

THE OWL CAR

WISCONSIN SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION
OF THE NMRA

Trainfest
America's Largest Operating Model Railroad Show

November 12 & 13, 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS :

- **WISE Youth Group meeting dates on WISE website**

- **September 18, 2011**

**WISE Meet - Best Western
Plus Midway Hotel - Brookfield**

- **October 16, 2011**

**WISE Meet - Veterans Terrace
Burlington, WI**

TRAINFEST®

November 12 & 13

State Fair Park Expo Bldg

West Allis, WI

- **TRAINFEST TICKETS**

ON SALE NOW

SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS



September 2011

EXTRA EXTRA !!! WISE MEETS AT NEW LOCATION

WISE Division meets have moved to new location! WHY? We as a division are very fortunate to have our meets FREE to our members and guests, but we learned our costs nearly doubled at the Midway Hotel Airport, Milwaukee. So, the search began to compare pricing along with meeting space. Kurt Wamser presented the results of his comparison research at the July board meeting with the board deciding to make the move to the Best Western Midway Plus Hotel 1005 S. Moorland Rd. Brookfield. The hotel has the Symposium room for our presentations along with rooms for the swap meet and contests. Best of all... a good rate! The hotel is also one of the Trainfest preferred hotels.

The clinics will be in the Symposium, with the contest and swap meet in the Underwoods rooms next to the Symposium.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Enter Hotel through main lobby
Maps on page 7

WISE BOARD 2011-2012

OFFICERS:

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Joe Russ
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Assistant Superintendent
Kurt Wamser
414-791-7549

Chief Clerk
Al Lederman
414-354-9579

Paymaster
Bob Sherman
262-790-9830

Past Superintendent
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Trainfest®
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Clinics
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Contests
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Membership
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Picnic
Ed Varick
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Burnell Breaker
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414-236-5386

Gary Children
414-327-1666

LaRoye Chisley
414-352-3546

Ted Lewtas
414-362-9798

Coordinators:

Bus Trips
Art Oseland
414-764-5375

Youth Group

Superintendent's Corner

By Joe Russ

The 2011/2012 meet season will start off with a major change to our meets: a change in venue. After nearly 20 years at the Best Western Milwaukee Airport Hotel we had to make a change due to economic reasons. We are now going to be meeting at the Best Western Plus Midway Hotel on Moorland Rd. in Brookfield. However, the new location will put our meets nearly in the center of the Division which should make it accessible to more of the membership.

For those of you who didn't attend the WISE Division picnic at the Milwaukee County Zoo, you missed a great time. Chairman Ed Varick must have pulled some strings to get the weather to clear just as the zoo opened, and for the rain to hold off until closing time. Thank you to Ed and all of his helpers for organizing that event.

At the July board meeting I received the resignation of assistant paymaster Rita Varick. Rita has done a great job helping our paymaster, Bob Sherman, and I would like to thank her for years of service to the division. And her departure now leaves us with a position to fill. So if you have some accounting background and would like to get your feet wet helping in the division, please feel free to contact Bob or myself.

Unfortunately this summer wasn't without some sad news. Long-time member Chuck Porter passed away on June 28 and Pat Dunbar, the wife of Wayne Dunbar, passed away on August 13. Please keep them, and their families, in your thoughts and prayers.

Finally, this Labor Day weekend marks the anniversary of the 1950 Speedrail wreck. Every time I head to a board meeting at Johnny V's, and Trainfest, regardless if I take I-894 or National Ave., when I pass "the spot" I think of the ten NMRA members who lost their lives due to the Speedrail wreck during the NMRA convention on Labor Day weekend in 1950.

Continued on page 3

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Hobby Stores that support the WISE Division of the

NMRA and it's Members:

Greenfield News & Hobby
Greenfield 414-281-1800

Jetco's Hiawatha Hobbies
Waukesha 262-544-4131

Sommerfeld's
Butler 262-783-7797

South Side Train
Milwaukee 414-482-1566

Walthers / Terminal Hobby
Milwaukee 414-461-1050

In case of ... bad weather WISE meet cancelations will be posted on calendar section of the WISE website along with posting with Milwaukee TV channels 6 and 12.

Superintendents Corner continued from page 2

I suspect few heading north on the freeway, exiting at National Ave., or getting on the northbound ramp from National Ave. realize they are literally driving around the site.

In 2000 I did an article in the Owl Car on the wreck, and I later posted it my website, www.scheduleboard.net. A short time later I received messages from a former Speedrail employee, and the daughter of Jay Maeder. That added a bit more information to the page.

Last year pictures of the wreck finally surfaced on the internet, and then, one night, I got an interesting email which included a link to a video I was told I might find interesting. The sender wasn't kidding! It seems my web page had inspired a son of a member who attended that convention with his brother, but put his dad's film footage on YouTube. This included footage from the car behind the wreck, approaching the wreck.

In the past some have suggested a memorial be placed at the site. But frankly, nobody would see it. Perhaps the best memorial would be not to forget the event, the lives lost, and the location whenever we pass that way... especially this Labor Day weekend.

Have a safe holiday weekend, everyone, and see you at the September meet.

MEMBERSHIP

By Neal Michel Membership Director

We would like to see more of our Division membership (300+) attend our meets. With a swap area, clinics, contests, and layout tours there is something for everyone. Take a minute to sign in and receive a chance at a great door prize. How about a 6-month membership in the NMRA for only \$9.95? Membership application forms are available at the sign in table. This offer is for new members and those who have not been NMRA members for two years or more.

SEPTEMBER CONTESTS

By Bonnie Janke Contest Director

Can hardly believe that the summer time has come and gone. School and WISE meetings will begin again. What have you as a modeler been able to complete to enter in our contests? We have 12 categories to choose from, plus our youth who also enter, in the youth category. Then are the Best of Show, and I know that you all want to win a Best of Show award, to have on your wall. We've seen in the past some good modelers'. I have been contacted by one of our modeler's who has informed me that he has all of his entries ready for the Sept.-April meets. I know that he is looking to have others ready each month to enter in the categories available and have competition. We need to have at least two different people entering in each category in order to have a contest. So look thru the list of categories for the September Meet and see what you might be able to enter. And please don't stop there; check out what will be the categories for the months to come. If you would like a complete listing of the categories, you can get in touch with me at yjanke@wi.rr.com and I will be very happy to send you a list. Or check on the website and see what is there for the next few months.

9-18-2011

ALL CATEGORIES:

- Motive Power - Steam & Diesel
- Traction / Electric
- Passenger Equipment
- Freight Equipment
- Non-Revenue Freight Equipment
- Prototype Photos
- Model Photos
- Structures (On & Off Line)
- General (Dioramas & Trains)
- Train Related Crafts
- Youth

WISE Division 2011 Annual Picnic

By Ed Varick Picnic Director

AN OLD PROVERB . . .

“Rain before Seven, Sunshine by Eleven” proved true again at the WISE Division Family picnic on Sunday, August 7th. By the time all the families arrived, the sun was shining brightly. So what if there drips off the trees. We just shook them off.

By eleven o'clock, the youngsters began receiving their gifts. At 11:45, dinner was ready and a delicious dinner it was. After all had eaten (except for me, that came later), we gave out the donated gifts.

We must say a sincere “**Thank You**” to our generous donors; Walthers; Athearn; Kalmbach; Illinois R.R. Museum; East Troy R.R.; West Bend Ballast Scorchers; Waukesha Gandy Dancers; Sandy Lorenz; Milw. Road Historical society; Greenfield News and Hobby; and Southside Trains.

I must also thank Neal and Diane Michel; Dick Cecil, our MC; and my wife ,Rita, although she was under the weather and could not help as much as she usually does.

And so ends another great time at the Zoo. Hope to see you all again next year.

2011 Picnic Memories



WISE Member Directory

The new WISE Directory is printed and available. Distribution will begin at the **September 2011** meet and meets following.

Directories will be available at the Video Library table with Director Burnell Breaker

The directory consists of the membership as of December 31, 2010 and the information that each member provided. There was **ONLY** enough printed for 1 each to current NMRA members.

Thank you to Dave Poquette for over seeing this project.

VIDEO LIBRARY

By Burnell Breaker Video Library Director

Fall greetings from your Video Librarian. Just a reminder that I will have the WISE Division's complete library of VHS tapes and DVD's available for members to check out at the September 18 meet. I will bring all DVD's and select VHS tapes to the October and December meets. The next likely meet where I will bring the complete collection is the January 2012 meet. Also remember that our complete video library is listed on our newly rebuilt website. If there is a video that you really want to see and want to be sure it is at the meet for you to pick up, call or email me and I will make sure to bring the video(s) to the meet for you. My contact information is listed with all of the other board members in the Owl Car.

TRAINFEST TICKETS ON SALE !!!

Advance Tickets on sale for \$10 each. At the door price \$12 each, get your tickets now.

New for 2011 and going on sale beginning September 1, 2011, the Special 40th Anniversary Two Day ticket sells for \$18 each. Kids coupons available from the Trainfest website.

Friday Product Showcase ticket now on sale. The \$40 special Friday Products Showcase ticket includes access to the manufacturers show, dinner and gift bag on Friday along with admission to Trainfest Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets are on sale at the following locations.

Metro Milwaukee Area:

- Greenfield News and Hobbies - Greenfield
- Hiawatha Hobbies - Waukesha
- Silver Spring Hobby & Games - Milwaukee
- Sommerfeld's Trains - Butler
- South Side Trains - Milwaukee
- Walthers Terminal Hobby - Milwaukee

Outside metro Milwaukee:

- EngineHouse Service - Green Bay, WI
- J & D Whistle Stop - Sheboygan, WI
- Lombard Hobbies - Lombard, IL
- Madison Hobby Stop - Madison, WI

WISE BUSTRIPS for 2012

Mark your calendars for the 2012 WISE bus trips. Trips are being planned for February 18, 2012 Mad City Train show in Madison. Also planning for April 28, 2012 Title Town Show in Green Bay for the morning and Packer Hall of Fame OR National Railroad Museum in the afternoon.

Any suggestions or questions please contact me. Art Oseland PO Box 100552 Cudahy, WI 53110 OR Sueoseland@aol.com

Received this article and wanted to share with those that knew and remember Chuck Porter long time WISE Division - NMRA member. Article was provided by John J Wickland fellow hobbyist

It All Start With An Ambroid S Scale Snow Plow

By John J. Wickland

It was 1966 or 67, I went to a railroadianna auction in a church basement in Fox Point, Wisconsin (North of Milwaukee). There were lots of timetables, lanterns, decks of cards, pencils, railroadianna stuff, lots of HO trains, and one S gauge item – an Ambroid S scale snow plow built from the kit. After several hours the snow plow finally came up for bids (the last item). I was the winning bidder and while standing in line to pay for the snow plow, Chuck Porter came over and introduced himself and happily remarked “I finally meet another S gauger!” We talked about S gauge, trains, and other S gaugers in the area. Chuck also said we should start an S gauge club.

In the next few years we would run into each other at RR related functions and when Chuck would locate or pick up some American Flyer or other toy trains he would call me. One time I went out to his Oconomowoc home (right next to the Milwaukee Road main line) and bought a bunch of Lionel Standard gauge trains! Another time I was in his basement looking at trains and he said “I hear that some American Flyer collectors are crazy enough to pay \$100.00 for one of these orange Shell tank cars?” I asked if he had one, of course he did! After looking at it I said “I guess I am one of those crazy AF collectors who would pay \$100.00!” That car made us both very happy that night! That night and every other time we met we talked about starting an S gauge club.

Chuck was a doer and started the ball rolling on October 8, 1975 by sending a letter out to all area S gaugers that he knew about start an S gauge club. On the evening of November 20, 1975 was the first meeting on Badgerland S Gaugers at Chuck’s home. There were 10 S gaugers at this first meeting: Chuck Porter, Don Fliss, Harry Wiesner, Harold Immekus, Roy Meissner, John Wickland, Fred Vergenz, Bob Ristow, David F. Koehler, and David R. Koehler. The name Badgerland S Gaugers was Chuck’s idea.

Chuck was an S gauger but also loved full size 4’ – 8-1/2” gauge and narrow gauge trains that he chased all his life. Another hobby of Chuck’s was Photography and through his life he amassed a collection of over 40,000 35mm railroad slides! Chuck shared these slides with the many groups and clubs he attended. Chuck was an active member of BSG, NASG, NMRA, TNSG (Tuesday Night Slide Group), National RR Historical Society and others. Chuck put on 100’s of slide shows and clinics for these clubs and others including many conventions, Fall S Fest, Spring S Spree, and others. Chuck was an officer of many clubs, member of the NASG Advisory Council and Constitutional Committee, and a regular columnist for the S GAUGE HERALD magazine.

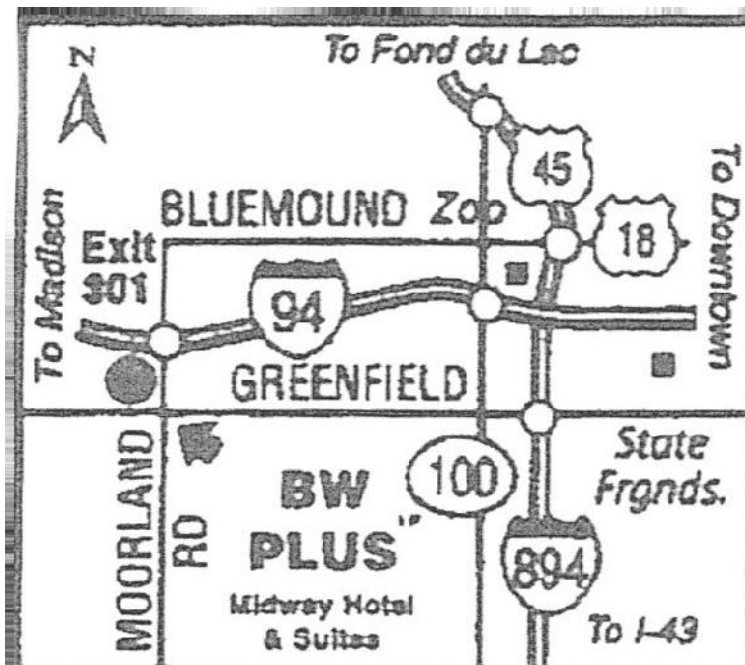
Chuck was an S scaler and through the years that I knew him he started three S scale layouts in his basement. However, like a lot of us he was never able to finish one. Are there any S gauge layouts finished? Chuck was really too busy with many other things.

Chuck Porter Continued on page 7

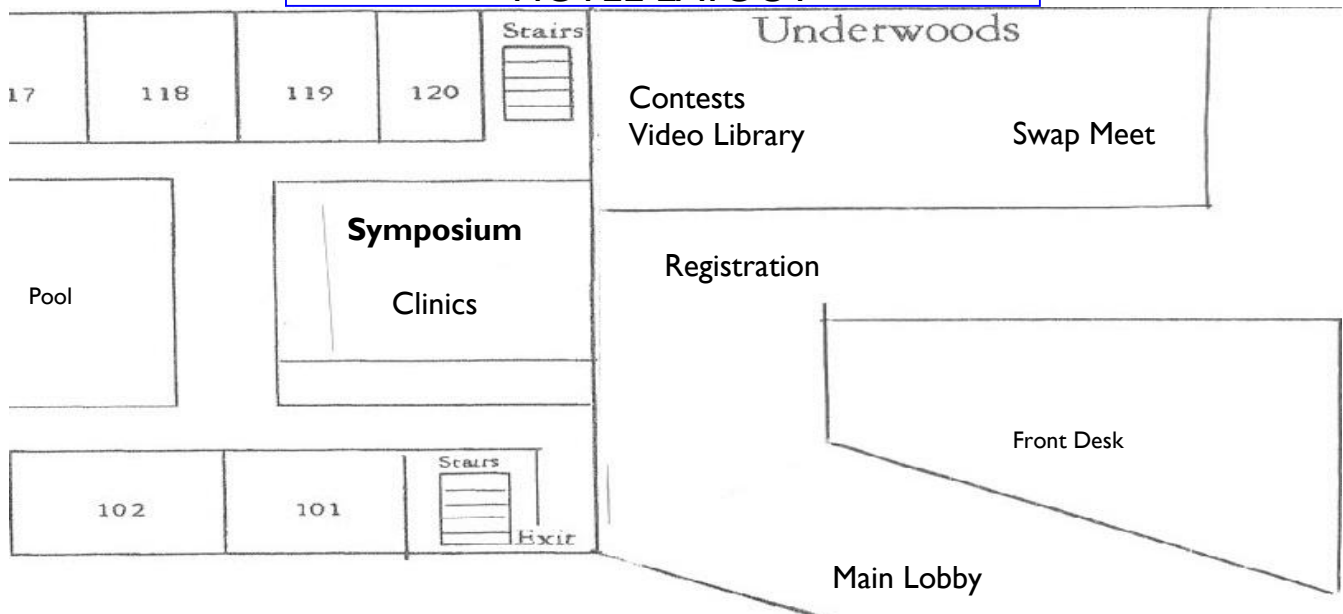
Chuck Porter Continued from page 6

Chuck and his wife, Pat are retired school teachers and they enjoyed their retirement traveling, camping, cruising, skiing all over the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean. They always visited family and friends and of course, always train related activities. They visited at least 48 state capital buildings; they were very busy and certainly lived life to the fullest. Chuck is survived by his loving wife, Pat of 53 years, sons Charles A., Brian, and Maurice, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

We (train friends) have many enjoyable memories with Chuck and he will live on in our hearts and thoughts. I feel like I had a special bond with Chuck because of our long friendship, but I am sure, everyone who knew Chuck felt that way too.



HOTEL LAYOUT



THE OWL CAR

WISCONSIN SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

September 18, 2011 Best Western Plus Midway Hotel
1005 S. Moorland Rd. - Brookfield

- **12:30pm Meet Opens: Registration - Contest - Swap Meet**

Clinics:

- **1pm Mike Janke - "Along the WSOR way in Waukesha"**
- **2pm Jim Rindt - "The Zachow Project story"**
- **3pm Andy Breaker - "How to get started in Traction modeling"**

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