



Station No. VI

2025 NMRA National Convention

MAXIMIZING THE CONVENTION EXPERIENCE

LLOYD BLOOM

Itinerary

- ▶ Getting There
 - ▶ 4 Railroad Experiences
- ▶ The Convention
- ▶ National Train Show
- ▶ Getting Home
 - ▶ 4 More Railroad Experiences
- ▶ Next Year in Chattanooga, TN

Getting There

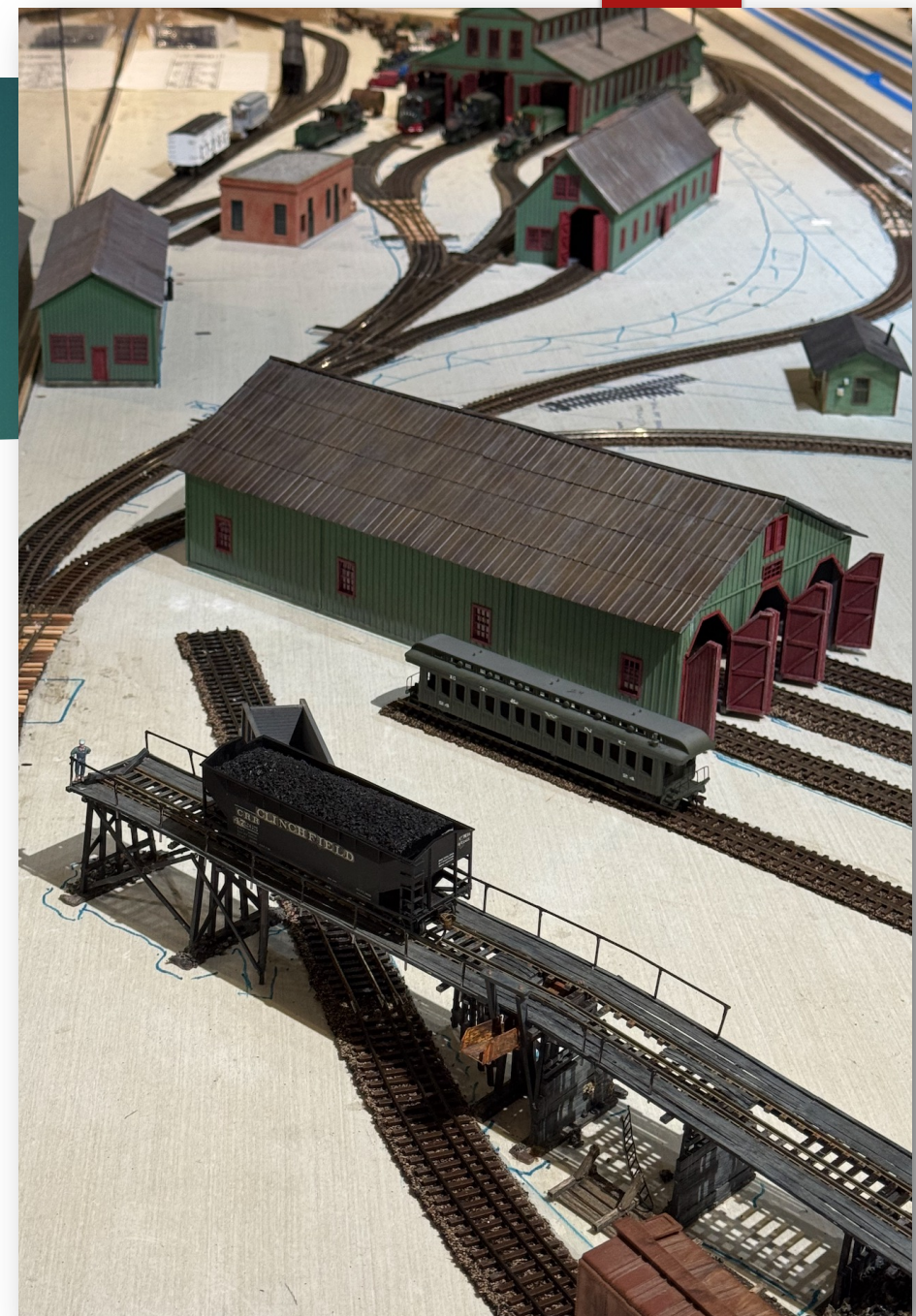
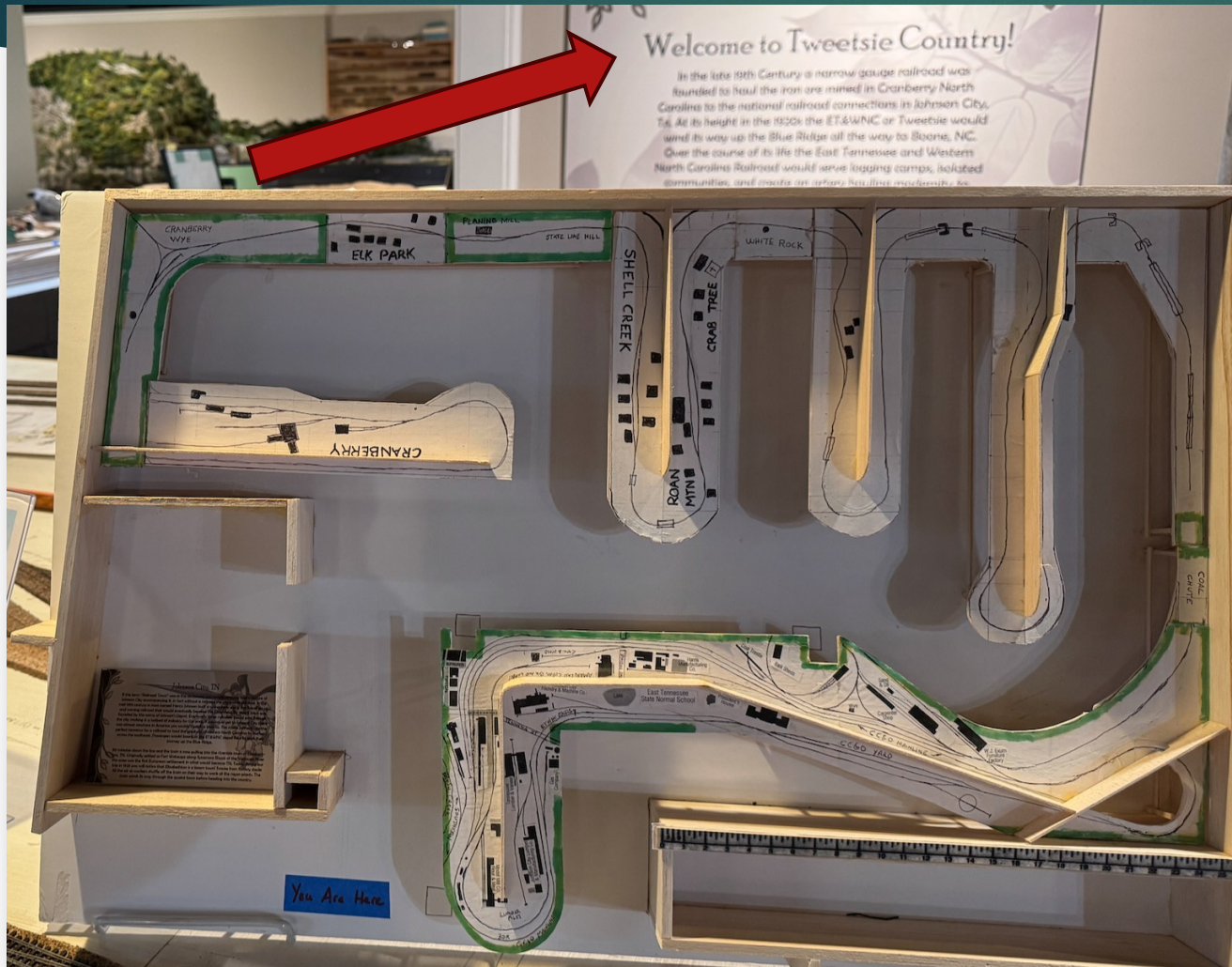
- ▶ Saluda Grade - 1878
- ▶ Johnson City (TN) Railroad Experience
- ▶ Berea, KY Railroad Station & Freight House
- ▶ Fostoria Iron Triangle Rail Park
- ▶ Non-Railroad
 - ▶ Erwin TN Scenic Overlook
 - ▶ **Cumberland Gap Pinnacle Overlook**



Johnson City Railroad Experience



J. City Railroad Experience



Berea, Kentucky



Fostoria Iron Triangle Rail Park



Fostoria Iron Triangle Rail Park



Convention at a Glance

- ▶ 29 Operating Sessions & 59 Layout Tours (6 geographies)
- ▶ 5 Prototype Tours
- ▶ 7 Modeling with the Masters
- ▶ Countless Clinics - Up to 21/day
- ▶ 2 - Contests
- ▶ Rail Yard Sale
- ▶ Small Vendors Row
- ▶ On-Site Dining, Friday Pizza Party, Saturday Banquet
- ▶ Non-Rail Activities (mostly for spouses)

Layout Tours

Layout Tour



Layout Tour



Layout Tour



Layout Tour – Danforth Hadley & Northern Ken Check, MMR

- ▶ N-Scale
- ▶ 38' x 52'
- ▶ 250 hand-laid code 55 switches
- ▶ 400' mainline
- ▶ 10 towns
- ▶ Large yard/engine facility
- ▶ 2 staging yards
- ▶ Over 30 years
 - ▶ 98% track completion
 - ▶ 90% scenery completion
- ▶ Published several times



Layout Tour – Danforth Hadley & Northern



Layout Tour – CSX Coal Branch

Kevin Guthrie



Layout Tour – Iowa Central @ Vinton, IA

Kevin Griffin

- ▶ HO - Scale
- ▶ Kevin is ~ 6'-5"
- ▶ Layout at my eye-level
- ▶ Majority of track is hidden
- ▶ Mirrors allow following of hidden trains



Layout Tour – Ann Arbor Model RR Club

Dexter, MI

- ▶ HO – Scale
- ▶ Amtrak station
- ▶ Has been Gandy Dancer restaurant since at least 1970



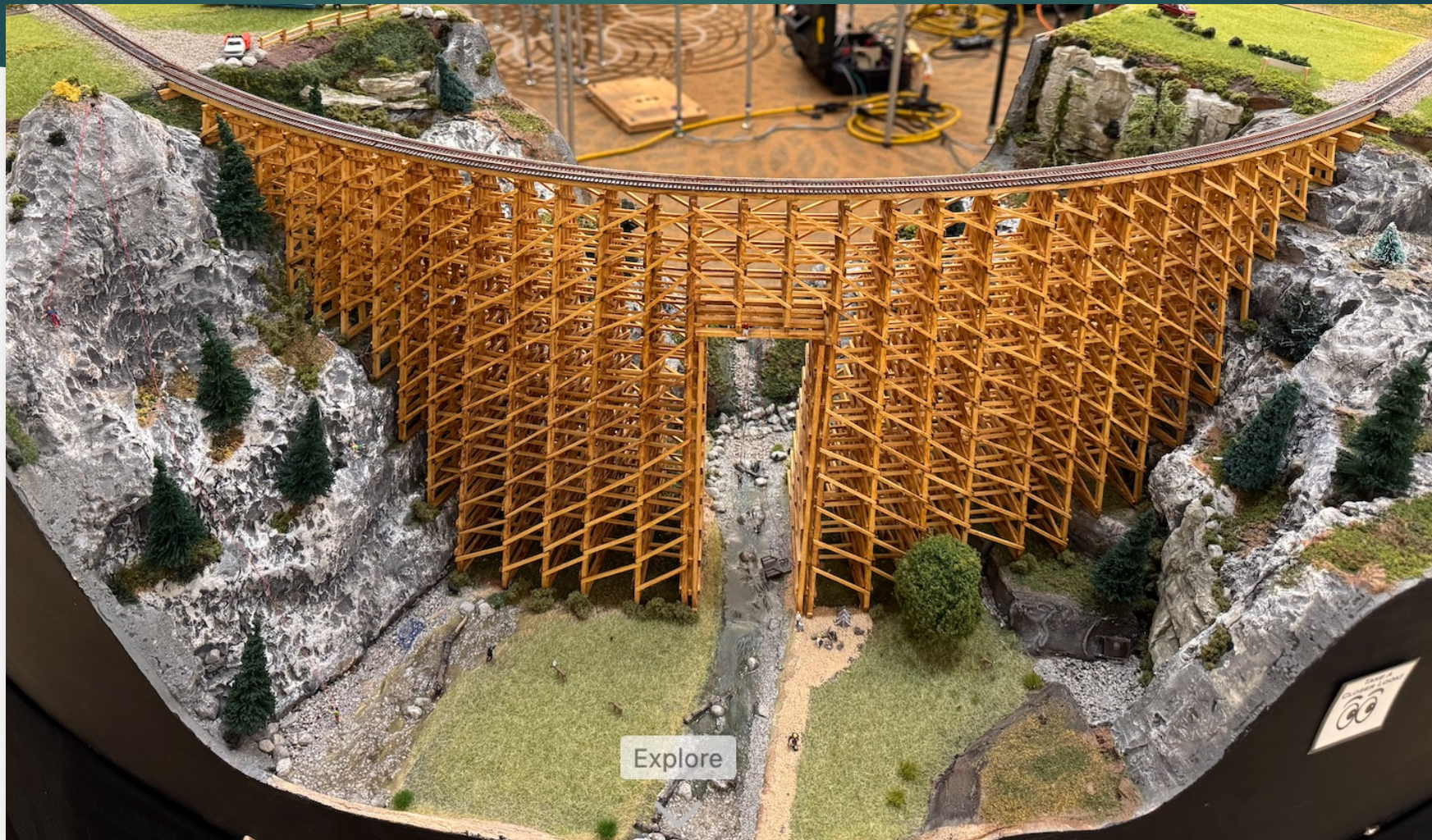
Operating Sessions

Operations Road Show

- ▶ Free Mo N layout
- ▶ 260' Mainline (8 scale miles)
- ▶ TT&TO Training



Operations Road Show



Explore

Operating Session Sagana Northern RR Michael Kissler

- ▶ HO Scale
- ▶ Multiple rooms in basement
- ▶ Operating coal tippie
- ▶ Homemade CTC
- ▶ Proto throttles



Operating Session

Detroit Model RR Club – Detroit Union RR

Holly, MI

- ▶ 90 years old
- ▶ Founding member of NMRA
- ▶ 2-Rail O-scale
- ▶ Converted theatre
- ▶ Dispatcher looks out from old fly space
- ▶ 7' floor slope



Operating Session

Detroit Model RR Club – Detroit Union RR

Holly, MI



Prototype Tours

- ▶ Ford River Rouge Factory
- ▶ **Detroit River Cruise**
 - ▶ Active and inactive steel-based manufacturing on Detroit shore
 - ▶ **Cruise under the Gordie Howe cable-stayed bridge (longest main span in N.A.)**
 - ▶ Planned 2025 opening delayed until 2026 - sometime
- ▶ Greenfield Village with Steam Train Ride
- ▶ Henry Ford Museum – visit the C&O H-8 Class 2-6-6-6 Allegheny #1601
- ▶ **Michigan Central Station Renovation**, City Tour, & Motown Museum

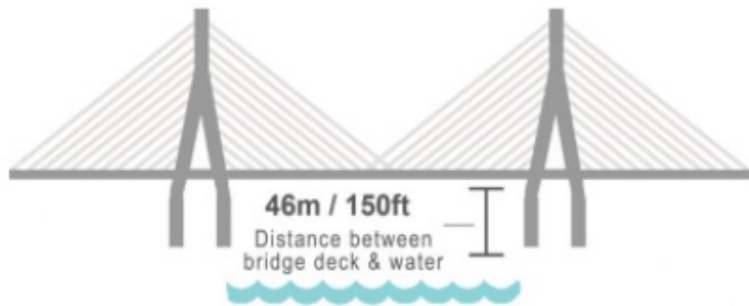
Gordie Howe International Bridge

- ▶ Length: 1.5 miles
- ▶ Clear span: 0.53 miles
 - ▶ Longest in US
 - ▶ 11th longest in world
- ▶ Height of piers: 722'
- ▶ 6 lanes + multi-use path



Gordie Howe International Bridge

- ▶ The bridge tower shape reflects the curvature of a **hockey stick** in a slap shot



Detroit River Rail-Served Industry



Detroit River Industry



LaFargHolcim Cement Plant



Michigan Central Station Renovation

A photograph of the Michigan Central Station building in Detroit, Michigan, during its renovation. The building is a massive, multi-story structure with a classical facade, featuring a prominent portico with columns and arches at the ground level. The upper floors are filled with windows, many of which appear to be under construction or renovation. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The foreground shows a snowy, undeveloped area with some construction equipment and materials.

- ▶ Opened in 1910 as the world's tallest railroad station
- ▶ 18-story office tower – 230' tall
- ▶ Last Amtrak train in 1988
- ▶ Renovation started 30 years later – 2018 – with purchase by Ford
- ▶ Renovation completed – June 2024

Before



After



Michigan Central Station – Before

Ticket Windows



Main Concourse



Michigan Central Station – After



Ticket Windows



Clock above Windows

Michigan Central Station – After



Main Concourse

Modeling with the Masters

- ▶ **Realistic Foreground Trees**
 - ▶ **Using Scenic Express Materials, Spray Paint, & Hairspray**
- ▶ Signs and Lettering
- ▶ Rock Scenery
- ▶ Branch line livestock Pen
- ▶ Painting and Improving Figures
- ▶ Building and Weathering Plaster Structures
- ▶ Better Telephone Pole Realism

Other Clinic Examples

- ▶ Building craftsman kits
- ▶ Scratch building in wood
- ▶ Creating believable rural scenes on a model railroad
- ▶ Setting up operations on your railroad
- ▶ + What industries for your freight cars
- ▶ Producing a museum-quality backdrop for your layout – 3 parts
- ▶ Using AI to import your modeling research
- ▶ + Prototype scratch building – houses and other structures
- ▶ Industrial switching layout for maximum enjoyment – planning & design

National Train Show



The Bridge Man

Harold Woods, Jr., Rockford, MI

- ▶ All-steel construction
- ▶ O-Scale (Lionel? – see transformer)
- ▶ Note:
 - ▶ Eiffel Tower
 - ▶ First Ferris Wheel
 - ▶ Chicago World's Fair – 1893
 - ▶ 36 Passenger cars – 60 people, each
 - ▶ 264' high



Philadelphia & Reading Bridge

Susquehanna River
Harrisburg, PA

- ▶ HO Scale
- ▶ Original steel bridge 1891
 - ▶ Deteriorated in 1910
- ▶ Concrete arch bridge – 1924
- ▶ 46 Spans, 3/4 mile long
- ▶ Model
 - ▶ Styrene
 - ▶ 3D printed parts
 - ▶ Hand-laid track



Getting Home

- ▶ Deshler OH Rail Park
- ▶ Marion OH Station and Trains
- ▶ Thurmond, WV
- ▶ Hinton, WV
- ▶ North Carolina Transportation Museum
- ▶ Non-Railroad Stops
 - ▶ Kanawa Falls, WV
 - ▶ **New River Gorge Bridge, WV**
 - ▶ Bluestone Lake Dam, WV



Deshler, OH, Crossroads Park



Marion, OH, Station and Trains



Marion, OH, Station and Trains





Marion, OH, Station and Trains



Thurmond, WV

▶ R. J. Corman



Thurmond, WV



Thurmond, WV



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JULY 27 TO AUGUST 2, 2026



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- ▶ Layout Tours
- ▶ Prototype Tours
- ▶ Steam-Powered Excursions and Dinner Train
- ▶ Non-Rail Tours
- ▶ Operating sessions
- ▶ SIGs
- ▶ Railroad Historical Societies
- ▶ Modeling with the Masters
- ▶ Celebration of Models
- ▶ Train Show
- ▶ Banquet



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