all put out the same amount of enthusiasm in running the division. The group of people who make up the Board of Directors were able to carry the division through some tough times.

The IVD is always looking for good people with new ideas to come forward and put new life into an old war horse.

Help is always welcomed in our many endeavors. Over the years we have repeated many times we need to have people to come forward to help us become more involved in the activities of the division.

Our needs consist of two clinics which should relate to model or real railroads at each division meeting. Do you have a technique you use on your model pike that others might find interesting? I remember the first time I had seen Dave Hawkey's Peoria & Pekin Union Railroad. WOW! What a job he has done on his scenic backdrop. I had to twist his arm to put on a clinic to show how he had done it. In my travels to visit model railroads, I always seem to see something new. Many times I ask how it was done. Often an old idea has resurfaced with a new twist. Yes, the old is new again about every 10 years.

For those of you who attend our IVD meets regularly, have you noticed we seem to see the same model railroads again and again. HELP!!! We need more variety. In my area we lost three nice railroads this past year. If your pike is not finished, most people like to see how you are building it. How do you use commercial buildings, lay trackwork and turnouts, etc. Surely out of 100

members of the division, we must have more than a dozen people who have or building a model railroad. Like I said elsewhere, ideas can be found everywhere. Nothing is better than to receive a complement on what you have done.

Our modular railroad, when it is set up, can always use another set of hands, eyes and mouth to promote our hobby. The youth we encourage to operate the trains have FUN. Their parents are the ones who have questions that need answers. You never know how much help you can be to a novice parent with an easy to solve problem. It makes for goodwill.

Have you sat at the IVD's display booth and talked to the people who stop. It is a real interesting time listening and answering their questions. Promoting the NMRA can be a real adventure.

Remember, any organization is as good and as strong as it's membership. We are thankful to the dedicated group that travels to the locations of our by-monthly meetings through the division.

Like the armed forces poster declares — The Illinois Valley Division needs your help too!

## **OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MODEL RAILROADERS**

**27th Annual Greater St. Louis Metro Area Train Show**, Saturday, October 7, 10:00 am—5:00 pm, Sunday, October 8, 11:00 am—4:00 pm, Kirkwood Community Center, 111 South Geyer Road, Kirkwood, Missouri. Admission \$7.00, all kids and students with ID are free. No parking or handicapped information available.

**Bureau County Train Fair and Farm Toy Show** Saturday, November 18, 2017, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, 205 South Fifth Street, Princeton, IL (Bureau County Fair Grounds). Train Layouts and Vendors. Admission \$4.00, Children 10 and under are free. Handicapped Accessible. Free parking.

**Peoria Train Fair**, Sunday, November 19, 2017, 10 am to 3 pm, Illinois Central College, Rt. US-24, east of IL-116, East Peoria. Admission \$3.00, children under 12 free with an adult. Free parking, handicap accessible. The IVD portable layout and NMRA display table are planned to be there.

**Quincy Society of Model Railroad Engineers Open House**, Saturday, December 2, Noon to 5 pm and Sunday, December 3, Noon to 4 pm, Good Samaritan Home, 2130 Harrison Street, Quincy. Park in east parking lot. Handicapped assessable.

**Great Tri-State Rail Sale, Saturday, January 27, 2018, 9:00am to 3:00pm**, La Crosse Center, 2nd & Pearl Streets, La Crosse, Wisconsin, Sponsored by The 40 Foundation Limited, Admission \$5.00, children under 12 free. No parking or handicapped information available.

# Dealing with Our Mistakes

## by Minton Dings, MMR

In our endeavor to make and show our best work as model railroaders, we sometimes find it impossible to correct our mistakes. One solution is to scrap the project and start over. But sometimes that option is not practical considering the time, effort or the cost of the materials or a kit committed to the project.

My first effort of entering a diorama into a contest was Nemchik Scrap and Salvage. Nemchik's was a limited edition kit offered by Bar Mills Scale Models of Bar Mills, Maine, as their annual pre-Christmas offering. Nemchik's was a rather expensive kit which, if I remember correctly, was purchased as a gift to me by my wife, Karen, for Christmas several years ago.



As is my practice, I will use each scene to tell a bit of a story, some simple, some more complex. This scene has two focal points. The picture below shows two men loading barrels into the back of a pickup truck. They are either employees or customers purchasing empty barrels for their own project. From the interest in the activity of the scene on the opposite side of the salvage yard, it can

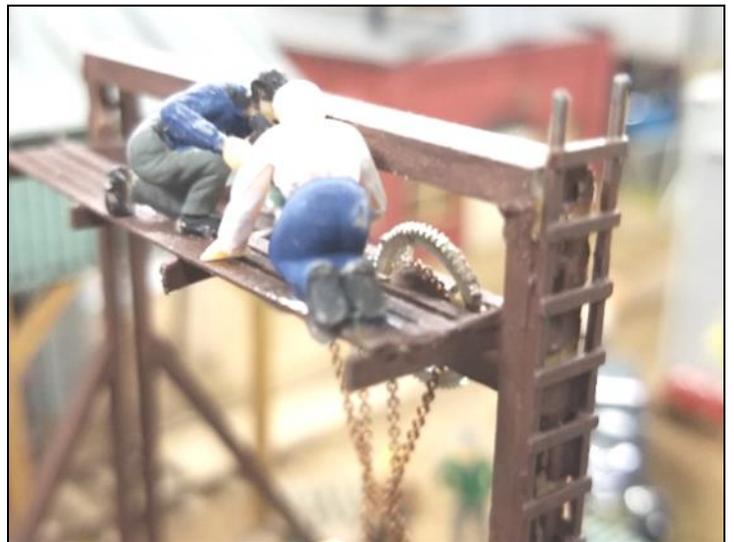


be surmised that they are customers.

Story number 2 is that Nemchik's has just received a new forklift, delivered on the flatbed truck pictured here. But there is a problem. The chain lifting mechanism has malfunctioned with the chain slipping off a pulley and jamming in the frame. Even the "boss," owner Jeremiah Namchik, dressed in the grey hat and green jacket, is observing the progression of the repair.



Two employees, who are mechanics, were sent to the top of the frame to make a repair so the new forklift can be lifted from the truck and the truck driven out from under it.



The reality of this complication is with the builder of the diorama, me! In assembling the chain and pulley mechanism, I in some way (sort of) destroyed it. I do not to this day know what I did wrong, but every attempt to correct the problem only made it worse. So, I stopped.

I know that Bar Mills would replace the parts. But I decided to make the problem part of the story of what was happening in the attempt to lift the forklift.

**Continued, Page 7, Column 1**

Although not an excuse for sloppy work or poor craftsmanship, there are times when mistakes can be used



to our advantage. Unless the viewer has a critical eye and is acquainted with the kit, those looking at the diorama would not know of the mistake made in construction of the lifting frame.

The Nemchik Scrap and Salvage diorama is now incorporated into a commercial/industrial area of Central City, Kentucky. Many of the scenes on the Green River Branch layout were constructed at the workbench and blended into a scene. At my age, it is no longer possible to work a scene while bending over it for long periods of time.

I believe it is Art Fahie, owner of Bar Mills Scale Model Works and an inspiration to me, who said that one of the skills of a true craftsman (or woman) is the ability to correct or cover his or her mistakes.

By the way, the diorama took first place in the popular vote at our division meeting, oh so many years ago.

## GOOD QUALITY SECOND HAND, REUSABLE LAYOUT AVAILABLE

Minton Dings

I was recently asked to disassemble a layout of a modeler who is no longer able to model. Five parts of that layout are available at very reasonable prices.

- (1) An approximate 10'x15' layout benchwork. The good news is this layout was built on a modular frame and legs. But the builder glued plywood over the modular framework without regard to the frame. I separated the tabletop along the divisions of the modular frame with a skill saw. This benchwork can be reassembled. Connecting holes are predrilled and hardware is included. The bad news!! He glued the cork roadbed to the tabletop (which most of us who use cork roadbed do), which will need to be scraped off and finished by sanding. This layout is available free to the first modeler to claim it. It is located in my garage in Havana. (In time, if no one claims it, it will end up on the burn pile.) IT IS FREE!
- (2) Track. There is a modest amount of used code 83 weathered microscale track which is in good condition. Much of this track came up in approximately 3 foot sections without being damaged. These will be available at a modest price at the September meeting in Lewistown.
- (3) Turnouts. There are 70 right, left straight and right and left curved turnouts, none smaller than a #6. They need a bit of work in de-soldering and removing rail joiners. These will also be available at a modest price at the September meeting in Lewistown.
- (4) Components of a CVP DCC command station and parts, but not tested. FREE, but must take all of set.
- (5) Also there is a home built plywood paint booth, which includes the ventilation motor/exhaust fan and vent hose. The booth is 24" wide, 24" high and 20" deep with a sloped top. It is FREE to the first modeler to claim it.

## CONTEST MODELS, Spring Valley, May, 2017



# CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS OF THE ILLINOIS VALLEY DIVISION, NMRA

## (Second Notice)

The following changes were made to the By-Laws of the IVD and unanimously approved by a quorum of voting Board Members at the April, 2017 Board of Director's meeting. The changes are shown below in red type:

### **NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS – Section V(B)**

B) The nominating committee shall submit one or more nominations for each office due for re-election. The list of nominees shall be presented to the Division not later than the January meeting. Additional candidates may be nominated by the District members from the floor at the January meeting or an individual member may submit a written petition of candidacy to the nominating committee prior to the January meeting. The written petition must carry at least five signatures of voting District members. All candidates must express a willingness to serve if elected before their names will be placed on the ballot.

### **THE FIVE ELECTED TRAINMASTERS – Section E (1)**

- 1) Shall each be elected to represent the members of the respective districts of the Division on the Board.
  - a) The geographical boundaries of each Trainmaster's district shall be defined in Addenda A of the by-laws, said boundaries to be reviewed by the Board every two years. The primary consideration of such boundaries shall be the number of members served, the ultimate goal to be five districts with nearly equal member populations.
  - b) No more than one Trainmaster shall be elected from each district; however, each district shall elect a Trainmaster, regardless of the number of Officers or appointees from that district.
  - c) If, for any reason, no one wishes to run for Trainmaster of a given district, then the Superintendent may appoint a member from that district to serve as Trainmaster. The appointee will have all the powers and rights of an elected Trainmaster. If no one within a district will accept an appointment, the Superintendent will appoint a Trainmaster-at-Large to represent that district, with all powers and rights of an elected Trainmaster. In all cases, the appointee must express a willingness to serve.

### **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS –Section IX – (6) Layout and Trailer Policy**

- 6) To make and enforce rules regarding the use of the modular layout trailer owned by the IVD.
  - a) The ownership, registration, maintenance, use, and disposition of the trailer is the sole respon-

sibility of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Valley Division of the NMRA.

- b) The trailer shall be used only for transportation of the modular layout to promotional events or other IVD purposes which have the approval of the Board of Directors.
- c) The trailer shall be stored at a location designated by the Board of Directors.
- d) Appropriate vehicles pulling the trailer shall be insured and the liability insurance of that vehicle shall cover the liability for the trailer while in transport.
- e) In case of the sale of the trailer, the proceeds of the sale shall be deposited in the account of the Illinois Valley Division by its Paymaster, or to the Midwest Region of the NMRA in the case of the dissolution of the Illinois Valley Division of the NMRA.

## Annual NMRA Education & Training Conference

One of the premier education events in the Midwest Region of the NMRA is the Education and Training Conference at Notre Dame University, sponsored by the Michiana Division. The conference will be two days of high quality clinics on varied model railroading subjects.

The conference will be held Friday and Saturday, September 22—23, 2017, and entitled “Modeling like a PROTOTYPE.” Meetings will be held at the University of Notre Dame McKenna Hall Conference Center (On Campus), 1339 North Notre Dame Ave, South Bend, IN 46556. Participants can make reservations to stay at the conference center or at local hotels.

Advanced reservations are preferred. The registration fee is \$35.00. For more information see: [michiana-nmra.org](http://michiana-nmra.org). List of hotels available on the website.

## **PUT YOUR AD IN THE TIMETABLE AND WEBSITE**

**Personal and business ads in Timetable and IVD Website are available, such as seen on page 9.**

The cost of advertisements in the TIMETABLE, Website or both is listed below.

Yearly Rates:	Website	T'ABLE	Both
<b>Personal:</b> Business Card Size:	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$12.50
<b>Business:</b> Business Card Size:	\$20.00	\$12.50	\$30.00
Business Card X2:	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$45.00

Send fee and/or inquiries to Minton Dings, 15548 SR 78, Havana, IL 62644. Help is available to construct new ads. Partial year fees are available.

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## GUYANDOTTE DIVISION

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## GREEN RIVER BRANCH Kentucky Division Illinois Central Railroad 1957

Minton Dings, MMR  
15548 State Route 78  
Havana, Illinois 62644  
(309)241-4504

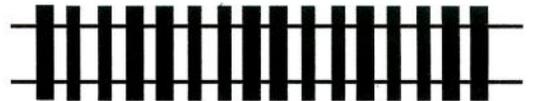
Affiliated with:  
Illinois Valley Division, NMRA  
National Model Railroad Association  
Illinois Central Historical Association  
GM&O Historical Association  
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e-mail: [greenriverbranch1957@yahoo.com](mailto:greenriverbranch1957@yahoo.com)



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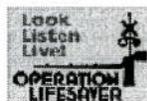
(309)231-9425

[alwise@att.net](mailto:alwise@att.net)

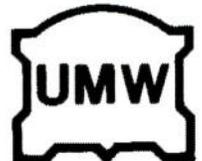
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# September 10, 2017

THE ILLINOIS VALLEY DIVISION OF THE NIMRA PRESENTS:

## MODEL TRAIN MEET

LEWISTOWN AND FULTON COUNTY VISITOR'S CENTER  
222 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
LEWISTOWN, ILLINOIS

DOORS OPEN @ 12:00 – MEETING @ 1:30 PM – \$2 Donation  
TWO CLINICS: “AFTERLIFE OF FREIGHT CARS” AND  
“UPGRADING BLUE BOX FREIGHT CARS” WILL BE  
PRESENTED

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