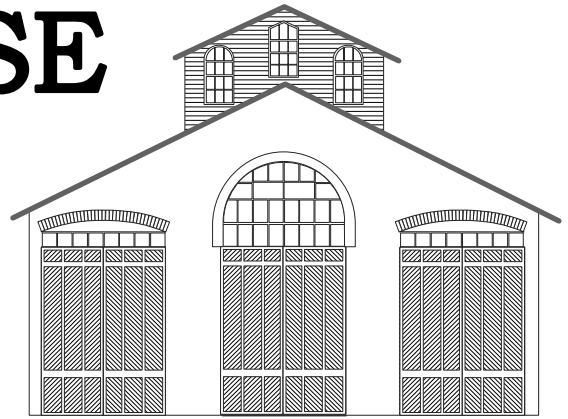
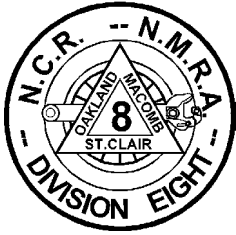


# THE CAR HOUSE

The Monthly Newsletter of  
Division 8 North Central  
Region  
National Model Railroad  
Association  
October 16, 2008  
Website - <http://div8.ncr-nmra.org>



## MARV LINKE AT LEFT RECEIVES HIS CHIEF DISPATCHER AWARD FROM AP CHAIRMAN LARRY WOLOHON

### Call to Order

The regular meeting of Division 8 was called to order at 7:03 PM according to the standard clock in the main waiting room of the lavishly restored Michigan Central depot in Detroit. (I'm dreaming). Lots of members were present and a few of the habitually late were close to being on time.

### Show and Tell

**Pete Jacobson** brought in an Athearn RS3 in Southern colors. The line had many on the roster back in the day. Pete said that he was able to get assistance from Tony's Train Exchange to do a DCC and sound conversion for the unit.

**Jim Zinser** offered a SOO Line F3 which is part of an A-B-A lashup known as the Queen Mary. What? Anyway Jim did his own DCC and sound installation. **Larry Wolohon** showed off a Burlington R1 steamer, an early prairie design that was actually a technical failure. The engine was supposed to be in high speed service but the boiler was too small. **Gene Kome** showed off an Athearn Genesis FP-45, a rarity since only 14 were built for the Santa Fe and Milwaukee Road. The engine was rated at 3600 HP. Gene bought the unit this past summer.

**Dave Thornton** showed a partially complete bunkhouse that he began during the Modeling with the Masters event at the 2008 national convention. He is a member of a select society of those who have cut themselves during the event. **Tim Fisher**, Santa Fe enthusiast showed a SF Alco RSD-4-5, a six axle growler with lots of tractive ability. **Tony Britsky**, I think it was Tony, brought in a group of books covering steam in Asia. He acquired these from an overseas business associate. **Paul Runyon** showed a nifty Pennsy decapod. Dan Lewis has a yard ballasting project going on the layout, and also working on another scratch built depot.



**REMINDER...**  
Remember to wear  
your Div. 8 Name  
Badges



## Show and Tell continued

**Rad Jones**, a New York Central fan, showed off another interest, a Central of Georgia GP-18 in N scale. This is a Walthers engine. He also showed several other C of G pieces. **Phil Doolittle's** Wildwest Models Pitkin House stole the show with its carefully finished interior including partitions and a full staircase. Adding all that was quite a challenge and he also mentioned that the exterior was weathered with MAC brand makeup. Did the house have a lawn sign during the recent election campaign, I wonder.



**Bill Gawthrop** set up a Free-MO module that local enthusiasts are working on. It's very impressive, as there is almost no compression in the scene. The section features a realistic overpass and a Mountaineer Products barn. The engine shown is a DTI GP-38 built in 1966. **Dick Dittus** brought in a Road Railer with a 3 pole motor. It runs well on DC. **Ed Black** brought in a group of castings made from molds that he made from collecting some shale like gravel from in front of the Fast Freight 08 Hotel in Toledo. **Joel Goldberg, Dick Dittus** and **myself** were lookouts as he grabbed the samples. **John Jackson** brought in a control panel that he is working on. Is that Plexiglas or Lexan or another of those high tech plastics? **President Jerry Shanek** told a story but I have no notes and I don't remember what he said. I showed something, but I can't remember what. Senior Moment. **Curt Danielewicz** showed a D&M Alco C-25. Curt's family had a summer cottage near the line and he remembers operations and visiting a mine on the line. He also recalled being invited into the cab of one of these engines. **Thanks to all who participated in this month's Show and Tell whether or not your contribution was mentioned here.**

## Announcements

The **History Channel**(CH46 on Comcast) has begun a new series, **EXTREME TRAINS**, airing on Tuesdays at 10:00 PM. The first show covered a NS coal train moving from the mine in West Virginia to a coal fired generating plant near Altoona, PA. The trip included cresting the Alleghenies with helpers and rounding Horseshoe Curve. Future shows will cover the Barnum and Bailey circus, Acela trains, and the like. I watched the show with great interest. The wife and dog dozed off. What do they know?



## Division 8 Business and Finances

Hedge fund manager, derivatives dealer, and Division 8 treasurer **John Jackson** announced that the shares of AIG we bought may now only be worth a box of Midwest HO cork roadbed and 3 bottles of Elmer's glue. (Large size). Other than that, our actual cash has been relocated to Charter One Bank. The account will remain feeless by foregoing a monthly paper statement. We have \$887.61 in the checking account in addition to 3 thousand dollar CD's. As the end of the year nears, here is our first reminder that membership renewal is coming up soon. A question about the money the division should be receiving from the NCR brought a response from **Marv Linke**. Marv stated that we would be receiving \$500.00. A brief discussion followed regarding opportunities to apply for a cash grant for the purposes of increasing membership and promoting the hobby.

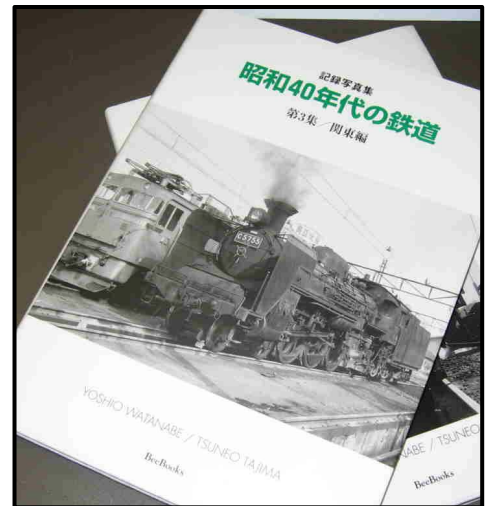




**Old Business** NCR Brass Hats report that the Fast Freight 08 convention in Toledo was well attended and successful. The host division had a number of outstanding layouts open to attendees. Except for that little incident of **Ed Black** poaching gravel from the hotel grounds, there were few problems to report. The HOT BOX will be converting to all electronic distribution. Whether or not it will be available from the website or by e-mail is a topic of discussion. Launch date is TBA at this point with a planned four issues annually. **Curt Danielewicz** mentioned the recent news article that the Michigan Star Clipper Dinner Train operating out of Walled lake would be discontinued at the end of the year. It's sad to see it go, but there is still time to enjoy a fine meal while swamps and subdivisions of West Bloomfield fly past your window. I suppose this does not bode well for the rail line since freight traffic is almost nonexistent, with none east of Haggerty Road. The GTW originally left behind a good looking ROW, but in the last year, its condition has declined dramatically.

### **Kerry Albrecht JMRI Decoder Pro Presentation**

Thanks to Kerry for his informative presentation on how to interface your computer with your DCC operating system. Decoder Pro is a tool for programming decoders. DecoderPro simplifies the job of configuring complicated DCC decoders by providing screens on which you can select the various options and values you want. For further information go to <http://jmri.sourceforge.net/>.

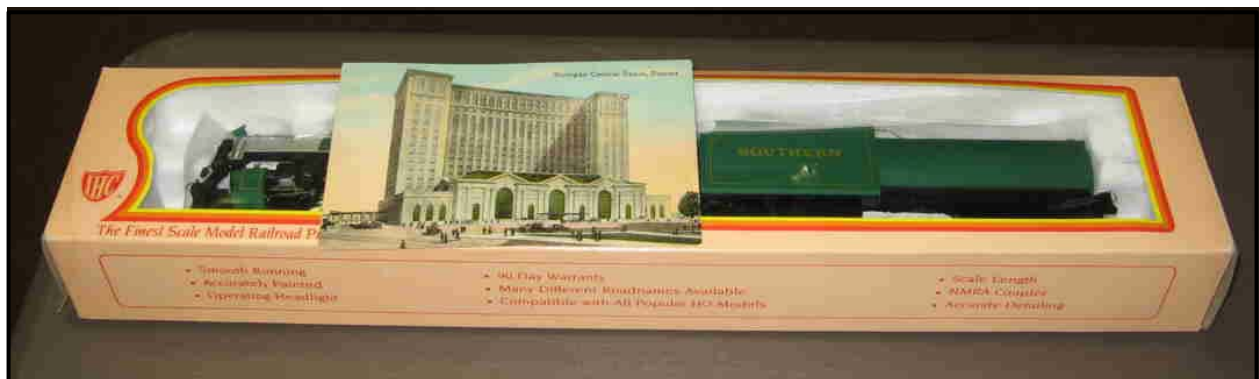


### **Upcoming Schedule**

The next meeting of Division 8 of the NCR of the NMRA will be held at 7:00 PM on November 20, 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. **Bill Gawthrop will discuss WW II Troop sleepers. The Show and Tell for the meeting will be anything that has to do with trains relating to the war effort or a current project.** The October meeting was adjourned after 9:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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





---

Saul B. Kalbfeld  
4837 Pelican Way  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

