



# THE TIMETABLE

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



## Volume 43, No. 5, November 2024

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

### Notch 1-1/2

The first steam locomotive I bought was a brand new 2-8-2 Mikado that didn't run very well right out of the box. Frustrated with the herky-jerky way it moved down the track I should have returned it but my engineering background took it as a challenge and after studying the problem I found that the quartering of the drivers was off a little bit. That shouldn't be a big deal. All I had to do was adjust a few linkages, right?... Talk about the understatement of the year !! .... I learned the hard way that trying to set the quartering by eye and expect to get the alignment perfect on all axles is next to impossible. But finally, after exhausting my library of expletives, going through countless batteries for the lighted magnifying glasses I needed to see what I was doing, and a little luck, I was able to get it running smoother. This is where I am right now as Superintendent. I've had my hand on the throttle for 8 months and we've started down the track, but like my Mikado, it's been a little jerky at times. And just like the Mikado, the answer lies in fine tuning the human linkages between myself, the board, and the members to make sure every wheel of the IVD locomotive works in unison to drive us forward. With all of us working together, the light at the end of the tunnel will continue to get bigger day by day and soon we'll be able to lock the throttle in notch two for a while, taking our time to get things right before we go to notch 3.

Up next is the November 16<sup>th</sup> meet at the North Branch of the Peoria Library from noon to 4P. There will not be any layout tours this time because of the ICC Train show that is going on the very next day so we will adjourn after the clinics are presented and take the portable layout to the ICC campus to get it set up for the train show on Sunday. We need volunteers to operate the layout and man the membership table from 10A to 3P so if you have an hour or two available to help it would be appreciated.

On December 14<sup>th</sup> we have a new venue for the portable layout at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield as we participate

in the Springfield Holiday Walks which is a series of family friendly events at the Union Station portion of the museum campus between Thanksgiving and Christmas. There will be a lot of kids to run our trains from noon to 8 PM so as always we will need volunteers to set up and operate the layout. It will be a gala event so notify your trainmaster or any board member if you can spare an hour or two to help out.

Looking back, the Spoon Valley Drive event at the Fulton County Narrow Gauge depot was a success again and numerous children got to run the trains on our portable layout. The improvement we made to the modules during the summer paid off in faster setup and tear down times. There were a few hiccups as always but by and large it went well.

The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary meet in Utica was a disappointment from a layout tour perspective as none were made available to us. Hopefully more members will open their homes to show us their layouts in future meets. The Utica meet itself was a success though with good clinics and the telling of the 60 year history of the IVD, particularly with one of the original members, Jim Wise (MMR), in attendance to reminisce with us. Several items of Marion Brasher's personal effects and memorabilia were also on display. Thanks to Ed Brown for putting it all together and the Utica Community Center for letting us use their first class facility.

Until next time ..... Cheers !! .....

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

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Gary Baker  
309-264-6797  
afpgary@mac.com



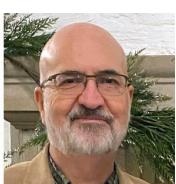
### ASST. SUPERINTENDENT (2025)

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## TRAINMASTERS



### District 1—Peoria & Tazwell Counties

**(2025)**  
Russ Smith  
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Appointed



### DISTRICT 3 - Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall,

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**Year listed with title indicates the end of present term.**

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## 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. 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.

### November Division Meeting

## **NORTH BRANCH, PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The November meeting of the Illinois Valley Division will be held November 16, 2024 in the main conference room of the library. The conference room is located to the right just inside the doors. As Usual, the doors will open at 1200 noon for a time of visiting and fellowship with division meeting from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Two clinics will be presented, (1) Russ Smith on his method of making "Hero" trees and (2) Larry Nelson on using gouache for weathering rolling stock.

Contests: (1) Steam Locomotives, and (2) Traction Locomotives and Cars.

### Board of Directors Meetings:

The next Board of Directors Meeting, will be Monday December 15, 2024, 6:30 pm by Zoom. Members who wish to attend the meeting must have Zoom programming in their computer. Contact Gary Baker, superintendent for a download address.

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS FOR MEMBERS

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2024

Due to the change in the change of and availability of unloading at I CC for the Peoria Train Show, and a change in the set up area of our layout, the setup will follow the division meet. The more members who help, the easier and shorter the set up time will be. Watch the IVD Website for more information.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024

The Board of Directors have accepted the invitation to set up and run the portable layout at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Union Station, in Springfield from noon to 8pm. There will be a lot of kids and we need volunteers. Again, watch the IVD Website for more information.

**POPULAR VOTE CONTEST SCHEDULE**  
**Illinois Valley Division**  
**2025—2028**

**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

**2026**

**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**

Water Scenes  
Dioramas—Off-Line

**2027**

**January**

Industries on line (includes track)  
Photos—Maintenance of Way

**March**

Scratchbuilt—Structures  
Kitbashed—Structures

**May**

Trees  
Dioramas—of a stated season

**September**

Hand Laid Track and Track Structures  
Buildings—On Line

**November**

Steam Locomotives  
Traction—Locomotives and Cars

**2028**

**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

# CUTTERS and NIPPERS

by Roger Kujawa



Let me introduce you to a few tools I have found useful in my modeling. I imagine all of you have a modeling knife or a similar tool

of a similar brand. For example I have found once I added a #17 chisel blade to my toolbox, I pick it up about 40% of the time.

I find that the flat blade to be very useful in taking off small details, trimming plastic and even scraping off lettering. There is also a bigger chisel blade that I find useful in cutting ties off flex track and taking bumps out of roadbed or plaster streets. There is also a micro chisel blade for very tight places.

Micro saws are also very handy and fit in the small handle. They are flexible and are have no back saw edge so you can get the saw into places a regular saw will not fit.

Nail clippers and nippers are also very handy in cutting off parts from sprues on plastic and runners on 3d printed parts.

If the tool makes the work easier and safer, then it is a good investment.



Cutting Ties



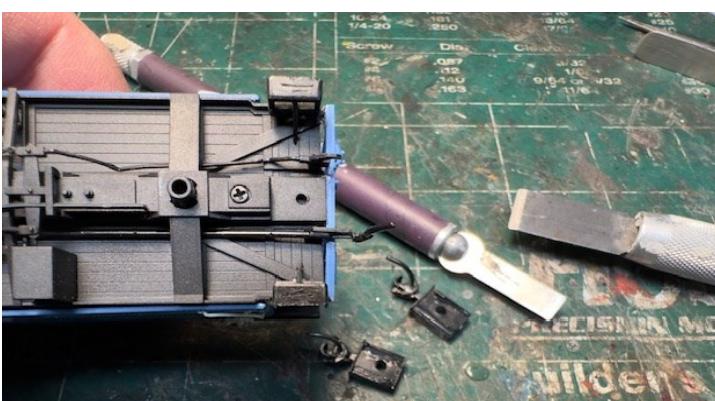
Chiseling Out Molded on Details



A mini awl can get into areas a regular saw cannot



Chisel Blades



Trimming area for coupler boxes



Nippers cutting off 3d runners and flash

## Cutters and Nippers Continued:



Handy on 3d runners



Nippers for small parts



3d silos ready for paint



Finished with a base

## SPOON RIVER DRIVE -2024



Again this year the Illinois Valley Division introduced model railroading to the public by setting up and running our portable layout in the freight room of the historic narrow gauge depot in Lewistown.

Several of the division members volunteered to operate the layout and supervise visitors, mostly children, in running trains.

During the spring



Young family viewing the layout and running trains

members worked to refurbish the existing layout which now has several years of wear. Russ Smith reconstructed two sections



Waiting for the train to exit the tunnel.



The two new sections

which had not been used since the layout was donated to the division. The layout was open for two days for two consecutive weekends. Thanks to all who helped.



Our Kentucky Fried Chicken is still open!



Corn and soy beans on our farm. Nice Scene.

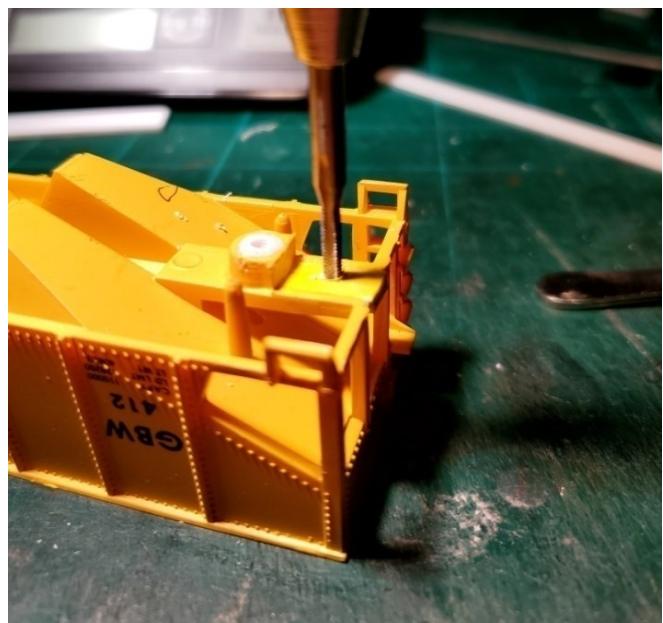
# Refurbishing Trains

by Larry Nelson

Recently the Illinois Valley Division of the NMRA received a large collection of model trains from the wife of a model railroader who has passed away. This is the collection of a man who had a life-long passion for model trains. The IVD board members decided to honor this man by refurbishing his trains and giving them away to young people who have shown an interest in model railroading. At a recent model railroad show we signed up young kids who ran trains on our modular layout. We placed their names in a box for a drawing. The prize for this drawing was a box full of refurbished model trains. The box contained everything needed to set up a working model train. The show was a two day affair, and we had a drawing each day. The boxes included enough track to make a modest layout, an engine, some rolling stock, some buildings, and a transformer.

I grew up with trains and formed a lifelong fascination with them and model building. I'm an old man now but I still love playing with trains! Hopefully we can pass some of that enjoyment on to this generation. It's definitely an interesting hobby that can be enjoyed for a lifetime. Most of us have old unused models stuck away in a closet or just taking up space that could be better used somewhere else. Refurbish those items that you no longer need or want and give them to a kid who has shown some interest in your layout. Make a box that includes everything that kid needs to get started. Get their parents involved. Remind the parents that this is the kid's railroad, and they get to be in charge. Maybe, just cleaning out some clutter will make your wife happy. A happy wife is a wonderful thing when you bring home a new locomotive from the hobby shop next time!

**DO NOT GIVE THE KIDS JUNK!** There is no better way to discourage a kid than to give them junk that doesn't work. If you have junk, refurbish it before giving it away. Many engines run poorly simply due to dirty wheels. If the problem is more complex than you can handle, ask a friend to help get it back to working order. Rolling stock can have its share of problems also. Some of these problems can be easily fixed and should be before giving the item away to a kid. This article will address some of the most



common problems with rolling stock.

Many lower quality pieces of rolling stock suffer from several problems. I'm going to start with a car that has just about every problem possible and show how I turned it into a nice piece of rolling stock. The car we will be working on is a two bay coal hopper. It is a car that I have never seen before. It is GBW 412 in yellow paint scheme. GBW is Green Bay and Western. Too good of a car to go into the trash bin! When I received it, it was just a shell with no trucks or couplers. The original car had truck mounted couplers. I didn't have anything in my junk pile that would match the original trucks. Thank heaven! Putting it back to original would be a mistake anyway. Truck mounted couplers are terrible when it comes to back-

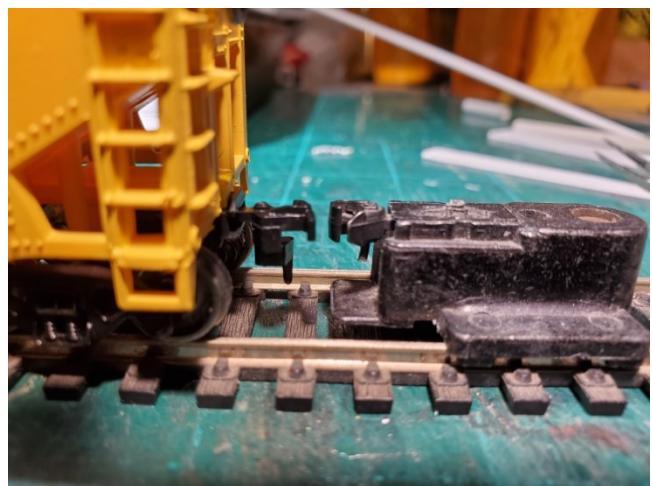


ing up a train, especially if the car is not weighted properly. I am sure that constant derailments are one of the reasons that young kids lose interest in model trains. We are going to remedy this problem with a decent set of trucks and body mounted couplers. Step one was back to the junk pile to find a good pair of trucks with decent wheels. The next problem would be how am I going to mount the new trucks? The original trucks were designed to snap into the body thru a large hole. I want to mount my trucks using a 2-56 screw. The hole in the body is way too large to tap and hold a 2-56 screw. I needed to fill in that hole so



that it could be drilled and tapped for a 2-56 screw. Styrene tubing to the rescue! Styrene tubing comes in several sizes which will fit snugly inside each other. The smallest size of tubing was just right to tap for a 2-56 screw, but was too small to fill the hole in the body. The small tube would fit snugly inside the next size larger tube. However the next size tube was too large to fit the hole in the hopper body. I found a drill bit that matched the outside diameter of the larger tube and drilled the hole in the hopper body to accept the styrene tubing. I glued the tubes into the hole in the body and taped the screw hole as soon as the glue had set. I then sanded the tube down flush with the original bolster. Make sure this is flush and level so that the trucks run true when mounted on the car. I mounted the trucks with a 2-56 x 1/4" screw. Now that the hopper car had wheels on it, I needed give it some couplers. I wanted to mount the couplers using Kadee coupler boxes and 2-56 screws. The couplers I'm using will be Hook Horn type but can easily be changed to Kadee #5s. The main problem that I ran into was

that there wasn't any place to mount the coupler



boxes. Back to the junk styrene pile! I cut and fit a nice thick scrap of styrene to fill the vacant space between two frame members. When the fit was right I glued it into place. Using the coupler box as a guide, I marked and drilled a hole for the 2-56 screw. I then tapped the hole and mounted the coupler box and coupler. To finish it off, I painted the white styrene repair yellow to match the hopper body. I used a short section of track and a coupler height gauge to make sure



that the hopper was correctly set up to match all the other cars. I also checked the wheel gauge with a NMRA standards gauge. Everything was perfect, and the hopper rolled very nicely so I was ready to proceed. The next step is to weigh the hopper and make sure it is within specifications. I have markings on my test track which show the proper weight for different lengths of cars. This hopper needed to weigh around 3 to 3 1/2 ounces. I pulled out my postal scale and added weight inside the hopper until I reached the proper



amount. You can use various things for adding weight. I use  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce wheel balancing weights which I purchased off of Ebay at a very reasonable price. Weight should be placed as low in the car as possible, centered side to side and over the trucks if possible.

Weights showing in an open hopper are not a very pretty sight so making a coal load to hide them is an obvious choice. Being the cheap guy that I am, I quickly scratch built a coal load. What are a few pennies more? I can afford it! A scrap piece of pink foam board carved to shape and covered white glue, with a sprinkling of fine sand to simulate coal, let set till dry, and then spray with alcohol and add thinned white glue to secure everything. Once it has dried paint it flat black to represent it as coal. Put the load into the hopper and you are finished. It looks and runs good enough to make even the biggest kid, like me, happy! The picture below is a row of salvaged hoppers. I think they would look good on any kids layout! Good luck. Show me what you have been refurbishing!



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## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MODEL RAILRODERS

**Great Midwest Train Show**, Sunday, November 3, DuPage County Fair Grounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, Illinois. The show is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month of 2025 (except no show in July), 9 am to 3 pm. Admission \$7, online \$6, and children under 11 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.

**Illinois Valley Division Meet**, Saturday, November 16, 2024, 1:00 pm to 4:00p, Doors open at 12:00 noon, Peoria Public Library North Branch, 3301 West Grand Parkway, Peoria (West of Menards), \$3 donated accepted. This meeting will be followed by a setup of the division's portable layout at Illinois Central College.

**The Dupo Train Show**, Saturday, November 16, 2024, 9:30am to 2pm, American Legion, 200 South 5th Street, Dupo, Illinois. Admission: \$3.00, Children 12 and under free.

**Peoria and Pekin Train Fair**, Sunday, November 17 2024, 10 am to 3 pm. Illinois Central College, IL Rt. 24, 1 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.

**Milwaukee Lionel Railroad Club Toy Train Sale and Show**, Sunday, November 17, 8am to noon, New Berlin Entertainment Center, 16000 West Cleveland Ave., New Berlin, WI

**Danville Train Show**, Saturday, November 23, 2024, Hendricks County Fair Grounds, 1900 East Main Street, Danville, IN Hours: 10am to 3pm

**Trainfest, CHANGE OF LOCATION**, Saturday and Sunday, November 23 and 24, 2024, Baird Center, 400 West Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Admission: Saturday \$20, Sunday \$15, Two day \$25, Children— Saturday \$10, Sunday \$5, two day \$15. Tickets can be purchased on-line to avoid waiting in the ticket line on site. There is a parking fee. Handicapped accessible.

**Great Midwest Train Show**, Sunday, December 1, 2024, DuPage County Fair Grounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, Illinois. The show is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month of 2025 (except no show in July), 9 am to 3 pm. Admission \$7, online \$6, and children under 11 free. Free parking and handicapped accessible.

**Illinois Valley Division Meet**, Saturday, January 18, 2025 1:00 pm to 4:00p, Doors open at 12:00 noon, Location to be determined. \$3 donated accepted. Information to be available at the divisions website [nmra-ivd.org](http://nmra-ivd.org).

**35th Annual Great Tri-State Rail Sale**, Saturday, January 25, 2025, Lacrosse Center, 2nd and Pearl Streets, La Crosse, WI, 9am to 3pm. Admission \$8.00, children under 12 free.

**Rail Fair**, Saturday, July 19, 2025, Copeland Park, Rose and Clinton Streets, La Crosse, WI

### REMINDER

#### Advertisement & Subscribers

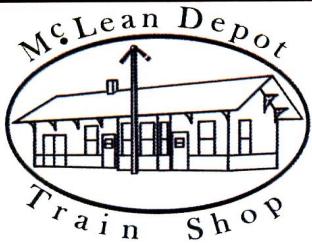
#### Fees are Due Each January

**Fees for subscribers of the mailed copies of the Timetable are due at \$10.00 for five 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 9.**

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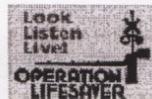
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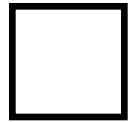
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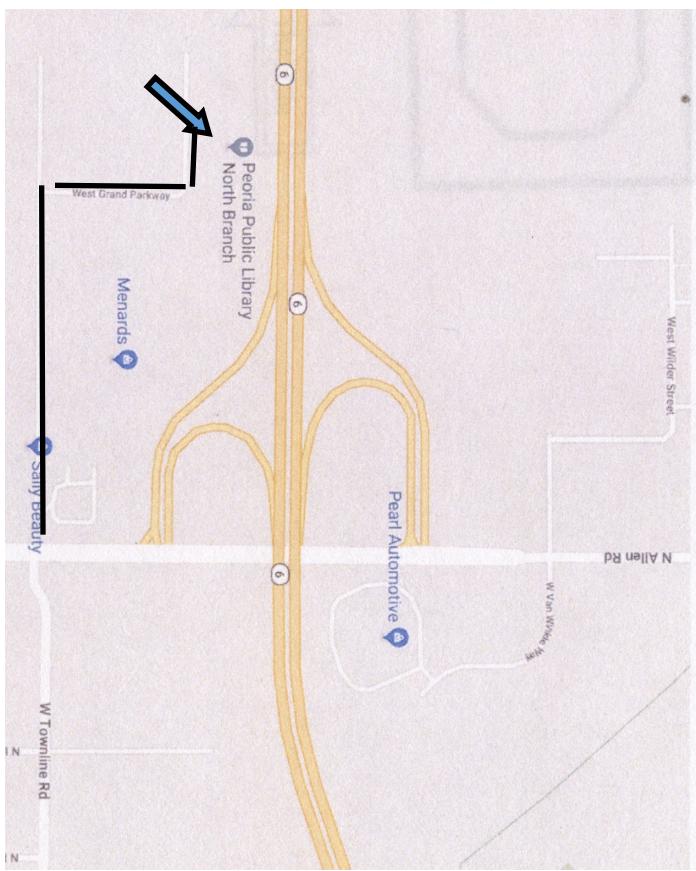
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## DIVISION MEETING

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TRAFFIC LIGHT, TURN RIGHT

DOORS OPEN 12 NOON, MEETING 1PM TO 4 PM

CLINICS: (1) RUSS SMITH ON HIS METHOD OF MAKING  
“HERO” TREES AND (2) LARRY NELSON ON USING  
GOUACHE FOR WEATHERING ROLLING STOCK.

CONTESTS: (1) STEAM LOCOMOTIVES AND  
(2) TRACTION LOCOMOTIVES AND CARS.



**November 16, 2024**  
ILLINOIS VALLEY DIVISION OF THE NMRA