

# THE OWL CAR

NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION  
of the National Model Railroad Association

**Trainfest**  
*America's Largest Operating Model Railroad Show*

December 2012

## Trainfest® 2012 Sets Total Attendance Record

November 9 & 10, 2013

Milwaukee (November 12, 2012)...Trainfest 2012 was a great success and again set a new record for attendance with a total of 25,569 visitors, exhibitors and volunteers. This year's show hosted 8,326 kids who had a great time in the new Kid's Activity Zone.

Choo Choo Bob and the Holy Smokestacks Revue was a hit with young train fans. "We didn't know what to expect when we headed to Trainfest," said Bob Medcraft creator of the Choo Choo Bob Show and owner of the Choo Choo Bob Store. "We knew that Trainfest was the premier railroad show in the country, but it surpassed all our expectations. I was surprised by how many families were in attendance. We had a great time...and Trainfest was awesome!"

Continued page 3

### UPCOMING EVENTS :

- WISE Youth Group meeting  
dates on WISE website
- Division Meet  
December 2, 2012  
Best Western –Symposium &  
Underwood Rooms  
Brookfield, WI
- Division Meet  
January 20, 2013  
Best Western –Symposium &  
Underwood Rooms  
Brookfield, WI
- 2012-2013  
Contest and Meet Info  
Page 7



Families enjoying the Choo Choo Bob and  
The Holy Smokestacks Revue at Trainfest 2012

## WISE BOARD 2012-2013

### OFFICERS:

Superintendent Joe Russ 262-408-1946	Assistant Superintendent Kurt Wamser 414-791-7549
Chief Clerk Al Lederman 262-617-6064	Paymaster Bob Sherman 262-790-9830

### DIRECTORS:

Trainfest® John Tews MMR 262-820-3566	Achievement Program Ted Lewtas 414-362-9798
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Clinics Ed Koforth 414-425-7945	Contests Bonnie Janke 262-392-9698
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Layout Tours Tim Scott 262-786-3327	Membership Neal Michel 414-817-1278
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Newsletter/ Website Kurt Wamser 414-791-7549	Picnic Ed Varick 414-761-2068
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Video Library Burnell Breaker 262-939-9193	Bus Trips Art Oseland 414-764-5375
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### Directors at Large:

Dick Cecil 414-236-5386	Gary Children 414-327-1666
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LaRoye Chisley 414-352-3546	Cedor Aronow 262-242-0108
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### Coordinators:

Youth Group  
Mark Hintz

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

## Superintendent's Corner

By Joe Russ

### The Head Owl Hoots

A big thank you to everyone who made the WISE Division's Trainfest 2012 possible, and another success. While credit goes to the Trainfest committee, headed by John Tews, the show would not be possible without the help of Division members as well. I would also like to congratulate Jim Hediger, the recipient of the Trainfest 2012 Spirit of the Hobby award. Jim has been a long-time supporter of the Division who has stepped forth when the Division needed him. Congratulations, Jim, on some well deserved recognition.

Of course, the WISE Division is more than just Trainfest. So on to other news.

October was a busy month when it comes to youth in the Division. The WISE Guys & Gals, the Division's youth group under the coordination of Mark Hintz, once again prepared their portable layout for exhibit at Trainfest. And the group also had a new brochure designed by Bonnie Janke which were distributed at Trainfest and local hobby shops. Thank you, Bonnie, for your work on that project.

And on Saturday, October 6, Paul Podlaski once again conducted the Division's Boy Scout Railroad Merit Badge clinic. A total of 27 scouts participated and received their railroad merit badge at this educational program. Thank you, Paul, and to Gary Children, Fred and Bonnie Janke, Tim Thur and Mark Willmering for your help with this important event.

As for our October meet, attendance was down, possibly due to the nice weather, the Packer game or the unfortunately situation that played out further up Moorland Rd. which made getting to the meet a bit difficult for some. But those who attended got to see three great clinics, and the layouts of Harry Evans and the Oconomowoc Historical Society. As those who visited the later discovered, it is a jewel of a museum in the area and well worth visiting for both its railroad and local history.

Late October brought a non-Division event called Optoberfest. I have been organizing this "operating day" for the past two years which allows local model railroaders, and even some out-of-state ones, a chance to operate on a growing number of layouts in southeastern Wisconsin (there is a spring version as well, right now called Milwaukee Operating Day).

Continued on page 4

# October Contests

By Bonnie Janke Contest Director

We did have members who brought their entries to our Wisconsin Southeastern Division NMRA, contest in October. We looked forward to "Trainfest" that was happening on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. We hoped that some of the members were able to see all the new things that were available for modeling at Trainfest. I know by the count of attendee's at the Trainfest Show, everyone had a great time.

Please look over the contest list of things to enter in the next few months, and plan ahead on what you will bring to the contest room at the meets. Maybe there is something sitting on your work bench just waiting to be completed, as Larry the Cable Guy says, 'Get it done'. Or maybe you have heard these words, 'If you don't enter, you can't win'. What a great thing to receive two \$10.00 gift certificates to go shopping for more modeling supplies. Working on our layouts and receiving help with clinics' and meeting others, who love to model is only a win, win, situation.

Remember we also have a youth contest each meet, from 8 year olds, to including 17 year olds and they can enter any of the categories at each meet and have a chance to win a 1<sup>st</sup> place plaque and two \$10.00 Gift Certificates from one of the Hobby Stores in the area, or "Best of Show".

Andy Breaker from our division entered a Steam Engine in our Motive Power Steam contest. There was no competition in the Motive Power Steam Contest on that day and Andy was able to take home our "BEST OF SHOW" plaque. Please don't think your entry doesn't count because it does.

Hope to see you all at our December 2, 2012 meet.

Featured Contest Categories:

12/02/2012

Motive Power – Diesel

Revenue Freight Equipment

Prototype Photos

Train Related Craft

Results and photos on page 5

## Continued from page 1 Trainfest® 2012 Sets Total Attendance Record

Trainfest is the event for families to get a taste of the model railroading hobby, from visiting the over 60 operating model railroads to enjoying the wooden train tables in the Kids Activity Zone.

Trainfest, an over 40 year tradition, is America's Largest Operating Model Railroad Show under one roof. The annual two-day public event attracts train hobbyists and families who come to see and learn more about the hobby of model railroading. Visitors experience nearly 70 remarkable operating railroads from Z to G scale, over 100 manufacturers and hobby dealers, more than 10 historical groups, plus artists, photography displays, clinics, and on-site demonstrations. Trainfest, a non-profit organization, is sponsored by the Wisconsin Southeastern Division, Inc. of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA).

Trainfest 2013 will be November 9th and 10th, 2013. For more information, visit [www.trainfest.com](http://www.trainfest.com).

## WI SE Bus Trip

Destination Mad City Train Show on February 16, 2013. The price of 34 dollars per person includes the bus, admission to the show, coffee, soda, water and donuts on the Bus. Scheduled to arrive at show 9 a.m. and depart 3 p.m.

Pick up Points

College Av. SW lot

Watertown Plank Rd.

I-94 Barker Rd. (Goerke's Corners)

Pay At Dec, Jan Wise Meets

For More Information-Contact

Art Oseland 414-764-5375

[sueoseland@aol.com](mailto:sueoseland@aol.com)

Details Coming Soon for

Great Midwest Train Show in Dupage, Illinois

Apr 14, 2013

## December Clinics

- 1pm Al Lederman –  
Railroad slides that we know you will enjoy
- 2pm Ted Jansen –  
How to make scenery out of Styrofoam
- 3pm Rob Pfeiffer -  
Underdogs: Alcos, Baldwins and the Railroads  
that Ran Them

Superintendents Corner continued from page 2

With the participation in the clinics on model railroad operation that we had at both the September and October meets, it shows interest in operation is becoming more widespread in the area. And that reflects growing participation in operating groups across the country, and even new events hosted by NMRA Divisions. Operating is fun, educational and a great opportunity to see the layouts other modelers have designed and built come to life as an operating railroad. There have been a few requests for a "beginner's operating session," for those who have never been to a formal operating session before, and that is in the plans for the future. As Superintendent, I feel operation is one area of the hobby we could do more to promote and coordinate on the division level, and I hope to have more news regarding this in the coming months.

The Constitution and Bylaw Committee has been busy as well, with work wrapping up on the constitution and beginning on the bylaws. After review by the board of directors, the new version of the Division's constitution should be available for membership review by early 2013.

Finally, the resolution to change the Division's logo was still tabled at the October board of directors meeting. Many of you discussed your thoughts about it with me at Trainfest, and I look forward to hearing from more of you.

Wishing all of you a happy, and safe, holiday season,  
Joe Russ  
Superintendent=

## MEMBERSHIP

By Neal Michel Membership Director

**Why join the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA)?** This issue we will continue on our excursion to explore the benefits of membership in the NMRA. We are stopping at NMRA headquarters in Chattanooga TN. for a visit to the A. C. Kalmbach Memorial Library. The archives of the NMRA have been housed in the A. C. Kalmbach Memorial Library since 1986. The library is open to the public, but NMRA members receive priority attention and receive discounts on services and publications. Since very few members live in the Chattanooga area most research questions are answered by a call to the library staff which researches thousands of questions each year. To order publications, duplicate materials, rent a video, or ask other questions, please call **(423) 894-8144**. Visitors can access the library during regular operating hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET, Monday - Friday.

The library houses over 7,000 books and manuals, 50,000 magazines, 100,000 photographic images, 900 videos/DVDs, thousands of prototype drawings, time-tables, maps and audio recordings. Video/DVD rentals are \$5.00 each. The library is currently working on an accessible online database of the books in its collection.

On my brief online tour of the A.C. Kalmbach Memorial Library I was amazed at all the resources that are available to an NMRA member. I encourage you to take some time to visit the library by going to [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). This is another great benefit of NMRA membership.

**Meet Attendance:** If you attend one of our Division meets, please be sure to sign in and receive a chance at a great door prize. With a swap area, clinics, contests and layout tours there is something for everyone.

**6 - Month NMRA Membership Only - \$9.95**  
(This membership offer is for new members and those who have not been NMRA members for two years or more.) Membership application forms are available at the sign in table.



# October 2012 Contest Results



1st Place Non-Revenue Equipment  
Donald Barske  
Worker Dining Car



Best Of Show  
Andy Breaker  
C&NW Class A 4-4-0



2nd Place Non-Revenue Equipment  
Andy Breaker  
CNS&M Caboose



1st Place Model Photo  
Richard Cecil  
The Diamond @ The PCC



2nd Place Model Photo  
Bonnie Janke  
Milwaukee Road "Going thru Market"



**PEACHTREE EXPRESS**  
**NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
[nmra2013.org](http://nmra2013.org)



## Video Library

Burnell Breaker - Video Library Director

Your Video Librarian was busy at Trainfest acquiring new DVD's for the Division's Video Library. All of the titles listed below will be available for checkout at our December 2 meet. The usual policy remains for new titles, **LIMIT OF 2 PER MEMBER**. You can still check out up to a total of 6 titles per month. All are due back to the Video Library at the next month's meet, unless other arrangements have been made with the Librarian, me.

All DVD's and some VHS tapes will be available for checkout at the December 2, 2012, February 17, 2013 and March 17, 2013 meets. I will have the complete video library of VHS tapes and DVD's at the January 20, 2013 meet. The final meet of the season on April 21, 2013, all checked out videos **MUST** be turned in.

Check out the listings on our website and if there are videos you want to see, let me know, I will make sure it isn't checked out and if not, bring along to the next meet for you.

### NEW DVD's

Wisconsin Steam Stories  
 Steam: Trackside & Inside  
 Steamin' Summer, Volume 1  
 Steamin' Summer, Volume 2  
 Steamin' Summer, Volume 3  
 Big Steam on the Mainline

## Division Directories

We still have many WI SE Division Directories to hand out to our members. If you have not picked yours up or know of a friend who is a Division Member that hasn't picked theirs up, stop by the Video Library table at our monthly meets and do so, please. Thanks! Burnell Breaker

## 2012-2013 Meet dates and Location

All Meets for the 2012-2013 season will be held at the Best Western Plus Midway Hotel  
1005 s. Moorland Rd. - Brookfield

December 2,2012 January 20,2013 February 17,2013 March 17,2013  
April 21, 2013 meets will be held in the Symposium & Underwood Rooms

## Featured Contest Categories by Meet: 2012-2013

### **12/02/2012**

Motive Power – Diesel  
Revenue Freight Equipment  
Prototype Photos  
Train Related Crafts

### **1/20/2013**

Motive Power – Steam & Diesel  
Structures (on and off line)  
General (Dioramas & Trains)  
Model Photos

### **2/17/2013**

Traction/Electric  
Passenger Equipment  
Non – Revenue Freight Equipment  
Prototype Photos

### **3/17/201**

Structures (on and off line)  
General (Dioramas & Trains)  
Freight Equipment  
Model Photos

### **4/21/2013**

All Categories Featured

### Complete Contest Category List:

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

### **THANK YOU to the Hobby Stores that support the Wisconsin South-eastern 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 Trains  
Milwaukee 414-482-1566

Walthers / Terminal Hobby  
Milwaukee 414-461-1050

## THE OWL CAR

WISCONSIN SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION OF THE  
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

December 2, 2012 Best Western Plus Midway Hotel  
1005 s. Moorland Rd. - Brookfield

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

### Clinics:

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1pm | Al Lederman – Railroad slides that we know you will enjoy                  |
| 2pm | Ted Jansen – How to make scenery out of Styrofoam                          |
| 3pm | Rob Pfeiffer - Underdogs: Alcos, Baldwin's and the Railroads that Ran Them |

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