



# THE TIMETABLE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**ILLINOIS VALLEY DIVISION**

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

**Volume 40, No.4, Summer 2021**

WEBSITE: [nmra-ivd.org](http://nmra-ivd.org)



Hello IVD Members,

This month we have some exciting news to share with you. So lets get started.

First off, Larry Nelson and Thomas Ose have volunteered to fill 2 of the 3 vacant Trainmaster positions and were appointed at our last Board Meeting, which we held at the Galesburg Train Show. We thank and welcome Larry and Thomas to the board and look forward to working together to bring great things to the IVD. Thanks again! We still have 1 more Trainmaster position to fill, so if you are interested, please let an IVD board member know.

Second, with the recent changes in the CDC guidelines, we will be resuming in-person meets again, starting with the September Meet. There will be some rules we will ask all members to follow during any IVD in-person activity. These will be communicated in an email blast to all members, as well as mailings to those members who do not get the division emails.

And lastly, we are going forward and planning the IVD Summer Cookout!!! The cookout will be held on August 14<sup>th</sup> at Peck Park in Galesburg, as this is a wonderful place to have a meal, visit with fellow members and see an abundance of rail traffic on 5 mainlines. The IVD Board will once again provide the meal, ice tea and water, but ask that attending members bring a covered dish or dessert to share and bring your favorite beverage. Also, I am working on an additional activity for that day for our members. But I don't want to say

much in case it can't be arranged. So, keep an eye out for that email blast with more details regarding the cookout.

If you were able to make it to the Galesburg Train Show, it was great to see people out and about again. The new revenue was pretty nice, but would have been better if the A/C was on....lol. But all in all it was a good show and was pretty packed. Hopefully this is a sign of more things to come back into our lives going forward.

Well, that's all for now. So, until we see you at the next IVD function.....High Ball!!!!

Jimmie Tatum

IVD Superintendent

**NOTE TO IVD TIMETABLE SUBSCRIBERS:**

Due to the uncertainty of scheduling of any Illinois Valley Division events caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, subscribers will be notified of changes to scheduling and division membership opportunities by a postcard.

Minton Dings, Assistant Superintendent  
Editor, THE IVD TIMETABLE

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.

## DIVISION OFFICERS



**SUPERINTENDENT (2022)**  
 Jim Tatum  
 (309)-547-0312  
 superintendent@nmra-ivd.org



**ASST. SUPERINTENDENT (Appointed) (2023)**  
**IVD TIMETABLE EDITOR**  
 Minton Dings, MMR®  
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 greenriverbranch1957@gmail.com



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 chief.clerk@nmra-ivd.org



**PAYMASTER (2023)**  
 Ken Burr  
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 paymaster@nmra-ive.org

## TRAINMASTERS



**DISTRICT 1 (2023) - Peoria & Tazewell Co.**  
 Larry Nelson  
 (309)789-6447  
 district1@nmra-ivd.org

To Be  
 Appointed

**DISTRICT 2 (2022) - Grundy, Livingston, McLean & Woodford Co.**



**DISTRICT 3 (2021) - Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam & Stark Co. (2023)**  
 David Hawkey  
 (309)274-6150  
 district3@nmra-ivd.org



**DISTRICT 4 (2020) - Fulton, Henry, Knox, Mercer, Rock Island & Warren Co. (2022)**  
 Jeremy Bubb  
 (309)-221-7865  
 district4@nmra-ivd.org



**DISTRICT 5 (2021) - Adams, Brown, Cass, Hancock, Logan, Mason, McDonough, Menard, Morgan, Pike, Sangamon, Schuyler & Scott Co. (2023)**  
 Thomas Ose  
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 district5@nmra-ivd.org

Year listed with title indicates the end of present term.

2019 Illinois Valley Division, Midwest Region, NMRA  
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## Upcoming 2021 IVD Meetings

### Membership Meetings:

Although division in-person meetings have now on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, regular meetings will resume in September. Membership meetings are held on the third Saturday of January, March, May, September and November at the Peoria Public Library, North Branch, 3001 West Grand Avenue, Peoria at 1:00 pm. Doors open at 12 noon.

### Meeting Schedule and Contests:

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

**The September meeting of the Illinois Valley Division will be held as an in-person meet, September 18, 2021 at the Peoria Public Library, North Branch auditorium, 3001 West Grand Parkway, Peoria.. The auditorium is located immediately to the right inside the entry doors on the west side of the building. Parking is also located on the west side of the library and entry is hand-clapped accessible.**

**The library is located behind Menard's off of Allen Road on the south side of IL-6. See the map on the back cover page of the September newsletter.**

### Board of Directors Meetings:

Next BoD Meeting, Sunday, August 15 at 1 pm.

Board of Directors meetings are being held by the Zoon computer/video conference format until regular meetings until decided otherwise. If you, as a member of the division, desires to attend the digital/virtual meeting of the board, contact Jim Tatum, Superintendent, for instructions. More information will be available in the newsletter when available.

## 2021 DIVISION MEETING POPULAR VOTE CONTEST SCHEDULE

**September 18, 2021:** Photos of Layouts and Specialty Railroad Cars, Non-MOW

**November 20, 2021:** Passenger Cars and Bridges

## IVD ANNUAL PICNIC

**The Illinois Valley Division Annual Picnic will be held at Peck Park, Galesburg, Saturday, August 14, at 20:00 noon.**

# POPULAR VOTE CONTEST SCHEDULE

## Illinois Valley Division

2022

January

Scenery — any season

Photos—Prototype

March

Scratchbuilt—any category

Kitbashed—any category

May

Freight Cars

Dioramas—On Line

September

Passenger Cars

Buildings—On Line

November

Steam Locomotives

Dioramas—Off-Line

2023

January

Scratchbuilt—Locomotives and Cars

Kitbashed—Locomotives and Cars

March

Diesel Locomotives

Photos—Models

May

Buildings—Off Line

MOW—Cars, Vehicles and Equipment

September

Photos—Layouts

Specialty Railroad Cars, Non-MOW

November

Passenger Cars

Bridges

2024

January

Scenery — Any Season

Photos—Prototype

March

Scratchbuilt—Structures

Kitbashed—Structures

May

Freight Cars

Dioramas—On-Line and Off-Line

September

Hand Laid Track and Track Structures

Buildings—On Line

November

Steam Locomotives

Traction—Locomotives and Cars

2025

January

Scratchbuilt—Locomotives and Cars

Kitbashed—Locomotives and Cars

March

Diesel Locomotives

Photos—Models

May

Buildings—Off Line

MOW—Cars, Vehicles and Equipment

September

Photos—Layouts

Specialty Railroad Cars, Non-MOW

November

Passenger Cars

Bridges

The Contest Schedule is subject to additions and changes for special event contests.

# WANDERINGS

## My Trail of Rails

by Marion Brasher, MMR®

In the last few months of his life, Marion was confined to his home. He told me that he would awaken about 2 am with ideas of articles to write. He wrote many articles which have appeared in THE TIMETABLE and will continue in this issue and the next. *Editor*

I like trains, both real and models. My life of trains began at a young age. As a four or five year old kid I would ride my uncle's truck to get fruits and vegetables from a refrigerator car on the Rock Island spur. If switching was going on, I would get to ride in the engine. Sorry I do not remember much more about those times. WWII summer evenings would find our family at the Rock Island station to watch three passenger trains come and go.

My first train set arrived at Christmas in 1946, a Marx set up on the floor in the living room of our small apartment, then put away. Growing up, I played in Buffalo's Woods, along the alley north of the bluff along the Rock Island tracks. I would daydream under the Illinois Route 89 bridge drawing track plans in the dirt with a stick.

In 1948 I purchased my first HO cars. A Varney ATSF reefer and a two dome tank car. The reefer still runs on my railroad. The tank car has a broken frame and lives in my scrap pile. In 1949, my freshman shop teacher had an American Flyer layout and could get equipment at cost. Money was scraped together and a starter set was purchased.

About that time, Spring Valley had a sidewalk replacement program to remove coal chutes on Main Street. I could have the coal bin area in our building by moving the coal to the new bin a bucket at a time. About the same time, my dad put new doors on his dry cleaning plant and I could have the old doors. My space was 10' by 10'. I acquired an American Flyer PA-1 in a grungy color. A cover of trains magazine had a color photo of a Western Pacific locomotive. My PA was then painted silver and orange and decaled with O scale decals. Not prototype, but I did not know better. It was my railroad and it was expanding.

Attending my first NMRA convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania exposed me to the real world of model railroading. The next year at Indianapolis, Indiana, I sold the American Flyer PA to a fellow from Iowa and began to acquire HO. The rest is history. My first locomotives were a Varney F3 and a

switcher, a Hobbytown E7 and an RS-3.

My first teaching job was at Coal City, Illinois. The shop overlooked the Santa Fe depot. The E7 received warbonnet paint and the RS-3 black and silver. I remember spending a day applying the striping. The locomotive is still around in black and silver.

Moving back to Spring Valley, my interest changed to the Union Pacific. Fate struck again when my folks obtained a natural gas permit to heat our building. Again, I could have the new coal bin, just move coal in a bucket again. This area was 10' by 12' and soon it was filled with HO. We built a wall and I then had a railroad room. The area just next to the former coal bin was full of junk that was mine. It had to be cleaned out. That area was 10' by 16' and my empire continued to grow. During this period, it seems that a new railroad would appear with each expansion. I just could not seem to get it right.

In 1962 my folks built a new home. I had drawn up the plans and was able to acquire one half of the basement with an area of 18' by 65'. The railroad went around the room twice on a one and a half percent grade with a Union Pacific theme. A branchline was called The Rock Island. The 1960s saw visible change again after a tour of four Dayton, Ohio are layouts and a visit to Allen McClelland's Virginia and Ohio. His beyond the basement concept interested me.

Where would my new railroad go? What would be it's name? Looking at a US map, we plotted a line from Denver, Colorado to Seattle, Washington. The new name would be the LaSalle, Rock Island and Western Pacific, combining two of my favorite railroads. Bill Walters did my first decals in red so I could re-letter the Union Pacific diesels. I was not happy with them and later I had Miller Advertisement do sets in black and white and a bit little large. Don Mauhile, who worked for Miller, helped me develop a logo. We adopted the MKT logo to read RIW. My favorite train, the North Coast Limited, was two tone green and that became the color of my diesel fleet. "The Route of the Mainstreet" gave me many years of enjoyment.

The 1980s saw my involvement with the Rock Island Technical Society. My new railroad was build in the basement of my shop with a Rock Island theme. The Oklahoma/Kansas division was born. An extensive operations developed an area of 23' by 60' equipped with DCC electronics.

My interests have changed over the years. I still like trains, both prototype and models all around our country.

# Instant Gratification VS Constant Gratification

By Larry Nelson

We live in a fast paced world. We have the ability to do things that our forefathers never dreamed of doing. We get into a nice fast car and effortlessly travel distances in one day that would have taken days or even weeks one hundred years ago. We jet around the world as if it were nothing. Our markets have an endless supply of food that in the past were only available in season. We can contact people around the world instantaneously via the internet.

Model railroading is one of those things that have changed dramatically. We can have almost anything we want over night using the internet. We accumulate large stores of merchandise on a whim. I am guilty of this. I have shelves full of engines and cars. I have kits that will never get built in a couple lifetimes, instant gratification at its worst. The problem with instant gratification is that it has no staying power. My father always said that wishing for something was far more enjoyable than actually having it. I always thought that he was just being cheap and didn't want me to have what I was wishing for. I never really understood what he was saying until later in life. As I grew up and had those things that I had wished for as a child, I found out that I was not satisfied for very long with them. I would try to fill the void with something new. It doesn't work!

On the other hand, there is constant gratification. This is the type of feeling you get from a lifetime of having or owning something meaningful. Model railroading is full of so many opportunities for this kind of gratification. First, and probably the most important, is the like-minded friends we meet through the hobby. The more we invest in them, the more enjoyment we will get from them.

I have found that this is true with the things we own. If we build something with our hands and mind, we will get rewarded every time we look at it or handle it for the rest of our lives. I don't get that same feeling with things that I just purchased and set on the shelf or on the layout. Adding a bit of yourself to any piece on your layout will bring back memories, pride of accomplishment, and a feeling of true ownership. Once you have that feeling, you can never lose it. You can't even give it away. I enjoy making billboards and picnic tables. Some of these I give to friends. I try to match the billboards to the era that they model. There is always room on a layout for one more sign or a picnic table. When I visit those layouts, or if I never get to see those layouts, I still have the sense of pride

knowing I have added something to someone else's layout. Some of my work is on some very nice layouts around the area and around the world. When I go to conventions, I sometimes carry a pocket full of picnic tables, safely packed in used pill containers, to give them to people all over the United States and around the world. They usually look at me like I'm crazy when I hand them a pill bottle. I tell them to look inside, and we have a good laugh. I will now have a piece of my handy work on someone's layout and a new friend. A lot of times I know that I will never see that person again, but it's a way of remembering them and remembering that moment. At a recent national convention I was sitting at a table eating a quick lunch when I heard someone yell "Hey picnic table". Since there were some empty seats at the table, I figured they were just excited to get a seat to eat their lunch. They came over and looked at me and said, "You're the picnic table guy. We ate lunch with you a couple years ago." We had lunch together again. They were with a group of modelers from half way around the world. I would have totally missed seeing them again if it hadn't been for that little picnic table. I hope nobody ever reaches that 100% complete layout that has no room for a picnic table! If they do, I hope they will pass that table on to someone else.

Whether you are building bench work, laying track, wiring a control panel, painting a backdrop, building scenery, upgrading a boxcar with grab irons, kit bashing a kit, or building a contest model, you are investing some of yourself into your hobby. That investment rewards you with a lifetime of constant gratification. Show me what you are building.

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

### Spam Button Misuse

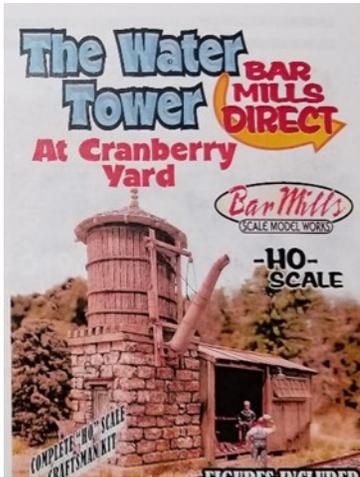
It has come to the attention of the IT department that many NMRA members do not receive NMRA email publications such as Turntable, eBulletin, and Dispatch because OTHER members use the Spam button.

If the publication is not of interest, simply delete it. If you no longer want to receive any NMRA email publication, please use the Unsubscribe link, which is safe and secure. Never use the Spam or Junk button. If too many people do this, service providers such as Yahoo will block all people from ever seeing the emails. Most NMRA members want to keep in touch. Don't ruin it for them.

Please note that Unsubscribe will apply to all NMRA email publications, including Turntable, eBulletin, special eBulletins and Dispatch.

# A BRANCHLINE WATER TOWER

by Minton Dings, MMR®



## Yes, Reviewing Another Bar Mills Kit

As one might suspect, I like Bar Mills kits! I must also admit to my addiction to the quaint and small-town appearance for their mostly down east and seacoast of Maine appearance. In my mind it fits the 1950s rural Kentucky scene which can still be found in the “back country” of the state today. Over half of the 168 (now 169) structures incorporated into the Green River Branch layout are from Bar Mills.

There is no longer space for major structures on the layout, but I can still find small spots to tuck in a small structure such as the water tower and toolshed into the log loading yard of the Green River Lumber Company.

## The Water Tower

The water tower kit as illustrated on the cover of the box shown above is two kits which can be ordered together or separately. The water tower kit is mostly resin with basswood for the toolshed structure components.

The resin stone base, tank and roof were washed with mild dish soap and water and allowed to dry. Next I sprayed the parts with dollar and a half a can Walmart gray primer from my supply which is no longer available. Any gray petroleum based primer will do. After the primer dried overnight, I used another coat of gray primer color as the base color of the stone of the tower base. The base was weathered with a combination of India ink and 91% alcohol mixed four tablespoons to a pint of alcohol. I treated the tank and roof in the same manner as the undercoating



for the color which was to follow for those parts. The weathering solution was allowed to dry for about an



hour. The base was angled on a small pair of scissors to give it a bit of an angle for the India and alcohol mix to run from the top to the



bottom.

The tank was painted brown and the bands black with a Sharie pen as shown.



Continued on Page 7

The roof has rafter ends showing for which I mistakenly did not take pictures of the process of installation. The instructions are clear. The rafter layer was carefully painted brown.



The roof shingles were painted a mustard yellow blended with brown to match (sort of) the color of the shake shingles which would be on the roof of the tool shed. The blending of color appeared to be correct when wet, but when dry, the shingles appeared to be near the color of a newly shingled roof. That was not a problem, but an observation that colors do not always dry the color presented when wet.

The spout assembly was described in the instructions as “straightforward, but should be attempted when the modeler was well rested.” Glad I did, because “straightforward” took me several attempts and



a few hours to produce a somewhat satisfactory result. (or maybe my fingers are not as nimble as they once were.)

## The Tool Shed

The tool shed is a board by board construction of the outer walls. The stud walls are laser cut which simplifies the erecting of the structure. The outer wall may be left as rough cut lumber. There is an option of covering the board-by-board wall with a tar paper appearing sheet material. I chose the look of the rustic board-by-board appearance.

I used my cutting mat to square the stud walls and checked it with a small modeler’s machinist



square. Cutting the boards to length was only a matter of using my chopper to get consistent length boards. After placing the roof center beam, the rafters, which were laser cut, fit snugly on the beam and to the walls.



Continued on Page 8

The Base for the floor and its floor joists is already cut as shown in the second picture below. A sheet of flooring is provided to be glued to the opposite side so that the floor joists show as support for the floor which will be mounted on concrete blocks. I glued the floor piece to its base and weathered it with India ink and 91% alcohol. (Some have asked why I use 91% alcohol. The reason I use 91% alcohol rather than the 70% alcohol is the reduced content of water, which reduces the effect of warping when using basswood. 91% alcohol is more combustible, therefore the modeler must use caution.)



### Final Thoughts

The Water Tower at Cranberry Yard is in some ways a simplified kit. Much of the work is done by the manufacturer, Bar Mills Scale Models. In other ways it was a bit of a challenge for me with small parts. It will be an interesting addition to the log loading yard of Green River Lumber which services small geared locomotives, three shays and a climax. It seems to fit in well as seen in the picture below. The ground cover needs to be adjusted a bit to blend it into the total scene. I think the water tower and tool shed has found a home.



Even using 91% alcohol can cause some warp, so I clamped the floor assembly to the edge of my cutting mat and allowed it to dry overnight to assure a flat surface. Notice my fancy clamps. These clamps are available in small, medium and large (normal) sized in hobby/crafts stores. The dried floor and walls fit together exactly with the siding showing over the edge



of the floor. (Whew!) The tool shed can be placed wherever the modeler wants it. I thought it looked best as shown in the picture in the lead photo and as shown at the top of the next column.

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MODEL RAILRODERS

**Great Midwest Train Show** will reopen Sunday, August 8, 2021 at the DuPage County Fair Grounds, Wheaton, Illinois. The show is scheduled for September 12, October 10, November 14 and December 12. Their website did not list times or admission price. Free parking and handicapped accessible.

**9th Annual Elkader Model Train Show and Swap Meet**, Sunday, August 22, 2021, 10am to 4pm., Johnson's Reception Hall, 910 High Street, Elkader, Iowa. Admission: Adults \$4.00, Kids 6-12 years, \$2.00, Children 5 and under free. Free parking. No accessibility information.

**Scale Model Railroad Swap Meet**, Elmhurst Model Railroad Club, Friday, September 10, 2021, 6pm to 9pm, Elmhurst Christian Reform Center, 149 Branch Hill Road, Elmhurst, IL, Admission \$5.00, children and spouses free. No parking or accessibility information provided.

**Green. County Model Railroaders 43rd Annual Model Train Show and Swap Meet**, Saturday and Sunday, September 25 and 26, 2021, 10am to 4pm., The Stateline Expo, 1632 4th Ave., Monroe, Wisconsin. No admission or accessibility information provided.

**Iowa City Train Show**, Sunday, October 10, 2021, 9am to 3pm, Johnson County Fairgrounds, Building C, 4261 Oak Crest Hill Road, Iowa City, Iowa. Admission \$5.00, Children 10 and under free with an adult. Free parking. No accessibility information.

**Sherman Train Show**, Saturday, October 17, 2021 10am to 3pm, Sherman Athletic Club, 300 South First Street, Sherman, Illinois. Admission \$5.00, Children Under 10 free, \$10.00 Early Bird admission at 9am. Free parking, handicapped accessible.

**The Dupo Train Show**, Saturday, November 13, 2021, 9:30am to 2pm, The American Legion, 200 South 5th Street, Dupo, IL. Admission \$3.00, 12 and under free. No parking or accessibility information provided.

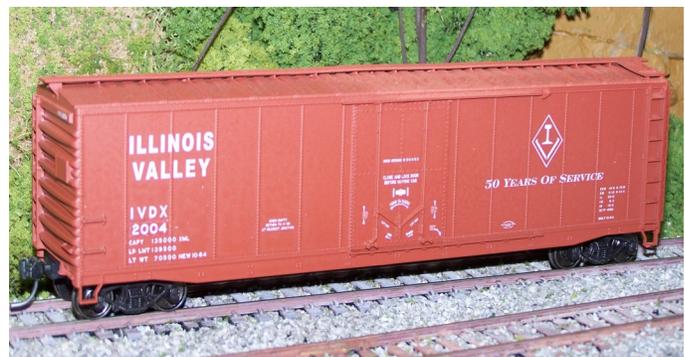
**Peoria Train Fair**, Sunday November 21, 2021, 10am to 3pm, Illinois Central College, US Rt. 24, 1 mile east of IL Rt. 116, East Peoria, IL. Admission: \$3.00, children under 12 free with an adult. Free parking and handicapped accessible.

# TRAINFEST 2021 CANCELLED

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY HOPPER AND BOXCARS AVAILABLE AT \$10 EACH



The Fifty Year Anniversary cars are still available. There are now only 12 hoppers and 50 boxcars left. Both cars are for sale at the division meetings and train fairs. The cost is reduced to \$10.00 each plus shipping. The cost by mail is \$10.00 each plus \$6.00 shipping, or \$7.50 shipping for 2 cars or \$8.50 shipping for 3 or 4 cars. The cars are also now available through Minton Dings at 15548 State Route 78, Havana IL, 62644-6803; telephone 309-241-4504, e-mail [greenriver-branch1957@gmail.com](mailto:greenriver-branch1957@gmail.com) (Put IVD CARS in the subject line for easy recognition). **Make checks payable to Minton Dings.** The cost of the cars will be reimbursed to the Illinois Valley Division.



# FUTURE NMRA CONVENTIONS

## Midwest Region Convention, Rockford, Illinois

**CANCELLED**

The Spring Convention planned for May 20-23 and rescheduled for September 16—19, 2021 has been cancelled due to uncertainty about participant safety and allowable meeting limits.

## TRI REGION CONVENTION

May 18-22, 2022 at the Marriott East Hotel Complex, in Indianapolis, IN sponsored by the Midwest, North Central and Mid Central Regions.



## NMRA National Convention July 4-11, 2021 Santa Clara, California



**CANCELLED**



### PERSONAL AND BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENTS AVAILABLE

Personal business sized layout ads are available to Illinois Divisions members temporarily at no cost.

Website Timetable Both

#### Business:

Business Card Size: \$20.00 \$12.50 \$30.00

Business Card X2: \$30.00 \$25.00 \$45.00

Make checks to Illinois Valley Division, NMRA. Send to Minton Dings, 15548 State Route 78, Havana, IL 62644-6803

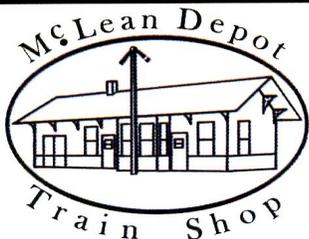
## 2022 NMRA National Convention, St. Louis

August 7—August 15, 2022

Visit [nmra.org](http://nmra.org) for more information.

More details will appear in this newsletter near the dates of this convention.

This is a rescheduling of the cancelled 2020 convention due to the pandemic.



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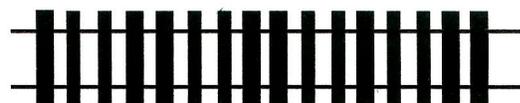
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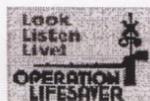
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**ILLINOIS VALLEY DIVISION  
ANNUAL PICNIC  
Saturday, August 14, 12 noon  
Peck Park, Galesburg  
West Side of the Railroad  
Viaduct on East North Street**



Sorry for the poor quality of the map!