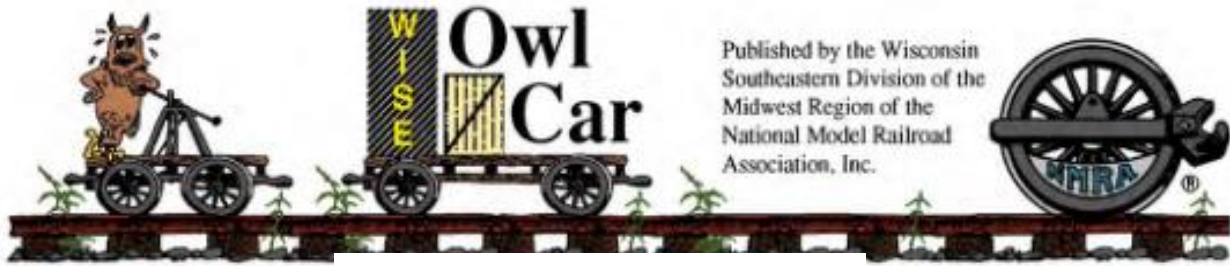


Deadline for Submission to the January Issue:
December 15, 2024



December 2024

THE HEAD OWL HOOTS

Burnell Breaker

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!!

By the time this is published, both Trainfest 2024 and Thanksgiving will have passed. Hopefully Trainfest will have been a success for Giant Train Shows and everyone will have eaten their turkey with family on Thanksgiving. We will have thoughts about Trainfest 2024 and beyond in the next Owl Car.

For those of you who attended our November 16 meet at the New Berlin Public Library Community Room, you were treated to a great program by Dave Nelson about Galesburg Railroad Days and the places to see on your way there. Those who attended were, also, treated to a great, new place for our meets! Plan on attending next month's meet Saturday, December 14 when our MMR, Steve Miazga, will present what you do with your railroad once it's "done". I believe we had success in Zooming it online and will likely do it again next month. Watch for information on how to connect online, if you are not able to attend in person.

David Mielke is looking for layouts that we can visit after our meets. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, contact David. His contact information is listed later in this Owl Car issue.

Dave Nelson is, also, looking for people to make presentations at our meets. As we said at the November meet, the presentation doesn't need to be flashy and 30-45 minutes long. It can be a few pictures or a display and a short 5-10 minute talk. Contact Dave if you would be interested in doing a presentation.

We need a Paymaster. I own a small business which takes 50+ hours per week of my time and I don't have the time to do this on top of my other obligations. I am trying to do my best with this since Dennis stepped down, but I cannot continue to do it. This position doesn't take much time and is much simpler since we do not have the bookkeeping involved with Trainfest. Dennis will work with whoever takes over to make sure they know what they are doing. Contact me if interested or if you know someone who could.

David Mielke is, also, looking for presenters at our Train School in January. You would work at a station devoted to a single topic, talking to the people attending the event

We are also looking to build upon our Model Railroad Retreat for September 2025. 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 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 these past couple years as we went through our inactive status, and we are now again an active Division in the NMRA.

Burnell

Upcoming Division Events:

Executive Committee Meetings
December 11 7:00pm
Lionel Railroad Club and Zoom

WISE Division Meeting
December 14 1:00pm
New Berlin Public Library
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82116880636?pwd=euk76tE0ElvG846Z4TWjOQtweJDczD.1>

or use Meeting ID: 821 1688 0636
Passcode: 261
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

There's an app for that...

Model Railroad Consist

Made by model railroaders for model railroaders, Model Railroad Consist is a premiere model train inventory app for modelers of all ages, abilities and scales. Easily enter and view your model railroad collection, from locomotives and rolling stock to scenery and collectibles. Track Favorites and Wish List items, organize into Collections and Rosters, and never buy a duplicate item again (unless you want to!).

- Works with any scale, plus non-model items such as timetables, pins and collectibles.

Search for Model Railroad Consist in the Google Play Store

Clinicians Invited at NMRA Convention

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

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

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

Rich Mahaney
NMRA NCR President
269-214-4221



2025 NMRA National Convention

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




Wisconsin Southeastern Division Midwest Region
of the National Model Railroad Association

2024-2025 Schedule of Events

Sunday, September 15, 2024 - 9AM to 3PM

Kettle Moraine Ballast Scorchers Railroad Club Model Railroad Show & Swap Meet

Washington County Fair Park, West Bend
(Extra Fare Event)

Saturday, September 28, 2024 - 9AM to 3PM

Model Railroad Retreat - St. Paul's Lutheran Church

NON-MEMBERS \$5.00
8760 37th Avenue, Kenosha

Saturday, November 16, 2024 - 1 PM

Monthly Meet - New Berlin Public Library Community Room

FREE ADMISSION (Contests, Clinics, Bring & Brag, Layout Tour)
15105 Library Lane, New Berlin

Saturday & Sunday, November 23-24, 2024

Trainfest - Baird Center, Milwaukee

(Extra Fare Event)

Saturday, December 14, 2024 - 1 PM

Monthly Meet - New Berlin Public Library Community Room

FREE ADMISSION

Saturday January 18, 2025 - 1 PM

Train School - New Berlin Public Library Community Room

FREE ADMISSION

Learn about this great hobby and all it offers from local modelers.
Stations will be set up to discover different aspects of the hobby.

Saturday & Sunday, February 15-16, 2025

Mad City Train Show - Alliant Energy Center, Madison

(Extra Fare Event)

Saturday, February 22, 2025 - 1 PM

Monthly Meet - New Berlin Public Library Community Room

FREE ADMISSION

Saturday, March 22, 2025 - 1 PM

Monthly Meet and Membership Meeting Oconomowoc Historical Museum

FREE ADMISSION

103 West Jefferson Street, Oconomowoc

Sunday, April 13, 2025 - 9 AM to 4 PM

Metro Model Railroad Club Model Railroad Show

Ozaukee County Fairgrounds, Cedarburg
(Extra Fare Event)

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

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 and now active, I cannot do both jobs of being the 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 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

A Note from the Editor:

I have learned that about 68% of the membership open the emails containing the Owl Car newsletter but only 30% click the link to read it. So, I'm asking you to provide me with suggestions as to what types of articles or stories would encourage more readership of the newsletter.

Please remember that the deadline for the January issue is the 15th of December. So, keep this deadline in mind and send your articles and photos to the Owl Car to owlcar@trainfest.com.

Happy Holidays!
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: _____

Railroads Came to Life During Milwaukee Optoberfest

Joe Russ

On October 18-20, 43 operators from four states enjoyed operating on 14 layouts in scales ranging from N to HO and G, as well as touring eight layouts (six on Saturday night and two on Sunday afternoon) in the Milwaukee metro, Madison metro area and Lindenhurst, IL.

Milwaukee Optoberfest got its start in 2011 and has been held every year except for 2018 and 2020. It is a free event open to local and invited operators. This year, those operators came from the La Crosse area, Fox Valley, Chicagoland, Rockford and Peoria, IL. and even as far away as Omaha, NE and Wilmington, OH. Among these participants were two local beginner operators who had the opportunity to operate during a session with experienced operators. These two plan to participate again next year

Milwaukee Optoberfest 2024 was a non-Divisional event that was held in memory of Rolf Plachter (Midwest Lines), James D. Hediger (Ohio Southern) and commemorated the now dismantled Kalmbach layout, the Milwaukee, Racine and Troy. Each participant received a commemorative sticker to honor the event.

Optoberfest kicked off Friday evening with sessions in the Milwaukee area on the Ashland, Superior & Pacific (HO), BN (formerly CB&Q) Peoria Sub. (HO), Wabash & Union Belt (HO), Four Corners & Five Lakes (N) and Rock Harbor (HO). For those interested in operating on just N scale layouts, there were three N scale layouts operating on Friday and Saturday.

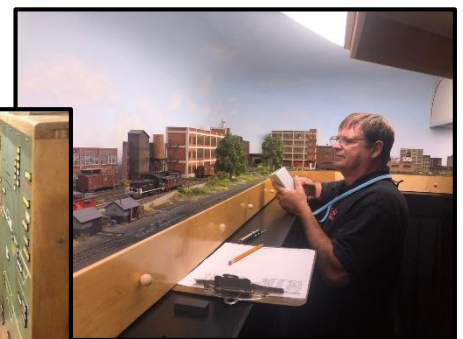


Starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning operators went to work on the Wabash & Union Belt (HO), Midwest Lines (HO) and the Missabe Jct. (N). Afternoon sessions were on the Blue Mountain & Cascade (HO), Chicago, Wisconsin & Pacific (N), C&S Gunnison City (Gn3) and Rock Harbor (HO).

The day concluded with operators having a chance to tour layouts that are under construction and hopefully will be on the operating schedule next year. Saturday night also provided the opportunity to socialize and discuss the days operations over a few beverages as the operators of La Crosse and Omaha discovered at Champ's in Brookfield.

Sunday morning was an early day as those participating in Sunday sessions had to be in the Madison area by 9 a.m. to operate on the C&NW Memories (HO), Rice Lake, Dallas & Menomonie Railroad (HO) and Rio Grande Pacific (HO). Those heading south to home operated on the B&O – Fairmont, Morgantown and Pittsburgh (HO) on the other side of the state line. Those in Madison had a chance to tour two layouts before continuing their travels home.

The dates for Milwaukee Optoberfest 2025 have yet to be set but they will probably be in either early September or October.



Friends of Burlington Northern Railroad



The **Friends of the Burlington Northern Railroad's** primary mission is to preserve the history and chronicle the operation of the Burlington Northern Railroad and its successors, including the Montana Rail Link. The organization strives to maintain and disseminate information and records of historical relevance from the railroad's inception in 1970 and following the merger between Burlington Northern and Santa Fe from 1996 to the present.

The historical society was incorporated in the state of Idaho on January 3, 1993. It was chartered to gather, preserve, and share information about the history and the current operations of the Burlington Northern Railroad. The group began with about 140 members absorbed by the Burlington Northern Historical Society, an un-incorporated interim organization interested in studying the history of the Burlington Northern Railroad. In 1996, following the merger between Burlington Northern and Santa Fe, the group voted to follow the Burlington Northern from 1970 to 1995 and the BNSF from 1995 to the present. Then, in 2018, coverage of the Montana Rail Link was added.

The Group's quarterly publication, [The BN Expediter](#), is the voice of the organization that shares news about the group's activities, BN historical data, and current operations of the railroad. It is currently a 30+ page all-color publication and will grow even larger as the society grows and more members contribute more information.



An archive has been created to preserve information about the Burlington Northern and a preservation committee has been established to position itself to preserve and store artifacts as the society acquires them. The archive includes photographs, maps, books, Shareholders Reports, Labor Agreements Locomotive Shops and Facilities Information and hundreds of other documents.

Each year the **FOBNR** holds a convention and membership meeting which includes tours of local BN/BNSF facilities and other railroad-related facilities, a display of BN historical information and items, tours of local layouts (and sometimes operating sessions), railfanning opportunities, a banquet with a speaker (usually a local BNSF official), and a board meeting. The FOBNR 2025 Convention will be held in Fort Worth, Texas, June 18-21, 2025

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

<https://fobnr.org/>

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>

Layout Tours

David Mielke

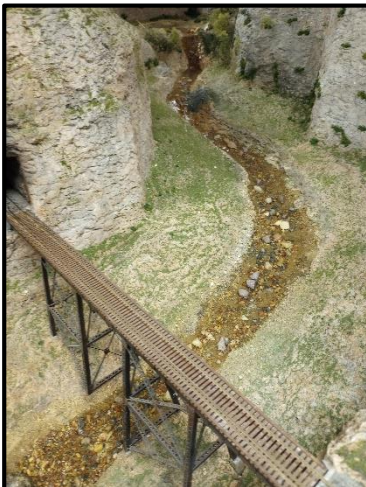
After the November Division meet at our new location at the New Berlin Public library there was a tour of the Waukesha County Gandy Dancers layout. The club is located downtown at 741 North Grand Avenue in the basement of the Social Security office. The club has been in their new space for about two years and is currently in the process of building a new permanent layout.

For our visit, Robert Sobolik had their welcome sign out for us to come on down to the layout room.



The plan is to build this layout to HO scale. It's always a daunting task to design and build a layout, but what I saw and heard from the membership leads me to believe that great layout is in the works.

The layout features a river that flows with real water and functions just like a river would. The river is located in a canyon that displays several very nicely built bridges.



There is a monster, double-tracked helix made up of Masonite with each of its 14 turns running about 30 feet long. A CNW train makes its journey around this helix. At the top of the helix is a bridge that provides access to a locker area where each member can store their model equipment. However, the rails do not terminate here but continue on into a currently four track loop for the return trip down the helix.

One of the members boasts a boxcar with a speaker paired by Bluetooth to his phones' play list. This boxcar is part of his Alaskan railroad train set with a Milwaukee Road observation car also painted in Alaskan railroad colors.

It is always amazing the creativity that we exhibit when we are creating our miniature rail worlds. We take the dream and put it on paper (or computer CAD) and make it a reality.



For information on the Gandy Dancers of Waukesha County visit their website at www.wcgdrailroad.com and check out page 20 of this issue for information on the Gandy Dancers Open House.

Division Leadership

Board of Directors

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

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

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

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

Open --- Paymaster

Committee Chairs

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

Dave Nelson --- Clinics
engine1385@aol.com

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

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

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

Mike Slater --- Social Media Manager
m Slater@wi.rr.com
 262-515-3623

Jim Hebner --- Webmaster
webmaster@trainfest.com

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

FROM the NMRA Please Keep in Touch



Please make sure the NMRA has your current contact information. You will not be able to access the full range of NMRA benefits unless we can reach you.

- Please visit nmra.org/members
- 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

October Executive Committee Minutes

**Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE) Division of the NMRA
Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 9, 2024
Location: Lionel Railroad Club & Zoom**

Meeting called to order by Burnell Breaker at 7:01 pm

EC Present – Burnell Breaker (Interim Superintendent)
Robert Niedermann (interim Asst-Superintendent)
David Rohr (Secretary, Chief Clerk)
Tim Koch (Director At Large) joined at 7:08

Chairs Present - David Mielke (Train School)*, Cindy Mielke (Owl Car)*, Mark Willmering (Trainfest - Floor)*,
Mike Slater (Facebook)*, Gary Hendrickson (Membership)

Guests – Bob Mcgeever (MWR President) *

Absent – No Officers absent *Attended via zoom

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

Paymaster Report:

All bills are paid, including director insurance, and Image Management (which is doing some Facebook posts and flyer creation).
No changes noted from the September minutes, approved.

Membership:

Gary Hendrickson stated that Tom Mabie will assist during the library events.

Clinics:

Per Burnell, Dave Nelson thanked everyone for the president's award, even though it was received with a broken glass.

AP Program:

No report

Website:

The new updated website needs to be put into production NOW.
Current test site is <https://hebners.net/wise/>.

Layout Tours:

Dave Mielke has offered to head this. Need to start from scratch.

Train School:

Improved flyer, poster and Facebook posts are being created by Image Management.

RPM / Modeler's Retreat:

Postmortem - we had 42 folks attend, Received \$125 in non-WISE/NMRA Member admission and table vendor fees. Maybe next year hold it the 3rd weekend of September.

Owl Car:

October issue to be sent to members soon. Deadline for November issue is October 20.

Show Schedule – Suggested dates to sell our stuff:

- October 20 – LRRC Swap
- 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.
- **Trainfest 2024** – Have tickets to sell to our members. \$ 10 for 2-day admission. We are offering mail-in sales. We heard the New Berlin Library will allow us to sell, as long as we are not making a profit. So far, we have sold 12 tickets to members. Exhibitor info is online, with a floor plan, and parking info. We need to get a crew together for manning the booth for both days. So far, we have Burnell, Robert Niedermann and LaRoye Chisley. Need to find at least 2 more folks to help. Also need to decide what we will bring to the show booth. Pre- purchase your parking pass! State Fair Park has sent an email to Great Train Shows asking them to remove the negative comments regarding the Expo Center from the trainfest.com website. We are not next to SCWD, but back-to-back. Need to negotiate a change. There is ONE concession vendor inside the show, Really??
- **2024 - 2025 Schedule and Meeting Locations** – – New Berlin will allow coffee and light snacks. Invite all, but only NMRA members can participate in door prizes, contests, layout tours, etc. We will have to wait until Oct 1 to reserve 2025 dates. Gary H. can be in charge of coffee. There is a vacuum in the side room/closet. Robert N was able to confirm we can have a donation jar out for the snacks & coffee. The New Berlin Library will allow us to sell Trainfest tickets, if we are not making a profit. We plan to do a test zoom meeting with Mike Slater, then in December, do a Zoom mtg for the full Division
- **Division going active** – – Bob McGeever's term as MWR President is ending March 2025. We will present our revised Constitution and Bylaws to the MWR Board at their fall meeting for approval. That meeting is scheduled for November 2. All WISE Div officers would stay in place through 2025. First elections will be in spring 2026
- \$200 matching funds program. Will have to think of what we could use it for in 2025. • New Member retention materials have arrived from National

New Business:

- Steve Miazga's email. "He stated Saturday is family day and won't be attending the meets". We are trying different days to see if we can more people to attend. We are only meeting a few times a year. Please give us some other ideas.
- John Hagen is moving to assisted living and will be donating more items for us to sell.
- 2025 – 2026 Schedule of Events – thinking ahead, Model RR Retreat, Train School, besides local meets and locations in New Berlin and Oconomowoc, member trip. Maybe have an event in West Bend, Port Washington, or in Fond du lac (and invite the WLD WinnebagoLand Division) for a joint meet.
- Mark Willmering asked to re-instate his trainfest.com email, which was MarkW@trainfest.com. So, Mark does not need to use his personal email

Next Meeting:

Next meeting is Wednesday, November 13, meeting to be held at the Lionel Club in New Berlin at 7 pm or via zoom. After that, will be Wednesday, December 11.

Gary Hendrickson, Cindy Mielke, David Mielke, Mike Slater and Mark Wimmering left the meeting.

Meeting went into closed session at 8:41 pm Closed session ended, and meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Modeling & Prototype Railroad Contests

Each month, a model, photo, and railroad-related craft popular vote contest is held at the WISE Division meets. These contests are free to enter and are open to the public. Voting will take place in the following categories:

Motive Power – Steam
Motive Power – Diesel
Traction / Electric
Passenger Equipment
Freight Equipment
Non – Revenue Equipment

Structures
Photographs – Prototype
Photographs – Model
General
Youth 8 – 17 Years
Train Related Crafts

There are five award categories: Best of Show, 1st Place, 2nd Place, Youth 1st place and 2nd Youth Place. Each category receives an Award certificate and gift certificates depending on the place earned and membership in the NMRA. Best of Show will also receive a plaque. Our Contest Director will provide you with a number and a small tag to fill out describing your entry. After that, it's a blind vote by attendees. The votes are tallied at the end of the meet culminating with the award announcements.

It's that simple and that fun!

For contest rules and details, contact Robert Niederman Contest Chairman and Asst. Superintendent at asst.super@trainfest.com.

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".

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 Having Fun

YOU PLAY, THEY PAY

Grouper works with health plans to cover your NMRA membership.

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Grouper

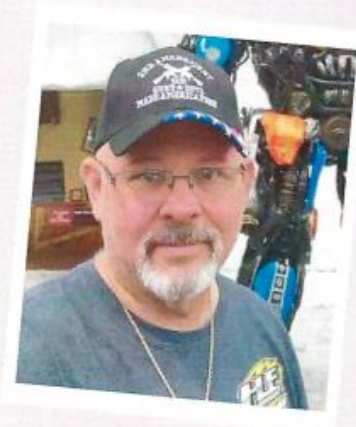
nmra.org national model railroad association

Visit the [National Model railroad Association](#) Facebook page for details.



BLOOD DRIVE

IN MEMORY OF
SCOTT BEE



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WAUKESHA ELKS LODGE #400

Sunday, December 8th, 2024

8:00AM-2:00PM

Elks 400 Room Lower Level
2301 Springdale Rd
Waukesha, WI 53186



On July 13, 2023, Waukesha Local Scott Bee was shot numerous times while working, and required multiple surgeries for his extensive injuries. Due to his injuries, he required **100 units of blood**. These 100 units of blood granted Scott life for 12 days, until he succumbed to injuries and passed away on **July 25th, 2023**. Carmen Bee, the wife of Scott, was humbled in her realization that the blood collected from over 100 people granted Scott 12 more days to live. It gave his wife, children, family, and friends 12 more days with Scott, and the chance to say goodbye. Scott was nothing short of a giver, and would help anyone in anyway he could. He had a kind heart, and would always try to give back. Please join Carmen Bee in her goal to **collect 100 units in Scott's memory**, to give back to those who gave their gift of life, and to ensure that no patient and their families ever have to worry about not having the blood they need to live.

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT:

Appointments are highly encouraged.
Secure your spot by visiting the link below,
scanning the QR code, or calling/texting
847-897-8688.

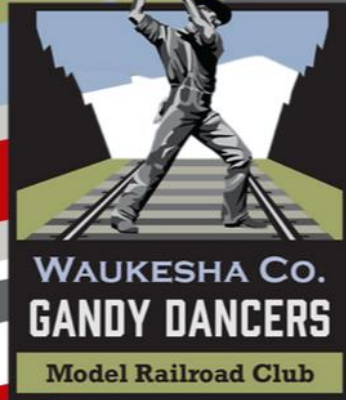


tinyurl.com/ScottBee100

Unable to make it and still want to contribute?
Donate **ANYTIME** at the Waukesha Donor Center,
and enter **#ScottBee100** In the Appointment notes
when scheduling your appointment. Scan or Visit the
Link Below to Sign Up!



tinyurl.com/ScottBee100DC



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**

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NOVEMBER 30, DECEMBER 1, 2024

APRIL 5 and 6, 2025

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Parkland Plaza

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New Berlin, Wisconsin 53151

(262) 754-9900

(entrance in back of building)

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**Saturday & Sunday: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
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www.milw-lrrc.org

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FACEBOOK





Toy Train Sale and Show

(See below for more information)

All Gauges & All Scales

SUNDAY DATES

<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2026</u>
October 20	January 19	October 19	January 18	October 18
November 17	February 23	November 16	February 22	November 22
December 15	March 16	December 21	March 15	December 20

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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



WISE Division of the NMRA Presents
TRAIN SCHOOL

FREE ADMISSION



**SATURDAY
JAN. 18, 2025
1-4PM**

- 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
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Current HO Scale Car Projects

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

Arrived September 2022

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

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

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

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.

