

Deadline for Submission to the October Issue:
September 20, 2024



September 2024

THE “INTERIM” HEAD OWL HOOTS

Burnell Breaker

Happy Summer fellow WISE members!

I hope your summer has been a fun time with modeling and railfanning. Remember to send Cindy, our Owl Car Editor, any pictures, or a story of what you've been up to model railroading or railfanning this summer.

Attached is our 2024-2025 Schedule of Events and Model Railroad Retreat flyers. The Model Railroad Retreat is looking to be a fun event.

We could use some help with setting up, selling and packing up our estate donation items at the Kettle Moraine Ballast Scorchers Railroad Club Model Railroad Show and Sale, Sunday, September 15, 9:00am to 3:00pm at the Washington County Fair Park, West Bend. If you are interested in helping, contact me at superintendent@trainfest.com or 262-939-9193. You will get free admission for helping at our tables.

Our first scheduled meet at the New Berlin Public Library Community Room is SATURDAY, November 16 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Remember all our meets this season will be Saturday afternoons. Hopefully changing to Saturday afternoons will increase attendance.

We are not having a meet in October due to Joe Russ having his Optoberfest weekend the same weekend as our meet would have been. We know many WISE members participate in this event so we thought it would be best not to have a meet that month so everyone can operate.

We will be getting half price Trainfest tickets again for sale to our WISE members. Two will be available for each member to purchase. Once we have them in hand, we will let everyone know as to how we are going to handle the sale of them.

Dennis Janssen, our longtime Paymaster, has stepped aside after serving the Division first as Assistant Paymaster under Bob Sherman and then Paymaster after Bob stepped down. Presently, I am taking over the duties of Paymaster until we can find a permanent replacement for Dennis. We are looking for someone who would like to take on this job. Since we are no longer running Trainfest, the job has become easier, and Dennis has offered to assist whoever takes over. If you are interested or know someone who is, contact me.

I just got an email from Jon Dettmann, our layout tour coordinator. Jon has asked to step down because his full-time workload has made it difficult to find the time needed to locate layouts to visit after our monthly meets and other events. If you would like to talk to me about the details of this job serving your Division, contact me. Until we find someone, if you would like to have your layout open to visit after one of our meets, let me know. Also, still looking for someone to handle our Video Library and Contests.

See you at the Model Railroad Retreat
September 28 in Kenosha!!

Burnell

Upcoming Division Events:

Executive Committee Meetings
September 11 7:00pm
Lionel Railroad Club

WISE Division Meeting
November 16 1:00pm
New Berlin Public Library

Modeling & Prototype Railroad Contests

Each month, a model, photo, and railroad-related craft popular vote contest is held at the WISE Division meets. These contests are free to enter and are open to the public. Voting will take place in the following categories:

Motive Power – Steam
Motive Power – Diesel
Traction / Electric
Passenger Equipment
Freight Equipment
Non – Revenue Equipment
Structures
Photographs – Prototype
Photographs – Model
General
Youth 8 – 17 Years
Train Related Crafts

There are five award categories: Best of Show, 1st Place, 2nd Place, Youth 1st place and 2nd Youth Place. Each category receives an Award certificate and gift certificates depending on the place earned and membership in the NMRA. Best of Show will also receive a plaque. Our Contest Director will provide you with a number and a small tag to fill out describing your entry. After that, it's a blind vote by attendees. The votes are tallied at the end of the meet culminating with the award announcements.

It's that simple and that fun!

For contest rules and details, contact Robert Niederman Contest Chairman and Asst. Superintendent at asst.super@trainfest.com.



Sunday, September 15, 2024 - 9AM to 3PM

Kettle Moraine Ballast Scorchers Railroad Club Model Railroad Show & Swap Meet

Washington County Fair Park, West Bend
(Extra Fare Event)

Saturday, September 28, 2024 - 9AM to 3PM

Model Railroad Retreat - St. Paul's Lutheran Church

NON-MEMBERS \$5.00
8760 37th Avenue, Kenosha

Saturday, November 16, 2024 - 1 PM

Monthly Meet - New Berlin Public Library Community Room

FREE ADMISSION (Contests, Clinics, Bring & Brag, Layout Tour)
15105 Library Lane, New Berlin

Saturday & Sunday, November 23-24, 2024

Trainfest - Baird Center, Milwaukee

(Extra Fare Event)

Saturday, December 14, 2024 - 1 PM

Monthly Meet - New Berlin Public Library Community Room

FREE ADMISSION

Saturday January 18, 2025 - 1 PM (tentative)

Train School - New Berlin Public Library Community Room

FREE ADMISSION

Learn about this great hobby and all it offers from local modelers.
Stations will be set up to discover different aspects of the hobby.

Saturday & Sunday, February 15-16, 2025

Mad City Train Show - Alliant Energy Center, Madison

(Extra Fare Event)

Saturday, February 22, 2025 - 1 PM (tentative)

Monthly Meet - New Berlin Public Library Community Room

FREE ADMISSION

Saturday, March 22, 2025 - 1 PM

Monthly Meet and Membership Meeting Oconomowoc Historical Museum

FREE ADMISSION
103 West Jefferson Street, Oconomowoc

Sunday, April 13, 2025 - 9 AM to 4 PM

Metro Model Railroad Club Model Railroad Show

Ozaukee County Fairgrounds, Cedarburg
(Extra Fare Event)

BRING & BRAG about your recent acquisitions, layout progress or rail adventures at the Meets!

Trainfest®

America's Largest Operating Model Railroad Show

November 23 – 24, 2024

Trainfest 2022 was a huge success!

Our attendance for the show was 20,557!

Thank you to everyone who exhibited, attended, participated, and supported Trainfest 2022.

We could not have done it without you.

We sincerely appreciate all the positive feedback and suggestions we have received about the show.

The next Trainfest, presented by Great American Train Shows, is planned for November 23-24, 2024. Between now and then we will be using all the feedback and suggestions we received to build the best Trainfest possible.

Our goal is for Trainfest 2024 to amaze and delight everyone from the most sophisticated hobbyist to families and kids of all ages.

Exhibitor sign up for the 2024 show will be available on <https://www.train-fest.com> soon and tickets will go on sale in the Summer of 2024. The next update to this page is planned for January 1, 2024.

Once again thank you for your support.



Division Video Library

A reminder for everyone that the Division's Video Library is available for members to checkout DVDs.

As I stated after the Division went inactive, I cannot do both jobs of being the Interim Superintendent and Video Librarian, bringing and managing the Video Library at our meets. If you would like to checkout any DVDs, look at our catalog on wisedivision.org and contact me with the number and title of the one(s) you would like to view. I will bring them to our next meet or you can pick them up at my business. The DVDs are currently stored in my company's warehouse in Caledonia.

If you are interested in taking over the Video Library, contact me. It's an easy job, where you need to bring the Video Library to our meets and manage the checking out and receiving of them from the members.

Burnell Breaker
superintendent@trainfest.com
262-939-9193



We are in need of layouts to visit after our monthly meets. The information we have is over 10 years old and it needs to be updated. Many WISE members have moved or passed away since our last directory was published in 2011. If you would like to have your layout open to visit after one of our meets, let us know. You can send your railroad name, scale and contact information to superintendent@trainfest.com

A Note from the Editor:

We're off and running into another year of the Owl Car.

The Owl Car only exists with submissions from the membership. So, please remember to submit your articles, photos or leads to stories. If you're railfanning or attending an event or operation session, take those photos and give me a sentence or two about it.

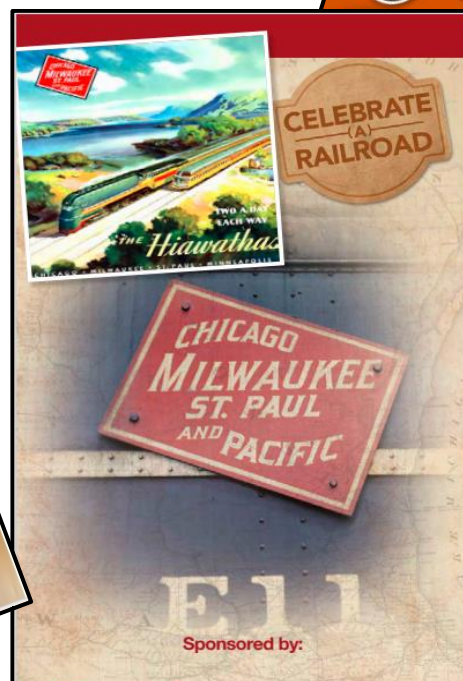
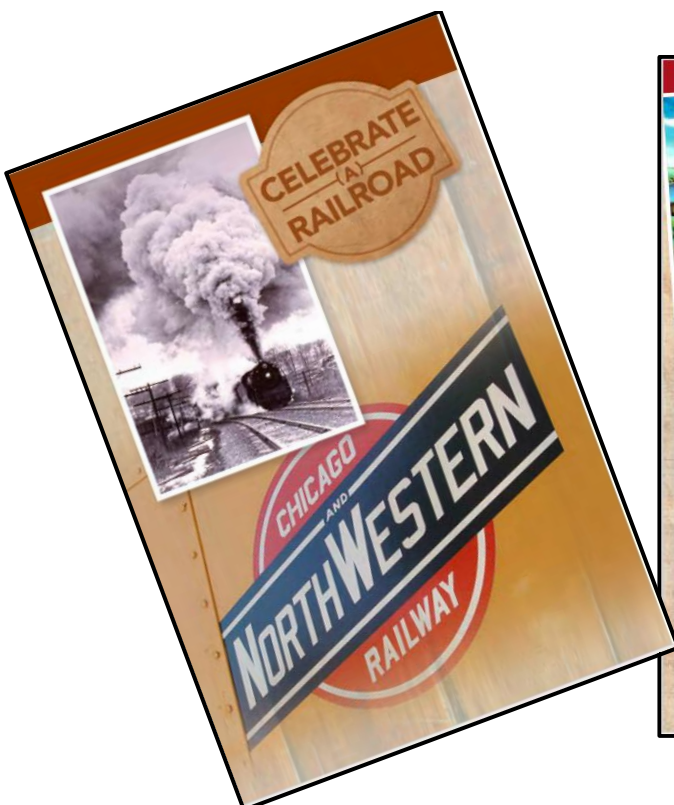
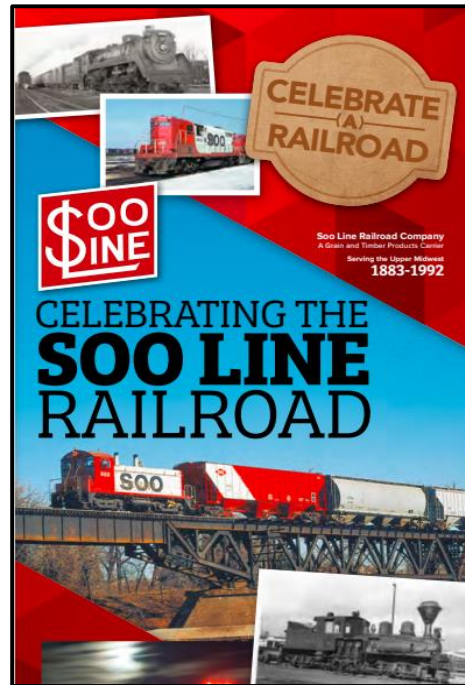
Remember to send everything for the Owl Car to owlcar@trainfest.com. The deadline for the October issue will be September 20th.

Your Editor
Cindy Mielke

Celebrate-a-Railroad!

The “Celebrate-a-Railroad theme was launched at Trainfest 2015. The inaugural road was Chicago & North Western (C&NW). As part of each of the Celebrate-a-Railroad themes, a museum quality historical exhibit was created by the WISE Division along with their partners: the C&NW Historical Society, the Milwaukee County Historical Society, the Grohmann Art Museum and Mercury Communication Partners. Each of the themed displays consisted of 32 full-color panels like the panels shown here.

For many years, these 72 inches high by 36 inches wide panels were stored by the WISE Division. Then, last month, the respective historical societies were contacted to determine their willingness to take the panels for their own use. The Celebrate-a-Railroad panels have now launched into a new era of educating and exciting patrons about the great American railroads.



AP Achievement Program

Dave Poquette

To most NMRA members, the NMRA Achievement Program (AP) is a way to achieve the Master Model Railroader (MMR) status. You must earn 7 certificates in 4 different categories (model railroad equipment, settings, engineering and operation, service to the hobby). Each category is broken down into subcategories as follows:

- Model railroad equipment
 - Motive Power
 - Cars
- Settings
 - Structures
 - Scenery
 - Prototype Models
- Engineering and Operation
 - Civil Engineer
 - Electrical Engineer
 - Chief Dispatcher
- Service to the Hobby
 - Association Official
 - Association Volunteer
 - Author

Obtaining the MMR status can be a daunting task. It takes commitment and many hours to achieve. The process is well worth the effort. I am currently going through the process and have spent countless hours achieving 5 AP certificates and 3 merit awards towards a 6th certificate, structures. I feel that going through this process has made me a better modeler in many ways. I only wish I could have saved that switch tower that I made from cardboard or even the Revell models that I built when I was knee-high to a grasshopper so that I can compare it to the models that I'm building now.

You can find more information about the Achievement Program at <http://nmra.org> and click on the Education tab. If you have further questions, feel free to contact me. My contact information is listed in the Division Leadership section of this newsletter.

If you don't feel like this is "your cup of tea", then at least consider earning a Golden Spike Award. Unlike the AP, you don't need to have your models judged nor do you have to earn 7 certificates. You just need to have built a layout that meets certain requirements:

- Display 6 pieces of rolling stock. These can be scratch built, craftsman kit, super detailed commercial kits.
- Construct a minimum of 8 square feet of model railroad or module(s) including scenery in any scale.
- Construct 5 structures. These can be scratch built, craftsman kit, or super-detailed commercial kits. If a module has less than five structures, additional structures separate from the scene may be presented.
- Three types of tracks are required (turnout, crossing, cross-over, etc.). All tracks must be properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial track can be used.
- The track must be wired so that 2 trains can be operated simultaneously.
- One additional electrical feature must be used. This can be powered turnouts, turnout indicators, lighted building, signaling, etc.

Most of you may already qualify for a Golden Spike Award. If you think you do qualify for a Golden Spike, fill out the attached form and contact me. I will come to your layout to see if you qualify. Please message me at ap@trainfest.com.

	<p style="text-align: center;">ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD APPLICATION FORM FEBRUARY 2019</p>
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PLEASE COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FORM AND SEND TO YOUR DIVISION OR REGION AP MANAGER

Member Name: _____ NMRA#: _____ Expiration: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Province: _____ Country: _____ Zip/Post Code: _____

Date Submitted: _____ Region: _____ Division: _____

- The Golden Spike Award (GSA) will be awarded to any NMRA member who completes the Qualifications Checklist, obtains the necessary signatures (Division AP Manager or some local NMRA member approved by the Division AP Manager), and if the applicant does not already hold MMR status.
- The GSA will be administered by the Division and Region AP Managers.
- AP requirements and definitions apply for scratch building and super-detailing.
- The Division AP Manager will submit the signed form to the Region AP Manager who will issue the Golden Spike Award certificate.
- The Region AP Manager will then forward the completed form to the National AP Manager so that an announcement can be made in the NMRA Magazine.

GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD QUALIFICATIONS CHECKLIST:

1. Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars):

- Display six units of rolling stock either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or superdetailed commercial kits.

2. Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery)

- Construct a minimum of eight square feet of model railroad or module(s) including scenery in any scale.
- Construct five structures either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or superdetailed commercial kits. If a

3. Engineering (Civil & Electrical)

- Three types of track are required (e.g. turnout, crossing, crossover, etc.). All must be properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial track may be used.
- All installed track must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously (e.g. double track main, single track main with sidings, and block or command or other form of control).
- Provide any one additional electrical feature such as power operated turnouts, signaling, turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc.

Witness: _____ Name: _____ NMRA #: _____

Region AP Manager: _____ Region: _____

Golden Spike Award Recipients

The Golden Spike Award is part of the Achievement Program (AP) and serves as an entry point for model railroaders who are striving to become Master Model Railroaders or MMR. Its recipients are individuals who have demonstrated familiarity with different aspects of the hobby, rather than expertise in a particular area.

Those different aspects of the Golden Spike Award encompass Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars), Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery) and Engineering (Civil & Electrical).

It is with great pleasure that the WISE Division announces that Ray Meyers of Port Washington has received the Golden Spike Awards.

On June 17, 2024, Ray received 3 Achievement Program (AP) awards for his outstanding modeling efforts. He earned AP awards in scenery, structure, & cars. He has one more AP certificate to earn before becoming an MMR.

Congratulations Ray!



“On which side of the platform is my train?” asked a stranger in a Jersey City depot the other day. “Well, my friend,” replied a gentleman passing, “If you take the left, you’ll be right. If you take the right, you’ll be left”.

Weekly Mountaineer

The Dales, Oregon
January 6, 1877



Just Another Ferroequinologist

(Rail Fan)

The word, Ferroequinologist comes from the Latin words ferrum (“iron”) and equus (“horse”) and the English word logist or one who studies. So, a ferroequinologist is one who studies iron horses or trains.

For many scholars, the study of this area of interest can span decades. Fifty years to be exact for Steve Miazga. However, Steve’s interest in the hobby had a rather unusual start.

Steve was working as an engineering consultant in Toronto, Ontario, working many hours in a demanding position. His future wife, concerned for his well-being, suggested that he needed a hobby as a distraction from his work. Steve mentioned to his wife-to-be that he had a train when he was in grade school. Low and behold, a small N Scale train set appeared and that started Steve’s lifelong experience in model railroading.

In Toronto, Steve discovered a great train shop, George’s Trains. The owner was all too eager to share magazines and how to books with the fledging ferroequinologist. Following the information gleaned from George, Steve built two small railroads while in Toronto. The rolling stock focused on Santa Fe since most of manufacturers produced ready to run equipment for that railroad. When Steve was transferred to Chicago and the first layouts went into the trash, he was determined that that would never happen again, and a layout was built that was able to be moved.

In 1976, Steve and his family moved to Rhinelander Wisconsin. He was given a ten-by-ten-foot space in the basement of his new home, and he began to resurrect a salvaged Chicago layout.



Working on that layout for nearly 25 years every square inch of Steve’s allotted space and two levels as well was filled with his new passion.

The theme of the layout became centered on the

Soo Line in northern Wisconsin.

The Soo had run through Rhinelander and so the theme seemed to match Steve’s memories. When the Wisconsin Central was formed and took over the northern trackage of the Soo, taconite trains with DM&IR power would run through Rhinelander in the winter, so power from that road ended up on the railroad. A name evolved and The Missabe Junction Railway (MJR) was born.



Another move in 2001 brought another tear down of the old MUR, but nearly everything was salvaged and used in a layout built with a lightweight foam in modules, just in case another move was on the horizon. And sure

enough, another move came in 2014 and with it came a home with a large open basement and the module trick worked. Steve’s layout was up and running again in a couple of months.

Just Another Ferroequinologist (continued)

The current layout measures about 25 feet square and is modeled in the time from 1960 to 1990. Two periods of time operate: pre-Wisconsin Central and post- Wisconsin Central. Steve switched to DCC in 2004 which opened the possibilities for operations.

In the earlier period, the locomotives were Soo Line maroon and gold plus the transition to the new Soo colors of red, white, and black. The later period has some "new" Soo power, but the majority is Wisconsin Central, Algoma Central, Fox River Valley and Canadian national. DM&IR compliments both time frames. There is also a fleet of engines and cars that are painted and decaled for the Missabe Junction Railway, a few of which are complete repaints, but most are "bandits."

Hosting operating sessions has been one of the great parts of Steve's retirement. Monthly sessions are hosted with about twelve operators. He has developed a switchlist oriented operations scheme that does not require the operators to read the car numbers on the N Scale equipment. Movements are by car type and each session operates nearly 25 trains over three hours.

Because of this innovation, this railroad has been featured twice in Model Railroad magazine.

The aspect of model railroading that Steve enjoys the most is bringing the whole layout to life; adding details to each scene so that it looks like it belongs there. Using CadRail to design his layouts has allowed Steve to test grades, curves, and operations on paper before cutting the board as well as planning out the scenery.

The challenges within the hobby are, also, considered a plus. Throughout his hobby life, Steve has pushed himself to do things better, to try out new ideas gleaned from magazines or tips from friends, ultimately pushing himself to obtain his Master Model Railroader within the NMRA.

In the end, Steve acknowledges that, "The hobby has also opened up new friendships which I consider to be one of the most rewarding things that anyone could find in a hobby."

A Word about Constant Contact e-mail

Each Constant Contact e-mail includes links to update or unsubscribe your e-mail address. **Please do not use these links.** If you unsubscribe using the Constant Contact link, your e-mail address will be removed from the NMRA membership database, from the Midwest Region e-mail database and probably from your Division's records. If you get an e-mail that you don't want, just hit the delete key. Furthermore, if you use the update link, your change may not be timely posted to the NMRA membership database.

If you need to change your email address with the NMRA please follow these directions:

The direct way is to log on to the "Members" page of the NMRA website, choose the "View your NMRA membership" box on the right side of the screen, scroll down to the bottom of the page and select "Update". Enter the new email address in the appropriate box and click "Submit".

\$\$\$ *From the Cluttered Desk of the Paymaster*

Dennis Janssen

I Finally Agreed to Undergo Cataract Surgery. Here's What Happened

By [Bette Ann Moskowitz](#)

For those of us in the last trimester of our lives, vision loss and [hearing loss](#) are so common we not only expect this, but we accept the losses as a “given” of aging. For many reluctant seniors, it is also a big red flag that confirms “I am getting old,” so they delay dealing with these sensory deficits until they cannot anymore.

This is despite the fact that treatment has become more tech-friendly, accessible, and less costly. In fact, at least one category of [vision loss](#) does more than restore clarity of vision. According to a 2022 study reported in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, removing cataracts was “significantly associated with a 30 percent lower risk of dementia development.”

The word “cataract” has two meanings: A cataract is a cascading waterfall, a dramatic effect of nature and the lens of the human eye. It can become cloudy through use and as you age. I could feel it. I could not see the stain on my sweater nor my students’ expressions through the fogged-up lenses of my eyes.

Surgery to remove the cloudy lens and replace it with an artificial one is the most prevalent of all surgical procedures in the United States, according to the National Eye Institute (a division of the National Institutes of Health).

The total is over 3.7 million Americans in a year; and by age 80, most Americans either have cataracts or have had the surgery.

Before artificial lens implantation, thick glasses were needed to replace the lenses that had been removed. And, when implantation was in its earlier stages, aftercare included hospitalization, and having to remain immobile, even sleeping with sandbags to position your head so the new lens would not be dislodged.

I found the procedure to be painless and quick (taking about 20 minutes), and according to research by the Cleveland Clinic, 97 percent of these repairs are successful — and I am part of that statistic. The worst part I experienced was the copious amount of pre-op and post-op eye drops that are required.

My ophthalmologist, Dr. Mohsin Cheema, who has been performing cataract surgeries for 20 years, attributes the improvement in the procedure to the refinement of the machine used to break up the cloudy cataract. “It results in far less trauma to the eye,” he says, adding that even rare cases of inflammation is reduced due to an antibiotic now administered during surgery.

I admit I was in that category of denial, putting off addressing my cataracts, even beyond my students’ faces appearing blurry, until I could no longer drive at night because lights coming at me were glaring and road signs were as if in a fog.

From the Cluttered Desk of the Paymaster (continued)

I arrived at the ambulatory surgical facility early that May morning. Pre-op was in a comfortable chair, as my right eye, the one to be operated on, was dilated and anesthetized, a process that took about half an hour. I was, then, walked into the operating room, and helped onto the table, covered with a blanket to my chest

Dr. Cheema showed me an intense fuchsia, blue and white light, and told me to focus on it. He stressed that patients are awake during cataract surgery in order to respond to important instructions like this.

My face, except my right eye, was covered with a plastic surgical tarp. My eye was cleansed several times and then flooded with a numbing ointment. I felt nothing but the pushing and pulling as the doctor set to work breaking up the cataract. This technology is called phacoemulsification in which the cloudy lens is ultrasonically emulsified and then extracted through a small incision.

The machine, which is part of this cataract demolition crew, beeped and clanged like a pinball machine. I focused on the beautiful colored lights to distract myself from thinking about what was happening to my eyeball.

I even asked the doctor, in the moment, to give me a brief history of cataract surgery. He said they used to call it “couching,” and in ancient Egypt, they treated a cataract by taking a needle and poking and pushing it down and out of the way but didn’t remove it. (Happy I am in the here and now!)

In minutes, my eye was ready for the new lens, and immediately it was implanted, the surgery was over, and I was sitting on the edge of the table. The doctor slipped a pair of dark sunglasses onto my face.

The post-op regimen includes sunglasses, a clear patch to cover the eye during sleep for a few days (mainly to make sure you don’t rub your eye in your sleep), and a lot of eyedrops, to prevent infection and promote healing.

Still, the stigma of “old people’s” ailments persists. This is at the root of neglecting to address essential medical treatments that arise as we age, which are more effective than ever — for vision, hearing, knees, hips — the whole package. Unlike previous generations, with medical advances, we can drive safely and walk swiftly.

At 60 and 70 and 80 and beyond, we have the ability to live fully — and to see the light, in all aspects of our lives.

My cataract surgery was like a rebirth. And weeks later, the greenery of nature seemed almost iridescent. I pushed through the tunnel of blurry-eyed vision, and a fear of aging, and then made an appointment to have the other eye done.



Model railroad humor: Elementary

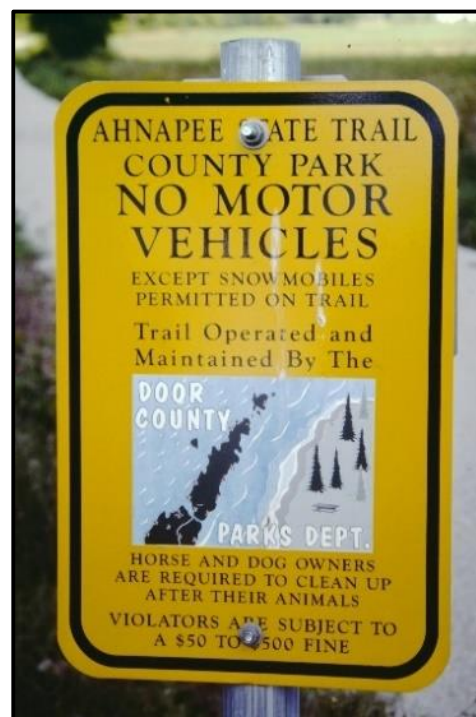
By Sammi DiVito | October 20, 2021
Chuckle at this cartoon from Matt Matteo

Railroads of Oshkosh and Rail-To-Trails

Dave Nelson

At our Annual Meeting of members in March two great clinics were presented for the enjoyment of the members. Dave Poquette, in addition to being a railfan and skilled modeler is also an avid bicyclist, and his March program combined those interests and focused on some of the many bike and hiking trails that were former railroad lines. While trains no longer run on these lines, there is still plenty of railroad infrastructure on these trails, including bridges, culverts, elevated rights of way, and now and then a depot or other structure.

Brian Siegl is a railfan with a strong bent for railroad history and he has made Oshkosh, WI, one of his special studies. Oshkosh is an old lumber and industrial city with a strong heritage in both railroad and water transportation. Many of us are familiar with the Soo Line and Chicago & North Western presence in the city, but a bit less well-known is that the Milwaukee Road also had a branch leading to Oshkosh. Brian's presentation was well-documented and reflected his thorough research on the railroads of Oshkosh. He tailored the clinic to have a modeling focus, particularly on bridges tailored the clinic to have a modeling focus, particularly on bridges



Chicago Northwestern Archival Completion

David Mielke

A celebration of the completion of the Chicago and Northwestern Historical Society's new archival building was the centerpiece of the CNWHS annual convention, May 17 – 20, 2024

The 8,000 square foot Archival building houses document storage, a research center and store. Located on the grounds of the Illinois Railroad Museum (IRM) in Union, ILL, the fundraising for the building began in 2011.

The vision for this building was to provide a place for research and the maintenance of pictures, documents, and other informational materials about the history of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. This building is one part of the current Main Street project of the IRM which will include a loop for a trolley to travel.

The celebration included a tour of both the CNWHS building and IRM. The great crew at IRM and CNWHS had several pieces of CNW equipment running on the grounds. SD50 7091, GP7 1571 and UP 1995 were present and available to view and photograph.

Check the CNWHS and the IRM websites listed below and plan a day to visit because there is a lot to see, do and learn about railroading.

[Chicago & North Western Historical Society \(cnwhs.org\)](http://cnwhs.org)

[Illinois Railway Museum in Union, Illinois - A Museum in Motion \(irm.org\)](http://irm.org)



Division Leadership

Executive Committee

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 262-939-9193

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Picnic/Bus Trips ---
 Contest ---
 Video Library ---
 Layout Tours ---

FROM the NMRA Please Keep in Touch



Please make sure the NMRA has your current contact information. You will not be able to access the full range of NMRA benefits unless we can reach you.

- Please visit nmra.org/members
- Use your email address and password to log in.
- If you have not yet registered, or forgot your password, there are buttons for that. Take a moment to easily correct any problems.
- Once logged in, click on Member Info (top right corner).
- Make sure your information is correct.
- If not, please go to:

nmra.org/request-membership-info-changes

to submit a request for changes to be made.

Thank you!

The WISE Owl Car is published by the Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE) Division of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA).

Subscription is free in an electronic format to all NMRA members residing within the boundaries of the WISE Division.

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Please send any comments, information, or editorials to Editor Cindy Mielke via email: owlcar@trainfest.com

April Executive Committee Minutes

**Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE) Division of the NMRA
Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 17, 2024
Location: Lionel Railroad Club & Zoom**

Meeting called to order by Burnell Breaker at 6:57 pm

EC Present – Burnell Breaker (Interim Superintendent)
Dennis Janssen (Treasurer, Paymaster)
Robert Niedermann (interim Asst-Superintendent)
David Rohr (Secretary, Chief Clerk)
Tim Koch (BOD) joined at 7:21

Chairs Present - David Mielke (Train School)* joined at 7:15, Jim Hebner (Website) *

Guests – Bob Mcgeever (MWR President) *
*Attended via zoom

Absent – Mike Slater * (Facebook), Gary Hendrickson * (Membership)

Minutes: No changes noted from the March 13 meeting minutes, approved.

Paymaster Report:
No changes noted from the March meeting, approved.

Membership:
Gary Hendrickson – not present – no report

Clinics:
Burnell stated no clinics are scheduled till fall.

AP Program:
No report from Dave Poquette.

Website:
Jim Hebner has more work to do, but getting ready to go live.
Working on a section “About” for the division’s history.
Visit “<https://hebners.net/wise/>” to see the latest progress.
Need to add a link to YouTube & Facebook. Jim wants to wrap this up within the month.

Layout Tours:
No report.

Train School:
No report

RPM / Modeler’s Retreat: Slater not present - No Report

Train Sales/Donations: Still deciding on where to sell for next season

Owl Car:

April issue was sent to the members. Another great issue.

Deadline for May (next issue) is April 20.

The August issue could be a short update for what is coming in the fall schedule. Always looking for feedback

East Troy Trip:

30 folks signed. Plan is to use the CSS&SB car # 30 and 31.

Two of us will pick up the lunches from the Elegant Farmer when we reach the maintenance building and the others tour it.

Try to be at the East Troy Depot at 10:30 am, planning to leave at 11 am

Trainfest 2024:

The WISE Div application has been submitted and has been approved.

Hearing some negative reactions from some exhibitors and guests about new location and dates.

Staeger Collection:

Chad Clark has put money down on the layout. He has his basement ready, looking to do this either May 4th or 5th, or June 1st or 2nd.

2024 - 2025 Schedule and Meeting Location:

New Berlin Public Library's big conference room is reserved for 3rd Saturdays in November and December 2024.

We need to wait until early September to request the 2025 dates.

Room rental is free for non-profit group, but we cannot have any money transactions, so no swap sales, nor any admission. Invite everyone, but only NMRA members and participate in contests, layout tours, etc.

They will allow coffee and snacks. Can we put up a donation jar? Bob N. will need to check.

The room has a good AV system, and we can try doing zoom meetings again.

Division going active again:

Planning for 2025/2026 as Bob McGeever's term ends March 2025.

We need to do a final look at the bylaws and constitution, then submit to the MWR BOD Mtg fall 2024.

Then get ready for WISE Div elections March or April 2025

New Business:

- HQ is starting to make sure the regions and divisions have a plan for record retention on the change of command.
- Lucy Dormont (Marketing Consultant) from HQ wants to attend the May meeting to work on a membership video for WISE, and then use it for the rest of the NMRA
- Caledonia Conservancy is acquiring 4 Mile Road property with former CNS&M substation. Looking into feasibility of saving building.
- All the "Celebrate a Railroad" panels are either been moved and are in process.
- Review of Constitution and By-Laws to confirm by next meeting.
- KMBS Train Show 9/15/2024 – Should we get tables to sell items?
- Trainfest 2025 – expecting a meeting soon with NMRA leadership.

We have the Trainfest computer from Ken Jaglinski and will review information on it for future shows

Next Meeting:

Scheduled for Wednesday May 8 at 7 pm at the Lionel Railroad Club in New Berlin, or via zoom.

After that, the next meeting is mid or late August via zoom.

Then Sept 11 meeting to be held at the Lionel Club in New Berlin.

Meeting adjourned 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted by David A. Rohr, Chief Clerk.

May Executive Committee Minutes

**Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE) Division of the NMRA
Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 8, 2024
Location: Lionel Railroad Club & Zoom**

Meeting called to order by Burnell Breaker at 7:03 pm **Minutes:** No changes noted from the April 17 meeting minutes, approved.

Paymaster Report:

No changes noted from the April meeting, approved.
One person submitted a dues renewal but made check out to WISE.
We created a new check and submitted to HQ.

Membership:

A lot of divisions are like the WISE.
Lucy from HQ is working on a video to help retention/recruitment.
May want to do more social media promotion, may take some money.
McGeever has a contact they use for SCWD

Clinics:

Burnell stated no clinics are scheduled till fall.
Dave Nelson will receive one of the National President's Award, nominated by the MWR.

AP Program:

No report from Dave Poquette, per Burnell

Website:

No report from Jim Hebner, but Burnell stated Jim may have found a better way of doing the website, stay tuned.
Would he like to consult with other divisions on what they are doing?

Layout Tours:

No report.

Train School:

No report

RPM / Modeler's Retreat: Slater not present - No Report

Train Sales/Donations:

KMBS Show Sept 15 at Washington Co. Fair Grounds, getting 3 tables.
Want to go through storage unit for more items to sell, like the roundhouse, turntable, etc.
Still deciding on where to sell for next season.

Owl Car:

May issue was sent to the members. Another great issue.
The August issue could be a short update for what is coming in the fall schedule.
Send out mid to late August as an "email blast".
Deadline for September (next issue) is August 20, which will be the next full issue.
Always looking for feedback.

East Troy Trip:

About 30 folks attended. A good time was had by all that attended.
Positive feedback, Andy & Chris where great.
Many folks were impressed with the tour.
We can ask HQ for \$200 to offset the cost, if available.
We used one trolley car, not the CSS&SB car # 30 and 31 as planned.

Trainfest 2024:

The WISE Div application has been submitted and has been approved.
Hearing more negative reactions from some exhibitors and guests about new location and dates.
At the South Bend convention, folks asked why downtown.

Staeger Collection:

Chad Clark has put money down. He has his basement ready, looking to do this June 1st.

2024 - 2025 Schedule and Meeting Location:

New Berlin Public Library's big conference room is reserved for 3rd Saturdays in November and December 2024.
We need to wait until early September to request the 2025 dates.
Room rental is free for non-profit group, but we cannot have any money transactions, so no swap sales, nor any admission.
Invite everyone, but only NMRA members and participate in contests, layout tours, etc.
They will allow coffee and snacks. Can we put up a donation jar? Bob N. will need to check. Dennis to make coffee with WISE coffee maker and supplies
The room has a good AV system, and we can try doing zoom meetings again.

Division going active again:

Planning for 2025/2026 as Bob McGeever's term ends March 2025.
We need to do a final look at the bylaws and constitution, then submit to the MWR BOD Mtg fall 2024.
Then get ready for WISE Div elections March or April 2025.
Need the final version by October 1, for the November Region meeting info packet.
We should think about doing electronic elections, like jot form electronic election, check with Jim Osbourn for details

New Business:

None presented

Next Meeting:

Next meeting is mid or late August via zoom.
After that, Sept 11, meeting to be held at the Lionel Club in New Berlin at 7 pm or via zoom.

Gary left the meeting. Meeting went into closed session at 7:54 pm

Closed session ended and meeting adjourned at 8:32 p

Respectfully submitted by David A. Rohr, Chief Clerk.

National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

Member Code of Conduct

Introduction

This Code of Conduct (“Code”) has been developed to set expectations for the behaviors, conduct, communication, and interactions between you and other members, officers and directors of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. (“NMRA”). This Code applies to all such persons when engaging with other NMRA members, participating in any event, social media platform or other sponsored extension of the NMRA (for example, the NMRA Interchange or an NMRA-sponsored online meeting) and attending NMRA meetings, events, or activities (whether National, Regional, Division or other subset). This Code also includes general guidelines on the appropriate use of social media for NMRA matters at any level.

Why do we need a code of conduct?

We join the NMRA and participate in its activities for one common reason – we enjoy the model railroading hobby and the fun, challenges, personal growth and camaraderie that it provides. It is imperative that we keep our common bond of model railroading “front and center” and rise above the inevitable differences that exist among us in personalities, opinions, experience, gender, age, race, nationality, or any of the other factors that make each of us unique individuals. Our collective goal is to enjoy and promote the hobby of model railroading, so we must strive to avoid “distractions” that interfere with or obstruct our common purpose. Collaboration and co-operation are vital for the success of our hobby and our enjoyment of model railroading and everything it has to offer.

What does the NMRA expect of members?

The NMRA expects all members to conduct themselves in a respectful, responsible, and mature manner, and demonstrate courtesy and kindness toward other individuals. Constructive and healthy discussions and interactions are encouraged and in fact are vital to the success of our hobby. However, certain other verbal and nonverbal behaviors and actions are not consistent with the NMRA’s values and hurt our hobby and relationships, such as the use of disparaging language, shouting, profanity, confrontational, intimidating, or threatening behavior or language, and immature and disrespectful behavior or language. It is imperative that we interact in a polite and professional manner.

The NMRA does not condone abusive, threatening, or aggressive behavior toward anyone at an NMRA event or in an NMRA forum (such as social media and other forms of electronic and digital interaction). This includes other participants, event organizers or sponsors, judges, or other officials.

You should be welcoming to newcomers and remember they may not have the benefit of experience and information that you have enjoyed. Be constructive in helping to make their entry into the hobby an enjoyable one.

Harassment

NMRA events and functions are meant to be fun, educational, and inclusive. No one should be subject to intimidation, made to feel unwelcome, or put in fear of reprisal. Harassment may include behavior or language that causes alarm, distress, anxiety, fear of physical violence, offensive statements, verbal abuse, and threats. Members should be sensitive to others.

Non-Retaliation

The NMRA relies on you to identify potential issues and raise concerns that the NMRA may need to address. The NMRA prohibits acts of retaliation against any person who reports an issue honestly and in good faith, and retaliation can constitute misconduct that could subject a member to discipline. This commitment to non-retaliation assures you that raising concerns, reporting misconduct, or cooperating in any investigation will not result in adverse consequences. The NMRA prohibits retaliation in any form, at any level of the organization, recognizing that retaliatory behavior contributes to an environment of mistrust and diminishes the willingness of individuals to be collaborative and transparent. During the investigation of any matter, the NMRA makes every reasonable effort to maintain the confidentiality of those involved.

Use of social media

The rapid growth of social media combined with ease of use and pervasiveness make it an attractive channel for communication. Use of social media for communication also creates the possibility of a host of unintended consequences. To help you identify and avoid potential issues, we are providing some examples of best practices that are meant to help you understand, from a wide range of perspectives, the implications of participation in social media. Any postings that you make as a representative of or participant in NMRA sanctioned activities will reflect on you and the NMRA.

Understand Your Personal Responsibility: You are personally responsible for the content you publish on user-generated content forums, such as blogs or social media sites. Remember that what you publish will be public for a long time. Protect your privacy.

Be Accurate: Be sure that you have all the facts before you post. It's better to verify your sources first than to have to post a correction or retraction later. If you do make a mistake, admit it and correct it. Post a retraction, edit your post, make any necessary apologies. If you are editing an earlier post, make it clear that you have made a correction.

Respect Others: You can catch a whole lot more flies with honey than vinegar. If you are constructive and respectful while seeking advice, asking for help, or discussing a disagreement or bad experience, you are far more likely to reach an understanding. In some instances, you may not be able to reach an understanding or agreement, but it is your responsibility to be constructive and address the problem rather than attacking the person.

Respect Your Audience: Don't use personal insults or disparaging conduct or language toward others. Show proper consideration for others' privacy and for sensitive topics. Users are free to discuss topics and disagree with one another but be respectful of others' opinions. You are more likely to achieve your goals if you are constructive and respectful while discussing a bad experience or disagreeing with an idea or a person. Harassment is not acceptable.

Think Before You Post: There's no such thing as a "private" social media site. Search engines can turn up posts and pictures years after publication. Comments can be forwarded or copied, and screenshots are easily available. Archival systems save information even if you delete a post. If you feel angry or passionate about a subject, it's prudent to wait until you are calm and clear-headed before posting.

Does it Pass the Publicity Test? If the content of your message would not be acceptable for face-to-face conversation, over the telephone, or in another medium, it is not acceptable for a social networking site. Do not use the anonymity afforded by a social media screen name or handle to post something that you wouldn't say if you could be identified.

Take the High Ground: You are more likely to build a high quality following if you discuss ideas and situations civilly. Don't pick fights online. Remember that as a participant in NMRA programming, you are representing the NMRA, and the organization supports the principles of fun, respect, and inclusion.

Do not post information that you know (or reasonably should know) is private, confidential, or proprietary. Some information that becomes available to you may be considered private, confidential or proprietary by the owner or source of such information – think before you post and if you are unsure, check with the owner or source before posting. Do not post anything in a private forum that you would not present in any public forum because there is no true privacy on the Internet. Ask yourself if you would want to see this published in the newspaper or posted on a billboard tomorrow or ten years from now? Additionally, ask yourself if you would want to see screenshots posted to the person or persons about whom you are speaking or writing.

Be Aware of Liability: You are responsible for what you post on your own site and on the sites of others. Be sure that what you post today is not something that you will regret in the future and that you are not violating any legal guidelines. Postings on social media sites can be, and have been, the subject of lawsuits alleging defamation, slander, or libel. In such a lawsuit, a court can compel the social media platform to disclose your account information; you won't be anonymous.

How does the NMRA enforce this code?

The NMRA can enforce this code of conduct independently, or in response to a complaint, after notice to affected members and due process including an opportunity to be heard. Proceedings include gathering facts, interviewing witnesses, conducting a hearing, and imposing discipline or dismissing the matter. The NMRA is a private membership organization; membership, member benefits, and the use of NMRA trademarks and intellectual property are not free or public. Therefore, the NMRA's leadership can determine that a violation of this code of conduct justifies a disciplinary action. Examples of actions include censure (a warning the similar conduct could cause termination), removal from an elected office, disqualification from elected offices or leadership, and termination of membership. The NMRA's Corporate Policies & Procedures Manual (CPPM), and Ohio state law applicable to nonprofit membership corporations such as the NMRA, governs the enforcement of this code and member discipline.

The advertisement features a light beige background with a dark red border. At the top, the text "Get Paid for Having Fun" is written in a large, bold, dark red serif font. Below this, on the left, is a white box with a dark red dot and the text "YOU PLAY, THEY PAY" in bold dark red. Underneath, it says "Grouper works with health plans to cover your NMRA membership." in a smaller, dark grey font. To the right of this text is a photograph of a smiling man with glasses, wearing a dark shirt, sitting at a table with model train cars. Above the photo is a yellow banner with the text "NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION" in dark red. At the bottom left is the Grouper logo in white on a dark red background. At the bottom right is the NMRA logo, which consists of a blue square with a white stylized "C" shape and the text "nmra .org" in white, followed by "national model railroad association" in black.

Visit the [National Model railroad Association](#) Facebook page for details.





Our 78th Year

OPEN HOUSE

Since 1947

SATURDAY and SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 30, DECEMBER 1, 2024

APRIL 5 and 6, 2025

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Parkland Plaza

2721 South Calhoun Road

New Berlin, Wisconsin 53151

(262) 754-9900

(entrance in back of building)

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**Open Fridays 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm
year round (unless a holiday)**

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**Saturday & Sunday: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
call to confirm or check website**

**See Many Toy Trains Running on Our Huge Layout
--- Minor Train Repairs ---**

OPEN HOUSE DONATION: \$2.00

**Veterans get in FREE – Scouts in uniform get parents in FREE
Children 12 and under are FREE with an adult**

Visit our Web Site
www.milw-lrrc.org

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FACEBOOK





Toy Train Sale and Show

(See below for more information)

All Gauges & All Scales

SUNDAY DATES

<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2026</u>
October 20	January 19	October 19	January 18	October 18
November 17	February 23	November 16	February 22	November 22
December 15	March 16	December 21	March 15	December 20

BUY • SELL • TRADE
NEW • USED • PARTS

Sale: New Berlin Entertainment Center
8:00 am to 12:00 noon **ADMISSION: \$4.00**

16000 West Cleveland Avenue • New Berlin, Wisconsin
(Enter on east side of building)

Kids 12 and under: FREE with Adult

For More Information or Table Reservations

Robert Sobolik
(414) 483-5886

RobertDSobolik@netzero.com



TRAIN SHOW: at Club will be open by 10:00 am
2721 S. Calhoun Rd (in back of building) Donations Accepted

Visit our Web Site
www.milw-lrrc.org

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MODEL RAILROAD RETREAT

Show off your model trains, connect with fellow enthusiasts, and learn from each other!



SATURDAY

September 28, 2024



JOIN US

9:00AM-3:00PM



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

8760 - 37th Avenue, Kenosha, WI



CALLING ALL SE WISCONSIN MODEL RAILROADERS!

Join the SE Wisconsin Model Railroad Retreat!

This is your chance to:

- Show off your models! Bring locomotives, structures, vehicles, dioramas; anything model railroad related, finished or in progress.
- Connect with fellow modelers! Share your passion, swap tips, and learn from others.
- Grow your modeling skills! This is a retreat focused on education and camaraderie.

Open to:

- Railroad Prototype Modelers
- Proto-Freelance Modelers
- 1/87 Vehicle Club Members
- And anyone else who loves model trains!

Admission: NMRA members Free / Non-NMRA members \$5.00

Vendor Tables: \$10.00 (Related to modeling only. One table per vendor.)

Display Tables: Free (Reserve yours today!)

For display and vendor table availability contact:

Mike Slater at m Slater@wi.rr.com

Burnell Breaker at superintendent@trainfest.com

Sponsored by the WISE Division of the NMRA





Directions:

From Milwaukee, take I-94 south to HWY 50 in Kenosha and head east to 39th Ave. Head south to 88th Pl. and take a left.

From Chicago, take I-94 north to HWY 165 in Pleasant Prairie and head east to 39th Ave. Head north to 88th Pl. and take a right.

