

BUILDER'S PLATE

June 2026

Volume 9, Issue 6

Newsletter of Division 12, Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc.

Superintendent's Letter

Division 12 MCR report 5-16-2026

Division 12 membership slightly to about 32 members. While we have gained a couple of new people, this was offset by the deaths of several veteran members. The Division's finances remain sound. Division elections were held at our April 2026 meeting, with the following new officers taking over leadership on June 1st, 2026:

- Superintendent: Dale Desser
- Assistant Superintendent: Scott Connors
- Clerk: Brad White

We continue to vary the meeting locations around our division at consistent locations in an attempt to make it more convenient for our members to attend at least one or two meetings a year. We also continue to publish our meeting schedule months in advance so members will know where a given meeting may be held.

We continue to maintain a Division presence at the Erie Train Show and the annual holiday "Festival of Trees" at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center, as noted in prior reports. Our annual Division picnic will again be held at the Westfield, NY Railfan Park on Saturday June 13th. A new meeting event will be held in July at a local nursing home where one of our dedicated older members must now reside, and any resident who is able will be invited to attend. The events coordinator of the facility is excited for us to bring a program into the home for the benefit of all the residents.

Our leadership and BOD continue to work hard to find innovative ways of keeping our membership engaged, including operating sessions and hands-on clinics. The new leadership team is eager to pick up the reins and continue these efforts.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Hauk Superintendent/AP Committee Chairman Alleghany
Western Division (Div. 12)
MidCentral Region,
NMRA Superintendent@div12mcr.org



Division 12, MCR, NMRA, Inc.
The Alleghany Western Division:
Expanding your model railroading horizons

Please visit our website: www.div12mcr.org

Or  [NMRAAlleghanyWesternDivision](https://www.facebook.com/NMRAAlleghanyWesternDivision)

Meetings

As face-to-face membership meetings return, they typically include announcements and limited business; “Modeling Question” and “What’s On Your Workbench” during which members share what they have been working on; and educational model railroad related programs, presentations, or clinics.

NMRA: <https://www.nmra.org/>

Mid Central Region: <http://www.midcentral-region-nmra.org/>

Division 12 Superintendent: Superintendent@div12mcr.org

Officers and BOD

Superintendent: Dale Desser — superintendent@div12mcr.org

Assistant Superintendent: Scott Conner— asst.superintendent@div12mcr.org

Clerk: Brad White — clerk@div12mcr.org

Treasurer: Larry Dodge — treasurer@div12mcr.org

Board of Directors: Rob Bennett, Chris Mincemoyer, Jim Holtgreffe, Chris Costello

Committee Chairs

Social: Lee Farnsworth — social@div12mcr.org

T-Trak & Clinic: Doug Sandmeyer — ttrak@div12mcr.org

Web Editor: Brad White — clerk@div12mcr.org

Operations Coordinator: Dale Desser — operations@div12mcr.org

Achievement Program: Mike Hauk — ap@div12mcr.org

Next Division 12 Meeting:

June 2026: Saturday, June 13th, 2026. Annual Division 12 Picnic. For more information click here [Between the Rails](#). 102-106 N Gale St, Westfield, NY 14787 11AM to? Lunch served at 12:30PM. Guests to bring a dish to share, their own service ware and drinks. PLEASE RSVP BY Sunday JUNE 7th to clerk@div12mcr.org

Division 12 Upcoming Events

June 13th 2026: Division 12's June Membership Meeting will be followed by a picnic lunch, meeting other railroaders, and train watching.

A short membership meeting will be held on June 13th 2026 at 11:00 AM at the North Gale Street picnic area (102-106 N Gale St) Westfield, NY 14787 in Westfield, NY. After the meeting, we will sponsor a picnic and train watching, joining with other railroad groups in our division's area:

We look forward to meeting with new folks who are not yet part of the Alleghany Western Division, but who share an interest in model or prototype railroads.

Food service will be at 12:30 PM. Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, and condiments will be provided. Please bring a dish to share, table service and drinks for yourself and guests, and outdoor chairs if you have them. Please consider carpooling.

Please RSVP to clerk@div12mcr.org by June 7th, 2026, with the number of people attending, so we can estimate the food purchases.

July 2026: Saturday July 11th: NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION:. Rouse Home 701 Rouse Ave, Youngsville, PA 16371 10:00AM. To honor Dick Bradley, we will host or July event at Dick's care facility. Program PRR Ore Train movie. A film documenting the movement of Iron Ore by the PRR from the docks in Erie, PA to the interchange with the Lehigh Valley Railroad at Mount Carmel, PA. Prior to the movie there will be a short slide presentation on the Docks in Erie, PA. The Division T-Trak layout will also be on display.

August 2026: Saturday, August 8th, 2026. 10:30 AM. James Prendergast Free Library, Jamestown, NY. **Program:** Chris Costello, "A Day at Erie's Pavonia Terminal (Jersey City)"

September 2026: Saturday, September 12th, 2026. 10 AM. J.L. Innovative Design Center for Model Railroading Excellence, Limestone, NY. **Program:** Test op session Erie RR Eastern District layout. (Tentative)

October 2026: Saturday, October 10th, 2026 10AM. French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society's restored B&LE freight depot, 136 Mead Avenue, Meadville, PA, 16335. Vince Skibo High-Wide Loads on CSX PART 2

November 2026: Sunday November 1st, 2026. Erie Train Show at Rainbow Gardens Waldermere Park. 9AM to 3PM

Upcoming Meeting Programs

To ensure that the membership meetings are of value, please let the leadership know what you would like to see in upcoming meetings by communicating directly with officers or board members.

Upcoming Model Railroad Events

Monthly: 3rd Saturday, 7PM-10PM. **Open Crew Call-Ohio Northern Railroad**, Hambden, OH. For more information and address please contact Brad White at valleyln55@gmail.com or phone 814-490-7798.

June 2026: **Whistle Stop Dayton**, 2026 MCR Convention, June 4-7, 2026. Hosted by MCR Division 3. Marriott at University of Dayton, 1414 South Patterson Boulevard, Dayton, OH 45409. <https://whistlestop2026.regfox.com/whistle-stop-dayton-nmra-mcr-2026-convention>

July 2026: **Scenic City Express** - 2026 NMRA National Convention – Chattanooga, TN. July 27 - August 2, 2026. Registration: <https://www.nmra2026.org/registration/>

June 2027: **The Cincinnati**, 2027 MCR Convention, June 3-6, 2027. Hosted by MCR Division 7. <https://cincy-div7.org/2027-convention>

Introduction From Our New Superintendent:

My name is Dale Desser. I want to introduce myself as the new superintendent of Division 12. I've been a model railroader since I was about 12 years old. I built about 4 or 5 different railroads when I was younger. I've been working on my present railroad for about 41 years. I've been a member of NMRA for about 10 years. I've also been involved with various other model railroad groups. I've always been interested in trains. I'd like to see our division grow and have more volunteer involvement.



2026 MCR Convention Note

Per 2026 MCR Convention Co-chairman Eric Zimmerman, registration is lagging behind expectations. We therefore encourage interested Division 12 members to register online as soon as possible via the above link.

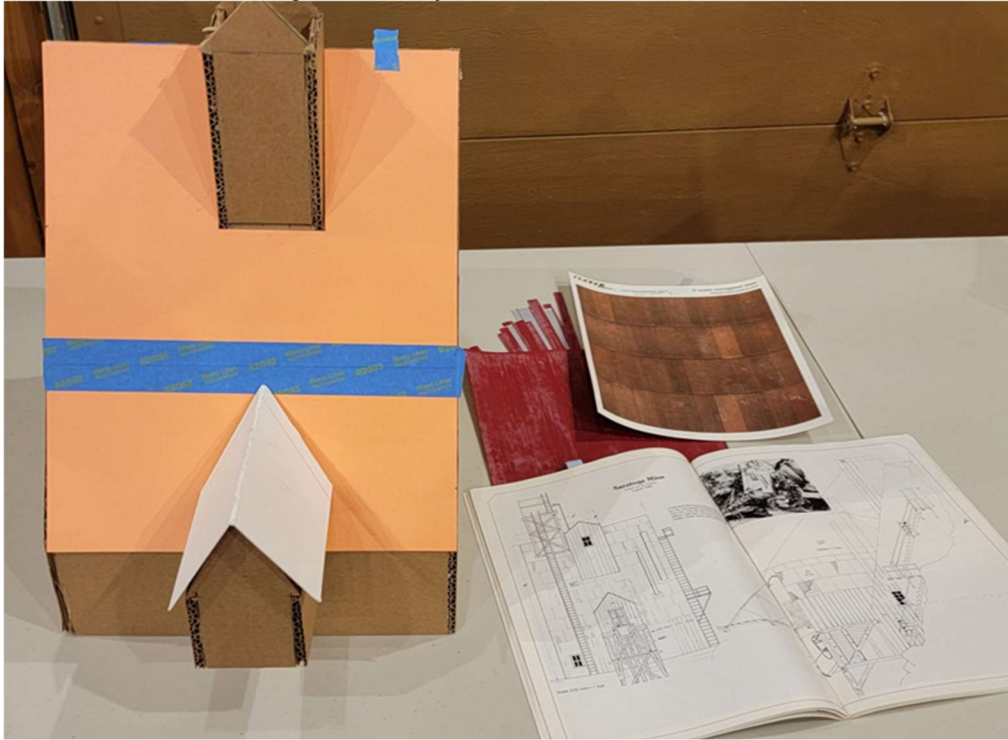
A current listing of clinics for the convention is attached to this newsletter to hopefully whet folks' interest.

May 2026 What's on my work bench photos

Chris Costello's Costello Manufacturing projects:
Dunmoor Cabooses- Hairpin fencing-Jersey City Treminal staircases
<https://www.jlinnovative.com/>



Doug Sandmeyer's O-scale Headhouse



Rob Bennitt's PRR work train cars



Mike Hauk's "What if" S&NY diesels



Bruce Bloomsters N-scale switching layout



"Until next time, keep 'em polished!"

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Current editor: Brad White.

Direct all comments, suggestions, and corrections to: buildersplate@div12mcr.org