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March 2020



From Your Superintendent...

— Mike Slater

Recently I was talking with a few 2-Rail O scalers about the NMRA and one of them made a comment “oh that HO scale group”. I don’t see the NMRA as just one scale. Our division has members that are into every scale one can think of from Z to the real thing. So why has the NMRA become known as an HO group? A lot of it has to do with what the membership provides for article content from the divisional level to the national level. I mentioned to the person that if they want to see something else discussed, they need to volunteer or write articles regarding their interests in the hobby. Otherwise, the organization will seem to represent only one or two scales as its main focus.

With that in mind, it got me thinking. Over 70 years ago, what scale was the primary focus of discussion in the hobby in the NMRA? It was probably O scale, and the HO scale guys probably said “oh the NMRA is for those O scale guys”. It makes one think what happened? What happened was the hobbyists who were in the less popular scales started writing articles about the new scale. From those articles, it may have converted some, while others may of seen the articles and then decided to join the NMRA since they saw it not as just a one scale group. Over time HO scale became the popular scale, not just in North America but worldwide..... so the articles became focused on that popular scale.

The NMRA gives anyone, modeling in any scale, interest to improve their hobby..... It allows one to tell others of their interests, allows others to help others advance in their hobby..... It does not matter if you are a prototype modeler, or someone who enjoys to run toy trains..... We all need the same basic information to get started in this great hobby. So please take the time to pick up that magazine that is not in the scale you model and flip through it. Who knows you may find an interesting article that will help you out in the hobby. Look at the other layouts in other scales at the shows, maybe even attend a show or convention in a scale you are not interested in. You never know where that next idea will come from for your model railroad.

WiseOPs Update

— Andy Greco

WiseOPs is scheduled for April 17 & 18, 2020. Nine great layouts will be open Friday evening and all day Saturday. Registration will begin around March 21st. For more information, go to the website: <http://hebners.net/wiseop20/>.

Trainfest® Update

America's Largest Operating Model Railroad Show.

— Mike Slater

Planning work continues for Trainfest 2020. Dennis Janssen and I have talked and met with both of the marketing firms that submitted proposals, and each firm has their strong points. Final selection will be at the February WISE Board of Directors meeting. We will update the membership in the April Owl Car.

We will also be placing our own print advertisements in the trade and hobby magazines. This will give us better control of the budgeted funds we use to advertise Trainfest.

One last thing as it relates to Trainfest. We have decided to discontinue the production and selling of the annual Trainfest model car that was themed to “Celebrate a Railroad”. The costs associated with producing a “short run” of these cars made the potential selling price unrealistic. This, coupled with the poor sales the last two years have made it hard to continue this. This year, Micro Trains is planning on producing a N Scale MoPac freight car that will be available through your favorite Micro Trains Dealer, so support your Dealer!!!!

WISE Board Elections

Included in this issue of the Owl Car is our annual election ballot for board members. Two Board Director positions are currently open. All current members of the NMRA WISE Division are eligible to vote. Please complete your ballot (make sure to include your NMRA membership number) and return it so it is received no later than April 10th. The ballot is a self mailer—simply fold in thirds, tape the three open sides and include a first class stamp. Results of the election will be announced at the April Meet and Annual Meeting.

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WISE Division NMRA
Model Railroad Meet
March 15, 2020
1:00 pm (Note Time)

PUBLIC WELCOME — FREE ADMISSION

1:00 pm	<i>Doors open and contest registrations</i>
1:30 to 2:00 pm	We will see a Slide program from the camera lens of the late Lonnie Mayves. Lonnie worked for the Milwaukee Road starting out in the Janesville area, later working out of Portage, Milwaukee and lastly working the Sturtevant Patrol until retirement. This program is of never seen photos Lonnie took, many while he was on the job.
2:00 to 2:15	<i>Break for Contest Voting</i>
2:15 to 3:30 pm	We will have author Jerry Pyfer who just released a book on the Milwaukee Road's Racine & Southwestern Division. Jerry hired on to the Milwaukee Road in 1971 and worked the Racine & Southwestern Division for the last decade the line was a thru route. The R&SW linked the railroad's hometown of Milwaukee, Wis., with the Mississippi River at Savanna, Ill. Jerry will share stories of Midwestern railroading combined with his colorful photography. Climb aboard with Jerry as he covers the entire division. If you purchased his book, bring it along to get autographed. Jerry will also bring some copies of the book for purchasing, or you may purchase a copy of the book through one of your favorite retailers.
3:30 to 4:00 pm	<i>Contest Awards & Announcements</i>
4:00 to 6:00 pm	<i>Layout Tour: To Be Announced</i>

Special Meet Location
Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church
1700 S. Green Bay Road, Racine, WI



**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!

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, March 11th 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.

Video Library Update

— Burrell Breaker, Video Librarian

The Video Library will be available for check out at the March 15 meet in Racine. There will be four new Model Railroader Video Plus DVD's available for check out at the March meet.

ALL DVD'S MUST BE RETURNED BY THE APRIL 19 WISE MEET.

Did You Know???

- ⇒ Trains in Japan have been designed to bark like a dog and snort like a deer to scare deer away from the tracks in a bid to reduce the number of animal deaths on the railway line.
- ⇒ In 1896 Auburn ROTC cadets greased the skids of a railway track before a football game. The train with the incoming team couldn't stop and slid halfway to the next town, forcing them to walk 5 miles to the game possibly contributing to their 45-0 loss.
- ⇒ Some train wheels used to be made of paper for a quieter ride, but they were eventually banned for safety reasons

Now You Know...

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 the editor.

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Upcoming Division Events

- March 15, 2020—WISE Division Meet**
Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church, Racine, 1:00 pm (*Note time*)
- April 17-18, 2020 – Spring WiseOPs Operating Weekend**
<http://hebners.net/wisep20/>
- April 19, 2020—WISE Division Meet and Annual Meeting**
Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport, 12:30 pm
- *May 3, 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

- 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
- October 8-11, 2020 — Missouri Pacific Historical Society**
2020 Convention, Branson, MO
www.mphs.org

MadCity Bus Trip Highlights

The Division headed to Madison on Saturday, February 15th for our annual visit to the 53rd MadCity Train Show. Twenty-one WISE members took the trip and met up with other members who decided to drive for the day. The MadCity show is hosted by the South Central Wisconsin Division of the NMRA.

There was plenty of buying activity and some great layouts and displays, many that are also at Trainfest each year. We departed the show at 1:00 pm and started a tour of three great layouts on the west side of the Madison area. Below are photos from the show. Additional photos from the layout tours can be found on Page 7 of the Owl Car.



SCWD Volunteers (L. to R.) Ewing Rowe, Bill Weber, Mike Vivion & Bob McGeever



Bus Trip to DuPage... Great Midwest Train Show Sunday, May 3, 2020

You can register for our annual bus trip to Wheaton, IL for the Great Midwest Train Show at the March and April WISE Meets. Cost is \$39 per person (\$16 for Age 17 and under accompanied by an adult). Price includes bus trip, coffee, soda, water and donuts on the bus, admission to the show and layout tours on the way home.

This year we will be touring two layouts—The Prairie Scale Model Railroad Club in Lombard, IL and the Valley Model Railroad Club in South Elgin, IL.

Departure is at 8:00 am from the College Avenue South-west Park & Ride lot on I-94 near the airport. For more information on the trip and tours, see Art Oseland at either the March or April Meets or at raydenny1@aol.com or 414-764-5375.



2020 WISE Division Board Elections—Official Ballot

Note: All ballots *must be mailed* to:

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

VOID

All ballots must be **received by April 10, 2020 and include your Name and NMRA Member # for verification.** Vote for no more than two candidates for the Board of Directors.

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

Article IV, Membership and Dues, of the NMRA Regulations includes the following provision in Section 2:

“B. Each member in the above classes, including Honorary Life Member, shall have the right to:”

“4. Except for Family Members; and Sustaining and Corporate Members other than individuals, the right to vote and run for elective office in any Region or Division of which the member is a resident member, subject to any qualifications and conditions”

Member Name (please print) _____

NMRA Member # (required) _____

THIS BALLOT IS A RETURN MAILER—FOLD, ADD 1ST CLASS STAMP AND TAPE ALL 3 OPEN SIDES TO ALLOW FOR PROPER MAIL HANDLING

WISE DIVISION NMRA BOARD DIRECTOR (Vote for TWO ONLY)

- Gary Children:** Candidate for WISE Division Board of Directors
- Andy Greco:** Candidate for WISE Division Board of Directors
- Mark Hintz:** Candidate for WISE Division Board of Directors
- Write in Candidate for Board of Directors (must be NMRA Member) _____
- Write in Candidate for Board of Directors (must be NMRA Member) _____

VOID

Vote for no more than TWO Board of Director Candidates

Fold Here FIRST

VOID

DAVE NELSON
ATTN: WISE DIVISION ELECTION COMMITTEE
1506 EAST FOX LANE
FOX POINT, WI 53217

Fold Here SECOND

VOID

MadCity Layout Highlights

If you did not take the bus trip to the MadCity Train Show you missed out on the opportunity to tour 3 great layouts. Our first stop was Phil Hottmann's Knob Creek RR (KCRR). Second on the tour was Don Mayo's freelance Happy Valley RR (HVRR). Last stop for the day was Bill Clancy's Rio Grande Pacific (RGP). Our thanks to the hosts for providing this great opportunity to fill out our day in Madison. Enjoy pictures from the tour. All three layouts featured many detailed dioramic scenes. Photos are coded with the initials noted above.



Don Mayo



Phil Hottmann & Tom Mabie



HVRR



HVRR



HVRR



HVRR



Bill Clancy gives an overview of the RGP.



HVRR



KCRR



KCRR



KCRR



RGP



KCRR



KCRR



KCRR



RGP



RGP



RGP Control Panel/Dispatcher Desk



RGP



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

**BALLOT ENCLOSED
RESPOND BY APRIL 10TH**

Come one, come all! Join in the Fun!

Midwest Region Convention

Peoria Rocket 2020

May 14-17, 2020

Keep watching peoriarocket2020.org for more information

**Clinics
Layout Tours
Operating Sessions
Model Contests
Displays
Experts in Model Railroading
Regular People, too!**

Quilting with the Linus Project



Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites East Peoria
101 Holiday Dr. East Peoria, IL
ReservationCounter.com: 309-698-3333