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NEW YORK CENTRAL SYSTEM

New York Central System Historical Society Convention  
Kalamazoo, Michigan May 15<sup>th</sup> to May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

# Welcome to Kalamazoo and the 55<sup>th</sup> annual New York Central System Historical Society

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Clinic Presentations schedules and descriptions

Friday and Sunday self-guided model railroad tours

Kalamazoo Convention featured model kit and book.

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2027 NYCSHS Convention

## Schedule Overview

Friday May 17<sup>th</sup>

12:00 Noon to 9:00 PM Collinwood Shop and Model display room open

1:00 PM to 5:00 PM Clinic Presentations in the Wolverine, Mercury and Twilight Limited rooms

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM Self-guided layout tours

7:00 PM to 10:00 PM Clinic Presentations in the Wolverine, Mercury and Twilight Limited rooms

Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM buses leave, expected to return at 5:00 PM Excursion over NYC Fort Wayne and Old Road Branches and visit to the Mid-Michigan Railroad Club (7.5 inch gauge)

5:00 PM Cocktail reception

6:30 PM Annual banquet and NYCSHS members meeting

5:00 to 30 min after conclusion of members meeting Collinwood Shop and Model display room open

Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM to Noon Collinwood Shop and Model display room open

8:00 AM to Noon Clinic Presentations in the Wolverine, Mercury and Twilight Limited rooms

1:00 PM to 5:00 PM Self-guided layout tour

## QR Codes



QR Codes are used throughout this booklet. On your smartphone open the camera app and point it the QR code, and a link will open. For locations such as model railroad tours and hobby shops, the link will open in Google Maps which can direct you to the location.

<https://www.nycshs.org/2026-additional-reading-and-handouts> and QR Code at left has additional information such as clinic handouts, 1963 rail served industries in Kalamazoo, history of the lines and towns traversed on Saturday's excursion, locomotives of the Indiana Northeastern the railroad Saturday's excursion travels, and web links to 1930 Kalamazoo Sanborn Fire Insurance maps., and extensive articles about transportation in the Kalamazoo area from the Kalamazoo Public Library.

# Clinic Presentations

Friday May 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2026			
ROOM:	Zulu / Wolverine	Golf / Mercury	Echo / Twilight Ltd.
Time	Topic/Presenter	Topic/Presenter	Topic/Presenter
1:00 PM	<b>Modeling NYC Finding and modeling essential passenger cars.</b> Dave Staplin	Michigan Central through Photos & Personal Accounts  Jim Trapp	Michigan Central's Joliet Cutoff – Chicago's first railroad bypass. (FRIDAY ONLY) Paul Jaenicke
2:00 PM	<b>Layout Friendly – Riveted Steel Bridges</b>  Alex Schneider	Modernization of the Michigan Central mainline to 110 MPH  Dave Staplin	<b>Michigan Rail Operations</b> A photo orientated presentation covering Detroit to Grayling, and Detroit and Mackinaw City, including ferry service. John Fuller
3:00 PM	<b>NYC 40-foot PS-1 Boxcars and how to modify HO scale models to represent them.</b> Seth Lakin	Refrigerated Railcars a/k/a Reefers History and use of these railcars.  Steve Barton	<b>Sneaking into Chicago</b> How The Michigan Central gained access to the Windy City – covering 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> century use with ample illustrations. Kevin Keefe
4:00 PM	<b>Modeling NYC's ex Michigan Central waycars.</b> Seth Lakin	"Bobber" Cabooses on the NYC Lines.  Doug Chapman	<b>The Big Four Route</b> A preview of the upcoming book by Bill Stewart – featuring photos from The NYCSHS. (FRIDAY ONLY) John Fuller
Dinner Break			
7:00 PM	<b>Better Layout Photos</b> Simple techniques to create a great photo.  Russ Weis	NYC Track Side Signals. How they operate and their application. (FRIDAY ONLY) Alan Bell	NYC Serving the Auto Industry in Detroit  Howard Spokane
8:00 PM	<b>My Buffalo Engine Facility</b> Not just for servicing engines, but also industries for an ops session. Russ Weis	<b>5 Busy Railroad Traffic Locations for your Layout.</b>  Rich Mahaney	Scenes along M.C; a/k/a Vanderbilt's Michigan Roads (FRIDAY ONLY). Mark Worrall
9:00 PM	The NYC Jackson Branch Lenawee Jct. to Jackson  Bryan Monaco	<b>1950's Refrigeration Car Model Layout Operations</b>  Rich Mahaney	A day in the life on the M.C. Airline 4.16.1910 Mark Worrall  (FRI ONLY)

## Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

ROOM:	Zulu / Wolverine	Golf / Mercury	Echo / Twilight Ltd
Time	Topic/Presenter	Topic/Presenter	Topic/Presenter
8:00 AM	<b>Modeling NYC's ex Michigan Central waycars.</b>  <b>Seth Lakin</b>	<b>Layout Friendly – Riveted Steel Bridges</b>  <b>Alex Schneider</b>	Sneaking into Chicago How The Michigan Central gained access to the Windy City – covering 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> century use with ample illustrations. Kevin Keefe
9:00 AM	<b>NYC 40-foot PS-1 Boxcars and how to modify HO scale models to represent them.</b> <b>Seth Lakin</b>	The NYC Jackson Branch Lenawee Jct. to Jackson  Bryan Monaco	Modernization of the Michigan Central mainline to 110 MPH  Dave Staplin
10:00 AM	<b>Better Layout Photos</b> Simple techniques to create a great photo.  <b>Russ Weis</b>	Refrigerated Railcars a/k/a Reefers History and use of these railcars.  Steve Barton	<b>Modeling NYC Finding and modeling essential passenger cars.</b>  <b>Dave Staplin</b>
11:00 AM	<b>My Buffalo Engine Facility</b> Not just for servicing engines, but also industries for ops. Session.  <b>Russ Weis</b>	Michigan Central through Photos & Personal Accounts  Jim Trapp	Michigan Rail Operations A photo orientated presentation covering Detroit to Grayling, and Detroit and Mackinaw City, including ferry service.  John Fuller
<b>End of Presentations for Sunday Enjoy Self-Guided Model Railroad Layouts Tour</b>			

### Notes:

- FRIDAY ONLY presentations are indicated.
- **Bold listings are modeling presentations**

### Quick Reference for Friday and Sunday Presentations:

Modeling Presentation	Name of Presentation	FRI	SUN
X	<b>Modeling NYC</b>	X	X
X	<b>Layout Friendly – Riveted Steel Bridges</b>	X	X
X	<b>NYC 40-foot PS-1 Boxcars -modifying existing models</b>	X	X
X	<b>Modeling NYC's ex Michigan Central waycars</b>	X	X
X	<b>Better Layout Photos - Using simple techniques to create a great photo.</b>	X	X
X	<b>My Buffalo Engine Facility – Not just for servicing engines, but also industries for ops. Sessions.</b>	X	X

	<b>The Michigan Central through Photos &amp; Personal accounts</b>	X	X
	<b>Modernization of the Michigan Central main to 110 MPH</b>	X	X
	<b>Refrigerated Railcars (a/k/a Reefers) History and Use</b>	X	X
	<b>“Bobber” Cabooses on the NYC Lines</b>	X	X
	<b>NYC Jackson Branch – Lenawee Jct to Jackson</b>	X	X
	<b>Michigan Central’s Joliet Cutoff – Chicago’s first railroad bypass.</b>	X	<b>FRI ONLY</b>
	<b>Sneaking into Chicago – How Michigan Central gained access to the “Windy City” covering both 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 20<sup>th</sup> century routes</b>	X	X
	<b>The Big Four (C.C.C. &amp; St. L. Ry) Route – A preview of the upcoming book by Bill Stewart – which includes many photos from the NYCSHS.</b>	X	<b>FRI ONLY</b>
	<b>Michigan Rail Operations: A photo orientated presentation covering Detroit to Grayling and passenger service between Detroit and Mackinaw City, including ferry service.</b>	X	X
	<b>NYC Track Side Signals: Their operation and Application</b>	X	<b>FRI ONLY</b>
X	<b>1950’s Refrigeration Car Operations on Model Layouts</b>	X	<b>FRI ONLY</b>
X	<b>Five Busy Railroad Traffic Locations for Your Layout (Interchanges, Frt. Houses, Team Trks, Bulk Transfer Facilities, and Car Repair Facilities)</b>	X	<b>FRI ONLY</b>
	<b>Kalamazoo Railroads</b>	X	<b>FRI ONLY</b>
	<b>New York Central Serving the Auto Industry in Detroit</b>	X	<b>FRI ONLY</b>
	<b>A Day in the Life of M.C.’s Airline – April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1910</b>	X	<b>FRI ONLY</b>
	<b>Scenes along the M.C.-a/k/a Vanderbilt’s Michigan Roads</b>	X	<b>FRI ONLY</b>

## Detailed Description of Presentation

(Alphabetical by Presenter’s Last Name):

*Note: Modeling Presentation descriptions are shown in bold print.*

- **Barton, Steve: Refrigerated Railcars:** A history of the development and progression of car construction and features, and review of the use of these type cars. The presentation also highlights the operation of “icing” the wooden refers prior to the mechanical cooling development. Presenter Steve Barton is a member of the NYC Museum at Elkhart, Indiana.
- **Bell Alan: NYC Trackside Signals and Their Application (FRIDAY ONLY):** Presenter Mike Burgett is a professional railroad signal maintenance person, with first-hand experience on NYC signals; this presentation will take attendees from types of signals to their operational applications.

- **Chapman, Doug: “Bobber” Cabooses on the NYC Lines:** An examination of NYC railroads use of the four-wheel cabooses from the 1880’s through the early 1930’s. Hundreds of these classic cars traveled the rails through 12 states and 2 Canadian provinces until they were outlawed. *Tips for modeling these cabooses will also be shared.*
- **Fuller, John: The Big Four (C.C.C. & St. L. Ry.) Route: A review of the upcoming book by Bill Stewart featuring photos from The New York Central Historical Society. (FRIDAY ONLY)** Here’s an opportunity to garner a sneak-peak of this outstanding review of the largest of the New York Central Lines subsidiaries. A review of the routes and operations of The Big Four.
- **Fuller, John: Michigan Rail Operations:** A photo orientated presentation covering Detroit to Grayling, and passenger service between Detroit and Mackinaw City including the connecting ferry service.
- **Jaenicke, Paul: Michigan Central’s Joliet Cutoff: (FRIDAY ONLY)** Come along and take a journey over the 44-mile line (the first Chicago bypass route) from Joliet, IL to Lake Station, IN. The presentation will cover operations, stations, personalities, and complete history. This presentation will be loaded with many illustrations and photos.
- **Keefe, Kevin: Sneaking into Chicago – How the Michigan Central (M.C.) gained access to the “Windy City”.** To reach Chicago the M. C. needed a little help from its friends. This presentation will give an amply illustrated account of how the M.C. pushed west from its namesake state to reach Chicago in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, and how that now mostly forgotten connection appeared in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century when the Twilight Limited was the premier Detroit – Chicago passenger train and Hudson’s dashed along the I.C. Railroad. Presenter Kevin Keefe is the former Editor of Trains Magazine and a featured writer.
- **Lakin, Seth: NYC’s 40-foot PS-1 (Pullman Standard) Boxcars: A deep dive into the 5000 general service PS-1 boxcars built between 1948 and 1952; and how to modify HO scale models to better represent the NYC prototype.** Presenter Seth Lakin is a Board Member of the NYCSHS and Chairman of the Society’s Modeling Committee.
- **Lakin, Seth: New York Central (ex. Michigan Central) waycars: How to model these all important waycars (a/k/a caboose by any other name) which carried and housed train crew personnel on their freight runs.** Presenter Seth Lakin is a Board Member of the NYCSHS and Chairman of the Society’s Modeling Committee.
- **Mahaney, Rich: 1950’s Refrigeration Car Layout Operations on Model Railroad Layouts: After looking at and photographing refrigeration cars, icing platforms, cold storage, and other buildings and operations on many layouts, this clinic presents some of the best ideas and modeling I have seen that capture the feel and operations involved with refrigerator car operations in the 1950’s.** Presenter Rich Mahaney is the President of the NMRA North Central Region which consists of 9 active divisions covering Michigan, NW Ohio, and NE Indiana. **(FRIDAY ONLY)**
- **Mahaney, Rich: Five Busy Railroad Traffic Locations for Your Layout (Interchanges, Freight Houses, Team Tracks, Bulk Transfer Facilities, and Rail Car Repair Facilities: This clinic looks**

***at five busy locations that can be built on your layout to increase rail car operations, can us any kind or type car on your layout, create rail car traffic and operations, can be used to support industries that don't have a railroad spur and can fit into a small space on your layout.*** . Presenter Rich Mahaney is the President of the NMRA North Central Region which consists of 9 active divisions covering Michigan, NW Ohio, and NE Indiana. **(FRIDAY ONLY)**

- **Monaco, Bryan: The NYC Jackson Branch – Lenawee Jct. to Jackson:** An overview of the line's operation from its early beginnings in 1836 (a portion of the route from Toledo, Ohio (connected at Lenawee Jct.) to Jackson, Michigan as part of the L.S. & M.S.; NYC cut the line at Clinton, MI in 1965; Conrail ended service in 1982, today the line is under the operation of the Southern Michigan Railroad Society. The Society has in its collection several pieces of former NYC equipment.
- **Schneider, Alex: Layout Friendly Riveted Steel Bridges: *An examination of creating and installing riveted steel bridges on your model railroad. Presenter Alex Schneider has been studying different types of bridges over a period of years and has created an interesting presentation on this unique type of bridge.*** Presenter Alex Schneider is President of the NYCSHS.
- **Spokane, Howard: New York Central Serving the Auto Industry in Detroit:** An overview of how the NYC operations provided switching for the various auto industry plants, routed traffic on various trains to expedite movements, handled dedicated equipment, and overall competed to protect this valuable traffic.
- **Staplin, Dave: Modeling New York Central – Finding and modeling Essential NYC passenger cars: This presentation will cover the passenger cars essential to model NYC passenger trains in steam to diesel era, focusing on lightweight cars. It will deal with cars frequently seen on secondary trains as well-as premier trains.**
- **Staplin, Dave: Modernization of the Michigan Central mainline to 110 MPH:** Presentation will highlight the changes in the Michigan Central MAIN LINE from Detroit, MI to Porter, IN, in the period from 1920 up to the Penn Central era. It will then delve into how the Line passed into different subsequent ownerships and how it was upgraded for higher speed passenger operations.
- **Trapp, Jim: The Michigan Central Railroad through photos and personal accounts:** Bitten by the “rail bug” at an early age Presenter Jim Trapp grew up along the Michigan Central; he experienced many memorable moments including a cab ride on the last steam engine at Niles (a J1 Hudson). His father managed track pans at Avery in the early years of World War II before entering military service, but returned to Avery after his discharge. Many photos and a lot of historic information await attendees to this presentation.
- **Weis, Russ: Better Layout Photos: *Grand Modeler Russ Weis, a veteran presenter at NYCSHS events and known for his outstanding NYC layout, offers up his experience of taking photos and offers simple techniques to create a great photo.*** Presenter Russ Weis is a top-level modeler and has presented several times at NYCSHS events; his presentations are always well received.

- **Weis, Russ: My Buffalo Engine Facility: *Not just for servicing engines, also industries for an ops session.* Presenter Russ Weis is known for his detailed HO scale layout featuring NYC operations with realistic features, and modelers and non-modelers will no doubt enjoy this presentation.** Presenter Russ Weis is a top-level modeler and has presented several times at NYCSHS events; his presentations are always well received.
- **Worrall, Mark: A Day in the Life of the Michigan Central Airline – April 16, 1910:** Come along and experience the action over a 24-hour period taken from the Dispatcher's Reports for April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 1910. Starting with a history of the line from Jackson to Niles, then a discussion on the various settings of the line from anthropogenic to industrial; and finally looking at the 24 hours in 3-hour blocks, looking at trains operating over the line. **FRIDAY ONLY**
- **Worrall, Mark: Scenes along the Michigan Central a/k/a Vanderbilt's Michigan Roads:** 25 images from the Golden Age (1895-1920) and the stories behind them; each image will be discussed for several minutes – providing attendees background information on how the Michigan Central interacted with the scene. **FRIDAY ONLY**
- **Other locations for quick reference:**
  - **Store/Model Displays: Foxtrot Room**
  - **Banquet / Keynote Speaker: Charlie Room**
  - **Train Show: Alpha and Bravo Rooms**



# Friday Self-Guided Layout Tours

## **Kalamazoo Model Railroad Historical Society**

9336 Riverview Drive, Kalamazoo, MI  
15 miles, 20 min northeast of Delta Hotel  
Friday 6:00-9:00 PM



The club has a new large layout that they are building. It is a double deck layout with DCC and electronic signaling. This club was established in 1951. The layout's name is Cooper Park and Eastern Railroad. It models from the 1960's to the 1980's in Michigan.

From the Delta Hotel, take 11<sup>th</sup> St north (right turn) to Stadium Ave (right turn) and on to US 131 north. Go 7.3 miles to exit 44, D Ave. Head east on D Ave Turn right (east) at the top of the ramp. Then head east 5.2 miles to the intersection of N Riverview Dr and turn left. In 1.3 miles the club entrance with a sign is on the right-hand side of the road.

## **Rick Garthe**

6737 Texas Drive, Kalamazoo MI  
5 miles, 10 min south of Delta Hotel  
2 miles, 3 min from Greg Stonerock  
Friday 7:00-9:00 PM



Rick has several layouts in a large pole barn building behind his house. Rick has an interest in several scales and types of trains. Rick is into European railroads and US railroads. Rick's HO scale layout is the only one in southwest Michigan using what is known as the "dead rail system" where a battery is carried in a car behind the engine. He is currently building a European style layout as well.

For the Delta Hotel, turn left onto 11<sup>th</sup> St. At the traffic circle head east on Parkview Ave (3<sup>rd</sup> exit). At the next traffic circle, head south on 12<sup>th</sup> St (first exit). In 2.2 miles at the traffic circle head southwest on Texas Drive (first exit). In 2.2 miles the house will be on the left.

## **Greg Stonerock**

9244 S 8<sup>th</sup> St, Schoolcraft MI  
7 miles, 12 min south of Delta Hotel  
2 miles, 3 min from Rick Garthe  
Friday 7:00-9:00 PM



Greg's layout fills the entire basement of his home. The HO railroad models the operations of the DM&IR Railroad. It has an ore mine, boat loading, steel mill, and many other industries. The layout regularly hosts operating sessions for many people. Greg's address

From Rick Garthe's continue southwest on Texas Dr 0.3 miles to S 8<sup>th</sup> St. Turn left on to South 8<sup>th</sup> St. In 1.5 miles the house will be on the right.



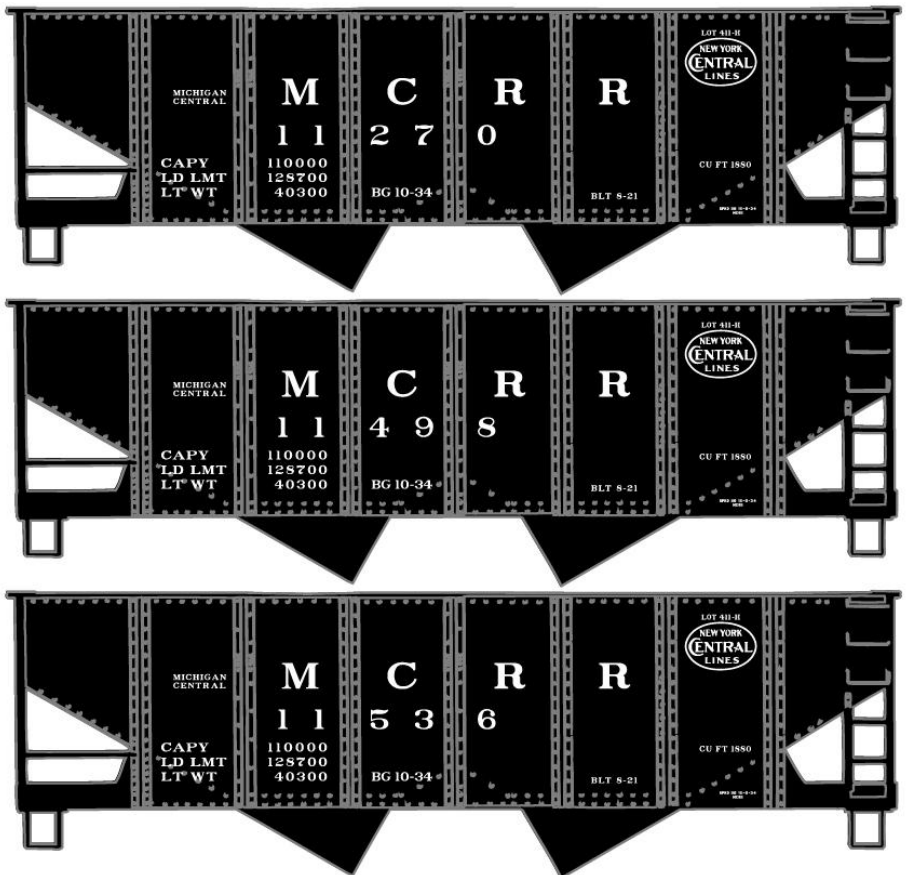


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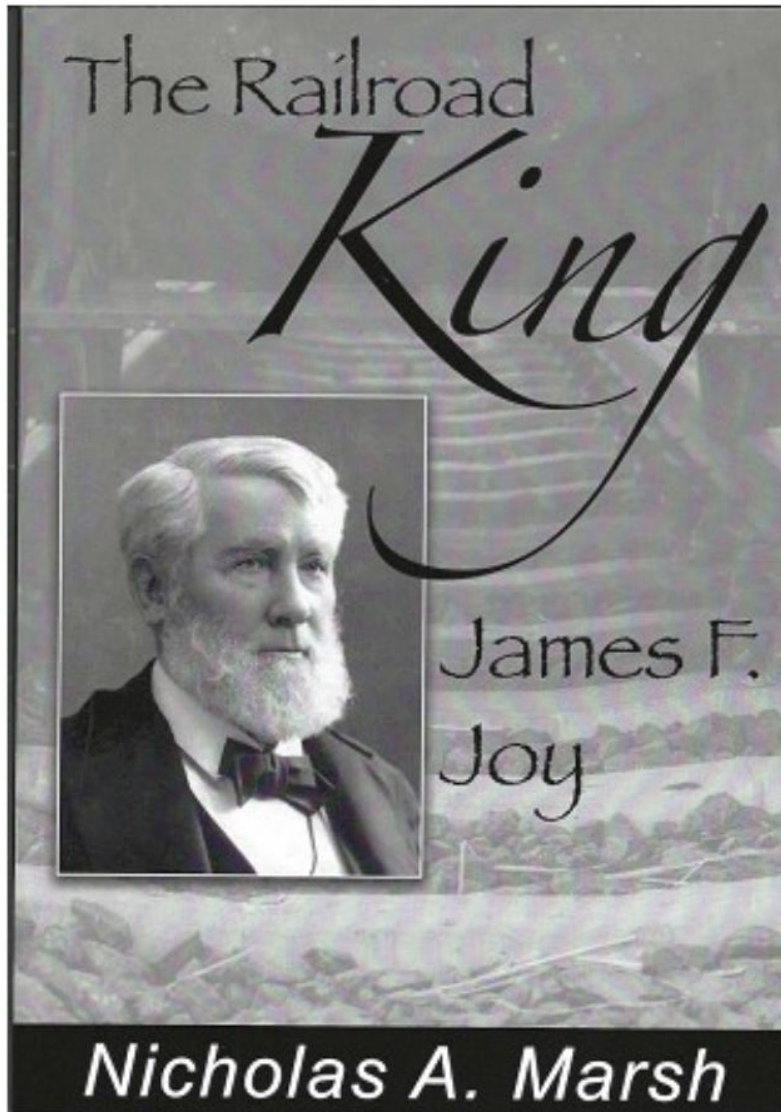
HO Scale Michigan Central USA Clone Two Bay Hopper by Accurail  
 The prototype for these cars were built by the Pressed Steel Car Co in 1922. Assigned lot 411-H they were numbered MCRR 11200-11699 (500 cars). Renumbering to NYC numbers started in 1935, but MCRR numbered cars continued to 1946. The model's lettering represents cars repainted between 1929 and 1935.

Three road numbers are available, the kits come with loads!

MRSP 23.98, Convention special for \$20.00 each tax included, available in the Collinwood Shop



## NYCSHS 2026 Kalamazoo Convention featured book



Author Nicholas Marsh tells the fascinating story of James F. Joy, a Detroit railroad magnate, politician and abolitionist. A contemporary of Vanderbilt and Gould, Joy was involved the Michigan Central and other Midwest railroads. This biography of James F. Joy tells of his early life, his career as a lawyer, his involvement with mid-19<sup>th</sup> century railroads including the Michigan Central, Great Western Railway, Illinois Central, Burlington Route as well as other infrastructure projects to the westward expansion of the United States.

Originally from Durham, New Hampshire, the Dartmouth and Harvard educated lawyer eventually settled in Detroit. Acting as legal counsel for eastern capitalists, Joy's entry into the railroad business came after the State of Michigan was forced to sell off public railroads to meet its debts. Joy found an investor in John M. Forbes, brokered the purchase of one of the state-owned railroads, the Central Railroad, and officially renamed it the Michigan Central Railroad. Soon plans were made to continue the rails to Chicago. Acting as legal counsel for the new railroad, deals were made with other fledgling and often struggling railroads, legislators in multiple states who controlled


the charters of the roads, all with dealing with legal roadblocks being set up by competing railroads, some going all the way to the United States Supreme Court to get the Michigan Central to Chicago.

In 1867 Joy was elected president of the MCRR, a position he held for ten years. Responsible for over 1,600 miles of track in Michigan alone, Joy oversaw the expansion of other railways as far west as Kansas and Nebraska and even overseeing the construction of the first railway bridge over the Missouri River. His dominance of the railroad industry in the region also earned enemies. However, in 1877 a contingent led by William H. Vanderbilt attempted a takeover of the MCRR and Joy left the presidency. Vice President Samuel Sloan ascended to the position for one year, until Vanderbilt was voted in as president in 1878.

Nicholas A. Marsh is a Michigan-based author and historian known for writing about regional railroad history. He authored *The Michigan Central Railroad: History of the Main Line 1846-1901* and *The Railroad King: James F. Joy*, both focusing on Midwest rail infrastructure and figures.

MRSP \$40.00, Convention special for \$30.00 each tax included, available in the Collinwood Shop

# Southwest Michigan Hobby Shops



**HOBBY-SPORTS.com**  
Est. 1989

**Stephen Wilkowski**  
Store Leader  
stephen@hobby-sports.com  
9782 Portage Rd  
Portage, MI 49002  
269-323-3686  
Hobby-Sports.com

**Monday-Friday 10-6**  
**Saturday 10-4, Sunday 12-4**

## Kalamazoo Area



Hobby Sports  
9782 Portage Rd  
Portage MI 49002

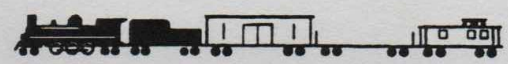
Mon-Fri 10:00-6:00  
Sat 10:00-4:00  
Sun 12:00-4:00

Small Selection new and used HO and O trains  
Large selection of RC planes, cars and boats

## Grand Rapids Area

Hobby Recycling      Mon-Fri 12:00-6:00  
2313 Lee St            Sat 10:00-5:00  
Wyoming MI 49519   Sun Closed


Very Large selection of used HO, N and O trains

**Hobby Recycling**  
HO, N & Marx Trains Bought & Sold  
Jerry Frye

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Wyoming, MI 49519  
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Hours  
Tues.-Fri. 12-6  
Sat. 10-5

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GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49508

Ryder's Hobby Shop      Mon-Fri 10:00-8:00  
2055 28<sup>th</sup> St SE            Sat 10:00-7:00  
Grand Rapids MI 49508   Sun 12:00-5:00

Full Line Hobby Shop with new HO, N, O and G trains along with large book selection



# 56th Annual Convention New York Central System Historical Society

*In partnership with the New England/Northeast  
Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet*



**Friday, Saturday, & Sunday • June 4-6, 2027**

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

**Friday, June 4**      Registration Opens at 8 AM  
Clinics throughout the day  
Collinwood Shop/Vendors open  
Model Display room open

**Saturday, June 5**      Registration Opens at 8 AM  
Clinics throughout the day  
Collinwood Shop/Vendors open  
Model Display room open  
Evening Banquet, with guest speaker



**Sunday, June 6**      NYCSHS Annual Business Meeting  
Layout Open Houses  
Possible Excursion – Round Trip Springfield to Hartford



More than two days packed with...

- Prototype presentations featuring information about the B&A and NYC
- Modeling clinics, tips, and techniques
- Collinwood Shop, manufacturers, and select vendors
- Model display room
- Area layout tours and open houses
- NYCSHS Banquet; other meal options include breakfast and lunch
- Annual NYCSHS Business Meeting
- Plenty of camaraderie and conversations, keeping the memory of the **New York Central System** alive, renewing old acquaintances, and introducing members to a few new modeling techniques

Convention Location:

**Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel**

*One Monarch Place • Springfield, Massachusetts*