



Deadline for Submission to the March Issue:
February 20, 2026

February 2026

THE HEAD OWL HOOTS

Burnell Breaker

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY !!!

If you didn't make it to Train School, you missed out on a great event! Over 50 people came to learn about various aspects of the hobby from WISE Division and other local hobbyists. Plans are in the works for our 2027 Train School. If you have ideas for Train School or would like to help, let David Mielke know. His contact information is on the contact page later in this issue.

We're always looking for new members. Give someone you know a flyer and invite them to one of our meets.

We're also looking for help working on Jim McKeever's St. Paul Union Depot railroad. Jim was featured a few issues ago in the Owl Car. If you live in the Racine/Kenosha area or anywhere else, we are trying to get a crew together to help Jim work on his railroad.

We can also use help with sorting, pricing and selling the model train donations we receive. We presently store our donations at my printing company in Caledonia.

IT'S ELECTION TIME! A reminder to send in your ballot. The deadline to get your ballot to Dave Nelson is April 15. I know it's only one board position, but it is still important that you vote. The ballot and biography of our incumbent board member, Tim Koch, is included in this issue. You can either mail in your ballot or scan/photograph and email it. Follow the instructions on the ballot for mailing or emailing and the ballot **MUST** include your name and NMRA number.

Our nominating/election committee of Dave Nelson, Dave Poquette and LaRoye Chisley will then be able to tally up the votes. Next year the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and another Director at Large position will up for election.

February 21-22, 2026, is the Mad City Train Show presented by the SCWD at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. Information regarding the show is in this month's newsletter. Carpool with others and enjoy their show. Hopefully the weather will cooperate so we all can go safely.

Our March 21 meet will be a layout tour event on our way to the Schlesingerville to Slinger Historical Museum. We will be visiting model railroads north of Milwaukee on our way to Slinger. We will not have a contest at this meet, but hopefully some CN and W&S railfanning at the depot, along with the displays, model railroad and hopefully a local railroad-related clinic. More news regarding this meet is in this issue.

Our final event of the season will be our annual meeting and election results May 2 at the New Berlin Library Heritage Room. It was originally scheduled for late April but there was a conflict with using the rooms at the New Berlin Library.

We have begun to work on the 2026-2027 season of events. If you have an idea for an event, let one of us on the Board know and we will look into it. Remember this is your WISE Division.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE MAD CITY TRAIN SHOW!!!

MODEL RAILROADING IS FUN!!!

Burnell

Upcoming Division Events:

Board of Directors Meetings

February 11 7:00pm
Zoom

Mad City Train Show

Saturday and Sunday
February 21 - 22
Alliant Energy Center
Madison, WI

A Look at Model Railroad Clubs in Southeast Wisconsin

Lucas Iverson
Trains.com

Milwaukee and model railroading share deep, historic ties. Model Railroader Magazine, Wm. K. Walther, Inc., and the National Model Railroad Association all had their humble beginnings in the beer city. This rich heritage has fostered a healthy and diverse group of model railroad clubs throughout Southeast Wisconsin that are still active today.

Finding these clubs can sometimes feel like searching for a needle in a haystack. With assistance and insight from the Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE) Division of the Midwest Region (MWR) of the NMRA, we've compiled a list of the model railroad clubs in Southeast Wisconsin; Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha counties highlighting what they offer for visitors or prospective members. If you know of a club not on this list, please leave a comment and we'll update this list.

<https://www.trains.com/mrr/beginners/model-railroad-clubs-in-southeast-wisconsin/>

Tim Koch Candidate for Director at Large



My name is Tim Koch. I'm married with one son and currently live in Slinger. I am employed as a mechanical engineer. I received a train set at age 3 and have been a Model Railroader ever since.

I grew up attending train shows and other WISE division events with my grandpa, dad, and uncle. In 1982, I started attending shows as an exhibitor with my grandpa and the WISE Division's HO track and later with my family and a few friends, we started our own group, Rusty Rails. I have been an exhibitor at every Trainfest that has been held since 82.

In 1985, I became an official NMRA member (so I could attend the conventions) and had remained a member until the early 90's when I moved out of the WISE division area to attend school. I later moved back into the area and joined again in 2010.

Currently my spare time is split between Rusty Rails, building a home layout based on the Milwaukee Roads Racine and Southwestern line, and restoring a 1946 Ford truck.

A couple of years ago, I volunteered as a Director at Large because I wanted to help the Division re-build and ensure it would be around for years to come. I'm running for re-election to continue this work.



Wisconsin Southeastern Division / Midwest Region
of the National Model Railroad Association

2025-2026 Schedule of Events

SATURDAY, September 13, 2025 - 9 AM to 3 PM

MODEL RAILROAD RETREAT - St. Paul's Lutheran Church

NON-MEMBERS \$5.00

8760 - 37th Avenue, Kenosha

SATURDAY, October 18, 2025 - 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 1-2, 2025

TRAINFEST - Baird Center, Milwaukee

EXTRA FARE EVENT

SATURDAY, January 10, 2026 - 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 21-22, 2026

MAD CITY TRAIN SHOW - Alliant Energy Center, Madison

EXTRA FARE EVENT

SATURDAY, March 21, 2026 - 1 PM

MONTHLY MEET - Schlesingerville to Slinger Historical Museum

FREE ADMISSION (*Contests, Clinics, Bring & Brag, Layout Tour*)

414 Kettle Moraine Drive S, Slinger

SATURDAY, May 2, 2026 - 1 PM

MONTHLY MEET and MEMBERSHIP MEETING -

New Berlin Public Library Heritage Room

FREE ADMISSION (*Contests, Clinics, Bring & Brag, Layout Tour*)



wisedivision.org

trainfest.com

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

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 wisdivision.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
brbreaker78@gmail.com
wisenmra@gmail.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 prototype 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
mielkemanor@att.net

A Note from the Editor:

Oh, a Wisconsin winter!!! The perfect time to hunker down and work on the layout. After all, what else is there to do. While you're adding that scenery or constructing those buildings, snap a photo of your work and send it along with at least one sentence about it. Come on – you can give me at least one sentence. And, if you're like me and sometimes technology is more of an enemy than a friend, just ask and we'll figure out how to get the photo to me. While you're at it, think about what you want in the Owl Car and send me your ideas.

Remember that the deadline for the March issue is the 20th of February. So, keep this deadline in mind and send your ideas, articles and photos to the Owl Car to cindy.m.mielke@gmail.com.

Your Editor
Cindy Mielke



Annual Train Show
Jan. 17 - March 22, 2026

All-Scale Train Show
Sat. Jan. 31 & Sun. Feb. 1, 2026
9am - 4pm
last admission at 3pm

Steampunk Faire
Sat. March 7, 2026
9am - 4pm
last admission at 3pm

www.mitchellparkdomes.com

524 S Layton Blvd. Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-257-5600



Clinics

I'm looking for Clinics for our 2025-2026 Season

by David Nelson

Thank you to all who presented clinics to the WISE Division this last year; it is greatly appreciated by me and by all our members. I was especially pleased that we were able to show three full-length clinics at our February meeting -- seemed like the good old days of the WISE Division! I hope we can continue this trend next season. I can be reached at engine1385@aol.com if you have a clinic idea for us.

As always, special thanks to David Rohr, our Chief Clerk, for his great work at being our "A/V Guy".

At that February meeting I mentioned something that I'd like to repeat here. As spring and summer approach, we are entering the prime "railroad convention/model train convention" season. If you belong to a railroad historical society and go to their annual meets or go to NMRA or toy train collector or gauge-specific regional or national conventions (such as 2025's N Scale Enthusiasts convention in Kansas City, or the TCA convention in Jacksonville FL) please consider giving us a 15-minute (or so) report, hopefully complete with photos of both prototype trains and models on display or layouts on tour.

I'd like to put them all together into one Saturday meet devoted to these conventions. I'd particularly like to see coverage of the NMRA National in Novi (near Detroit) Michigan. I know I will be at the C&NW Historical Society convention in Des Moines/Boone this May, but I'd also like to see coverage of the Soo Line Historical group's meeting at the Wisconsin Dells, Milwaukee Road, Great Northern in the Twin Cities, Burlington Route in Marion IL (a joint meet with the MoPac and C&EI groups), or other railroad historical society meet, or perhaps the National Railway Historical Society's national meet in Lansing Michigan.

I'd also include visits to any of the many towns and cities that have "railroad days" type civic events. It would be great if we had so many presentations that they have to split into two different monthly meets but for now I'll be happy if we can really fill one month's meeting with those presentations.



View from the Tail Car Schooling a Generation of Modelers

The WISE Division 's fourth annual Train School was held on January 10, 2026, at the New Berlin Public Library. Without the snowstorm and frigid wind chills that plagued previous Train Schools, the Division welcomed into school over 40 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. Participants were encouraged to bring in their trains that required maintenance or repairs. 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. While the date of 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.



Division Leadership

Board of Directors

Burnell Breaker --- Superintendent

brbreaker78@gmail.com

wisenmra@gmail.com

262-939-9193

Robert Niedermann --- Assistant Superintendent

rpncpa@outlook.com

414-587-4778

David Rohr --- Chief Clerk (Secretary)

ChiefClerkWiseDiv@gmail.com

262-783-7230

Tim Koch --- Director at Large

timkoch@charter.net

David Mielke --- Director at Large

mielkemanor@att.net

Dennis Janssen --- Assistant Paymaster

Dennisjans51@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

Gary Hendrickson --- Membership

nkpgary@gmail.com

847-800-1380

Dave Nelson --- Clinics

engine1385@aol.com

Dave Poquette --- Achievement Program

dpoquette@wi.rr.com

Dave Mielke --- Train School/ Layout Tours

mielkemanor@att.net

Cindy Mielke --- Owl Car Editor

cindy.m.mielke@gmail.com

Mike Slater --- Social Media Manager

m Slater@wi.rr.com

262-515-3623

Jim Hebner --- Webmaster

hebnerj@gmail.com

Open ---

Picnic/Bus Trips ---

Contest ---

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).

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Please send any comments, information, or editorials to Editor Cindy Mielke via email: cindy.m.mielke@gmail.com

December Board of Directors Minutes

Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE) Division of the NMRA Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday, December 9, 2025 Via Zoom

Meeting called to order by Burnell Breaker at 7:33 pm

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

Chairs Present – Gary Hendrickson*, Cindy Mielke (Owl Car) *, Dennis Janssen (Asst Paymaster) *,
Dave Nelson (Clinics) *

Guests – None * attended by Zoom

Officers Not Present – Paymaster – open position

Minutes: No changes noted from the November meeting minutes, Bob N. motioned, 2nd by David M., approved.

Paymaster Report: No changes noted from the November report. Tim K. motioned, 2nd by Bob N. approved.
Dennis reported on CD rates he found at Summit CU.
The best deals they have are a 16-month special with APR of 4%, and an 8-month special of 3.85%.
David R motioned to open a 16-month CD with \$30K, and an 8-month CD for another \$30K. 2nd by Tim K, all approved. Dividends paid quarterly.

Membership: Gary Hendrickson –

Gary stated there was no credit card terminal system at the Trainfest entry desk, it was only in the show office, so it was difficult to sign up members. And the office staff were busy or gone when they tried to get assistance.

| <u>November 2025:</u> | <u>Membership as of:</u> |
|--|--------------------------|
| Members: 116 | Nov `23: 136 |
| 60 days past due: 4 | Nov `24: 130 |
| Renewals: 6 | Oct `25: 115 |
| New members: 1 Matthew Pollock, Racine | Nov `26: 116 |

We're down 20% or 15% over past 2 years. WISE is clearly in the process of dying off.....
Our Watch Word going forward needs to be: "Every WISE member must invite and obtain a new member in 2026". Get started now. MWR President John Coy has the right idea.

Clinics: We may have Mike Janke for March. Will need clinics for May 2, w/ Mark W.
(We need to confirm the new date w/ Mark)
We need to add a flyer w/ each month's presentations and have folks like Bob Gallegos deliver this to regional hobby shops in addition to local shops.

AP Program: Dave Poquette – not present, no report

Layout Tours:

Dave M. is still looking for places to visit. Will likely be before each month's clinics.
Possible layouts for March are Dave's, Karl's, KMBS, Tim's, and Mark's.

Website: Jim Hebner - not present. No report.

Owl Car:
December issue was sent, another good issue.

Train School: Dave M – Need \$\$ for supplies, like - cars, couplers, etc.
Maybe the Region could assist with that. Need flyer. “Bring your equipment “
It will be in the big community room at the library.

Model RR Retreat:
A new location is needed; a place we can charge admission and vendors.

Facebook: Mike Slater was not present. No report.

Show Schedule –
Will sell at 5 of the 6 Lionel Club’s swap dates on December 21, January 18 & March 15 with 3 tables.
Maybe selling at the Metro Club’s Show in Cedarburg Ozaukee show April 12, 1226. Need to sign up.

Old Business:

- **Zieger Estate** - Nothing new to report.
- **Trainfest 2025 –**
 - It was reported the attendance was ~20K. Who was included in this number, unsure.
 - No financials yet. HQ staff seemed pleased with the event.
 - There were issues with some parking lot claiming people did not pay, but they did. Jeff King from Tom’s Southside Hobby helped resolve the issue.
 - Signs on Thursday setup were saying to enter the wrong doors
- **2025-2026 Meet Schedule**
 - January 10, 2026 – NB Library – Train School
 - February 21 & 22 – Mad City Train Show
 - March 21 – Slinger Depot– Can seat 40 - 45. Could get folks from WLD (Winnebagoland Division) to attend
 - May 2 – NB Library - Annual Meeting & election results
- **\$200 Matching fund** – Need ideas for this. May be for train school or RPM? Or a picnic @ MLES, or Little Amerika (Marshal, WI).
- **2026 election –**
 - Tim K’s position will be on the ballot in spring `26.
 - Dave Nelson, LaRoye Chisley and Dave Poquette will be on the Election Committee.
 - Candidates will be presented to the BoD at the February board meeting. In Mid-March, an email will be sent to the membership with information about each candidate along with the ballot and instructions how to return the ballot and by which date.
 - Results to be announced at the May 2 annual meeting. Dennis J asked for those members without an email address, to receive the Owl Car with the ballot via snail mail. Gary H will provide the postal addresses to Dennis.

New Business:

- **Rumpf Donation** – One carton was all blue box car kits. Burnell would like for those to be used as free kits for kids at Train School. Burnell will get these to Dave Mielke to confirm that the kits they have all of their parts before we hand them out. The policy will be for one free kit per family.
- **Owl Car Masthead** – Revised with new NMRA logo and logo line. We decided on the Green NMRA & Yellow Letters below version.
- **Next season's dates** –The NB Library Community Room is reserved for October 1, 2026
Joint WISE/CNWS meet one month?
- **MWR Application for Youth Funds** – Model RR Retreat or Train School?

Next Meeting:

Next BOD meeting is Wednesday, January 14 (at 7:00pm via Zoom.)
After that the meeting will be Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm. Motioned by Bob N., 2nd by Dave M., approved.

Respectfully submitted by David A. Rohr, Chief Clerk.

Our Mission

The mission of the WISE Division of the National Model Railroad Association is to promote model railroading, to engage in the preservation, perpetuation and enjoyment of the hobby of model railroading, rail fanning and education generally of the history of railroading in the United States and where appropriate throughout the world and to engage in charitable work (as defined in sec, 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended) including, but not limited to providing funding to historical associations, scholarships, model railroad museums and other charitable organizations affiliated with or desiring to learn more about railroading and model railroading.

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".



Shows and Swaps

Wisconsin and Northern Illinois

Monthly Events

Great Midwest Train Show

Dupage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL
<https://www.greenbergshows.com/gmtspages/gmts>
 Feb. 1, Mar. 1, Apr. 12, May 3, Jun. 7 •
 9:00am – 3:00pm

Milwaukee Lionel Railroad Club – Swap Meet

New Berlin Entertainment Center,
 16000 W. Cleveland –
 Enter from east side of building
<https://milw-lrrc.org/mlrrc-train-show-and-sale>
 Feb. 15, Mar. 15, 2026 • 8:00am – 12:00pm

Milwaukee Lionel Railroad Club – Open House

2721 S. Calhoun Rd, - Drive to back of building
<https://milw-lrrc.org/mlrrc-open-houses>
 The Club is open weekly Friday • 1:00 – 9:00
 year-round (unless major holiday)
 Winter hours Saturday & Sunday • 1:00 – 5:00
 October 4 to April 26.

Waukesha County Gandy Dancers & Badgerland S Gaugers Open House

741 N. Grand Ave., Waukesha, WI 53186
<https://www.wcgdrailroad.com/events>
 Mar. 7, May 2, Aug. 1, Oct 3 •
 10:00am – 6:00pm

Kenosha Model Railroad Train Show (Swap)

3030 39th Ave. Kenosha Union Hall
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087630919326>
 Feb 8, Mar 8 • 9:00am – 1:00pm

LRRC SE Wis - Open House

4625 Washington Ave, Racine, WI 53405
 Upstairs of American Coin & Jewelry
<https://www.facebook.com/LRRCSEW>
 Feb. 21, Mar. 21, Apr. 18 • 10:00am – 2:00 pm

Annual Train Shows

Annual Train Show

Milwaukee Park Domes
 524 S. Layton Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53215
www.mitchellparkdomes
 Jan. 17 – Mar. 22 • 9:00am – 4:00pm

All-Scale Train Show Milwaukee Park Domes

524 S. Layton Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53215
www.mitchellparkdomes
 Jan. 31 & Feb. 1 • 9:00am – 4:00pm

Muskego Library - Love your Library Train Event

Milwaukee Lionel Railroad Club & East Troy Trolley Museum
 S73W16663 W Janesville Rd., Muskego, WI 53150
<https://muskego.librarycalendar.com/event/copy-love-your-library-train-event-2526>
 Feb 7 • 10:00am – 2:00pm

Mad City Train Show

Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall
 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison, WI 53713
<https://www.nmra-scwd.org/mad-city-2026-.html>
 Saturday, Feb. 21 • 9:00am – 5:00pm
 Sunday, Feb. 22 • 9:00am – 4:00pm

Steam Punk Faire Milwaukee Park Domes

524 S. Layton Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53215
www.mitchellparkdomes
 Mar. 7 • 9:00am – 4:00pm

Delavan Train Show

Starting at American Legion Hall
 111 S. 2nd St., Delavan, WI 53115
<https://delavantrainshow.com/>
 Saturday, Mar. 7 • 9:00am – 4:00pm
 Sunday, Mar. 8 • 10:00am – 4:00pm

Sheboygan Swap Meet

Sheboygan Railroad Museum
St. Dominic Church Activity Center
2133 N. 22nd St., Sheboygan, WI 53081

Im Schneider8@gmail.com

<https://www.sssmre.org/calendar.htm>

Mar. 14 • 9:00am – 2:00pm

Admission: Adults: \$5.00

Children 12 and under: Free

Table rentals: \$20.00

Contact Leo Schneider for rentals at
920-917-4598

March-O-Meet

Westin Lombard – Yorktown Center
70 Yorktown Center, Lombard IL 60148

<https://marchmeet.net/WP/>

Thursday, Mar. 19

Friday, Mar. 20

Saturday, Mar. 21 • 9:00am – 5:00pm

Sunday, Mar. 22 • 8:30am – 2:00pm

Rock River Valley Train Show

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

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

Saturday, Mar. 21 • 10:00am – 5:00pm

Sunday, Mar. 22 • 10:00am – 3:00pm

Lena Train Show

Lena-Winslow Elementary, Junior & High School
401 Freemont St., Lena, IL 61048

<https://www.facebook.com/lenadepotstovegang/>

Saturday, Mar. 28 • 10:00am – 4:00pm

Sunday, Mar. 29 • 10:00am – 3:00pm

Lionel Railroad Club Spring Open House

2721 S. Calhoun Rd., New Berlin, WI 53151

(Drive around to the rear of the building)

<https://milw-lrrc.org/mlrrc-open-houses>

Saturday, Mar. 28 • 10:00am – 5:00pm

Sunday, Mar. 29 • 10:00am – 5:00pm

Hales Corner Library

5885 S. 116th St., Hales Corner, WI 53130

<https://halescornerslibrary.org/>

Thursday, Apr. 2 • 12:00pm – 8:00pm

Friday, Apr. 3 • 10:00am – 5:00pm

Saturday, Apr. 4 • 1:00pm – 4:00pm



**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](#)

SATURDAY, October 18, 2025 - 1 PM

MONTHLY MEET - New Berlin Public Library

Community Room

FREE ADMISSION

(Contests, Clinics, Bring & Brag, Layout Tour)

15105 Library Lane, New Berlin

[Local Hobby Shops](#)

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

[Area Railroad Historical Societies](#)

Model Railroad Organizations

[NMRA National Web Site](#)



2026 National Convention

Tacoma WA 2027 Convention

Rochester NY 2028 Convention



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Keep up to date on all the events
in the Division by visiting the
Division's website at:

[WISE Division of the NMRA Welcome](https://www.facebook.com/wisedivision/)

or

<https://www.facebook.com/wisedivision/>

March Layout Tours/ WISE Division Meet

Are the cold and snow of a Wisconsin winter making you yearn for a day watching trains, then we have just the thing for your winter blues. We have planned a day of layout tours. On March 21st, there will be four layouts that are open to tour 11:00am to 3:00pm. This is a self-guided event – you choose which layouts to visit and the order to do so. The only scheduled item is lunch at 1:00pm at the Good Day Café at 2400 W Washington St, West Bend, WI 53095 • 262-326-6000. The monthly meet will be held at 3:00pm at the Slinger Historical Museum at 414 Kettle Moraine Dr S, Slinger, WI 53086. Watch for an email from the Division for more details.

Tim Koch

This HO layout is approximately 24' x 30' and is based on the Milwaukee Roads Racine and Southwestern line between Sturtevant and Springfield WI. The layout uses NCE DCC. It is model in the time period of the late 1970's and early 1980's. The town of Springfield on the layout consists entirely of buildings scratch built by Tim's grandfather who was a WISE Division member. The buildings are all modeled after actual buildings in Springfield WI, Tim should know – he went with his grandfather on the day he took the pictures to replicate the town on his layout.

Tim Koch
3887 Riegle Court, Slinger, WI. 53086 • 262-224-5693

Mark Digerness – West Wisconsin

Mark's layout is a 60' x 20' HO scale, 2 ½ deck layout based on a fictitious version of the CNW in Northern Wisconsin around 1995. Portions modeled are around Beaver Dam (Clyman), WI and then from Eau Clair to Superior. There are three staging yards: MKE/CHI, Minneapolis and then points north of Superior. It features a wireless NCE Pro-Cab system and is expected to run with 4 – 6 operators.

Mark Digerness
1621 Prairie Ct., Richfield, WI. 53076
Park in the driveway or street, enter through the garage and take the stairs in the back of the garage down to the train room in the basement.

Kettle Moraine Ballast Scorchers

The current layout is in a 22' x 23' space. The layouts are one on top of the other as both HO and N Scale are modeled. The HO layout is on the lower deck with the N Scale layout in the second deck as many in the membership model only one or the other scales with a few having both scales. The time frame is set for the 1980s up to current time for those that model the newer railroads. So, at times one might see modern CN locomotives running alongside a Milwaukee Road steam locomotive. The layouts are set in the region of Wisconsin along the Chicago Northwestern Airline Subdivision due to many members living along this division.

Adam Bunkelman
215 N. Main St. Suite 60, West Bend, WI. 53095 • 262-339-6763
Enter at rear of building by river.

Bill Pfister – GM Tomah, Portage and Mauston Railroad

This railroad runs around 850 cars and 80 engines on a completely landscaped layout that is powered by DCC with Easy DCC wireless throttles. It has three roads: Milwaukee Road, Chicago and Northwestern and Green Bay and Western. This layout consumes much of a 1,500 sq. ft. basement and depicts the era of 1974.

Bill Pfister
W238N7053 Michele Lane, Sussex, WI. 53089

LIONEL RAILROAD CLUB
SOUTHEASTERN WI

2025 – 2026 OPEN HOUSE DATES

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 10/18/2025 | 01/17/2026 |
| 11/22/2025 | 02/21/2026 |
| 12/06/2025 | 03/21/2026 |
| 12/20/2025 | 04/18/2026 |

10:00am -2:00pm

Above American Coin & Jewelry 4625

Washington Ave., Racine

Park behind the store, Enter through the West Side Door

Admission is Free.

Donations gratefully accepted.

 **Like us on Facebook!**

“Lionel RR Club of SE WI”

Questions and Additional Information, please contact us at:

info@lionelrrclubsewi.org



(Please Turn Over for More Information!)

Outstanding Features of Our Club Rooms and Layouts

Three "O" Gauge layouts, and one "S" Gauge Layout, a Thomas-the-Tank-Engine 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, a carnival scene with operating rides and more.
- 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 Addition is a 5 x 8 "S" Gauge Layout!*



(Please Turn Over for More Information!)

(turn over for Train Sale & Show Schedule)



Our 78th Year

OPEN HOUSE

Since 1947

SATURDAY and SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 29 & 30, 2025

MARCH 28 & 29, 2026

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



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

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 



MODEL RAILROAD
TRAIN SHOW



SWAP MEETS

at the

KENOSHA UNION CLUB

3030 39th Avenue, Kenosha, WI

Easy access from I-94 See map on back

Show Dates

October 12, 2025

November 09, 2025

December 07, 2025

January 4, 2026

February 08, 2026

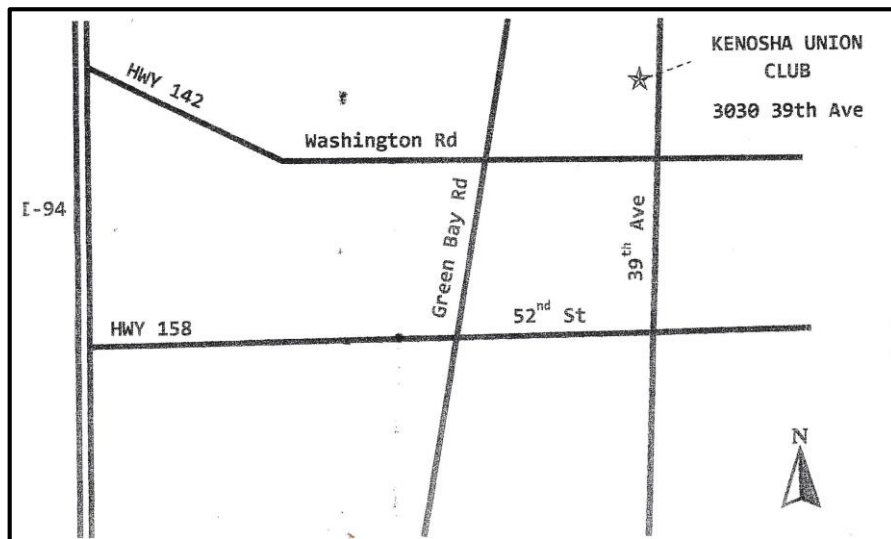
March 08, 2026

Show Hours - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Admission: \$5.00

Women and children 12 & under FREE

More information? Call 262-331-0392





OPEN HOUSE

January 24th-25th (& Swap Meet)

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

March 7

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

May 2

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

August 1

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

October 3

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

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

FIND US AT:

WWW.WCGDRAILROAD.COM

CONTACT US:

WCGDRAILROAD@GMAIL.COM

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 21 & 22, 2026
Sat 10-5 Sun 10-3

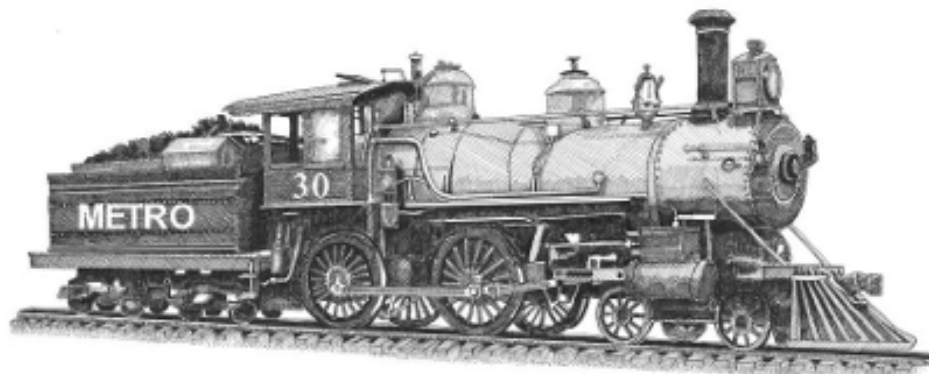
Harlem High School
9229 N. Alpine Rd.
Machesney Park, IL

Rrvd-nmra.com

facebook.com/TheRRVDNMRA

**We Don't Stop Playing With Trains
Because We Grow Old
We Grow Old Because We Stop
Playing With Trains !**

THE ORIGINAL 30th ANNUAL MODEL RAILROAD SHOW



APRIL 12th, 2026

**Expo Center Ozaukee Fairgrounds
W67N866 Washington Ave, Cedarburg, WI**

9am - 4pm

- MULTIPLE OPERATING LAYOUTS
- MODEL TRAIN SWAP MEET 90+ TABLES
- FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
- FREE PARKING

**SPONSORED BY THE
METRO MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, LTD. OF
PORT WASHINGTON, WI**



**DIRECTIONS: I-43 TO HWY 60, WEST ON 60
FOR 5 MILES, SOUTH ON WASHINGTON 1.2
MILES, EAST ON CAMBRIDGE TO PARK**

**ADMISSION: ADULTS: \$5.00
CHILDREN: 12 & UNDER FREE**

**MORE INFO: <http://www.metrorrclub.org>
e-mail: jimbartelt@gmail.com
or call: James Bartelt at (262)-284-5876**



Display Case

Available from a WISE member's estate

6 Shelves / 2 Doors

49"W x 35"H x 5"D



Also Available: 4 LED Shop Lights (4')



Interested?

Contact WISE Division for more information

wisenmra@gmail.com



Roundhouse & Turntable Available

HO Scale 3' x 4' Module with Legs

- Walthers 110' Turntable with control box
- 4 stall Roundhouse
- Backdrop Buildings
- Freight Shed

Interested??

Contact WISE Division for more information

wisenmra@gmail.com



2026 WISE DIVISION BOARD ELECTION

Note: All Ballots **Must Be Mailed or Scanned/Photographed and Emailed** to:

Dave Nelson
ATTN: WISE Division Election Committee
1506 East Fox Lane
Fox Point, WI 53217
engine1385@aol.com

All ballots must be **scanned/photographed and emailed by April 15, or postmarked by April 10, received by April 15** and include **your NMRA #** for verification. Vote for no more than One candidate for the Board of Directors.

Note: **The NMRA does not allow FAMILY MEMBERS to vote, nor does the Midwest Region.**

Article IV, Membership and Dues, of the NMRA Regulations includes the following provision in Section 2: "B. Each member in the above classes, including Honorary Life Member, shall have the right to:" "4. Except for Family Members; and Sustaining and Corporate Members other than individuals, the right to vote and run for an elective office in any Region or Division of which the member is a resident member, subject to any qualification and conditions.

Name (Please Print) _____

NMRA # _____ **(required)**

VOTE for no more than ONE Board of Director candidate

_____ **Tim Koch:** Candidate for WISE Division Board of Directors

_____ Write In Candidate for Board of Directors (must be an NMRA Member):

Fold here

Dave Nelson
Attn: WISE Division Election Committee
1506 East Fox Lane
Fox Point, WI 53217

Fold here