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February 2018

## WISEops is on the Calendar

— Joe Russ

This year's annual operating weekend is scheduled for April 6-8, 2018. Get a chance to see and operate the layouts of your fellow WISE members. So far there are ten layouts participating ranging from N, HO and three-rail O gauge. Sessions each run about 3 hours. If you have not operated a model railroad in the past don't worry. Each session is a learning experience, even for the experienced operators, and even if you are a novice, you will get plenty of help from your operating team. Sessions are currently planned as follows:

Friday, April 6: 7pm—10 pm  
Saturday, April 7: 9am—Noon, 2pm—5pm, 7pm—10pm  
Sunday, April 8: 9am—Noon

Operate for one session or the entire weekend. Registration will start around March 1st (watch for an e-mail and check the Division's website and Facebook page for the exact day registration starts). Like last year, everyone can register from the beginning, however, NMRA members will receive preference for the first five days. So if you like to operate on different layouts, be sure to save the date for WISEop 2018.

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NMRA  
Midwest Region  
Convention  
April 13-15, 2018

You still have time to take advantage of early registration discounts for this year's Midwest Region Convention in Madison. It is being held at the Radisson Hotel on the South Beltline near West Towne Mall. Clinics and operating sessions are planned for Friday evening and the clinics continue Saturday morning. Saturday also features more operating sessions and layout tours in the afternoon. The banquet is planned for Saturday evening with keynote speaker Tony Koester from Model Railroader magazine. Additional layout tours are available on Sunday.

There will also be a photo and model contest during the event. If you are going to enter, please complete an NMRA Form 901 prior to the conference to save time. The form is available on the NMRA website. Early registration ends March 31, 2018. A registration form is included on Page 7 of this month's Owl Car For more up-to-date information check out the website at: [www.nmra-scwd.org](http://www.nmra-scwd.org)



### Want to Attend the Mad-City Train Show?

*(Leave the driving to us!)*

We still have room on the bus to the Mad-City Train Show in Madison. We depart Saturday, February 17, 2018 from 3 convenient locations. Fare is \$37 per person which includes the ride, admission to the show and complimentary coffee and donuts on the coach bus. The cost for persons 17 years old or younger is \$15 per person. Pick-up locations:

- ◆ 7:00 am— College Avenue Park & Ride, Southwest Lot
- ◆ 7:15 am— State Fair Park, Park & Ride Lot, I-94 and 76th Street
- ◆ 7:30 am— Goerke's Corner Park & Ride, I-94 and Barker Road

For more information contact Art Oseland at 414-764-5375 or e-mail him at [raydenny1@aol.com](mailto:raydenny1@aol.com). **Cash or check made out to the WISE Division of NMRA must be presented at boarding on Saturday unless you have paid in advance to Art.**

## Notes from the Super's Desk...

We had another great contest room at the January meet, three great clinics and our first Facebook Live streamed clinic - What a kickoff to the new year! Well done and thank you to all those involved in organizing, attending, bringing entries and dedicating their time to present great information.

You'll see the results of the contest later on (in full color if you're reading this digitally). With 25 entries and 8 contested categories voting was not easy! Start prepping for the March meet so we can keep the ball rolling.

Staying with contests for another moment I'd like to thank Mike Slater, Ted Zeiger and Ed Varick (and if I missed anyone my apologies) for answering the call to staff the contest room. To keep things fair I did the tally but they did the work. Thank you very much for your help so the contest could go on.

The first Trainfest Committee meeting was held on Thursday the 25th of January with some of the Board in attendance. It certainly was a packed room! See below for more.

### **Events in February, March, April and August:**

A WISE Bus Trip, a WISE Meet, the Mid-west Region Convention, WISE Ops, the WISE Meet & Annual Meeting and the National Convention. This spring and summer is already shaping up to be busy if you want to be! In February the Division will be holding its regular bus trip to the Mad City show in Madison on Saturday the 17th. The March meet will be at the same physical location (though newly renamed Four Points Sheraton) as our previous meets this season.

This year's Midwest Convention will be in Madison so take advantage of it's close proximity for either a day or the whole event. Our April meet will also be the Annual Meeting. As a member of the WISE Division please come! The 2018 National Convention in August (8/5-8/12) in Kansas City, MO. While someone could fly there you can also ride Amtrak's Southwest Chief right into the city. Between the clinics and the show, you might forget to do some railfanning.... Well maybe.

As always please email me if you have any questions at [wisedivision@gmail.com](mailto:wisedivision@gmail.com) otherwise I look forward to seeing you around town!

—Pete

## Video Library News

— Burnell Breaker

DVD's will NOT be checked out or returned during the February 17 bus trip to the Mad City Train Show. Your Video Librarian will be out of town for a family event.

The DVD Video Library will be available for check out at the March 18 meet. We now have transferred all Division VHS tapes to DVD's for all to be available for viewing.

**ALL DVD'S MUST BE RETURNED BY THE APRIL 22 WISE MEET.**

## Jim's Tips and Tidbits

—Jim Kelly

Many years ago John Coots, founder of SS Limited and later N Scale of Nevada, gave me a great tip on cementing cast pewter parts together.

He recommended swishing them in acetone first and then cementing them with CA. I tried it and it works great. I think it clears pores in the metal surfaces and lets the cement penetrate and lock in.



Winter time is "track kinks" time, at least if you live in Wisconsin and have a basement that is less than perfectly climate-controlled. The winter air in my basement goes as low as 30 percent humidity and this causes the plywood sub-roadbed to shrink. It takes only a little shrinkage to cause a kink in the rails. Dennis Janssen recently e-mailed me a photo of a kink on his layout. He uses Homasote roadbed which is also, indirectly, a wood product. It's made from recycled newsprint, which is made from pulpwood. To remove kinks you can wait for spring or relieve the pressure by gapping the rails. The best solution is to preempt the problem by gapping the rails as you lay track. Also avoid soldering rail joints so the rail has room to breathe.



When real railroad equipment is removed from service it is white-lined, that is to say, a white line is drawn through its road number. Years ago a modeler I know had done what many do and decaled his wife's name on the side of his elegant observation car. After twenty-some years together she asked for a divorce, and sure enough the next time his operators came around the car had been white-lined.

## Trainfest 2018 Planning Underway

— Ken Jaglinski

The Trainfest Committee kicked off its planning for the 2018 event on January 25th with a meeting at the offices of Mercury Communications, their marketing partner. This year's event will once again be held at the Expo Center at Wisconsin State Fair Park on the weekend of November 10-11, 2018.

After coming off a successful year in 2017, no major changes are planned for 2018. Ticket prices will remain the same as well. The featured road for "Celebrate a Railroad" this year is the Great Northern. The Burlington is committed for 2019 and the Wisconsin Central and Green Bay & Western are under consideration after that.

Trainfest is recognized as being the largest operating railroad show in the country and we, as a Division of NMRA, should be proud of that label. The event is a teaching tool for the public regarding trains and provides an opportunity for modelers to see new products and learn new techniques. But it takes a lot of work to put this show together. If you have not been able to volunteer to help the Division at Trainfest in the past, please consider helping us out this year. Please contact Ken Jaglinski, Trainfest Chair, at [ken@trainfest.com](mailto:ken@trainfest.com). Your volunteer time will be truly appreciated.



## Upcoming Division Events

**February 17, 2018—Bus Trip to Mad City Train Show\***

**March 18, 2018—Division Meet**

Four Points Milwaukee Airport, 12:30pm

**April 22, 2018—Division Meet & Annual Meeting**

Four Points Milwaukee Airport, 12:30 pm

**April 6-8, 2018—WISEops 2018**

**May 6, 2018—Bus Trip to DuPage County Swap Meet\***

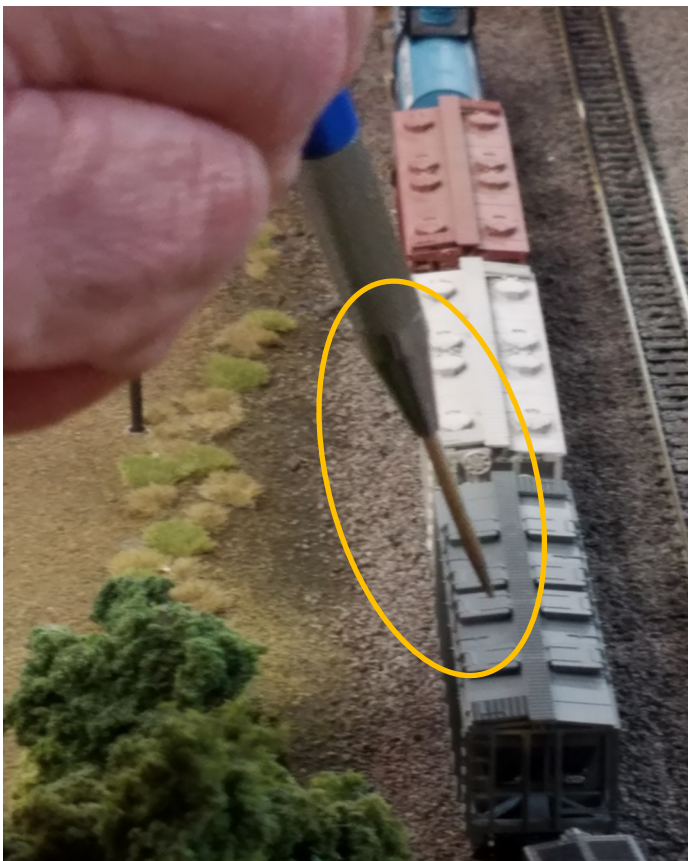
*\* Denotes extra fare event*

*For more event details go to our website:*

[WWW.WISEDIVISION.ORG](http://WWW.WISEDIVISION.ORG)

## Need a Great Personal Uncoupling Tool?

Many of us are regular attendees at operating sessions hosted by fellow modelers. The critical tool for most jobs is an uncoupling "Pick". Dan Sylvester of Waukegan, IL comes well prepared with this draftsman's mechanical pencil holding a round toothpick. Sounds too simple to be true but it works great and you develop a nice reliable touch.



## Upcoming National And Regional Events

**January 20—March 18, 2018—Mitchell Domes Exhibit**

*Railroad to Wonderland, Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

[www.milwaukeehomes.org](http://www.milwaukeehomes.org)

**February 17-18, 2018—Mad City Train Show**

*Alliant Energy Center, Madison, Wisconsin*

*(you can join other WISE Division members on the bus on Saturday)*

<https://www.nmra-scwd.org>

**March 11, 2018—Metro Model Railroad Club Annual Show**

*Circle B Recreation, Cedarburg, WI; 9am-4pm*

[www.metroclub.org](http://www.metroclub.org)

**March 17-18, 2018—La Crosse & 3 Rivers Model RR Show**

*Omni Center, - 255 Riders Club Road, Onalaska, WI*

*Saturday 9am—5pm Sunday 10am—4pm*

**March 24, 2018—28th Annual Model Train Swap Meet**

*Fox Valley National Guard Armory, Appleton; 9am—3pm*

**April 13-15, 2018—Midwest Regional Meet**

*Capitol 400, Madison, Wisconsin*

*Registration form included on Page 7 of Owl Car*

*More information on the Convention website*

*at: <https://www.nmra-scwd.org/capitol-400.html>*

**April 28-29, 2018—Tittletown Train Show**

*Veterans Memorial Complex, Green Bay, Wisconsin*

<http://www.ttsbllc.com/showinfo.html>

**August 5-12, 2018—NMRA 2018 National Convention**

*Kansas City, Missouri*

<http://www.kc2018.org/>

**August 10-12, 2018—National Trainshow**

*Kansas City, MO Convention Center*

<http://www.nationaltrainshow.org/2018/ntskc.html>

**November 10-11, 2018—Trainfest 2018**

*Wisconsin State Fair Park Expo Center, Milwaukee*

<https://www.trainfest.com/>

**July 7-13, 2019—NMRA 2019 National Convention**

*Salt Lake City, Utah*

<http://www.nmra2019slc.org/>



**WISE Division NMRA**

**Model Railroad Meet**

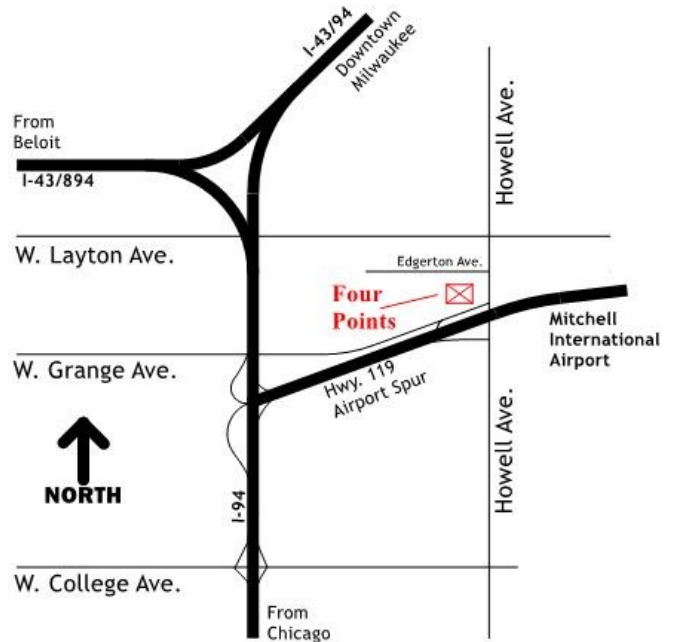
**March 18, 2018**

**PUBLIC WELCOME — FREE ADMISSION**

- 12:30 pm Doors open and popular vote contest registrations  
Until 1:30pm
- 1:00 to 1:45pm "Using Microsoft Office Programs for your Hobby"  
An overview of how to use the powerful programs  
Within Microsoft Office to enhance your hobby  
*Presented by Steve Miazga*
- 2:00 to 2:45 pm "Open Loads" *Presented by Dave Nelson*  
Open loads on flat cars and gondolas are not only  
interesting but represent potential modeling pro-  
jects.
- 3:00 to 3:45 pm "Industrial Buildings along the Right of Way—  
Railroad Customers"  
*Presented by Otto P. Dobnick*
- 3:45 to 4:00 pm Announcements / Presentation of Contest Awards
- 4:00 to 6:00 pm Layout Tour

**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**

**Meet Location**  
**Four Points by Sheraton Hotel**  
5311 S. Howell Ave. in Milwaukee  
(formerly the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center-MKE Airport)  
**DRIVE AROUND TO THE BACK AND USE REAR ENTRANCE**



**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!**

**Changes in Delivery of Your Owl Car Newsletter**

At the WISE January Board Meeting it was decided to begin distributing the Owl Car in a digital format via e-mail. This will allow us to use color and not restrict our content to fit a fixed number of pages. This will also allow us to provide more information on other events including registration forms.

The decision to make this change follows a pattern that has been done by other Divisions in the NMRA with great success. If you have received a printed copy of the Owl Car this month, it is because we do not have an e-mail address for you in your NMRA membership records. You will also notice that the copy is in black and white. There are only 33 memberships within our Division that we do not have e-mail addresses for which is one reason for the change. If you received a black and white copy by mail, you can still see the full color version on the WISE Division website. Better yet, if you provide us with an e-mail address, we can also add you to the electronic distribution list. You can do this by contacting your editor at: [sjmiazga4258@gmail.com](mailto:sjmiazga4258@gmail.com).

The WISE Board did not take this decision lightly and we want everyone to know that we are very sensitive to the members of our Division who do not use e-mail and need a printed copy in order to stay up-to-date on what we are doing. Feel free to contact any of the Board members if you have any opinions, pro or con, to share.

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## January Meet Popular Vote Contest Winners



**Best of Show** went to Mike Slater with his diorama "North Shore module". Shown above, this also took First Place in the General Category.



Shown above, Paul Schneble took First Place in the Traction Category with his "O" Scale Illinois Terminal #415 Street Car model.

Below is Mike Slater's First Place in the Passenger Equipment Category, Milwaukee Road Observation/Lounge "Coffee Creek".



The January Meet popular vote contest had a lot of participation and some first class modeling and photography was exhibited by the submitters. Here is a summary of the awards in each category.

**Best of Show:**

Mike Slater - North Shore Module

**General Category:**

1st: Mike Slater - North Shore Module

2nd: Dave Poquette - Northwoods Logging Train

**Freight Category:**

1st: Ed Varick - Gym Beam in transit

2nd: Dave Poquette - 40' CNW Box Car

**Traction Category:**

1st: Paul Schneble - "O" Scale Illinois Terminal #415 Streetcar

2nd: Mike Slater CNSM Coach

**Diesel Locomotive Category:**

1st: Mike Slater - GBW #316

2nd: Ed Varick - Work Train Engine

**Passenger Equipment Category:**

1st: Mike Slater - Milwaukee Road Coffee Creek

2nd: Ed Varick - Shortline Passenger

**Prototype Photo Category:**

1st: Mike Slater - KCS F at KC

2nd: Ted Zieger - White Pass Snow Blower

**Structures Category:**

1st: Bill Morey - Decrepit Factory

2nd: Ted Zieger - Graham's Cycle Shop

**Non-Revenue Equipment Category:**

1st: Ed Varick - EDRI Transfer Caboose

2nd: Mike Slater - CNSM 1004 Caboose

Each category needs at least two entries in order to be considered for a prize. There is no limit to your entries other than you cannot enter more than two items in any one category. First Place winners in each category and the Best of Show winner each received gift certificates to local hobby shops and retailers. Our next popular vote contest will be at the March 18, 2018 Meet at the Four Points by Sheraton. Remember, "if you don't enter, you can't win"!



First Place in the Diesel Category also went to Mike Slater for his Green Bay and Western #316 model.



## WISE Division NMRA Officers & Board of Directors

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Joe Russ—Assistant Superintendent

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Al Lederman—Chief Clerk ( Secretary)

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Dennis Janssen—Paymaster (Treasurer)

Reid Kahrs—Ex-Officio (Past Superintendent)

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Ken Jaglinski—Trainfest Chairperson

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Open - Layout Tour Director

Open - Clinic Director

Open - Picnic Director

**Website: [www.wisedivision.org](http://www.wisedivision.org)**

## ***Your Dentist May Be Your Best Modeling Resource!***

All of us have been to the dentist at some time and have seen the unique instruments that they use for cleaning and probing. The next time you are there for a visit, don't be afraid to ask if he has any old or damaged tools that you might have. My guess is that you will have a nice surprise and some great modeling tools for your future projects. *So just ask!*

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

—Dennis Janssen

This may be old news to some of you but an important reminder as we get near to tax time.

If you itemize deductions and take a deduction for mileage on your personal vehicle, you need to know about this.

The IRS has begun to enforce the rules on mileage. They insist that you document your mileage with:

- ◆ Destination
- ◆ Purpose of trip
- ◆ Date and time
- ◆ Number of miles driven

You may think you will never need this information. However, you might volunteer for an organization in which you use your personal vehicle such as Meals-On-Wheels and this is when it comes in handy.



## **Meet Your Editor**

— Steve Miazga

Welcome to my first issue of the Owl Car newsletter working as your editor. First off, I would like to thank Joe Russ for his years of service producing the newsletter for the Division. It truly can be like herding cats to put this together each month so I hope you will be patient with me as I take over the reigns.

My involvement with model railroading began like most of us with an American Flyer set on a 4 by 8 plywood sheet. Then came high school, college and the first job—times that did not include modeling. I got back into the hobby about 1974 while living in an apartment in Toronto—no space, so N-Scale was the choice. That started a 40 plus year involvement with modeling. My current layout, the Missabe Junction Railway is nearly complete and I began hosting operations on it last year. It is a freelance layout themed around the transition of the Soo Line Lake States Division, from the Maroon and Gold SOO days to the Canadian National.

Retirement this last June opened up the door to do more for the Division so I accepted the editor position. I spent most of my life in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, 26 years of which I owned and operated an office supply/printing business. So I am familiar with the tools used for digital publishing which will help with the editor's job.

My other railroad related interests include managing the Celebrate a Railroad program for the Trainfest Committee and I was recently elected to serve on the board of the Soo Line Historical and Technical Society.

As we move forward with the Owl Car, we will be very focused on providing a true value to our members. We hope to include modeling tips, best practices and more. As you browse through this issue you will probably pick up on what I am saying. If you would like to submit an article for the Owl Car, feel free to e-mail me with your idea. I am also open to criticism if you feel we need a change.

Finally, our intent is to move the distribution of the Owl Car to a digital delivery via e-mail, rather than the mail. For more information on this change check out Page 4 of the Owl Car.

## Capitol 400 Midwest Region NMRA 2018 Convention



**April 13, 14 & 15, 2018**

### Registration Form

**ALL FARES INCLUDE BANQUET**

Registration Type	Fare	Number	Total
Rail Early Full Fare (Must be received by March 31, 2018)	\$55		\$ 0
Non-Rail Early Full Fare (Must be received by March 31, 2018)	\$40		\$ 0
Banquet Only	\$30		\$ 0
Rail Full Fare After March 31, 2018	\$65		\$ 0
Non-Rail Full Fare After March 31, 2018	\$45		\$ 0
Non-NMRA members add \$20 for 9-month NMRA Rail Pass	\$20		\$ 0
HO Scale Illinois Central Special Run Box Car	\$20		\$ 0
<b>Total Enclosed</b>			<b>\$ 0</b>

Name For Badge <b>**PLEASE PRINT**</b>	NMRA Number	Non-Rail
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

Please indicate any special dietary restrictions for the banquet:

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING OPERATING SESSIONS

Operating Sessions will be held Friday afternoon from 1pm to 4:30pm and Friday evening from 6:30pm to 10pm. You can sign up for afternoon, evening or both. Indicate your layout preference—1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> for each session. See layout descriptions on the Operating Sessions page of the website: <http://www.nmra-scwd.org/operating-sessions.html>

##### Afternoon Session 1-4:30pm

\_\_\_ Bill Clancy Rio Grande Pacific  
 \_\_\_ Bob Wundrock RLD&M

##### Evening Session 6:30-10pm

\_\_\_ Bill & Rose Weber Union Pacific  
 \_\_\_ Ken Hojnacki & Peter Reinhold NYO&W

Crew assignments will be based on first received/first assigned. A waiting list will be created if needed. You are expected to operate; there will be plenty of opportunities to view the layouts at regular tour times. You will be notified of your assignment via email so be sure to include it below. The Committee reserves the right to cancel or change layouts.

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **Capitol 400**  
 c/o Keith Thomsen– Registrar  
 7202 New Washburn Way  
 Madison, WI 53719

**Make checks payable to: "SCWD Capitol 400" (No cash, please.)**

#### Office Use Only

Amt Rec'd: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Op Session Status: \_\_\_\_\_



WISE Division of the NMRA

P.O. Box 242

Butler, WI 53007-0242

## *Last Run on the UP & Western . . .*



The layout tour after our January Meet was held at Bob Frey's residence in Greendale. It was the final running of the UP & Western HO Scale model railroad that has been appreciated by many modelers and operators in our Division and beyond. Sad as it was, it provided Bob and his family great enjoyment over the forty years of construction and operations.

Thanks Bob for the memories and best wishes for the next chapter in your retirement.

