



THE TIMETABLE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
ILLINOIS VALLEY DIVISION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



Volume 43, No. 2, March 2024

WEBSITE: nmra-ivd.org

Hello IVD members,

Here it is once again, time for another gathering of IVD members to meet for fun, learning and most importantly FELLOWSHIP!

March is our election month, and we will need to elect a few new officers, including your Superintendent. I want to take this time to thank all the people within the IVD that helped on the frontlines and those that helped behind the scenes, you made my time as Superintendent enjoyable. And want to thank all the IVD members who supported my time in office, as well as those who volunteered when called upon. There are so many people to name, so I will say a big THANK YOU to all. I may be stepping down, but I am not leaving the IVD and will still attend meets and volunteer as much as I can when possible.

The March meet will be held on the 16th and will coincide with the IVD Potluck. We will have the potluck from 12pm to 1:30pm with the IVD meet following starting at 1:45pm. The meet will be held at the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Bartonville. The meeting will follow after clean up and the model railroad wives can stay and attend the meeting or they can adjourn to the other side of the curtain/wall and gossip about us.

Be on the lookout for an email regarding the potluck to RSVP and indicate what side dish will be provided. Again, the IVD board will provide the following and ask that all attendees bring a side dish or dessert.

Pulled Pork
Fried Chicken
Ice Tea/Lemon Aid
Bottled water
Paper Plates
Cups
and Plasticware

Well, that's all for now, until we see each other at the March Meet.

Highball!!!

Jim Tatum
IVD Superintendent

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS AND PARTICIPANTS

MASK MANDATE FOR INDOOR MEETINGS?

With the resurgence of COVID this year, the Illinois Valley Division will follow the instructions on mask use by the facility being used for our meetings. Masks probably will not be required, but be prepared.

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

DIVISION OFFICERS



SUPERINTENDENT (2024)

Jim Tatum

(309)-547-0312

superintendent@nmra-ivd.org



ASST. SUPERINTENDENT (2025)

IVD TIMETABLE EDITOR and AP CHAIRPERSON

Minton Dings, MMR®

(309)-241-4504

greenriverbranch1957@gmail.com



CHIEF CLERK (2024)

Randy Sommer

(309)274-4533

chief.clerk@nmra-ivd.org



PAYMASTER (Appointed)

Jeff Deasy

217-836-0223

paymaster@nmra-ivd.org

TRAINMASTERS



District 1—Peoria & Tazwell Counties

(2025)

Russ Smith

309-255-058

district1@nmra-ivd.org



To Be
Appointed

DISTRICT 2 - Grundy, Livingston, McLean & Woodford Co.



DISTRICT 3 - Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam & Stark Co. (2025)

David Hawkey

(309)274-6150

district3@nmra-ivd.org

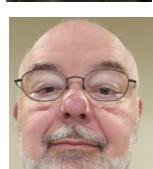


DISTRICT 4 - Fulton, Henry, Knox, Rock Island and Warren Co. (2024)

Larry Nelson

(309)789-6447

district4@nmra-ivd.org



DISTRICT 5 - Adams, Brown, Cass, Logan, Mason, McDonough, Menard, Morgan, Pike, Sangamon, Schuyler & Scott Co. (2025)

Thomas Ose

(217)483-4368

district5@nmra-ivd.org

Year listed with title indicates the end of present term.

2023 Illinois Valley Division, Midwest Region, NMRA

Photos by the contributors and editor

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Contact editor at greenriverbranch1957@gmail.com

Upcoming 2024 IVD Meetings

Membership Meetings:

Meetings are held on the third Saturday of January, March, May, September and November at a branch of the Peoria Public Library, Peoria. Lately the meetings have been held in the conference room in the second lower level at the downtown main library. Meetings begin at 1:00 pm unless otherwise announced (See below). Doors open at 12 noon for a time of fellowship. A \$3.00 donation is welcomed by members which qualifies each donor participation in the door prize drawing.

MARCH MEETING LOCATION AND SCHEDULE CHANGED


The Saturday, March 16, 2024 meeting of the Illinois Valley Division will be held at the Trinity Presbyterian Church along with the Annual IVD Potluck Banquet. See the Superintendent's Column. The church will be open at 11:00am with the meal at 12 noon. The meeting will begin at 1:30pm. Please RSVP to Jim Tatum with the number of guests and the side dish or dessert which the member will bring.
Superintendent@nmra-ivd.org

Clinics will be (1) Installing Backdrops by Gary Baker (also see pages 7 and 8) and (2) The train wreak on Saluda grade by Jim Tatum.

Board of Directors Meetings:

The next Board of Directors Meeting, will be Monday April 15, 2024, 6:00 pm by Zoom. Members who wish to attend need to contact Jim Tatum, Superintendent at the email address listed to the left of this page to receive the Zoom invitation.

2024 POPULAR VOTE CONTEST SCHEDULE

March: (1) Scratchbuilt Structures, (2) Kitbashed Structures

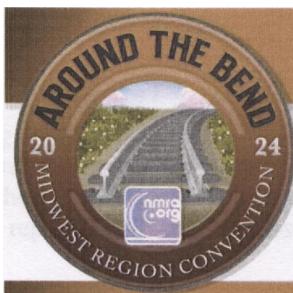
May: (1) Freight Cars, (2) Dioramas, Off Line or On Line

September:

(1) Hand Laid Track, (2) Buildings—On Line

November: (1) Steam Locomotives, (2) Traction - Locomotives and Cars

MIDWEST REGION 2024 CONVENTION



AROUND THE BEND MIDWEST REGIONAL CONVENTION MAY 2ND-4TH, 2024

The Century Center, South Bend, Indiana

Regional Train Event • Clinics • Layout Tours • Open to the Public
Operating Sessions • Display Room • NMRA AP Program Evaluation
Railroad and General Interest Tours • Help for Getting Started

Location: South Bend, Indiana

Century Center
120 Doctor M. F. K. Jr., Blvd.
South Bend, Indiana 46601

For More Information:

Convention Website
www.mwr-nmra.org/aroundthebend.html



ANNUAL IVD POTLUCK BANQUET

AND MARCH DIVISION MEETING
SATURDAY, March 16, 2024

Location:

Trinity Presbyterian Church
4400 Airport Road
Bartonville, Illinois

The IVD Board will provide the following for the meal: Pulled Pork, Fried Chicken, Ice Tea, Bottled Water Paper Plates, cups and plasticware.

We ask that anyone attending to RSVP with the number of guests and what side dish and/or dessert they will be bringing. RSVP to Jim Tatum at superintendent@nnmra-ivd.org.

NMRA 2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION

August 4-11, 2024



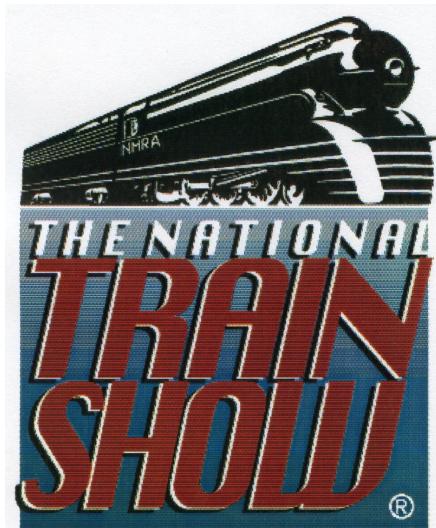
Location: Long Beach California

The Westin Long Beach
333 East Ocean Blvd
Long Beach, California USA

For More Information:

Convention Website:

[https://surfliner2024.org/_](https://surfliner2024.org/)



At the Site of the NMRAQ 2024 Convention

Friday, August 9, 1:00 pm through
Sunday August 11, 2024, 4:00 pm.

Website: www.nationaltrainshow.org

Online Tickets available in June or July.

NOMINEES FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTION

Election is March 16, 2024

Superintendent: Gary Baker

Term of two years for election by all members of the Illinois Valley Division.

My name is Gary Baker and I am running for the position of Superintendent. I live in Pekin Illinois and have been a member of the IVD since 2005 where I served as Chief Clerk from 2010 to 2018.



Professionally I am a graduate Electrical Engineer from Bradley University after which I worked for Keystone Steel (now Liberty Steel) for 16 years. In 1990 I started my own business specializing in the installation, startup, and maintenance of high power substations and control systems for Steel Mills with clients worldwide so it is little wonder that the HO railroad empire in my basement focuses on Steel Mill operations.

My association with the IVD over the last 19 years has been a great experience where I have had the pleasure of meeting and associating with tremendously talented, like minded people who have not only taught me a lot about model railroading, they have shown me the true value of the world's greatest hobby which is fellowship and sharing of ideas. As I wind down my professional career in 2024 I feel like I now have the time to be able to spend the time necessary to assume the duties of Superintendent.

With 8 years of previous experience as Chief Clerk I am confident I can perform the duties required of the Superintendent and represent the IVD well in the Midwest Division. Please consider voting for me as the next Superintendent of the IVD.

Chief Clerk: Randy Sommer

Term of two years for election by all members of the Illinois Valley Division.



I am a mechanical engineer who retired after 40 years at Caterpillar. In retirement, my wife and I are enjoying spoiling our 5 grandchildren, and Lord willing will celebrate our 52nd wedding anniversary late in 2024. I enjoy the outdoors, fishing and golfing. My dad had some HO model trains in the 1950's and I created my first layout (4x8), which grew to two 4x8's when I

was a teenager. Model trains took a back seat to go-kart racing after college. I raced go-karts on the Daytona International Speedway, Mid-Ohio, Milwaukee County Fairgrounds and Indianapolis Raceway Park. I retired from go-karting when the first of our children was born.

I have gotten back into model railroading in my retirement and am presently serving as the Chief Clerk of the IVD.

Trainmaster: District 2, Term of two years for elections by members residing in Grundy, Livingston, McLean & Woodford Counties. No resident member of District 2 has been nominated or volunteered to serve as the Trainmaster

Trainmaster: District 4,

Larry Nelson For election by members of Fulton, Henry, Knox, Mercer, Rock Island & Warren Counties.



I have been a member of the NMRA for several years. I was born and raised in Canton, Illinois and currently live at Lake Weemawatuk with my lovely wife Diane. I am hoping to serve District 4 and the Illinois Valley Division to the best of my ability. I want to continue to grow in involvement of our members and bring in new members. I will promote the hobby every chance I get. I have lots of ideas for growing participation, I need all of you to help me be successful. I am currently organizing a special interests group to promote operations. We are looking for hosts to provide layouts to operate on and members to crew those operating sessions. I will be looking forward to getting to know some of you better.

I am currently building a small point to point layout in my home and have operating sessions. I enjoy participating in modeling contests in our IVD meetings and wish more members could get involved. I like to present clinics and write articles for our newsletter. If you are doing something interesting, share it with the rest of us.

I would appreciate your support and your involvement in the NMRA Illinois Valley Division.

ILLINOIS VALLEY DIVISION 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS BALLOT

PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO VOTE CAREFULLY!

1. Record your name and NMRA Membership Number in the lower right corner of this instruction box.
2. To Submit Your Ballot, fold the ballot address outward, tape shut on both ends and add a First Class Stamp or send your ballot digitally as delivered to you by e-mail.
3. Mail-In Ballots must be received no later than March 15, 2024 by mail or be delivered to the meeting March 16, 2024 to be counted.
4. Ballots must be submitted by mail or the digital format, delivered to all e-mail addresses of Illinois Valley Division members as provided to the NMRA.
5. Ballots will be destroyed following the election meeting.

NAME _____ AND
NMRA MEMBER # _____

FOR THE OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

(Vote for One) - For all Members of the Illinois Valley Division

Gary Baker

FOR THE CHIEF CLERK

(Vote for One) - For all Members of the Illinois Valley Division

Randy Sommer

*** IMPORTANT—VOTE FOR TRAINMASTERS IS VALID ONLY FOR IVD MEMBERS

RESIDING IN THE INDICATED COUNTIES. VOTES FROM MEMBERS WHO RESIDE OUTSIDE THE INDICATED COUNTIES WILL NOT BE COUNTED.

FOR THE OFFICE OF TRAINMASTER OF DISTRICT 2

(Vote for One) - Only For Members of the Illinois Valley Division residing in Grundy, Livingston, McLean & Woodford Counties.

No Candidate

FOR THE OFFICE OF TRAINMASTER OF DISTRICT 4

(Vote for One) - Only For Members of the Illinois Valley Division residing in Fulton, Henry, Knox, Mercer, Rock Island & Warren Counties.

Larry Nelson

**Minton Dings, MMR, Asst. Superintendent
Illinois Valley Division, NMRA
15548 State Route 78
Havana, Illinois 62644-6803**

Model Railroad Planning

by Gary Baker

Here I go again. 24 years after I started building the Culpepper & Western HO railroad, all the buildings and landscaping on two major portions of the layout are removed from their long time positions and are sitting clustered next to each other on three card tables and a couch in the next room all because I failed to plan for background scenery in the design phase. I did incorporate plaster mountains and hills in some sections that worked out pretty well and the one backdrop that I did paint behind the town of Madison was good enough to get me over the 87-1/2 point threshold necessary to earn the scenery AP but that backdrop sits behind 5 feet of town buildings and plaster hills which already gave the observer a sense of depth. The main problem I created by lack of initial planning was three long expanses of wall with track just a few inches away from the backdrop leaving little or no room for much of anything three dimensional to ease the transition to the flat wall. After watching numerous videos about how "anyone" can learn how to paint "realistic-enough" model railroad backdrops and trying my hand at various techniques, it was painfully obvious that art is not in the DNA of an engineer so my next attempt was to contact the local art guild to get a list of artists who might be willing to take on the job of painting realistic scenery on a model railroad layout and make some extra money in the process. Of the dozen or so names that the art guild gave me I got responses from only two and understandably neither was willing to spend the time it would take in my basement to paint 80 feet of walls, so I finally conceded that if I was going to have anything passable as an adequate background to improve realism on the long straight stretches of my railroad it would have to be photographic backdrops.

There are several websites that sell backdrops for model railroads. All were similar in cost so after poring over them for weeks and months I finally settled on one and made the initial contact. The owner was a model railroader himself with three different layouts in cramped spaces so he understood the problems I was facing. He also had a lot of experience at modifying photos to blend two scenes together for a smooth transition from one scene to another which would be of extreme importance in my situation. He did custom backdrops from photos taken by modelers as well, but I found his selection of backdrops along with his experience in scene transitions would be everything I would need as I gradually work my way around the 80 feet of walls in order to spread out the cost of the project. But the most impressive thing about him was the

vaunted fellowship we modelers talk about which was on full display as he took the time to talk at length about what I wanted, the perspective from which observers would be viewing each scene, and his thoughts based on his experience both as a backdrop designer and as a model railroader.

After taking a few pictures, numerous back and forth emails, and several phone conversations discussing ideas, I decided on three backdrops to start with. The first two were simple ones six and eight feet long with just trees and clouds to be installed on opposite sides of a 4 x 8 foot removable partition so I could familiarize myself with the installation process before I attempted the much harder installation of a 20 foot long continuous backdrop behind the industrial section. But before any of the backdrops could be installed I faced another conundrum. One thing I did right in the planning stage was to install a 4 foot high masonite wallboard all around the layout room and painted it sky blue from top to bottom so it was a nice flat surface to work with. Only a few of the backdrop websites advertised backdrops that high, and while it certainly would have been very impressive and would have immersed the observer totally in the scene, they were much more expensive and the thought of installing such a large backdrop was problematic to say the least on a railroad that was already up and running, so I settled for a 24" high backdrop all around the room.

To keep the viewer's eyes from wandering above the two foot high backdrop to the blank blue wallboard above it, I decided to repaint the entire 80 feet of walls a tan color for contrast and then add a piece of trim covering the top edge of the backdrop to serve as a picture frame of sorts that would further help to keep the eyes focused on the trains. At the time of this writing my first backdrops have arrived and the wallboard repainting is completed. By the time this appears in the newsletter the first backdrops will be in place and I will be planning the next backdrop sections as I work my way around the room transitioning scenes from industrial to rural, then to agricultural, and finally to a mountain scene as I finish up, blending it in as much as possible with the existing Madison background I originally painted. With the help of my newfound model railroading acquaintance in the backdrop design business and with the help from my fellow modelers here at home to do the installation I hope to have some pictures to share in future Timetables and to put together a clinic for presentation at a future meet.

In closing, I have a few suggestions based on what I have learned about backdrops in this process:

- 1) If you are in the beginning stages of building a layout of any size, take the time to think about what you want the final scene to look like and how three

dimensional scenery that you add along the wall can be merged into a painted or purchased backdrop that makes the scene look much deeper than it really is. In addition to being much more satisfying in the finished layout, it is much easier to paint or install a backdrop FIRST. Plus, if the backdrop is already in place, it makes it easier to locate and merge trackage, hills, roads, and bridges so they realistically look like they go off into the distance.

- 2) Don't get hung up on the different types of backdrop materials, pixel densities, etc that the different suppliers promote to make their backdrops look more "realistic" than the others. I don't mean to disparage any supplier or suggest that you avoid considering the higher resolution backdrops because they are in fact awe-inspiring and draw you in with their excellent quality, fine detail, and multiple colors. So if that's your thing, go for it. But for my money, I want the viewers to focus on the trains, not the backdrop. And besides, when you go outside and look off to the horizon things aren't crystal clear or in high definition out in the distance.
- 3) Know your limitations. I decided to do this now while I'm still physically able to do it. But climbing ladders and leaning over things to repaint entire walls and installing a backdrop in sometimes inaccessible places of an existing layout can be mentally and physically challenging, so don't try to tackle it by yourself. Enlist the help of other model railroaders. I'm sure they will be glad to oblige.

PERSONAL AND BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENTS AVAILABLE

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

Business: One Year, 6 Issues

	Website	Timetable	Both
Business Card Size:	\$20.00	\$12.50	\$30.00
Business Card X2:	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$45.00
Business Card X3	\$40.00	\$35.00	\$60.00
Business Card X4	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$75.00
Column or 1/2 Page	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$90.00

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

Help in creating an ad is available by contacting Minton

MAINLINE

MODEL RAILROAD PRODUCTS LLC

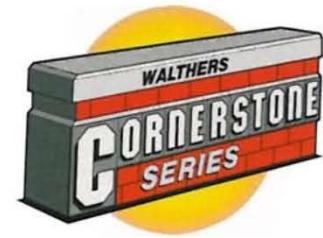
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2436 DENVER DRIVE – SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702

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HOURS: WED – SUN / 12 NOON TO 7 PM



PRE-ORDERS & CONSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED



MAILED TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Mail to Minton Dings, 15548 SR 78, Havana, Illinois 62644-6803

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MODEL RAILRODERS

Great Midwest Train Show, Sunday, March 3, 2024, DuPage County Fair Grounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, Illinois. The show is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month of 2024 (except no show in July), 9 am to 3 pm. Admission \$7, online \$6, and children under 11 free. Free parking and handicapped accessible.

4th Annual Modell Railroad Show and Swap Meet, Saturday, March 2, 2024, 9— am to 2 pm, 4-H Building, Dubuque County Fairgrounds, 145669 Old Highway Road, Dubuque, Iowa. Admission \$4, children 12 and under free with a paid adult. Free parking.

Boeing Employees Railroad Club Railroad Swap Meet, Saturday, March 9, 2024, 10:00am to 3:00pm, Greenfelder Recreation Complex at Queeny Park, 550 Wiedman Road, St. Louis, Missouri. Admission: \$5.00, children under 12 free. No parking or handicapped information provided. (Next Show, September 7, 2024.)

Springfield Train Fair, Sunday, March 10, 2024, Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL, 10 am to 4 pm. Admission \$5, children under 11 free. Early Bird admission for entry at 9 am, \$5 extra. Free parking and handicapped accessible.

Rock River Valley Train Show, Saturday and Sunday, March 16-17, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-3, Harlin High School, 9229 North Alpine Road, Machesney Park (Rockford Area), Illinois, Admission \$5, kids free. Free parking and handicapped accessible.

Model Trains at Lincoln Square 2024 Model Train Show, Lincoln Square Village, 100 West High Street, Urbana, Illinois. Admission free. Free parking and handicapped accessible.

13th Annual Davenport Model Railroad & Memorabilia Show, Saturday, April 13, 2024, 9:00am — 3:00pm, Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, 2815 West Locust Street, Davenport, Iowa. Admission: \$5.00, children 12 and under are free with an adult. No parking or handicapped information available.

Chicago O Scale Meet, Sunday through Wednesday, April 14—17, Westin Lombard Yorktown Center, Lombard, Illinois. Admission: \$30.00 per person, spouses free and under 15 free..

2024 Galesburg Train Show, Saturday, June 29, 2024, 10:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday, June 30, 2024, 10:00am to 2:00pm, Knox College, T. Fleming Fieldhouse, 199 East Knox Street, Galesburg, Illinois. Ad-

mission \$5.00, children under 12 free. No parking and handicapped information provided.

The 33rd Annual Greater St. Luis Metro Train Show, NEW DATES & NEW PLACE, Saturday & Sunday, October 5 & 6, 2024, Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday 10:00am to 3:00pm at Meramec Community College Gym, Geyer Road & Big Bend, Kirkwood, Missouri. Admission is \$10.00, children 12 and under are free.

6th Annual Sherman Scale Train Show, Sunday, October 20, 2024, 10:00am to 3:00pm, Sherman Athletic Club, 300 South First Street, Sherman, Illinois. Scale Trains only. Admission: \$5.00 (\$10.00 early bird at 9:00am), Children under 10 free. Free parking and handicapped accessible.

Model Train Fair & Farm Toy Show, Saturday, November 16, 2024, 9:00am to 2:00pm, Bureau County Fairgrounds, Rt. 6 West, 811 West Peru Street, Princeton, Illinois. Admission \$5, children 10 and under are free. No parking or handicapped information provided.

Peoria and Pekin Train Fair, Sunday, November 17 2024, 10 am to 3 pm. Illinois Central College, IL Rt. 24, I mile east of IL Rt. 116, East Peoria, Illinois. Admission, Adult donation of \$3.00, children under 12 free with an adult. Free parking and handicap accessible.

Trainfest, Saturday and Sunday, November 23 and 24, 2024, Wisconsin State Fairgrounds, Exposition Center, 8200 West Greenfield Ave., West Allis, Wisconsin. Admission: Saturday \$20, Sunday \$15, Two day \$25, Children— Saturday \$110, Sunday \$5, two day \$15. Tickets can be purchased on-line to avoid waiting in the ticket line on site. Parking fee. Handicapped accessible.

Advertisement and Subscribers

Fees are Due

Fees for subscribers of the mailed copies of the Timetable are due at \$10.00 for six copies.

Commercial ad fees are also due according to the size of the ad. The fee schedule for Timetable or website or both Timetable and website are found bottom of page 8.

Send checks to Minton Dings, 15548 SR 78, Havana, Illinois 62644-6803.

When recorded, the checks will be forwarded to the IVD paymaster.

Springfield Railroad Society, Inc.

TRAIN FAIR

March 10, 2024 - Orr Building - State Fairgrounds



*The Largest
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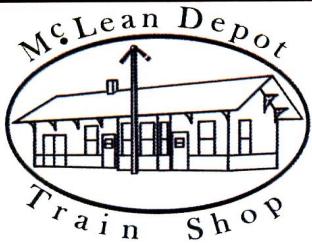
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jameswise1234@comcast.net



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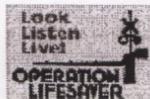
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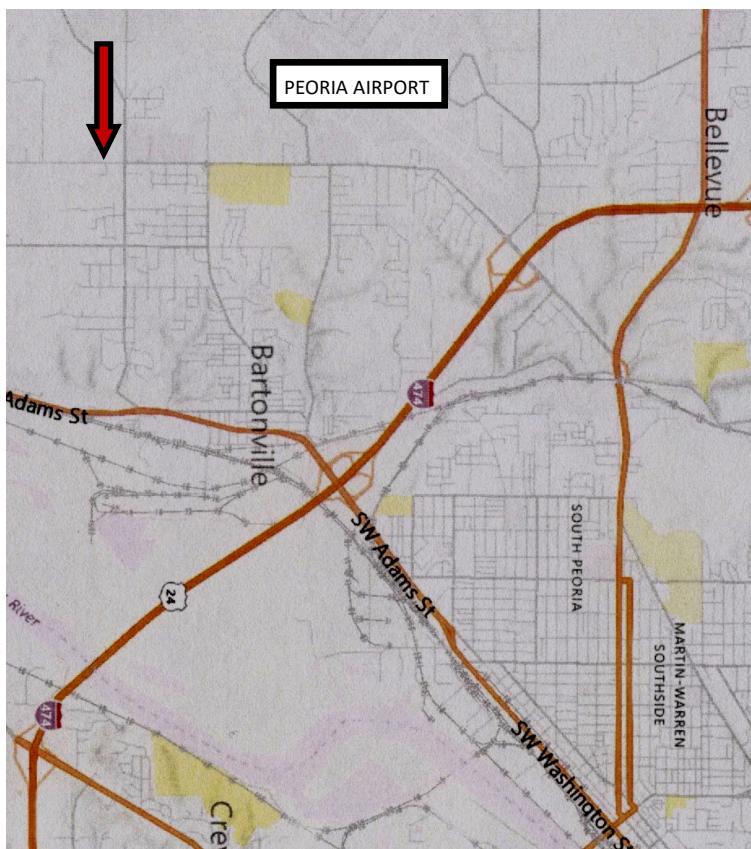


FIRST CLASS MAIL

Postmaster:

Return Service Requested

Election Edition



ILLINOIS VALLEY DIVISION OF THE NMRA

March 16, 2024
DIVISION MEETING AND BANQUET



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4400 Airport Road, Bartonville Illinois

CLINICS: (1) INSTALLING BACKDROPS BY GARY
BAKER AND (2) THE WRECK ON SALUDA GRADE BY
JIM TATUM

CONTESTS: (1) SCRATCHBUILT STRUCTURES AND (2)
KITBASHED STRUCTURES

SALES TABLES AVAILABLE. SORRY, NO DEALERS.

