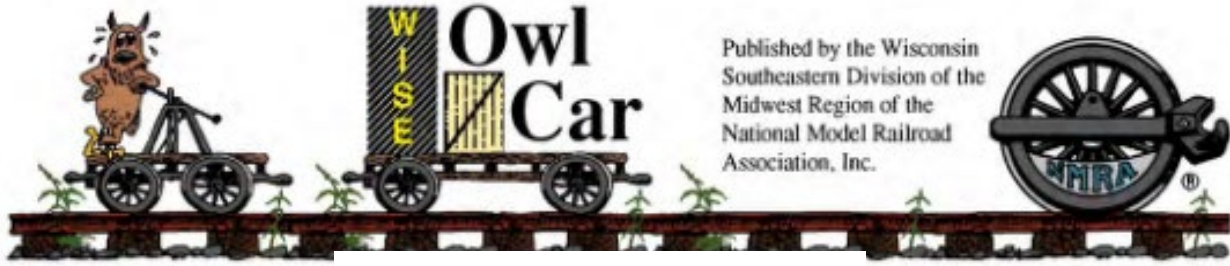


Deadline for Submission to the December Issue:
November 15, 2024



November 2024

THE HEAD OWL HOOTS

Burnell Breaker

WE ARE AN ACTIVE DIVISION AGAIN!

At the November 2 Midwest Region fall board meeting we were unanimously voted back to active status. The three-year wild ride is over. Our revised Constitution and By-Laws were accepted, and the next elections will be held Spring 2026. Speaking for myself, Robert Niedermann, David Rohr, Dennis Janssen and Tim Koch, we thank you for your support.

I'd like to apologize for the late arrival of the October Owl Car. I was on vacation the first weekend of October and approved the publishing once I got home. I thought I had passed it on for emailing to the membership at that time but didn't realize I hadn't until the middle of the month. As soon as I realized I had forgotten, we got it sent to you. Again, I am sorry for the late arrival.

Another season has begun for our Division's events. We had a good Model Railroad Retreat in September to build upon for next season. We sold more items at the Lionel Railroad Club Show in October, and we are looking forward to our first meet at the New Berlin Public Library Community Room Saturday afternoon, November 16.

Dave Nelson has 2 interesting clinics lined up for our November 16 meet. The first one is about Galesburg, IL as a modeler and railfan destination. The second clinic is about past years' Galesburg Railroad Days displays and activities, along with interesting ways to get to Galesburg and see plenty of trains.

Dave Nelson is working on lining up presenters for our November, December, and February meets. If you'd like to give a clinic or know someone who would, contact Dave Nelson. Also, David Mielke is looking for layouts for us to visit after our monthly meets. Let him know if you'd like to show off your railroad or know someone who would. Both of their contact information is located later in this issue.

Trainfest 2024 is November 24-25 at the Baird Center. We licensed the use of the name and logo to Giant Train Shows for this year's show. You can still mail a check to the address on the flyer in this issue by November 10 so we can ensure you get your tickets back in the mail in time for the show. We will have \$10.00 Two Day Tickets available for members to purchase one last time at our November 16 meet. Each member can purchase up to 2 tickets. Cash or check only. This is half the price being offered on their website to the public.

I would also like to mention the recent passing of former WISE Superintendent, Trainfest Chairman and Master Model Railroader John Tews. John was a great influence on our Division and will be greatly missed. His obituary is in this issue.

I hope to see you at our Saturday, November 16 meet and at Trainfest 2024.

Happy Railroading!

Burnell

Upcoming Division Events:

Executive Committee Meetings
November 13 7:00pm
Lionel Railroad Club

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

Just because we wanted to know....

The Miniatur Wunderland in Hamburg, Germany, holds the Guinness World Record for the largest model train set in the world. It is located at the historic Speicherstadt in Hamburg and is one of the most popular and most visited sights in Germany.

Spanning over 8,000 square feet, the layout features around 1,120 digitally controlled trains, around 4,300 houses and bridges, more than 10,000 vehicles – of which around 350 drive independently on the installation, 52 airplanes and around 290,000 figures. The system features a recurring day-night lighting cycle and almost 500,000 built-in LED lights.

[Miniatur Wunderland - Wikipedia](#)

Clinicians Invited at NMRA Convention

The great clinic presenters in the Division are invited to present their clinics at the 2025 NMRA Convention in Novi, MI in July 2025. We expect to have about 200 clinics taking place throughout the week. If interested, please email your contact information and clinic ideas to me at hazmatrichm@aol.com. I will respond to your email with the forms that need to be completed.

We have nearly 200 people already registered, at this time, for the convention which will start on Monday July 14 to Saturday July 19. We have reduced the costs by reducing the registration fees, but, yet we will be staying in a very nice Sheraton Hotel. Most of the activities, such as the layout tours, will be accessible using your personal vehicle.

" It is the 90th year of the NMRA! So, it will be a convention like none other!"

Rich Mahaney
NMRA NCR President
269-214-4221



2025 NMRA National Convention

Station No. VI - hosted by the North Central Region of the NMRA




Wisconsin Southeastern Division Midwest Region
of the National Model Railroad Association

2024-2025 Schedule of Events

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

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

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!



WISE DIVISION MEMBERS

Get Your Discount Tickets Today!

Trainfest[®]
America's Largest Operating Model Railroad Show

November 23-24, 2024
Baird Center - Downtown Milwaukee

\$10.00 Two Day Admission Tickets
Limit 2 Tickets Per Member - *Cash Only*

- or - Mail Check By November 10th to:

WISE DIVISION - NMRA
P.O. Box 66
Caledonia, WI 53108-0066



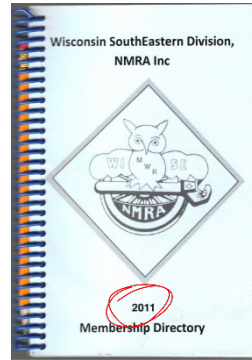
Division Video Library

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



It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words! If that's the case, then this picture is a dictionary. We have not updated our Membership Directory in over a decade. The information in this directory is vital to the ongoing revitalization of the Division.

As your new Layout Tour Chair, updating this document is my priority. With the information contained within its pages, we will be able to foster camaraderie and the sharing of ideas and expertise that is a key to a thriving organization and something that is greatly needed in the Division.

My plan is to send out a form by email, in the new year, asking for your contact information and details about your layout and other model and protpe interests. Please consider responding to my request. The Division is moving in a new direction and this directory will be an essential part of this revival.

David Mielke
 Layout Tour Chair

A Note from the Editor:

Christmas trains, historical societies, history lessons and celebrations!

These stories are what add depth to this newsletter and for them I am appreciative. I took on this task so I would learn something about my husband's obsession (and, yes, it is an obsession.) But I found that so much of what I include in this publication is Greek to me. So, I value those stories of train wrecks and Ferroequinologists. They give me something to write about that I can understand. Please continue to lead me to those stories and don't forget I would like your photos as well.

IMPORTANT: With the upcoming holidays, I will need to adhere to a strict deadline of the 15th of November and December. I know that this deadline is earlier than usual, but that will give me some wiggle room during a very busy time of the year. So, please keep this deadline in mind and send your articles and photos to the Owl Car to owlcar@trainfest.com.

Your Editor
 Cindy Mielke

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 module has less than five structures, additional structures separate from the scene may be presented.

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: _____

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 so many, like George Robbins, the interest in ferroequinology began early in life. George received his first American Flyer as a first grader. Later, George and his brother moved onto modeling HO while in high school. 1979 brought in the next transition when George began building in N-Scale with a Bachmann set and George has been an N-Scale modeler ever since.

The current N-Scale railroad is the Capitol, Appleton and Western and represents the fourth version of the railroad. It displays a short line in no specific location. Over 100 hand painted and lettered locomotives and rolling stock for this railroad have been combined with a mixture of cars from many other railroads. Presently, George has over 500 locomotives and cars on the layout. All rolling stock are weathered and have micro-trains or compatible couplers.

The layout is an L-shaped dog bone with a single track mainline and various passing sidings and two small yards. It measures 14 feet by 15 feet with a staging yard of 3 feet by 11 inches to store the rolling stock. The layout is DCC powered with block controls and tethered controllers. Two trains on the main layout and one train in staging can be run on the layout. Currently, George is working on completing the scenery on the layout and finishing the wiring both for the controls and lighting.

In addition to this layout, George has a portable figure-8 layout that is displayed throughout the year, at the various shows hosted by the club. The small layout can operate three trains on a 24 by 72-inch base and the figure-8 allows a long train to run that almost hits itself at the crossing. Two circles inside of the “8” can display shorter trains. This configuration packs a lot of action in a small space.

Over the past few years, George has been a member of the Milwaukee and Northwestern Model Railroad Club at the Oconomowoc Historical Society Museum. While working with the group, he has learned new skills such as scenery and lighting and has been exposed to DCC. At the club, George enjoys working with the other members as well as operating on other layouts. However, the most enjoyable and satisfying aspect of model railroading is bringing those skills to his home layout and successfully demonstrating them in a completed project.



Railroad Prototype Modelers

Mike Slater

The Wise Division held our Modelers Retreat (RPM) on Saturday September 28, 2024. Over forty modelers attend the event from as far away as Green Bay, Madison and Northern Illinois. Exhibitors brought models to display and to discuss how the modeling was done. Kevin Marks from FasTracks participated and discussed hand laying track techniques.

An event like this is not about judging a model but is about how to learn from others to improve your modeling skills. Plans are in the works to hold this event next year. To do so would require some additional assistance in securing exhibitors and coordinating clinicians. If anyone has any suggestions or would like to help, please let us know, we would be happy to have your help.



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".

CP Holiday Train

FOX6 News Digital Team

Sat, October 12, 2024 at 8:49 PM CDT

The 2024 CPKC Holiday Train will roll across the U.S., making several stops in southeastern Wisconsin in early December

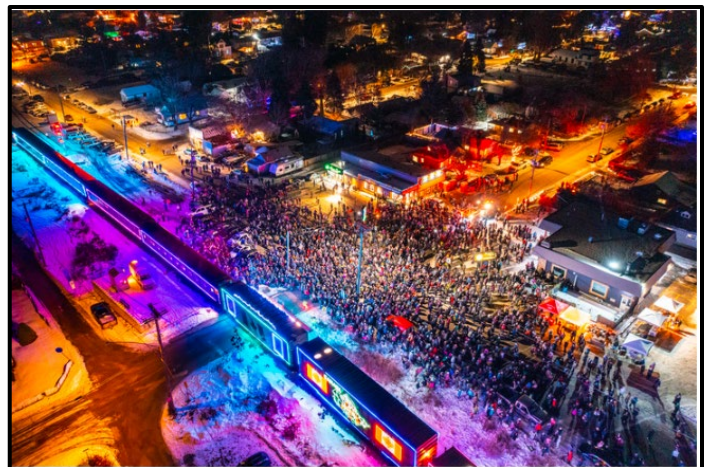
This festive train, adorned with thousands of twinkling lights and vibrant holiday décor, brings joy and holiday spirit to communities across North America, and it's making 13 stops in Wisconsin this year from December 7th to December 9th, 2024.

This year's Holiday Train tour will feature live performances by The Lone Bellow, a Nashville-based folk-pop trio, and Tiera Kennedy, a country singer-songwriter from Alabama. Families can enjoy the dazzling train as it rolls into town, bringing music, magic, and community togetherness. The viewing events are free and include live music shows

Since its inception in 1999, the CPKC Holiday Train has raised more than \$24.3 million and more than 5.3 million pounds of food for community food banks in Canada and the U.S.

The Holiday Train is scheduled to be in...

- Sturtevant: December 7 at 7:30 p.m.
9900 E. Exploration Ct.
- Caledonia: December 7 at 8:45 p.m.
County Road G and 5 ½ Road
- Wauwatosa: December 8 at 4:45 p.m.
Harwood Avenue
- Hartland: December 8 at 6:15 p.m.
Cottonwood Avenue
- Oconomowoc: December 8 at 7:15 p.m.
S. Silver Lake Street
- Watertown: December 8 at 8:30 p.m.
Brandt Quirk Park



East Troy Christmas Trains

Santa's Workshop Train

The East Troy Depot in Mukwonago will be bustling with holiday cheer this year. The annual Christmas Trains will convey passengers to Santa's Workshop, host guests in First Class Dining Cars and illuminate the night with thousands of twinkling lights

The first magical ride will take you from the East Troy Depot at 2002 Church Street to Santa's workshop located at the Elegant Farmer. Here children can visit Santa and take a photo with the jolly elf himself! The trolleys will be heated, and bathrooms are available in the East Troy Depot.

Each round trip lasts around two hours in duration, consisting of 30 minutes on the train to the Elegant Farmer, 1 hour at the Elegant Farmer, and a 30-minute train ride back to the East Troy Depot.

Santa's Workshop will have fun activities for everyone, and children will receive a special holiday book and a stuffed animal as a memento of this memorable Holiday tradition.



This train, filled with holiday delights, runs every Saturday and Sunday, November 30 through December 21. The train departs from the depot at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:00p.m. each Saturday and Sunday except for the 3:00 p.m. train on December 7.

Ticket prices are \$28 for adults on Sunday trains and \$30 on Saturday trains; children ages 3 to 14 are \$24 on Sundays and \$26 on Saturdays; infants and toddlers are \$11 on Sundays and \$12 on Saturdays. Advanced reservations are required, and everyone needs a ticket to board.

Santa's Special Evening Train

Enjoy a magical upgraded experience, riding in First Class Dining Cars, on Santa's Special Evening Trains. This adventure is complete with cookies and hot chocolate. Each adult ticket includes a complimentary shot of Baileys or Peppermint Schnapps for your hot chocolate or a beer from our selection.

Santa's Special Evening Trains will depart at 5 p.m. on Fridays Nov. 29, Dec. 6, Dec. 13 and Dec. 20, and Saturdays Nov. 30, Dec. 14 and Dec. 21.

The Parade Train

The East Troy Electric Railroad's Santa Parade Train will make its annual journey into downtown East Troy on Saturday, Dec. 7. This beautifully lit four-car train will travel down the century-old interurban trolley line between Mukwonago and East Troy. The original East Troy Christmas Parade train was started by the East Troy Jaycees and the railroad in 1972.

The train will depart the Elegant Farmer at 5 p.m. with stops at...

Army Lake Rd. North @ 5:25 p.m.

Army Lake Rd. South @ 5:42 p.m.

St Peters Rd. @ 5:56 p.m.

Byrnes St. @ 6:13 p.m.

Division St. @ 6:25 p.m.

Then, at 6:30 p.m. Santa will arrive at the East Troy Village Square Park via the East Troy Fire Department truck to light the Bob Barutha Memorial Christmas Tree & debut the [East Troy Lights](#).

For more information and to purchase tickets, [visit the East Troy Railroad Museum's website](#).



Wisconsin's First Train Wreck

On November 1st and 2nd of this year, Johnson Creek commemorated Wisconsin's first train wreck with a full schedule of events presented by the Johnson Creek Historical Museum, Jefferson Historical Museum and the Hoard Historical Museum of Fort Atkinson. Among those events was the unveiling of a marker for the 165th anniversary of the accident.

It was 1859 and by then traveling by rail was on the rise. Wisconsin was a relatively new state and fortunate to have rail lines that extended north from Chicago by the Chicago and Northwestern Road. On November 1, 1859, an 11-car free-excursion train, led by the wood-burning engine Perry H. Smith, carried over 600 passengers who were celebrating the train's maiden voyage from Oshkosh to Chicago. When it came upon a Johnson Creek bridge, about seven miles south of Watertown, it struck an angry and confused ox that was charging at the train. Since the road and railway had just been built, there wasn't time to build a fence to keep animals away. The animal was caught up on the cow-catcher and carried about a dozen rods, when it fell under the locomotive just as the train was crossing a small bridge.

The engine was thrown into a ditch, the baggage car fell over into a pool of water and five passenger cars were driven together, "shattered, smashed up and demolished." Sadly, fourteen people were killed and 30 were injured.

A coroner's jury found the accident "unavoidable," but a cry was raised to make farmers responsible for the conduct of their livestock.

A telegraph sent to the State Journal listed the dead as follows: M. J. Thomas, U.S. Marshall, Jerome Mason, Fond du Lac, telegraph operator and express agent, J. Snow, Fond du Lac, J. Boardman do, T.L. Gillett do, John Lund, Oshkosh, G.F. Emerson do, O. Tetersdale do, L. Sherwood do, Dr. T. Miner, Watertown. Those most seriously injured were V.B. Smead, the editor of the Press, Fond du Lac, skull very badly fractured, not expected to recover. E.H. Sickles, Fond du Lac, both legs off. A.D. Bonesteel, Fond du Lac, one leg broken. Robert Flint, Fond du Lac, one leg broken. Mrs. J. Radford, Fond du Lac, badly cut up. Mrs. R.M. Lewis, Fond du Lac, one leg broken. Mrs. Baldwin, Oshkosh, both legs broken. Mrs. James Kinney, Fond du Lac, one leg broken. Mrs. Bixby, Chicago, two ribs broken.

[railroad disasters in Wisconsin disasters | Wisconsin Historical Society](#)

wishistory.com/nov1.html

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS1978>



Milwaukee & Northwestern Model Railroad At the Oconomowoc Historical Society and Museum

The Oconomowoc Historical Society Museum moved to the former National Guard Armory on June 29, 1991. Sometime in the 1990s, Mrs. Don Stewart donated her late husband's HO layout to the Museum, and this was the beginning of the Milwaukee Northwestern (Model) Railroad (MNWRR). The original layout was constructed from the 1950's through 70's and measured about 20 ft by 20 ft with a southwest theme. Initially the layout was setup, maintained and operated by a trio of volunteers. The leader of this group was a very dedicated modeler, Harry Evans. The other volunteers were Harold Misna and Rose Marie Reich. During the early years, Harry added a return loop to the east end of the layout which became Oconomowoc. Otherwise, the layout remained the same until 2007, when Harry invited Jim Bauer to visit and help with updating the layout. At this time, Jim was enrolled in several model railroading classes offered by Learning in Retirement of Waukesha County. He returned to class and told the group about the layout and that it needed a lot of help! Soon a contingent of the class were helping on Monday afternoons including Robert Niedermann, Herb Grosnitz, Lee Oettinger and Chuck Gevaert. Friends of these guys soon joined the group.



Layout after class members joined the group

It was very interesting exploring, updating and modifying the modeling techniques of the 1950's-70's era. Since we could not keep the brass track clean and trains operating, we took on the task to update the trackwork. We were reluctant to remove all the track and turnouts since it was all hand laid. However, with the addition of roadbed, nickel-silver flex track, and ballast, trains ran more reliably.

Since the layout existed in a historical museum, we decided that it needed to reflect trains traveling through Oconomowoc and Wisconsin in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. We also wanted the ability to run six trains at one time traveling through many towns of Wisconsin on both the Milwaukee Road and Chicago Northwestern RR. To accomplish this, we needed to expand the layout and replace the southwest motif. Some of our group focused on the construction of additional benchwork while others tore out scenery and built new midwestern scenes.



City of Oconomowoc

Once we had six trains running, Harry Evans decided to move from his house into a condo. Because of this impending move, he donated his 8 ft x 20 ft layout to the Museum. We now needed to find a way to incorporate it into our existing layout. To accomplish this, we needed to make modifications and additions to Harry's layout and we had to move our now 25 ft x 20 ft layout three feet to the south! How do you move a layout this large that far without destroying it? Well, the Oconomowoc High School National Honor Society is always looking for volunteer projects, so we enlisted about 15 students to help us move it. A student was placed behind each leg of the layout and on the word "Go" everyone pushed their leg. It worked!

Milwaukee & Northwestern (continued)

We also decided that we needed to incorporate Portage into our layout. The resulting peninsula-shaped addition measures roughly 2-1/2 ft by 25 ft. and includes a roundhouse with turntable and a large sorting yard. After completing the Portage addition, we decided that the center of the layout, which represents Butler, needed major remodeling.

We tore out the track and the benchwork of an area of about 8 ft x 8 ft and then built I-girder benchwork to support a modified track plan for Butler. The revisions greatly enhanced our ability to run operating sessions.

Recently, we added another yard area in Watertown which again helps with operating. This probably will mark the last addition to our layout. We greatly appreciate the Museum allowing us to make all these additions.



Layout after remodeling of Butler

Besides Portage and Watertown we also have trains running through scenery and structures in Oconomowoc, Baraboo, Wisconsin Dells, Butler, Hillsboro and Kendall. The Museum Board greatly appreciates our efforts to model the history of Oconomowoc and its surrounding communities.

To promote the hobby of model railroading, we have a Youth Group which is supervised by four of our members - Shawn Becher, Robert and William Whitmore and Joey Smith. The group currently has 15 boys and meets on the third Sunday of each month. At these sessions, the boys learn model railroading skills, operate the layout and build modules for their portable layout.

In addition, we sponsor an annual Open House at the Museum which occurs on the first Saturday in November. At this show we have our large Museum layout running all six trains and our Youth group operates their modular layout. Also running are a portable HO_n3 layout, Lionel layout, American Flyer layout, G-scale layout and two N-scale layouts. We also travel to libraries, most notably a January visit to Delafield where we have gone for the last 9 years, to do one-day shows where we run our portable layouts.

The Museum is often overlooked by people, not realizing how good it is. The layout is the most popular exhibit, but the Museum also promotes the history of Oconomowoc with a huge "Streets of Oconomowoc" exhibit featuring many of the city's historical businesses. The Museum is also often visited by local school groups and occasionally by tour groups from as far away as Germany.



Members of MNWRR Group

The Oconomowoc Historical Society website is: <https://www.oconomowochistoricalsociety.org/>

The Oconomowoc Historical Society Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=oconomowoc%20area%20historical%20society%20%26%20museum>

The Milwaukee Northwestern RR Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MilwaukeeNorthwestern/videos/4236014436428497/>

You can also contact our leader, Chuck Gevaert at cgevaert@gmail.com

WISE Division Member Receives NMRA President's Award – Dave Nelson

Early in September a large, padded envelope from the NMRA was jammed into our mailbox. I was curious about what could possibly be inside since I had already received an acknowledgement of my donation to NMRA for the yearly address labels, and it was not yet time to renew. It sounded like there was broken glass in the envelope, so I opened it very carefully; inside was a plastic frame with, yes, some shattered glass, containing the "NMRA President's Award for Service to the Division," signed by NMRA President Gordy Robinson, MMR. There was also a cover letter from Gordy thanking me for my service to the NMRA. I was, needless to say, quite surprised. What is interesting about this award, which has been granted since 2017, is that it refers to service to the Division but only one Division member per Region is awarded. The award itself mentions service to the Division and to the Midwest Region.

The only protection for the glass frame was the thin padding on the envelope so I guess it isn't too shocking that the glass in the frame did not survive handling by the USPS. It might even have been fine until it was forced into our small mailbox.

I am not sure why I was chosen for this award and so far, nobody seems willing to actually own up to having recommended me. I've been an NMRA member for a long time but there are folks in the WISE Division with far longer tenures than mine. I have never been an officer or Board member of the Division (or the Region) but I have been a long-time volunteer for many Divisional activities. I'm a long-time Trainfest volunteer going way back to the Friday set-up in the "old" State Fair building,

I've worked the registration desk, recruited and coordinated the volunteers, and helped out at the Trainfest office during the show.

I was asked to assist Art Oseland's committee to re-write our By-laws and Constitution and helped run several of the Division's elections over the years. I served on the host committee for the 2010 NMRA National convention in Milwaukee and worked the registration table for the week. I have given many clinics (live or via Zoom) to the WISE Division (and to at least a half-dozen other divisions in the Region, as well as at Midwest Region conventions) and am currently the clinic coordinator for the WISE Division. I taught at Dave Mielke's Train School session and presented at Mike Slater's recent prototype modeling retreat in Kenosha. Since 2009 I have written the "Frugal Modeler" column for the Midwest Region's quarterly "Waybill," and have also authored some stuff for the Owl Car. I have also helped run the Division's elections. I can only assume all this volunteering is why someone thought I was worthy of the President's Award, but again there are others in the Division (and Region) with extensive records of volunteering.

What's interesting is that NMRA President Gordy Robinson (who resides on the Orkney Isles off of Scotland) and I have been casual friends for many years. We met online in the Kalmbach magazine Forums. Long before his NMRA service, I hosted Gordy for two visits to Milwaukee where we hit some model railroading hotspots such as Kalmbach Publishing, where I introduced him to Trains editor Jim Wrinn, MR's Cody Grivno, and other staffers, and he got to see the MR&T layout (which was just recently dismantled). I got him a warehouse tour at Walthers, and we also went to Jetco Hiawatha Hobbies where he spent some serious money.

WISE Division Member Receives NMRA President's Award (continued)

We rail fanned places of interest such as Maple Street, Jones Island, the Amtrak Depot, Duplainville, Byron Hill near Fond du Lac, and Ackerville where the WSOR and WC/CN interchange.

Gordy was so captivated by Ackerville that he decided to model it (he has several layouts in more than one scale, both American and U.K. prototypes) and he's written about it on his "[gordy.uk](#)" blog. (We also sampled some interesting beers at the Cafe Hollander near the CP main in Wauwatosa.)

I know some NMRA members find Gordy's accent a bit hard to understand now and then, but my mother was born in England, so I was already accustomed to it.

Anyway, that's the story about my receiving the NMRA President's Award and I am extremely honored and grateful to receive it (shattered glass and all!).

It was not necessary because no matter what volunteering I've done for the Region or its Divisions, I was always thanked (which is very important). It is particularly nice that of all the Divisions in the Midwest Region it went to someone from the WISE Division as we continue to recover from our financial and organizational gut-punch of two years ago. Many thanks to all who brought my name forward.



John H. Tews March 12, 1943 - October 10, 2024

John was a Master Model Railroader and Trainfest Executive Director in Milwaukee for 20 plus years. He served as WISE Division Superintendent and as past President of Friends of East Troy Railroad Museum



He served 12 years as President of the Village of Sussex, 12 years as Treasurer at Christ Our Savior, and as a Master Freemason.

Passed away peacefully with his family by his side on October 10, 2024 at the age of 81 years old. Survived by his beloved wife of 60 years Nancy (nee Parsons) and three sons: Christopher (Jennifer), John and Mark Tews; his grandchildren: Braeden, Mackenzie, Mitchell, Brett, Morgan, Ethan and Jacob; his sister, Cheryl (Vincent "Bud") Schmit, nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

Division Leadership

Executive Committee

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

Robert Niedermann --- Assistant Superintendent
Asst.super@trainfest.com
 414-587-4778

David Rohr --- Chief Clerk (Secretary)
chiefclerk@trainfest.com
 262-783-7230

Tim Koch --- Member at Large
tim@trainfest.com

Open --- Paymaster

Committee Chairs

Gary Hendrickson --- Membership
members@trainfest.com
 847-800-1380

Dave Nelson --- Clinics
engine1385@aol.com

Dave Poquette --- Achievement Program
ap@trainfest.com

Dave Mielke --- Train School/ Layout Tours
mielkemanor@att.net

Cindy Mielke --- Owl Car Editor
owlcar@trainfest.com

Mike Slater --- Social Media Manager
[mslater@wi.rr.com](mailto:m Slater@wi.rr.com)
 262-515-3623

Jim Hebner --- Webmaster
webmaster@trainfest.com

Open ---
 Picnic/Bus Trips ---
 Contest ---
 Video Library ---

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
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- 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).

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

September Executive Committee Minutes

**Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE) Division of the NMRA
Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 11, 2024
Location: Lionel Railroad Club & Zoom**

Meeting called to order by Burnell Breaker at 7:03 pm

EC Present – Burnell Breaker (Interim Superintendent)
Robert Niedermann (interim Asst-Superintendent)
David Rohr (Secretary, Chief Clerk)
Tim Koch (BOD) joined at 7:27

Chairs Present - David Mielke (Train School)*, Cindy Mielke (Owl Car)*, Jim Hebner (Website)*,
Mike Slater (Facebook)*

Guests – Bob Mcgeever (MWR President) *

Absent – No Officers absent *Attended via zoom

Minutes: No changes noted from the August 14 meeting minutes, approved.

Paymaster Report:

Dennis has resigned from the paymaster position. For the time being, Burnell will be doing most of the task. No changes noted from the August meeting, approved

Membership:

Gary Hendrickson

“As of August 31, our division membership stands nearly the same as last May, at 132 members. In August there were: 5 renewals 1 60 days past due. (Alden Davis) 5 30 days past due. All 5 of these joined NMRA between 18 and 49 years ago. (1975 to 2006).”

“NEW NMRA VIDEO FOR WISE MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT - Lucy Dormont.

Lucy is the only membership promotion contractor NMRA has on board currently.

Sounds short-sighted to me. Lucy had been trying to support requests for assistance from divisions nationwide and has become slammed. Gordy looked at the situation and has put a hold on all Lucy's projects/activities, to evaluate & re-organize. The NMRA board wants to focus Lucy's work on projects that will benefit NMRA nationally.”

“Lucy feels that the project she proposed for us will indeed work out to be of national benefit.

She requests that we develop and send her a proposal for a video to help us with our local recruitment issues. She will forward it to the NMRA board for review and project approval. Simply and carefully crafted, she feels we will be successful.”

“I suggest we go ahead and do this. I can serve as the depot for tidbits to incorporate and make the draft. We can review this by email along the way and approve it for submittal at October meeting. Needs to be brief and pithy.”

Clinics:

Per Burnell, Dave Nelson had little to report other than vague sense of panic since the clinicians he had lined up last spring for this coming season have all backed out.

AP Program:

No report

Website:

Jim Hebner reported he has a simpler easier to maintain site is ready to go live, starting tomorrow Sept 12. Current test site is <https://hebners.net/wise/>

Layout Tours:

Per Burnell, Jon Dettmann has resigned as Layout Tours Coordinator, due to not having the time to do the job.

Train School:

Dave Mielke is sending ad to Kalmbach to appear in October MR.
Image Management to create an improved Train School flyer.

RPM / Modeler's Retreat:

Mike Slater has one confirmed clinic, working on a few more. Sending more alerts via Facebook.

Owl Car:

September issue sent to members. Nice issue. Need to start work on the October issue. Deadline is Sept 20.

Old Business

- **Corporate Address Change** – With Dennis Janssen's resignation, Burnell is proposing to change the corporate address to Burnell's PO Box "P. O. Box 66, Caledonia, WI 53108-0066". This is his business's PO Box and he is there every day.
- **KMBS Swap Meet** – Sept 15 – We have 3 tables reserved, to sell estate collections and some items from storage. Planning to setup on Saturday, Tim Koch and Jerome Schuh have offered to help.
- **Show Schedule** – Suggested dates to sell our stuff:
 - September 15 – KBMS - Washington County Fair Grounds - West Bend (Jackson)
 - October 20 – LRRC Toy Train Sale – NB Entertainment Center - New Berlin
 - December 15 – LRRC Toy Train Sale – NB Entertainment Center - New Berlin
 - February 15 & 16 – SCWD Mad City Train Show, Madison (Tentative)
 - March 16 – LRRC Toy Train Sale – NB Entertainment Center - New Berlin
 - April 13 – Metro Club RR Show, Ozaukee County Fair Grounds, Cedarburg
- **Staeger Model Railroad Donation** – Received final payment from Chad Clark, layout is now in Chad's basement and have heard he has it running. Moved July 13.
- **Zieger Estate** – We have checked out the locomotives. Have tool box, cabinet, air brush. Still need to check the rolling stock, scenery and buildings.
- **Trainfest 2024** – Just received tickets to sell to our members. Do we offer mail-in sales, since we can't sell at the NB Library? Can we sell at the Model's Retreat? Maybe we could sell in the parking lot. The exhibitor list, floor plan and the parking plan "deals" has been released. We are not next to SCWD, but back-to-back. Need to negotiate a change.
- **2024 - 2025 Schedule and Meeting Locations** – New Berlin will allow coffee and light snack. Invite all, but only NMRA members can participate in door prizes, contests, layout tours, etc. Have to wait until Oct 1 to reserve 2025 dates. Gary H. can oversee coffee.
- **Division going active** – Bob McGeeever's term as MWR President is ending March 20 25. We will present our revised Constitution and Bylaws to the MWR Board at their fall meeting for approval. That meeting is scheduled for November 2. All WISE Div officers would stay in place through 2025. First elections will be in spring 2026

New Business:

- Need new paymaster.
- \$200 matching funds program. Is it still operation for 2025? Yes.
- New member retention materials coming sometime from National.
Was in the latest magazine. Burnell asked, but it was not available yet.
- Dave Mielke has volunteered to be the Layout Coordinator.
Need to do a survey of who has a layout.
Probably need to do a query more by word of mouth.
Maybe have a 'layout weekend, or on a specified day, and maybe not in conjunction with the monthly meet.
- Steve Studley from MWR is looking for officers.
The WISE Div has been looking for our own helpers

Next Meeting: October 9, meeting to be held at the Lionel Club in New Berlin at 7 pm or via zoom.

Jim Hebner, David Mielke, Cindy Mielke, and Mike Slater left meeting.
Meeting went closed session at 7:42 pm
Closed session ended and meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm

Respectfully submitted by David A. Rohr, Chief Clerk.

November Clinics Galesburg IL. and Galesburg Railroad Days

Galesburg Illinois has been a popular railfan (and model railroader) destination for decades, and Dave Nelson has been going there regularly since the early 1980s. The railroad history of Galesburg extends well before the Civil War. Knox College, the site of a large model train show each June during Galesburg's Railroad Days weekend, is the only remaining standing site of one of the famous Lincoln/Douglas debates over slavery.

Both the Chicago Burlington & Quincy Railroad which later became the Burlington Northern and the Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe main lines pass through town. Those railroads are now combined at the BNSF. At this site, the CB&Q/BN built a large classification yard and engine service facility.

There is great public access to both main lines with good photography possibilities, and Dave's clinics will highlight why Galesburg should be a Midwestern railfan's destination. He will also feature railfan and photography locations that can be enjoyed on the way to Galesburg from Wisconsin and will include some interesting displays and opportunities from Galesburg Railroad Days of the past.

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.



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Current HO Scale Car Projects

N&W HC-46 ACF 2-Bay Covered Hopper

Arrived September 2022

Using Accurail's 2200 Series ACF 2-Bay Covered Hopper as the basis, we are offering it in a Norfolk & Western repaint scheme. These cars are N&W class HC-46 and are from an original batch of fifty built by in 1966 by ACF with the Round Herald paint scheme. Subsequently some cars went through a general maintenance program and were repainted in the block N&W livery. Photos were found showing at least three of these cars (road numbers 170753, 170768 and 170794) were reweighed at some later date because that area is "patched out" on the car with the new data displayed. Those same photos place these three cars as being in service in 1992 and 2004. It is these three, highly unique, road numbers that Cincinnati Division 7 is now offering for sale as limited edition kits.

A special Thank You! goes out to the N&W Historical Society for their assistance in providing research support in the development of this limited-edition freight car. Their investment of time and the supply of photos and information made this car possible.

Pricing is \$25 per car, or a 3-car set at \$70. Shipping (via USPS Priority) is \$10.40 for one car and \$18.40 for two or more cars. Ohio residents, please add 7.8% sales tax on the total price of the kits and the shipping/handling fee.

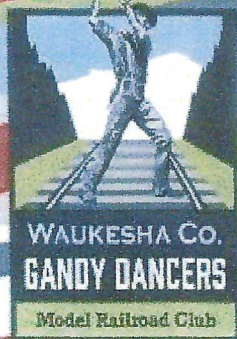
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9151 Congress Court
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Contact our **Car Projects Chairperson** with any questions.





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