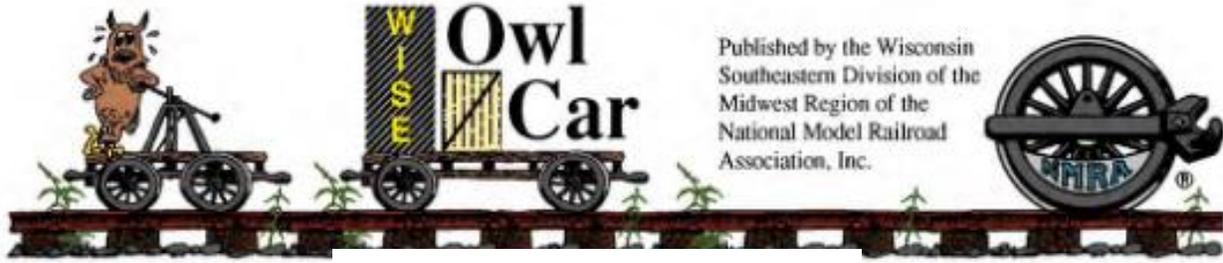


Deadline for Submission to the March Issue:
February 20, 2025



February 2025

THE HEAD OWL HOOTS

Burnell Breaker

HAPPY FEBRUARY!!!

Another month closer to Spring . . .

We had great attendance at this year's Train School with over 50 people attending. Every station had at least a couple people at them engaging with our presenters for over an hour. Over two-thirds of the people were non-NMRA members. Hopefully some will show up at our future meets. Plans are already in the works for next year's Train School.

The Mad City Train Show is February 15 and 16, 2025 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, produced by our friends at the South Central Wisconsin Division of the NMRA. Again, because of the cost, we are not sponsoring a bus trip to the show. Please carpool with other friends or members and support our SCWD friends with their show.

Our Model Railroad Retreat will be September 13, 2025 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Kenosha. This will be our first event for the 2025-2026 season. Mike Slater is heading this up. Talk to him if you are interested in displaying, selling, giving a clinic or having your layout open for touring afterwards.

We still should be looking for a Paymaster to take over in the future. None of us are getting any younger and Dennis will work with whoever decides to take on this job so there is a smooth transition. It doesn't take a lot of time now since we don't have to do Trainfest finances.

If you have ideas as to where we can hold our meets at little or no cost, let us know. It appears the New Berlin Public Library is a good home base for a majority of our meets, but it is nice to get around to other areas of our division and bring our meets elsewhere and a chance to visit local layouts at those locations.

We now look forward to Trainfest 2025 being held November 1 and 2, 2025 at the Baird Center, downtown Milwaukee. The usual second weekend was not available this year at the Baird Center. The main reason to stay with the Baird Center is cost. The Expo Center was more expensive than the Baird Center. It is now under NMRA control with the national office financing and running it. They will be looking for help from us for guidance and others within the Midwest Region to volunteer at the show. If you are interested in volunteering with Trainfest 2025, let us know and we will pass it onto the national team. You can email me at superintendent@trainfest.com.

Elections will resume again Spring 2026. When we went active again, it was decided to hold off on elections for 1 year to allow us to keep the Division running and to get through the first year of assisting the NMRA in organizing and running Trainfest for their 90th Anniversary. Per our Constitution and By-Laws, Tim Koch, our Director at Large will be up for reelection in 2026. If you are interested in this position, talk to myself or another board member about what the job requires. The positions of Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent will be up for reelection in 2027.

If you haven't checked out our new website, www.wisedivision.org, make sure you do. Our webmaster, Jim Hebner, has done a great job in creating a new website that will be easier to update and maintain in the future. It might not be the flashiest, but it's functional and is a place for us to communicate with you and non-members.

We are always looking for help within the Division. If there's any way you can help, let us know. Thank you again for everyone's support.

Burnell



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!

Upcoming Division Events:

Executive Committee Meetings

February 12 7:00pm at Lionel Railroad Club and Zoom

WISE Division Meeting

February 22 1:00pm New Berlin Public Library

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82116880636?pwd=euk76tE0ElvG846Z4TWjOQtweJDczD.>

1 or us Meeting ID: 821 1688 0636 Passcode: 261

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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

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".

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

Membership Directory

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 protyping 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:

The Division seems to be on the threshold of a revival! There is more chatter about the Division's events and a renewed interest in the hobby.

I strive to add to this revival by publishing each month articles and information that is of value to the membership. As I have asked often, please send me submissions. Photos and story leads are greatly appreciated, but I'm also seeking articles about trouble shooting, scenery hacks and sources for hard-to-find inventory or great deals.

Please remember that the deadline for the March issue is the 20th of February. So, 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

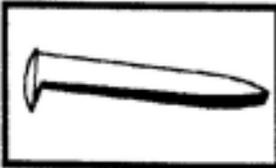
Obtaining the MMR status can be a daunting task. It takes commitment and many hours to achieve. The process is well worth the effort. I am currently going through the process and have spent countless hours achieving 5 AP certificates and 3 merit awards towards a 6th certificate, structures. I feel that 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: _____

View from the Tail Car

Schooling a Generation of Modelers

From preschool kids to those looking for something to fill the retirement days and those in between who desire to bring back a memory from their childhood, they were at the Train School.

The WISE Division third annual Train School was held on January 18, 2025, at the New Berlin Public Library. Without the snowstorm and frigid wind chills that plagued last year's Train School, the Division welcomed into school over 50 guests, the majority being those who are new or fledgling model railroaders.

Those who attended engaged with Division members who shared how to set up and wire a train set, maintain cars and the building of structures. There were also demonstrations on track laying, scenery, track switching and 3-D printing. But the table with the most eager students was the make-and-take car building.

The New Berlin Public Library offered a great venue with plenty of room for the demonstrators as well as those who wanted to converse about the latest engine configuration or the next swap or show. And, the coincidence of Train School taking place right across the hall from the library's book sale didn't hurt in bringing in those who were curious about the hobby.

The date of the next year's Train School has yet to be decided, it is certain that the demonstrators will be there, offering their enthusiasm and expertise to generations of new modelers.



Women Modelers Really Do Exist!

Scan the room at any swap meet or train show and you may perceive a sea of gray hair – that is just how interest in the hobby seems to be trending. However, a great percentage of that grey is found on the heads of men. Men have dominated the hobby since its inception in the early nineteenth century. But as the saying goes, “Times, they are a-changing.” And that instrument of change is the new Women in Model Railroading (WIMRR) SIG or Special Interest Group.

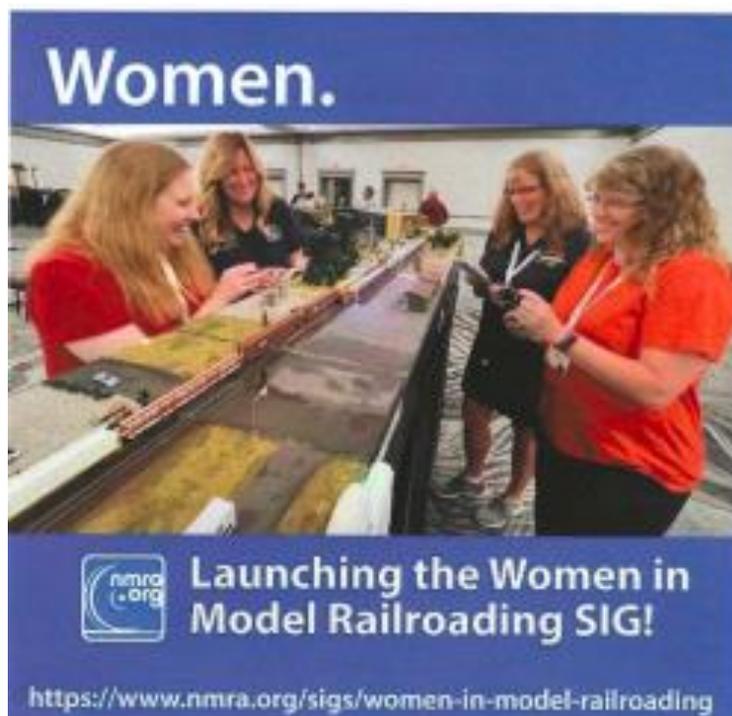
The purpose of WIMRR SIG is to introduce, encourage and connect women in or interested in the hobby of model railroading. It is designed for education and enrichment as it focuses on providing a space for women to share their modeling work, ideas, rail fanning adventures and create friendships. To this end, the NMRA will provide women in the local NMRA regions the support needed to create activities or gatherings in order to grow the hobby and ease women modelers to this male dominated hobby.

While WIMRR has been recognized by the NMRA, members of the SIG do not have to be members of the NMRA

For more information on the WIMRR, go to page **23** of this newsletter, explore the following Facebook Pages and join the SIG today by going to: <https://www.nmra.org/sigs/women-in-model-railroading> and complete the provided form.

"[Women in Model Railroading](#)" is for women in the model railroad hobby to share their world.

"[The Steam Sisters Group](#)" is for women railfans to post their photos of trains and is open to all.



NMRA Membership Benefits

Gary Hendrickson

While the Division offers its members clinics, presentations, layout tours and events, there is so much more for the model railroad enthusiasts and that more comes with NMRA membership. NMRA membership offers so many benefits and perks that you may never have imagined.

Now, what exactly are those NMRA membership benefits? Well, there are actually quite a few. So, here's a list the more prominent ones...

- **Beginner's Guide**
Learn the basics of trackwork, wiring, scenery, and more in this [online guide](#).
- **Fellowship with other model railroaders through virtual and face-to-face connections**
Participate in regularly scheduled in-person division, national, and virtual events.
- **Online Video Library**
Dozens of professionally produced "how-to" videos as well as more than 150 National Convention [clinic videos](#).
- **NMRA Member's Aid Program**
Ask a [question, any question](#), about the NMRA or about model railroading – and get an answer!
- **Modeling With the Masters® (MWTM)**
Get coaching in hands-on learning experiences led by Master Model Railroaders® in [MWTM](#).
- **National Conventions**
Held in a different location in the US every year, the [National Convention](#) is a week-long event featuring multiple model railroad layout tours, operating sessions, prototype tours, hands-on clinics, and presentations.
- **Model and Photography Contest Participation**
Participate in the [celebration of models, photos, and crafts](#) at Divisional Meets, as well as Regional and National Conventions.
- **Partnership Program**
Receive discounts on model railroad products and services from free shipping to 40% off all purchases.
- **Grouper**
US-based members, over the age of 65 with a Medicare Advantage, may be eligible [for reimbursement of their](#) annual NMRA dues.
- **Annual NMRA Calendar**
Features twelve of the best of the best model railroad photographs annually in a fund-raiser to members in the USA.

NMRA Membership Benefits (continued)

- **NMRA eBulletin**
A [monthly email newsletter](#) with the latest updates and news direct from the NMRA
- **Model Railroad Directory**
Contact NMRA members in the [Model Railroad Directory](#) for a layout tour, to talk trains, or to participate in an operating session
- **NMRA Turntable**
A [monthly curated email newsletter](#) with some of the most interesting model railroad websites, videos, blogs, and articles on the web.
- **NMRA Magazine - monthly print and online/digital**
Print and online/[digital monthly publication](#) featuring news about the organization and its Regions and Divisions, along with modeling articles, product conformance reviews, and other information. *Each member automatically gets access to the digital version of the NMRA Magazine with your membership. Print versions require a subscription.*
- **NMRA Interchange**
Connect electronically with NMRA members around the world to ask questions, provide answers, post events, share ideas, and make friends in the [NMRA Interchange](#).
- **NMRAx – The NMRA's Monthly Virtual Meetup**
The NMRA's Monthly Virtual Meetup of model railroad presentations broadcast over YouTube Live. [NMRAx](#) provides an opportunity for attendees to directly interact with the presenters.
- **NMRA Online Archives**
Scans of more than 10,000 photographs, slides, plans, drawings, paint schemes, and more available for download at a discount to members in the [online archives](#).
- **Achievement Program (AP)**
Push your skills to new levels while earning recognition for your efforts in the Achievement Program.
- **Train School**
The January WISE Division meet is a live train school, mentored by our seasoned experts, covering a multitude of railroad modeling topics at learning stations all around the room.
- **Standards and Conformance**
Be a part of the organization that sets the [standards](#) for and verifies the [conformance](#) of model railroad products and technologies. Purchase Standards Gauges at significant price reductions over retail prices. Track templates and decals also available in the [Company Store](#).

For more benefits and information on how to become a member, visit the NMRA website at [National Model Railroad Association](#) or follow the NMRA on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NMRA.org>

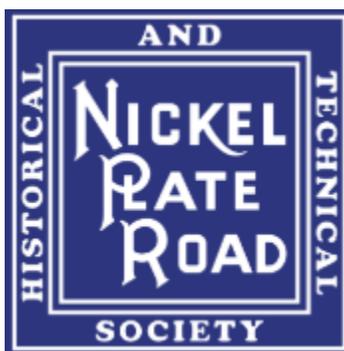
Nickel Plate Historical and Technical Society

The NKPHTS was founded to preserve the history of the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad Company, commonly known as the Nickel Plate Road (NKP). The railroad delivered the industrial and agricultural might of the Midwest across the country from Chicago, Peoria, and St. Louis on the west to Cleveland and Buffalo on the east.

The Society is one of the oldest railroad historical organizations in the country, and today has over 800 members including authors, historians, photographers, railroad employees and officials, model railroaders, and railfans of all interests.

The intent of the NKPHTS is to promote, support and preserve the historical legacy of the Nickel Plate Road through the creation of programs designed to be of benefit and service to its members, as well as to assist qualified, non-profit museums, libraries, rail groups and historical organizations in the preservation, conservation, and/or collection of material, equipment and memorabilia relating to the railroad and its predecessors.

The Nickel Plate Historical and Technical Society maintains an archive with thousands of Nickel Plate photos and images categorized by equipment type, location, subject and more.



The Society publishes, The Nickel Plate Road Magazine, a full colored quarterly magazine about the history and operations of the Nickel Plate Road that comes with an NKPHTS membership. In addition to this communique, there is a monthly E-List Newsletter of NKPHTS activities and a Modeler's Notebook, a quarterly e-zine, about modeling the Nickel Plate.

Explore the Society's website for a wealth of information at [Nickel Plate Road Historical & Technical Society](http://NickelPlateRoadHistorical.com)

Nickel Plate Road Historical & Technical Society
P.O. Box 583, Ansonia, OH 45503-0583



From the NKPHTS Archives:

1931 NKP Diagram Book

A Freight Routing Chart from the early 1960's



Find the latest NMRA and WISE Division information at [WISE Division of the NMRA Welcome](#)



[WISE Division HOME](#)

Welcome to the NEW WISE Division of the NMRA

Model Trains & Railroads in Southeast Wisconsin
You found us! You do like railroads and trains whether
their real or models right?
Great! We do too!



as with many new websites- a few links are not working right

[About Us](#)

[Upcoming Division Events](#)

[Owl Car](#)

[Area Model Railroad Clubs](#)

TRAIN SCHOOL

SATURDAY JAN. 18, 2025 1-4PM

FREE ADMISSION

Learn how to turn that Christmas train set into a permanent layout.
Receive help with Track Work, Wiring, Maintenance, Scenery, DCC Programming, 3D Printing, Layout Construction.
Assemble a Freight Car or Building Kit.

NEW BERLIN
PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM
15105 W LIBRARY LN, NEW BERLIN, WI

[Local Hobby Shops](#)

[Local & Not So Local Model Train & Train Shows](#)

[Area Railroad Historical Societies](#)

[Model Railroad Organizations](#)

[NMRA National Web Site](#)

[NMRA MWR Region Web Site](#)



[2025 National Convention](#)



[2026 National Convention](#)

[2027 Convention](#)



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[Mission Statement](#)

[Constitution](#)

[By-Laws](#)

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Asst.super@trainfest.com
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- David Rohr --- Chief Clerk (Secretary)
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- Tim Koch --- Director at Large
tim@trainfest.com
- David Mielke --- Director at Large
mielkemanor@att.net
- Open --- Paymaster
 Dennis Janssen --- Assistant Paymaster

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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
- 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

December Board of Directors Minutes

**Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE) Division of the NMRA
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 4, 2024
Location: Lionel Railroad Club & Zoom**

Meeting called to order by Burnell Breaker at 7:04 pm

Officers Present - Burnell Breaker (Interim Superintendent)
Robert Niedermann (interim Asst-Superintendent)*
David Rohr (Secretary, Chief Clerk)
Tim Koch (Director At Large)*

Chairs Present - David Mielke (Train School)*, Cindy Mielke (Owl Car)*, Mark Willmering (Trainfest - Floor)
Mike Slater (Facebook)*, Gary Hendrickson (Membership)*, Jim Hebner (joined at 7:08pm)
Ken Jaglinski (Left at 7:20), Dave Nelson (Clinics)*,

Guests – Bob Mcgeever (MWR President) * * attended by Zoom

Absent – Paymaster – open position

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

Paymaster Report:

Dennis J created a QB custom report link, so Burnell can generate the reports. DFI report has been submitted (WI Dept. of Financial Institutions.)
Dennis has started working on the 990. No changes noted from the November report, approved

Membership:

Gary Hendrickson stated we have 135 members. No update from HQ (Lucy.)

Clinics:

Dave Nelson stated the program for the December Meet is Steve Miazga on “What to do when you are done with your model railroad?”

AP Program:

No Report from Dave Poquette

Website:

The new updated website is now up and running - WiseDivision.org

Layout Tours:

Dave Mielke stated he has the MUT club for December Meet (Milwaukee Union Terminal), Milwaukee O scale club, downtown Milwaukee.

Train School:

Flyer, poster and Facebook posts are being created by Image Management

Owl Car:

November issue was sent at Thanksgiving, another good issue.
Deadline for January issue is December 15

Show Schedule –

December 15 – LRRC Swap (WISE Meet December 14)
February 15 & 16 – SCWD Mad-City Show (tentative – need crew)
March 16 – LRRC Swap (WISE Meet March 22)
April 13 – Metro Club Swap - Cedarburg

Old Business

- **Zieger Estate** – Nothing new to report, Burnell is too busy. Slater stated he can help.
- **2025-2026 Schedule of Events** – thinking ahead . . . Model RR Retreat and local meets at New Berlin Library, a monthly meet in Kenosha at St. Paul's Lutheran, member trip?
- \$200 matching funds program. We will have to think what we can use it for in 2025.
- John Hagen is moving into assisted living and will be donating more items to us for sale.

New Business:

- **New certificates** created for Clinic presentations & Layout tours with new artwork.
- **Registration Sign:** a new sign for clinic registration, clarifying who can enter the contest rules, member vs non-members.
- Ken J is interested in doing the paymaster duties; streamline just need excel vs QB.
- **Trainfest 2024** – Post Mortem discussion. We heard from many exhibitors and vendors of poor communications from Bill Grove to their questions and concerns. Bill was the only person from his group present at the show, He relied on the Baird Center staff to handle vendor passes, public tickets, show setup, teardown, etc. There was very poor move-in / move-out information, signage showing where the show was in the building and how to get in to the show from the street or parking. The hall was well lit with the natural light of the windows looking north towards the Panther Arena, where you could tell what the weather was like. Some of the layouts near the windows said it was too much natural light.
- **Trainfest 2025** - Ian Heilman is still at State Fair. The Wi-Fi has not changed but they have vendors that can provide a better Wi-Fi, or Harry G is interested in doing this and the Division still has the equipment. Paige from Image Management is asking about the trainfest.com website and when to re-activate it, National needs to control this. Clark Kooning & Christopher Robinson want to assist. A suggestion is to have the hours on Sat. 9 - 5, and Sun. 10 - 4 or 9 - 4. We will have better communication. We liked the plan the last 2 times on doing generic business card passes or buttons for vendor entry.
- Jean Frey, Bob Frey's wife, passed away

Next Meeting:

Next meeting is Wednesday, January 8. It will held at the Lionel Club in New Berlin at 7pm or via zoom
The February's meeting will be on Wednesday, February 12.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

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.

Get Paid for Playing with Trains

One of the many benefits of NMRA membership that are listed on page 9 and 10 of this issue is Grouper. Grouper is a platform that connects people with groups and activities that improve social connection and health. If you have a Medicare Advantage health plan, Grouper will mail you a check for \$50 to reimburse your annual NMRA dues. Then, for every 3 months that you report your in-person activity with NMRA, Grouper will send you a check for \$20.

Several WISE Division members have already availed themselves of this valuable benefit. It's easy to set up an account with Grouper. Below are the step-by-step instructions to get started earning money by playing with trains.

- Go online to nmra.org
- Search for **Benefits**
- In the long list, scroll down to **Grouper**
- Click on the link **".....reimbursement....."** Which takes you to the Grouper website
- Click on the box **See if you qualify**
- After a few moments, you'll get a message **"Your health plan includes Grouper"**
- To join Grouper, click on the box **Create an account** on this page
- Fill in your personal information. No credit card is required.
- Commit to ongoing NMRA activity
- This ends your Grouper account set-up – you will get an email confirmation of success
- Check will come in the mail

Then start reporting your NMRA activity on a monthly basis by logging in to Grouper.

Get Paid for Having Fun

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

YOU PLAY, THEY PAY

Grouper works with health plans to cover your NMRA membership.

Grouper

national model railroad association

Modeling & Prototype Railroad Contests

Rules for WISE Division's Popular Vote Contest Effective December, 2015

Awards:

- **1st Place:** 1st Place award certificate, and two (2) gift certificates (NMRA MEMBERS). One gift certificate (NON-NMRA MEMBERS).
- **2nd Place:** 2nd Place Award certificate.
- **Best of Show:** Plaque (Wisconsin Outline), and two (2) gift certificates. (NMRA MEMBERS). One gift certificate (NON-NMRA MEMBERS).

Youth Award:

- **1st Place:** 1st Place Award certificate and two (2) gift certificates. (NMRA MEMBERS). One gift certificate (NON-NMRA MEMBERS).
- **2nd Place:** 2nd Place Award certificate.

Categories:

Motive Power – Steam	Motive Power – Diesel
Traction / Electric	Passenger Equipment
Freight Equipment	Non-Revenue Equipment
Structures (on and off-line)	General (includes dioramas and trains)
Photos – Model	Photos – Prototype
Train Related Crafts	Youth – 8-17 years

Rules:

- 1) The contest is open to all persons attending the meet.
- 2) **The Model MUST be the work of the person listed on the sign in card. Photos entered MUST be taken by the person listed on the sign in card.**
- 3) Models can be of prototype or free-lanced railroads.
- 4) Models can be of any scale or gauge.
- 5) Models can be kit-built, kit-bashed, or scratch-built.
- 6) Persons entering must apply entry to a category. However, the Contest Director will determine the category in which the model will be entered.
- 7) Only two entries per person per category are permitted.
- 8) If only one person has entered a model, slide, or photo in a category, a "No Contest" will be declared.
- 9) If any entry has previously won a first place award in its category, it may not be re-entered in that category. However, if a structure, loco, or car has won an award in its category, it may be re-entered as a diorama entry (General Category).
- 10) All categories listed above will be grouped together when under the Youth category. Entrants must be 8-17 years of age and must have done 50% or more of the work on the model.
- 11) **Matted photos cannot be larger than 11 by 14 inches.**

Voting:

All voting will be by ballot. One ballot per person, by those persons attending the meet. Ballots are to be tabulated by the Contest Director and committee. The Superintendent, or their representative, will not vote by ballot, but will cast a tie-breaking vote in any category where the popular vote is tied.

Shows and Swaps (continued)

WISE RPM Meet

Kenosha, WI

Sep. 13

NMRA Trainfest ®

Baird Center

Nov. 1 – 2

NMRA SCW Division 57th

Annual Mad City Train Show

Alliant Energy Center

Exhibition Hall

Madison, WI

<https://www.nmra-scwd.org/mad-city-model-railroad-show---sale.html>

Feb. 15 – 16

Sat. 9:00am – 5:00pm

Sun. 9:00am – 4:00pm

Titletown Train Show

Green Bay, WI

<https://www.ttsqblc.com/showinfo.html>

May 3 – 4

Additional Shows

Racine LRRC Open House

4625 Washington Ave.

(Above American Coin & Jewelry - park behind the store and enter through side entrance.)

Feb. 22, Mar. 22, Apr. 12, May 17

10:00am – 2:00pm

Free Admission

Open House

WCGD (Waukesha County Gandy Dancers

Badgerland S Gaugers Club

<https://www.wcgdrailroad.com/events>

Mar. 1

10:00am – 6:00pm

LRRC Kid's Layout

Muskego Library

<https://library.muskego.wi.gov/calendar.php?view=month&month=02&day=01&year=2025>

Feb. 8

10:00 – 4:00

Three River's Model Railroad Show

Onalaska Omni Center

255 Riders Club Road, Onalaska, WI

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10213072621807596&set=p.10213072621807596>

Mar. 15 – 16

Rock River Valley Train Show

Harlem High school

9229 N. Alpine Road,

Machesney Park, IL

<https://www.rrvd-nmra.com/show.php>

Mar. 29 – 30

Opens at 10:00

\$5 admission

Metro Milwaukee Train Show

Ozaukee Fairgrounds

W67 & N866 Washington Avenue

Cedarburg, WI

<http://members.trainorders.com/scrimjimmy/spring.html>

April 13

9:00am – 4:00am

\$5 admission

GB-AMRC

<https://gbamrcdepere.wixsite.com/gbamrcdepere/open-house>

Apr. 19

Kettle Moraine Ballast Scorchers

Washington County Fair Park

3000 Pleasant Valley Road – Highway 45 & PV

Oct. 12

9:00am – 3:00pm

Women.



Launching the Women in Model Railroading SIG!

<https://www.nmra.org/sigs/women-in-model-railroading>

Women Modelers Really Do Exist! Join the Women in Model Railroading Special Interest Group!

What exactly is the WIMRR SIG?

- SIGs = independent, non-profit membership groups organized to provide a forum for the exchange and collection of railroad prototype and/or model railroad information about specific topics.
- Our focus is to provide a space for women to share their modeling work, ideas, modeling adventures, and to create friendships. The group will promote women in the hobby.
- WIMRR has been recognized by the NMRA. Members do not have to be a member of the NMRA to join the SIG.

What do we offer our members?

Women are very social and supportive to one another! We've therefore provided a plethora of ways to interact, collaborate and support one another.

- Facebook: Women in Model Railroading
- Facebook: The Steam Sisters
- Newsletter, 3 times per year
- Virtual Meets
- Coordinated Ladies Night Ops
- Bring a Friend campaigns
- NMRA annual conventions
- Local and regional events where members decide to represent WIMRR

Join the SIG today, by going to <https://www.nmra.org/sigs/women-in-model-railroading> and completing the provided form.

Your SIG Steering Committee members are:

Christina Zambri
marketing@nmra.com

Cydney George-Abatecola
cgs17149@gmail.com

Michelle Kempens
michellekempens@gmail.com

Nancy Workman
womeninmodelrailroading@nmra.com

Cynthia Priest
zredford@panetel.com



(turn over for Club Hours)



Toy Train Sale and Show

(See below for more information)

All Gauges & All Scales

SUNDAY DATES

<u>2025</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
January 19	October 19	January 18	October 18	January 17
February 23	November 16	February 22	November 22	February 28
March 16	December 21	March 15	December 20	March 21

**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

Like & Follow us on
FACEBOOK



(turn over for Train Sale & Show Schedule)



Our 78th Year

OPEN HOUSE

Since 1947

SATURDAY and SUNDAY

APRIL 5 and 6, 2025

NOVEMBER 29 & 30, 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)

OPEN WEEKLY

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

October through April

**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

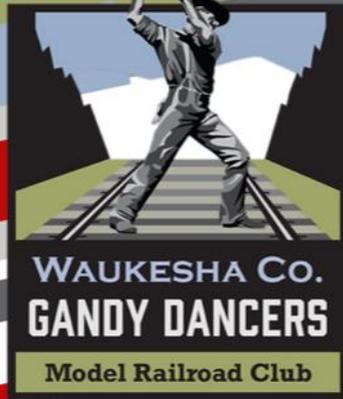
Children 12 and under are FREE with an adult



Visit our Web Site
www.milw-lrrc.org

Like & Follow us on
FACEBOOK





OPEN HOUSE

OCTOBER 5
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

DECEMBER 7
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

NOVEMBER 23 - 24
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

JANUARY 25 - 26
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

MARCH 1
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

**741 NORTH GRAND AVENUE
WAUKESHA, WI 53186**

**FIND US AT:
WWW.WCGDRAILROAD.COM**

**CONTACT US:
WCGDRAILROAD@GMAIL.COM**



Delavan Train Show

SATURDAY, MARCH 8 · 9am - 4pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 9 · 10am - 4pm



FREE ADMISSION

Featuring operating layouts in multiple scales throughout Downtown Delavan!

DelavanTrainShow.com

53115.trainshow@gmail.com · Find us on Facebook! 

Thank You to Our Sponsors



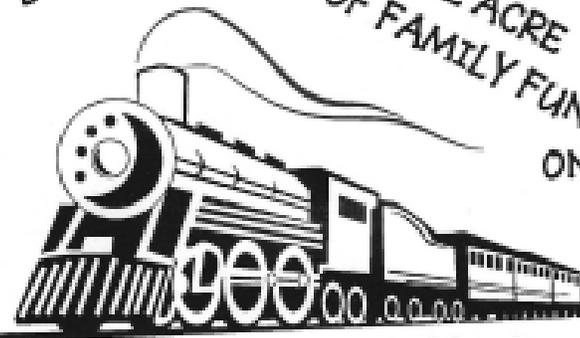
ROCK RIVER VALLEY TRAIN SHOW



DOOR PRIZES

OVER ONE ACRE
OF FAMILY FUN

NEW & USED SALES
OPERATING LAYOUTS



ONLY \$5.00 CASH

KIDS FREE

FREE PARKING

March 29 & 30, 2025
Sat 10-5 Sun 10-3

Harlem High School
9229 N. Alpine Rd.
Machesney Park, IL

Rrvd-nmra.com

facebook.com/TheRRVDNMRA



LIONEL RAILROAD CLUB
SOUTHEASTERN WI

2024 – 2025

Open House Schedule

Hours: 10:00am -2:00pm

10/19/2024	11/23/2024
12/21/2024	01/18/2025
02/22/2025	03/22/2025
04/12/2025	05/17/2025

Above American Coin & Jewelry
4625 Washington Ave., Racine

Park behind the store
Enter through the side entrance.

Admission is free.
Donations gratefully accepted.

f Like us on Facebook!
Lionel RR Club of SE WI



(Please Turn Over for More Information!)

LIONEL RAILROAD CLUB

SOUTHEASTERN WI

Outstanding Features of Our Club Rooms and Layouts

Three "O" Gauge layouts, and one "S" Gauge Layout, all of which are work-in-progress status!!

- 10 x 14-foot Fastrac layout with numerous switches and wyes for operating on different routes, remote control operation, featuring Plasticville city and a carnival scene with operating rides.
- 17 x 27-foot layout that features 3 loops of track with wide sweeping curves, numerous sidings, controlled with state-of-the-art remote-control components. Scenery includes our city of Spencer, that features industrial, agricultural, and suburban areas.
- 4 x 16 layout with traditional three-rail tubular track and switches, for the pre-World War Two model train collector and operator.
- *Our Newest Layout is a 5 x 8 "S" Gauge Layout!*



(Please Turn Over for More Information!)

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.

Customers outside the USA, please **contact us** for shipping arrangements and charges.



To order, please send **your email and phone** information along with a **check or money order** in US dollars, payable to Cincinnati Division 7, MCR, NMRA, to:

Cincinnati Division 7 Car Projects
c/o Paul Maciulewicz
9151 Congress Court
West Chester, Ohio 45069

Contact our **Car Projects Chairperson** with any questions.

Add this superb, one of a kind, historical tank car to your collection. The Northern Utah Division of the NMRA is selling a series of HO scale Utah Oil Company (UTOCO) tank cars manufactured by InterMountain Railway.

The cars feature a build date of 8/45 and a test date of 9/28/51. Originally intended to be the convention cars for the 2019 NMRA convention in Salt Lake City, supply chain issues prevented the cars from arriving on time. Offered in six road numbers, the cars have metal wheelsets and Kadee couplers.

Priced at \$45.00 each with free shipping, you can get your very own historical tank car before this limited edition is sold out, go to either: www.northernutahnmra.org/club-car or <http://northern-utah-division-nmra.square.site>

