

# President's Car

## August 2007

### WELCOME!

As president of the National Model Railroad Association, it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to our National Convention and Train Show. For many of you this will be your first opportunity to participate in these events, as well as your first chance to see the NMRA's monthly publication, *Scale Rails*. I hope you enjoy reading this issue, and that you find the train show and related activities both fun and educational.

We sponsor our National Convention and Train Show right around this time every year. The events are hosted in a different city around the U.S. each summer, which allows our members and others interested in model railroading from all around the country eventually to have one of these activities held near them.

Our 2007 Detroit Convention and Show have been planned and presented by NMRA volunteers from around the country, and indeed around the world. The Detroit Host Committee has been preparing for this week for over five years, and has worked with our National Meetings and Trade Shows Department to make sure that you get a chance to see what the Detroit area has to offer.

Our National Train Show showcases the latest products offered in the hobby and brings together a wide variety of model railroad displays, dioramas, layouts, and "how-to" presentations focusing on many of the skills we use to create the beautiful models and miniature worlds you will be seeing. If it's your first time seeing model railroading at this level, please don't let it overwhelm you. Remember that most of us started with a train set under the tree or something similar, and if we can do it, so can you!

As I mentioned earlier, our convention and train show are run entirely by member volunteers from all regions of the U.S. and from a number of other countries. We hope your tour around the show will spark your participation in our hobby, whether it's as a newcomer, as an old hand, or as someone who had drifted away but is now returning.

We encourage you to learn more about the NMRA and model railroading by visiting us at our website, [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). We also invite you to stop by our membership booth here at the show, where you can learn more about the NMRA's local, regional, and national activities. In addition, the booth will be staffed by volunteers from the local area who are experts on model railroading activity here in the Detroit area.

The Metro Detroit area is served by two NMRA divisions, as well as by the North Central Region. For those of you who live here in the area, I'd like to spend a little time filling you in on each of them.

Division 6 serves the west side of Detroit and its western and southern suburbs. Division 6 meets at 7:30 PM on the third Friday of each month at the Senior Center, located within the Livonia Civic Center complex at Five Mile and Farmington Roads in Livonia, Michigan. The division tries to schedule a home layout tour each month.

Division 8 serves the east side of Detroit and its northern suburbs. It meets at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month at the Troy Christian Chapel, located at 400 East Long Lake Road (south side) in Troy, Michigan. The division offers quarterly layout tours in addition to the monthly meetings.

Both divisions meet all year 'round with no summer breaks, and follow the same meeting format. The meetings consist of a show & tell time, where modelers are encourage to show off their latest work, usually based on the previous or current month's clinic topic, a how-to clinic, a modeler's aid session, plus a business meeting.

In addition, the North Central Region serves modelers in the entire Michigan, Northwest Ohio, and Northeast Indiana area, and holds a convention each fall. For more information about any of these very active groups, be sure to check in at the membership booth, or you can access their websites through the NMRA's national site.

In closing, allow me to thank each of you again for attending this year's National Convention and Train Show. I hope you'll enjoy visiting with us as much as we've enjoyed having you here!

**Mike**