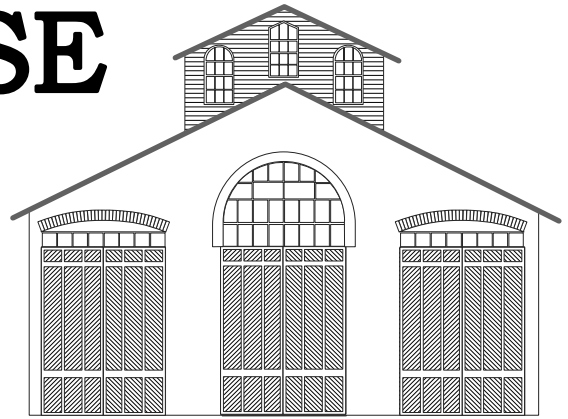


# THE CAR HOUSE

The Monthly Newsletter of  
Division 8 North Central  
Region  
National Model Railroad  
Association  
August 21, 2008  
Website - <http://div8.ncr-nmra.org>



**Due to the NCR Fast Freight 08 NCR convention in Toledo, there was no September meeting. At the August meeting, the Division conducted a sale and swap session of member's equipment that they briefly described. In October, we'll get back to a full bodied, action packed Car House.**

## **Division 8 Business and Finances**

Our division checking account has been moved from Flagstar Bank to Charter One. Treasurer and chief bean counter **John Jackson** decided that CharterOne offers better service and rate of return. We do not pay any service charges due to the division's status as a non profit organization. As our CD's mature at Flagstar, John will move them to Charter one. **Dan Lewis** offered a suggestion that the new CD's be stairstepped in duration to take advantage of changing interest rates.

## **New Business**

**Marv Linke** reported on NCR business and budget meeting. A proposal has been made for a promotional banner for display at regional meetings. He showed a post up sample. The NCR will be receiving seven thousand dollars from the GLE2007 convention. Each division will receive \$500. **Jim Zinser** wants material for upcoming Scale Rails issues. Our national publication always needs submissions. Such is also the case with our own beloved Hot Box.

## **Dave Thornton's Report**

Dave announced that the 2013 national convention will be in Atlanta. For the Hartford convention, some changes will be in place for layout tours, in that there may be more tours by auto rather than by bus. This convention is at a suburban site rather than intown. There were some complaints of high costs in Anaheim this year, particularly for parking by local members who drove to the Anaheim Marriott Hotel each day and had to pay a 20 dollar day rate. The registration count for the convention was 1148, and according to some vendors, that National Train Show was disappointing. On a high Note, Dave reports that NMRA membership has been close to 20 thousand for the past three years. The Sacramento museum is slowly progressing, with hope that it will complete and open for the 2011 convention.

## **Announcements**

**Tony Tahnoose** reports that the Blissfield Club has regular open house hours and NCR members are always welcome to operate or just the visit the club. The Blissfield open house was one of the high points of the Fast Freight 08 convention. If you've never been been to Blissfield, it is a classic Michigan small town with a real Main street with stores and a viable rail branch line that snakes through town that includes a well known dinner train. Be sure and see the classic truss bridge just beyond the main drag. Also, the Division is having a pair of open houses on October 19. See the following pages for details.

## **Upcoming Schedule**

The next meeting of Division 8 of the NCR of the NMRA will be held at 7:00 PM on October 16, 2008 at the Troy Christian Chapel located at 400 E. Long Long Lake Road in Troy on the south side of the street between Livernois Road and Rochester Road. **The Show and Tell for the meeting will be the latest locomotive that you have obtained. The scheduled clinic is on programming DCC decoders using Decoder Pro and JMRI software. Your secretary will also offer a five minute mini-clinic on layout design.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Saul Kalbfeld, Division 8, NCR-NMRA Secretary**

# **Division 8 Layout Tour**

**October 19, 2008**

**1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

## **Al Crowley's Port Huron Northern**

**14509 Four Lakes Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48313**

**(586) 566-3863**

The Port Huron Northern is an HO layout 23' x 28'. It is a fictitious line that operates between Port Huron and Saginaw in the late 1950's. Motive power is a mix of steam and early diesel locomotives, all sound equipped. The power is Digitrax DCC. Scenery is approximately 70% complete and is just reaching the point of adding small details in many areas.

The route from Port Huron to Saginaw passes through Brown City, Marlette, Montrose and Burt before arriving in Saginaw. There are several industries along the way to provide local traffic plus interchanges at both ends.

Farm products and industrial goods provide for several trains each way during the day. A passenger train operates on an every-other-day schedule between Detroit and Saginaw. It leaves Detroit Monday, Wednesday and Friday for Saginaw and returns Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

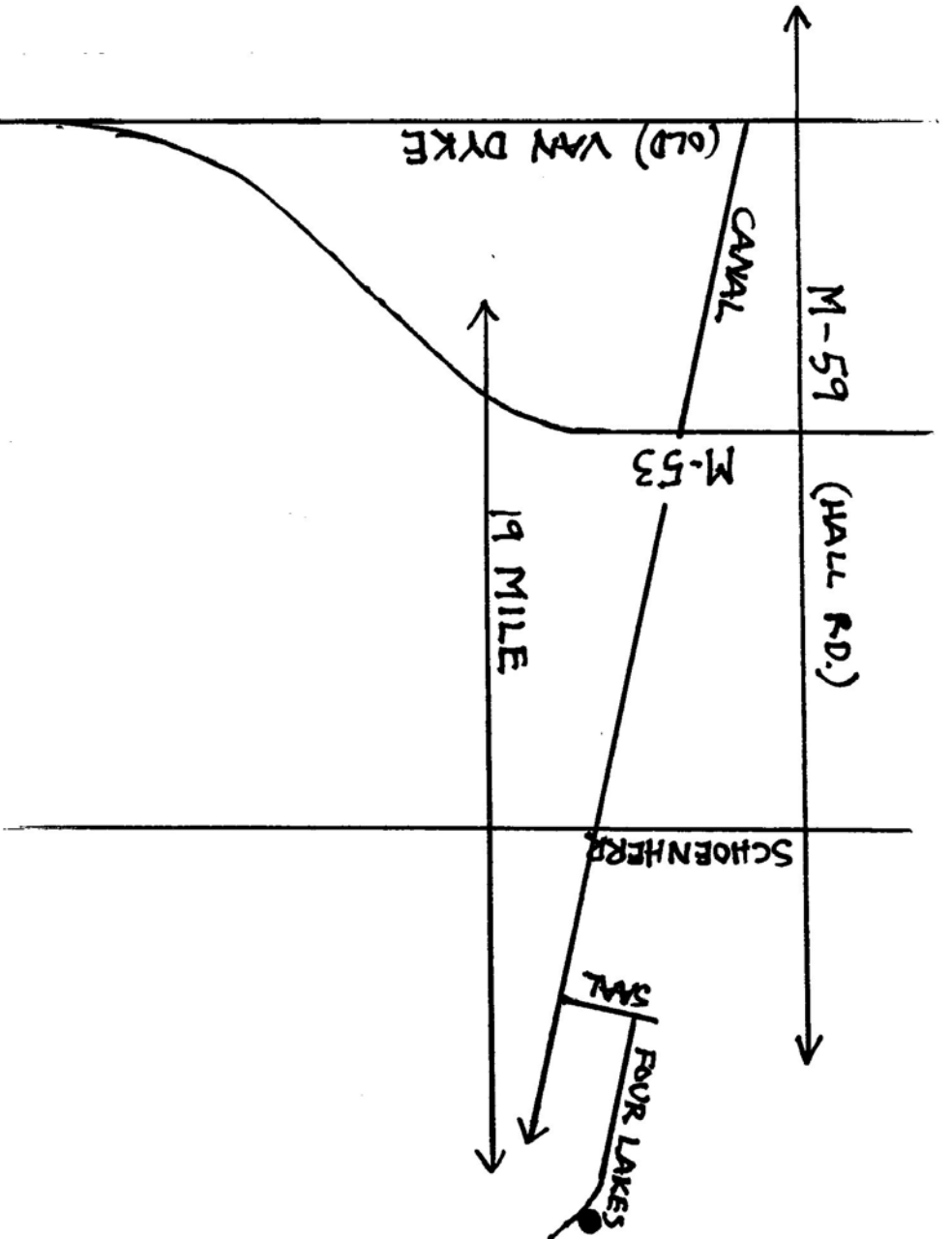
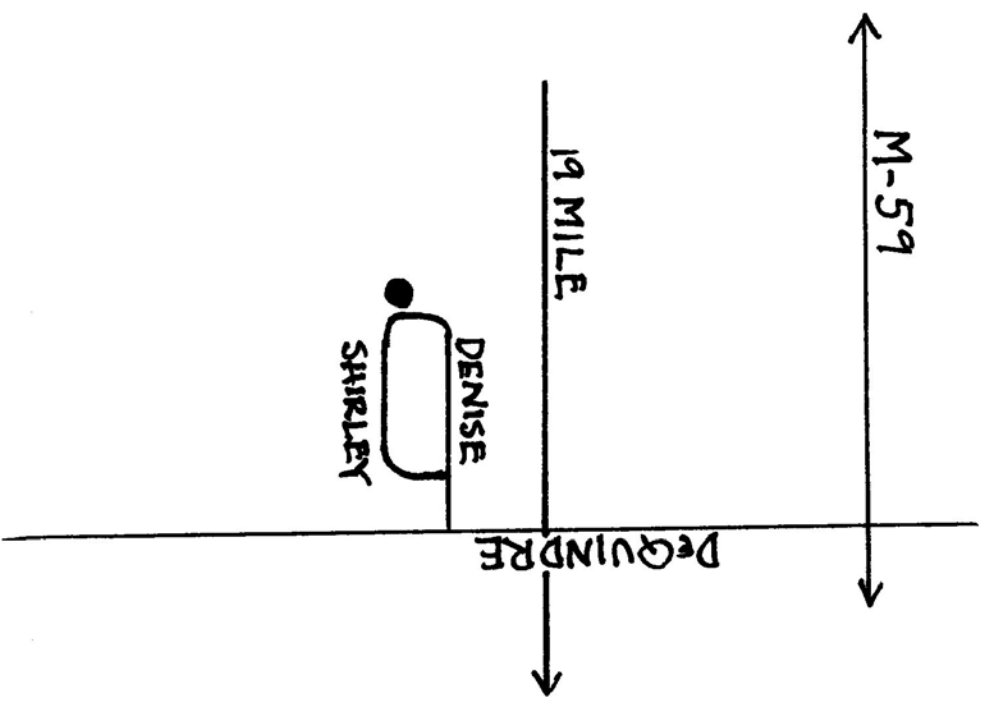
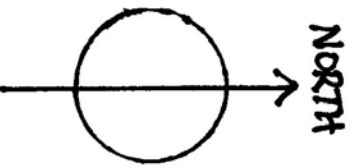
## **Jim Dennis' New York Central**

**2733 Denise Dr., Troy, MI 48085**

**(248) 879-0840**

This HO version of the New York Central features a double track main in a folded dog-bone configuration with a generous 400 ft. mainline. It is an around-the-walls plan occupying a 24' X 31' basement. It has three yards and four hidden staging tracks. The track is laid with 32" minimum radius curves and a 1.5 % maximum grade. Mainline turnouts are number 8s, while the yard turnouts are number 6s. The control system is Digitrax Radio DCC.

Although the layout follows the New York Central prototype, it is largely freelanced (and includes some CB&Q). It is set in the era from the late 1950s to the mid 60s.



PLEASE NOTE: Do NOT ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW 19 MILE ACROSS FROM ONE LAYOUT TO THE OTHER, SINCE IT DOES NOT GO THROUGH. RATHER, YOU MUST GO UP TO M-59, THEN ACROSS.