

Published by the Wisconsin
Southeastern Division of the
Midwest Region of the
National Model Railroad
Association, Inc.



January 2020



From Your Superintendent...

— Mike Slater

Boy has this year flown by since the WISE Board of Directors made me the interim Superintendent of the Division. It has been an exciting time with our Division trying several new events over this period of time. Last month we added another meet/event to the calendar. In 2018 we had a modeler's workshop that focused on making backdrops. This year, we added a Meet in December to share skills. This modelers workshop had several workstations instead of clinics (see Page 2). People were free to go between each workstation to watch, ask questions and learn. We had four workstations hosted by our members. One of them was on freight car maintenance, another on scratch building wooden pallets, carving landforms out of foam and adding scenery, and the final one was on basic airbrushing and decaling. While our attendance was light due to the Packer Game and the Wheaton Train Show, those who attended enjoyed the presentations. Even with the schedule conflicts, I feel the event was a success as we had at least two people learn how to use waterslide decals. This event format may be what we do in January 2021. Personally I feel that December may have too much going on with the busy holiday season.

Another thing I will be working on is rotating the location of our Division meets. Next season I would like to see us go back to some locations we have gone to in the past, so we can

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include people from neighboring divisions. Also, if you belong to a model railroad club and there is a location near your club that can host a Division meet let us know. We would love to work with your group.

The next thing we have discovered is our list of layouts in the Division is way out of date. Many of the layouts we have listed no longer exist, because the owners have dismantled their layout or have passed away. Included in this Owl Car (Page 6) will be a form. If you have a layout and would like to show to your fellow division member please take the time and fill it out. You will also see on the form there is a location to check off if you would like to be considered to have your layout host a WISE OP session.

Over the past two months, we have been finalizing the bills and deposits for Trainfest. Trainfest's bottom line this year will just about break even, however it will be slightly to the negative side. A major factor in this outcome was the cost of advertising, as well as an attendance drop of about 2,000 people.

Regarding Trainfest, I first want to thank Ken Jaglinski, Trainfest Chair, for all of his hard work over the past several years in coordinating everything that goes into making the show a success. Ken was able to reduce several of our larger expenses in order to help the Division save money on the show, however the unknown factor, the attendance, was not where we had hoped it would be. At the December WISE board meeting, Ken decided to tender his resignation as Trainfest Director and also his Board position. Again, I personally want to thank Ken for all of his years of service to the Division. He will be a hard person to replace. I know the Board does not hold Ken responsible for the results for Trainfest this year, so please do not hold anything against him. And also, a big thank you to all of the volunteers who worked with Ken to make the show what it is.

Based on the impact that the marketing and advertising costs had on the Trainfest income, the board decided to solicit proposals from other marketing firms. Their submittals included cost estimates for the advertising needed for Trainfest. We should have enough information by our January Board meeting to make a decision regarding which marketing firm we will be going with for the 2020 show.

Finally, this spring we will be having elections for several Board positions. If you are interested in running please let us know. It is a great way to volunteer and help out with your Division.

December Meet Provides Modeling Ideas for All

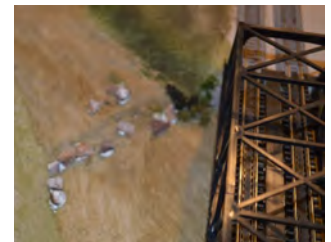
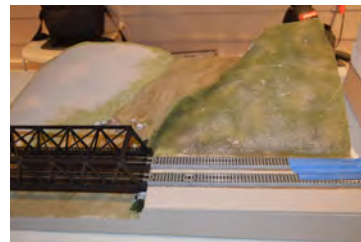
Well, it was not quite a modeling university session, but if you were interested in improving your modeling skills, our December Meet was the place to be. Held at the Lake Park Pavilion, this Meet was our Divisions second annual learning event. Last year, board member Ken Jaglinski undertook a workshop on painting and designing backdrops. This year, Superintendent Mike Slater led the charge with tips on airbrushing and applying decals. He was joined by Ken Jaglinski who covered resin casting and car kit assembly, Carl Priecke demonstrated how to scratchbuild pallets with a template jig, and Steve Miazga showed how to build a T-Trak model and add the scenery with lightweight foam. While the attendee group was small, all got great value from the demonstrations.



The sessions were all interactive. Above, Mike Slater works a discussion on painting techniques. Below, member Carl Priecke demonstrates how to use a template jig to mass produce pallets for your layout.



Above, Ken Jaglinski discusses car kit assembly with board member Ted Zieger. Ken also demonstrating resin casting. Below, Steve Miazga shapes the foam scenery base on one of the two T-Trak modules. The second module was ready for scenery and Steve demonstrated how to apply ground foam and other scenery items to a river scene on the module.



Next WISE Board Meeting

All WISE/NMRA members are welcome to attend our monthly board meetings. They are held at the clubhouse of the Milwaukee Lionel Club at Parkland Plaza, 2721 S. Calhoun Road, New Berlin. Entrance is at the rear side of the building.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15th at 7:00 pm.

Meetings generally last an hour and a half. We look forward to seeing you as a guest at our next meeting. Member input is always appreciated.

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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Upcoming Division Events

- January 19, 2020—WISE Division Meet**
Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport, 12:30 pm
- *February 15, 2020—Annual Bus Trip to Mad City Train Show**
- March 15, 2020—WISE Division Meet**
Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church, Racine, 1:00 pm *(Note time)*
- April 17-18, 2020 – Spring WISEops Operating Weekend**
- April 19, 2020—WISE Division Meet and Annual Meeting**
Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport, 12:30 pm
- *May 2020—Bus Trip—Great Midwest Train Show, DuPage, IL**
- September 26, 2020—WISE Division RPM Meet**
Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport,
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
- *November 14-15, 2020—Trainfest 2020**
Wisconsin State Fair Park Expo Center, West Allis, WI

** Denotes extra fare event*

For more event details go to our website: WWW.WISEDIVISION.ORG



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- Open - Clinic Director, Membership Director, Trainfest Chair



Upcoming National And Regional Events Of Interest

- February 1-2, 2020 — Arctic Run Model Railroad Show**
Holiday Inn Convention Center, Stevens Point, WI
- February 15-16, 2020—Mad City Train Show**
Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI
- March 21-22, 2020 — Three Rivers Model Train Show**
The Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Rd., Onalaska, WI
- April 18-19, 2020—Titletown Train Show**
KI Convention Center, 333 Main St., Green Bay, WI
- May 14-17, 2020—Midwest Region NMRA Convention**
“The Peoria Rocket”
Holiday Inn & Suites, East Peoria, IL
www.mwr-nmra.org
- June 20-21, 2020 — Strawberry Fest Train Show**
Waupaca Recreational Facility, Waupaca, WI
- July 12-18, 2020—NMRA 2020 Convention St. Louis**
Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark, St. Louis, MO
www.gateway2020.org
- July 17-19, 2020—National Train Show**
Dome at America Center, St. Louis, MO
www.nationaltrainshow.org
- July 4—10, 2021—NMRA 2021 Convention Santa Clara**
Santa Clara, CA

Historical Society Meetings

- April 30—May 2, 2020—Burlington Route Historical Society**
2020 Mile High Spring Meet
Joint Meet with Rio Grande Modeling & Historical Society
Denver Marriott West, Golden, CO
www.burlingtonroute.org
- May 28—31, 2020—Chicago & North Western Hist. Society**
2020 Annual Convention, Rails & Rivers, Mankato, MN
Mankato City Center Hotel
www.cnwhs.org
- June 18—21, 2020—Milwaukee Road Historical Association**
2020 Annual Meeting, Elgin, IL
Holiday Inn & Suites, 495 Airport Road, Elgin, IL
www.mrha.com
- September 10-13, 2020—Burlington Route Historical Society**
2020 Fall Meet, Radison Duluth-Harborview,
Duluth, MN
www.burlingtonroute.org
- September 17-20, 2020—Soo Line Historical & Tech. Society**
Holiday Inn, Manitowoc, WI
www.sooline.org
- September 19-23, 2020—Great Northern Railway Hist. Society**
2020 Convention, Nelson. BC
www.gnrhs.org



Your WISE NMRA Membership — Are You Taking Advantage of Your Benefits?

Steve Miazga, Owl Car Editor



So you renew your membership each year and you join your fellow modelers at the WISE Meets. You might even take advantage of our annual bus trips to Madison and Chicago. But most of us never really take advantage of the many benefits that your membership entitles you to. With the start of the new year I thought it would be good to review the benefits of your membership so that you can make the most of it in 2020. Included are only the ones that have direct benefit to an individual member. You can read more at www.nmra.org.

Partnership Program

The NMRA has partnered with model railroad manufacturers of all sizes who have agreed to give discounts to NMRA members. Discounts range from free shipping to 20% off all purchases. From Micro-Mark to Rusty Stumps, more manufacturers are being added every month.

Model Railroad Directory

Whether you're at home or traveling, you can contact other NMRA members for a layout tour, to talk trains, or even to join in an open session! There are maps, descriptions, photos, videos, and more.

NMRA Online Archives

More than 10,000 photographs, slides, plans, drawings, erection elevations, paint schemes and more, with additional scans being added all the time. High-resolution files are available for download at a discount to members.

Achievement Program (AP)

The AP helps modelers get more out of the hobby by providing an incentive to learn and master the skills necessary. Those who've completed the AP receive Master Model Railroader (MMR) certification.

Special Access to Places and People

As an NMRA member, you'll have access to all kinds of railroad locations you'd never otherwise see. Often National and Regional conventions will tour prototype facilities such as yards and maintenance shops, and will charter special excursion railroads that are usually never open to the public. You'll have the chance to see top-of-the-line model railroads that usually don't accept visitors. And you'll be able to spend time talking with some of the most famous personalities in model railroading today.

Bi-monthly NMRA eBulletin and NMRA Turntable

Every other month we publish the electronic NMRA eBulletin, containing late-breaking news and reports of happenings in the organization. The NMRA Turntable is a monthly electronic publication that rounds up some of the most interesting model railroad websites, videos, blogs, and articles on the web. We do the searching so you don't have to! Every member with a valid email address receives a copy of both publications. You can update your email information on the NMRA website to make sure you receive this benefit.

NMRA Magazine

NMRA Magazine is the monthly publication of the NMRA, and features news about the organization and its Regions and Divisions, along with modeling articles, product conformance reviews, and other information. Because the subscription rate/postage depends on where you live, check www.nmra.org for your rate. To contribute articles, please see information in the masthead of the magazine.

"Members Only" Company Store

The NMRA's Company store offers many items, from apparel to mugs to gauges, available only to NMRA members.

Online Video Library

The Members Only section of www.nmra.org features dozens of helpful "how-to" videos produced by professional video companies,

as well as over 50 videos of clinics presented at national NMRA conventions.

Annual NMRA Calendar

Features spectacular model photographs, as well as dates for Regional conventions and more. Free to every U.S. member. Additional copies can be ordered for \$5 each from HQ. For information on submitting photographs, call Mike Brestel 513-481-0185.

Conventions - (National and Regional)

The annual National convention runs one week and usually features about 100 clinics, more than 50 layout tours, and dozens of prototype tours. The National Train Show runs for the final three days of the convention. Regional conventions vary in duration from two to five days. Many feature prototype and layout tours, plus clinics and other activities.

Modeling With The Masters (MWTM)

This is an intense, multi-day regimen of direct instruction by Master Model Railroaders. Modelers get hands-on experience in beginning and intermediate modeling techniques. MTWM classes are usually offered at the National convention, but MTWM courses have also been offered in various cities and at Regional conventions across the country.

Discounts and Advance Registration on New KML Books

Kalmbach Memorial Library periodically offers special books and book reprints to the general public. NMRA members receive a substantial discount on the retail price and can reserve copies in advance.

Standards and Conformance

The NMRA constantly researches and sets Standards and Recommended Practices for all scales and gauges of train models, as well as adjunct items such as DCC and modules. The NMRA continually checks new products for conformance to Standards and RPs.

Collection Insurance

This service offers NMRA members group property insurance for collections, layouts, live steam, tools, slides and photographs, books, magazines, railroad memorabilia, and more. This insurance also covers an individual's property if it resides on a club layout. Members receive NMRA Group Rates.

NMRA Standards Gauges, Data Sheets CD ROM, and Turnout Templates

NMRA members can purchase Standards Gauges at significant price reductions over retail prices. Data Sheets CD and Turnout Templates are available only from the Company Store. Many data sheets are being updated and will appear in NMRA Magazine, as well as available for free download from the Members Only section of www.nmra.org.

Beginners' Guide

The Beginner's Guide pages on www.nmra.org offer those new to the hobby help in learning the basics of track, wiring, scenery, and more.

Did You Know???

- ⇒ In Washington state, a dog must have accompanied the cow-catcher to scare livestock from the tracks.
- ⇒ In Wisconsin it was once illegal to kiss on a train.
- ⇒ A Gary, Indiana ordinance once prohibited anyone from attending a movie house, theater, or riding on a public streetcar within four hours of eating garlic.

Now You Know...



Wise Division of the NMRA

Layout Available for Tour

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Best time to call _____

Layout Information

Layout Name _____

Prototype _____ (RR or Freelance)

Scale Z _____ N _____ HO _____ S _____ O _____ G _____ Other _____

Size _____ x _____ feet Height of layout _____

Handicap accessible? Y _____ N _____

Is there anything unique about your railroad? _____

Would you like to host an operating session for WISE Ops.? Y _____ N _____

If you are interested in having your layout on a layout tour or hosting a WISE Ops session. Please fill out the form and email to m Slater@wi.rr.com or mail to

WISE Layout / Mike Slater
 3317 97th St
 Sturtevant WI, 53177

\$\$\$ From the Cluttered Desk of the Paymaster

— Dennis Janssen

How Can I Tell If I Have a Hearing Loss?

Ask yourself the following questions. If you answer "yes" to three or more of these questions, you could have a hearing loss and might need to have your hearing checked.

- ◆ Do you sometimes feel embarrassed when you meet new people because you struggle to hear?
- ◆ Do you feel frustrated when talking to people because you have difficulty hearing them?
- ◆ Do you have difficulty hearing or understanding co-workers, clients, or customers?
- ◆ Do you feel restricted or limited when you have a problem hearing?
- ◆ Do you often think, "I can hear but I don't understand what is being said?"
- ◆ Do you have trouble understanding the dialogue on internet videos, movies, or in the theater?
- ◆ Does a communication issue due to poor hearing cause you to argue with family members?
- ◆ Do you ask people to repeat what they say?
- ◆ Do you think others mumble?
- ◆ Do you have difficulty hearing on the phone?
- ◆ Do you have trouble hearing the TV or radio and turn up the volume that is too loud for others?
- ◆ Do you feel your personal or social life is limited?
- ◆ Do you have trouble hearing your dining companions when you are together in a restaurant?

Adapted from: Newman, C.W., Weinstein, B.E., Jacobson, G.P., & Hug, G.A. (1990). The Hearing Handicap Inventory for Adults [HHIA]: Psychometric adequacy and audiometric correlates. Ear Hear, 11, 430-433.

Video Library Update

— Burnell Breaker, Video Librarian

Weather permitting, the Video Library will be available for checkout at the January 19 meet. Any DVD's checked out at the January meet are due back at the March 15 meet in Racine. We have many new titles in the library. Come check some out to watch on these cold winter days. Members are allowed to check out up to 6 titles at a time.

If you have not yet picked up your copy of the Division Membership Directory, please do so soon.

What's Going On with the WISE Youth Group

— Mark Hintz, Youth Group director, advisor, and chief engineer

Those of you with a keen eye may have noticed that the youth group layout was not at Trainfest this year. Conversely, others may not even know that the Division has a youth group!

Our youth group is open to anyone 8 to 17 years of age residing within the 7 counties that make up the WISE Division. We meet about twice a month, typically alternating Saturdays and Sundays, at the Waukesha County Gandy Dancers model railroad clubhouse in downtown Waukesha. We build and maintain an HO scale modular layout that goes to Fall Harvest Days in Union Grove and -- usually -- Trainfest. Any member who wants to may build a 2'x4' module and decorate it as he (or she) sees fit. Additionally, since the layout is regularly set up anyway, we participate in the WCGD open houses that are held every month or two. We also have an N scale T-Trak layout available for use or potential expansion.

Now, as for our layout's absence from Trainfest, we've had a few things that needed to get done for a few years, both on and off the layout that just... weren't. Additionally, Trainfest tends to need more volunteers, and our layout contributes every year to that pool of volunteers, so a decision was made that the layout would stay, and those who wished to participate would help out at the show. It turned out to be an interesting and educational experience, and some satisfactory progress was made on the layout.

Some new developments with the youth group include a couple possible "satellite youth group" organizations, at a school in Racine County and in Oconomowoc. Some coordination will need to be done, including the development of some tangible standards. It will be interesting to see how the youth group expands in the future!



All Aboard!
 Leave the Driving to Us &
 Attend the Mad City Show
 With Your WISE Friends

Saturday, February 15, 2020
 Arrive 9:00 a.m. Depart 2:00 pm

Ride the Bus

\$39.00 per Person

\$19.00 (age 17 and under with an adult)
 Price includes admission to the Train Show,
 Coffee, Soda, Water, Donuts and Snacks on
 the Bus Trip

Pick Up at Park & Ride Lots

College Avenue/ I-94
 (Southwest Lot—7:00 a.m.)

State Fair Park
 (I-94 & 76th Street—7:15 a.m.)

Goerke's Corner
 (I-94 & Barker Road—7:30 a.m.)

Sign Up and Pay at the
 January WISE Meet

Don't Wait and Get Left at the Platform!
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Art Oseland—raydenny1@aol.com
414-764-5375





WISE Division NMRA
Model Railroad Meet
January 19, 2020
12:30 pm

PUBLIC WELCOME — FREE ADMISSION

- 12:30 pm *Doors open and contest registrations*
- 1:00 to 2:15 pm **Dave Nelson presents "Building and Planning With Benchwork Dominos"**
 Famous model railroader Dave Barrow has shown in *Model Railroader* and *Model Railroad Planning* how he uses same-sized "domino" segmental benchwork sections to enhance the planning and building of a layout, and how the domino concept also makes it easy to make major changes in a layout. Dave Nelson will show how his domino segments are built, and how he used the domino concept to plan - and change - his layout. Note: domino segments are NOT modular; track arrangements and spacing are not made uniform as with Ntrak or similar modular systems.
- 2:15 to 2:30 *Break for Contest Voting*
- 2:30 to 3:30 pm **Dave Nelson presents "Crossings, Junctions and Interchanges"**
 The US rail network - particularly in the Midwest - is a maze of junctions as rail lines from competitors, or even from the same railroad, meet or cross each other at grade. Often interchange of cars between the railroads is part of those junctions, and the cars being interchanged can be of any type, including types not used by any of your own on-line industries. Dave Nelson will show prototype images of a large variety of types of junctions and interchanges, with particular emphasis on how junctions can be modeled, or simulated, on nearly any model railroad, even one which is "complete," and how they can enhance operations and provide a chance to use even more of those freight cars you have sitting in boxes.
- 3:30 to 4:00 pm *Contest Awards & Announcements*
- 4:00 to 6:00 pm *Layout Tour: To Be Announced*

Meet Location
Four Points by Sheraton Hotel
 5311 S. Howell Ave. in Milwaukee
BALLROOM ENTRANCE, SW CORNER, UNDER CANOPY



Bring in Your Best and Enter the FREE Model and Photography Popular Vote Contest
If you don't enter—you can't win!
 2 Entries Allowed, per Person, per Category

CONTEST CATEGORIES
 Photo Prototype, Photo Model, Model Diorama, Structures, Freight Equipment, Passenger Equipment, General, Non Revenue Equipment, Traction

AND DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE BEST OF SHOW AWARD!

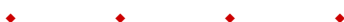
Jim's Tips and Tidbits

—Jim Kelly

Christmas! Where would our hobby be without it? My guess is would be quite a bit smaller and there'd be fewer nice products for us all to choose from.



One of my favorite features in the NMRA magazine is the autobiographies of those modelers who've won the organization's Master Model Railroader honor. I'd guess that well over half of these folks say they got started with toy electric trains that they received at Christmas. If you were born after the 1950s you probably weren't one of those lucky kids, but from the early years of the 1900s until about 1960, that Christmas train set was high on the wish list of many a lad (and a few young lasses, most of whom wanted a "real" train, not one with the pink engine that Lionel produced.)

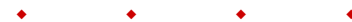


My American Flyer train set appeared under the tree about 1948 or '49, and was the best Christmas present I ever received, even though I'd been left of center on the naughty-to- nice continuum. I'd been begging for it but a couple of years and it required a

considerable sacrifice on my parents' part to buy it. They got it wholesale from my uncle Orin who owned a Chevrolet dealership in Blandinsville, Ill., and it cost them \$35, a lot of money in those days when farmhands like my father made \$50 a week. (They were also able to raise their own pigs and poultry, milk a cow, and grow a large garden, so we by no means lived in poverty, just didn't have much cash.)



Trains were expensive in those early years (and still are if you think about it.) Those early (and large) standard gauge trains usually went into the attics of large and wealthy homes. O scale made the hobby accessible for middle-class families, and N has made it even more so. In those days I only knew one other kid who had trains, and he had a large Lionel O gauge setup with those great Santa Fe PA warbonnets and streamline cars. His family was not all that well off so I suppose his dad must have been bitten by the trains bug also.



Here's hoping that you also have fond memories of trains at Christmas and have enjoyed the pleasure of passing on your love of them. It's still the greatest gift ever.



WISE Division of the NMRA
402 Dodie Drive
Waukesha, WI 53189-7425

CATCH THE TRAINS!

MadCity

53rd Annual

MODEL RAILROAD SHOW AND SALE

Sat. Feb. 15, 9AM-5PM • Sun. Feb. 16, 9AM-4PM
Alliant Energy Center, Exhibition Hall, Madison, WI

Four HO train sets given away each day!

Family Pak \$32

Includes two adults (regular or senior) and two kids (5-15)

Adults \$12 (16 & older), Seniors \$11 (65 & older)

Children \$6 (age 5-15), Kids under 5 FREE

Active duty military \$11. Two day pass \$16. Parking fee not included.

All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.



One of the Midwest's best model RR events showcasing beautiful model train layouts in Z, N, HO, S, O and G scale; classic toy trains; historical exhibits & railroad videos. Kids can build a giant wooden train layout or run or ride a model train. **300+ vendor tables** of model train merchandise including tools, railroad collectibles, videos, books, clothing and artwork. Hourly door prizes for adults. Kids, age 5-15, can register to win a train set!