First some news and then info on how to attend our virtual meeting on Sunday.

--The second NMRA-X will be held tomorrow, Saturday May 16.  For further information, please visit the NMRA-X Facebook page.  If you do not have Facebook, you can call and I will try to help you set it up so you can participate.  This event will have 12 hours of live virtual clinics and tours from all over the world.  It's an amazing opportunity.  If you cannot 'attend,' arrangements will be available for you to watch recordings of the clinics.  Another NMRA-X is planned for May 30.

--ALSO!  Watch for my upcoming email on sub-groups.  It is an great opportunity for your other groups to Zoom meet and for us to make full use of our subscription.

Our May meeting is Sunday, May 17 at 2pm on Zoom.  DO NOT GO TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.  WE ARE MEETING ONLINE ONLY.

For this first meeting since the stay-at-home order, we are having a business meeting followed by a time for each of us to share what we have been doing at home.  Call it a SUPER Show-and-Tell.  We chose not to have a clinic due to the NMRA-X clinics running for 12 hours on Saturday the 16th.  This is an opportunity to catch up with fellow members and also to show & tell what you have been doing during this sequestered time.  We will not have a contest at this meeting.

If you have not used Zoom before, please do not be intimidated.   Really, this is harder to explain than it is to do.

What do you need for Zoom?  To participate you need a smart phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer.  Of these, the computers are easier to use than the phone.

To fully participate, you also need a camera and microphone (a headset with a mic will work if plugged into the computer).  HOWEVER if you don't have either or both of the camera/mic, you can still 'attend' the meeting.  Your computer will show the meeting video and play the meeting audio for you.  Your 'block' (where your picture would normally appear in the meeting screen) will be black but if you fill in your name when signing up, that will appear.  You will not be able to be seen or heard but you will be able to see and hear the other attendees.  There is a 'chat' option at the bottom of the Zoom screen that will appear to the group when you type something.  That way you can still ask questions and offer information.  I'll guide you to it.

(If you want to try it out ahead of the meeting, email me.  When I am available, we can set up a test meeting and get your Zoom set up.  I'll do what I can to help you.)

To start Zoom:

* Click the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85399780465?pwd=ZDdNQ2xSY0pqd0ZWa1hONTF1YUlWZz09>

* From there, simply answer the questions & follow instructions.
* If you have a microphone, bear in mind that any background noise in your area will come through to the meeting.  If you need to take a call or there is some other noise, you can mute your mic temporarily and still be present at the meeting.  The mute is in the upper right of your photo box as is the unmute for when you are done.

Once you set up and start your Zoom, you will be sent to a waiting room. I will admit you to the meeting.  Friends & Visitors are invited.  We will post on the websites and Facebook.

I will open the meeting no later than 1pm and possibly earlier.  That will give you time to sign in early if you wish and we can hopefully take care of any glitches before the meeting.  If you are still having trouble, no worries.  It is very user friendly and we will all be patient.

Rules are simple and basic, no bullying, no politics, no nastiness, be patient, moderator's rules are final (I am the moderator).  Any attempts to bribe the moderator, could conceivably succeed if carried our well.  Chocolate and Moscato D'asti are preferred.  Full Rules are published on Facebook.

I am so looking forward to seeing my Div 3 friends.  I've missed you all.

Gail Yarnall