



May 2018

WISE Summer Bike Ride Planned for August

This year the WISE Bike Ride will be riding on the Hank Aaron State Trail. The trail is located in the Menominee River Valley and runs along the old Milwaukee Road yard tracks and takes the old right-of-way west to 123rd Street (due to the Zoo reconstruction, the trail is closed at 94th Place). The ride will be held on August 12 at 4pm. Food and refreshments are on your own.

We will start at the Milwaukee County Domes parking lot and continue on the Hank Aaron State Trail with stops where the old Milwaukee Road shops were located, Motor Restaurant and Purple Door ice cream. Since the CP yard is located in that area, I'm sure there will be some rail-fan opportunities as well!



For those who are concerned about hills, The trail does have a 3% uphill grade that starts just west side of the Miller park freeway and it can be avoided.

For more information about the trail or to download a map, go to <http://www.hankaaronstatetrail.org>. (Note: a State Trail Pass is not needed for the Hank Aaron State Trail.)

For more information or to sign up, contact:
 Dave Poquette
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Great Clinics Highlight WISE April Meet

Two great clinics led the agenda of our April Meet. The first clinic featured Jeff Otto of Oak Hill Model Railroad Track Supply. Jeff gave an overview of the products he sells and develops and this was followed by an interactive video presentation of Jeff hand-laying a turnout. The demonstration included a lot of "how to" tips.



Second on the agenda was Jim Wrinn of Kalmbach Publishing and editor of *Trains* magazine. Jim gave an overview on current activities related to steam in restoration as well as a quick glance at upcoming excursions. One highlight of the presentation was an inside look at the current Big Boy restoration being undertaken by the Union Pacific.

Thanks to both of our guests for their excellent presentations.

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Notes from the Super's Desk...

Thank you for a marvelous year. We've seen great participation and some changes. Since September we have seen a truly stellar set of clinics including: layout report, hand built turnouts, 3D printing, Sketchup, live tree building, weathering techniques, historical presentations on steam locos, buildings and fallen flags. Next we've begun enhancing our offerings by live streaming a few clinics on Facebook (where they remain afterwards for later viewing). The Owl Car has made the change to a primarily online, digitally distributed publication bringing the benefits of full color, an increased number of photos, and more space to share local and regional event news. The youth group is growing (hovering around 17 members) and has a variety of projects underway and another great Trainfest® (2017) is in the books and progress on 2018 is well underway.

Big changes come with some bumps, one of them has been the email distribution system we currently use. This is under review to either be replaced or upgraded, hopefully solving some of our growing pains. Others involve the camera choices available for the streaming attempts. Turns out Trainfest® has a great overhead camera setup (which Jeff Otto used in April for his hand built turnouts demo) that will help tremendously and a couple of members have offered higher quality cameras for recording/streaming upcoming clinics - now we work on improving access to the internet while in a hotel conference room to

maintain the feed quality.

Our group is strengthened by the commitment and engagement of its members. I'd like to thank and congratulate Dave Evans and Art Oseland for running, and being elected, to the Board of Directors for another term.

I started a count of how many people volunteered for our Division over this past year: clinic presenters, Division bike ride, meet setup & contest help, the Youth Group, bus trips, staffing tables, Trainfest® volunteers & committee members, Maker Faire®, Board members, etc.. My rough count fell between 60-70 people - and those are only the names I could find! I know there are many others who have stepped into a role for a few minutes or an entire shift or day.

It's in these moments I am reminded how well we can and do support each other and our hobby. Neither the above changes nor events are possible without you. Any attempt to write a thorough list of contributions will always fall short so please know that our Division is better off because of our members. Whether volunteering, attending or displaying work - you make our community better. Thank you for a great year and see you in the fall (or better yet at the upcoming Division Bike Ride this summer - stay tuned)!

— Pete

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Video Library News

— Burnell Breaker

A few members did not attend the last couple meets and were unable to return the DVD's they had checked out from the Division's Video Library. I will be contacting those of you soon to arrange picking them up. The Video Library will be available again for check out at the September meet. Have a great summer!

NMRA Achievement Program

One of our WISE members recently received three awards in the Achievement Program (AP). Steve Miazga received his Master Builder—Scenery, Master Builder—Structures and Model Railroad Engineer—Electrical.

The requirements for the AP program can be found on the NMRA website for those of you who want to pursue them. If you have any questions you can contact our Achievement Chairman Board Member Gary Children for more information.



From Your Editor

— Steve Miazga

Just a reminder—if you are reading a black and white printed copy of the Owl Car, you can view the Owl Car in full color and high resolution on the WISE website: <https://wisedivision.org>.

The next printed Owl Car will be published in mid-August prior to our September Meet. An electronic edition only will come out mid-summer. Don't forget to check out the railroad related summer events on Page 3 of this month's Owl Car.

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Upcoming Division Events

August 12, 2018—WISE Bike Ride

See details on Page 1 of this Owl Car

September 16, 2018—Division Meet

Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport, 12:30 pm

October 21, 2018—Division Meet

Lake Park Community Center, 12:30 pm
3133 Newberry Blvd, Milwaukee

January 20, 2019—Division Meet

Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport, 12:30 pm

February 2019— Annual Bus Trip to Mad City Train Show*

March 17, 2019—Division Meet

Oconomowoc Historical Museum, 12:30 pm

April 21, 2019—Division Meet & Annual Meeting

Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport, 12:30 pm

May 2019—Bus Trip to DuPage County Swap Meet*

** Denotes extra fare event*

For more event details go to our website:

WWW.WISEDIVISION.ORG

Waukesha County Gandy Dancers Host Open Houses

The Waukesha County Gandy Dancers will be hosting open houses at their club layout this summer and fall. Dates are August 4th, September 1st, October 6th and December 1st. All dates are Saturdays between the hours of 10 am and 7 pm.

The club layout is located at 831 N. Grand Avenue in Waukesha in the lower level of the building. Enter at the corner of Grand and South Street. Dates are subject to change so double check the club website: www.wcgandydancers.com. The WISE Division Youth Group layout is located at the club's space as well.

MLES Public Run Date Schedule for Summer

The Milwaukee Light Engineering Society has scheduled the following Public Run dates for the summer. The events are held at their railroad park between 11 am and 4 pm. Admission is free but donations are appreciated. Here is the summer schedule:

- June 10th, 11th and 25th
- July 9th and 30th
- August 13th and 27th

Additional Public events are scheduled for September and October as well. For more information and directions to the railroad park check the group's website: www.mlesrr.org.



Upcoming National And Regional Events Of Interest

June 23-24, 2018— East Troy Trolley Railfan Weekend

East Troy and Mukwonago, WI, 10am to 4pm

June 30—July 1, 2018— IRM Trolley Weekend

Union, IL

July 14, 2018 —Whiskey River Railway Day

Little Americka, Marshall WI, 11am to 5pm

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>

August 11-12, 2018 — Diesel Days, Illinois Railway Museum

10 a.m.-6 p.m.

September 14-16, 2018—Fall Harvest Days

Racine County Fairgrounds, Racine, Wisconsin

www.fallharvestdays.com

September 15, 2018— Kenosha Streetcar Day

11 am to 4 pm

September 21-23, 2018— North Platte Rail Days

Cody Park & Golden Spike Tower, North Platte, NB

www.northplatteraildays.com

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/>

Historical Society Meetings

May 17-20, 2018—CNW Historical Society

2018 Black Hills Meet, Rapid City, SD

www.cnwhs.org

July 18-21, 2018—Milwaukee Road Historical Association

2018 Annual Meeting, Olympia, Washington

www.mrha.com

August 7-12, 2018—NRHS National Convention

Cumberland, MD

www.nrhs.com

September 15-19, 2018—Great Northern Rwy. Hist. Society

2018 Annual Convention, Bellingham, WA

www.gnrhs.org

September 20-23, 2018—Soo Line Historical & Tech. Society

2018 Annual Convention, Stevens Point, WI

www.sooline.org

WISEop 2018 Highlights

— Joe Russ

WISEop 2018 was held the first weekend in April with seven layouts participating. Sessions were on Friday evening, Saturday morning and afternoon, and Sunday morning. We had 20 adult operators (five of which were hosts) and two youth operators (sons of participating operators) for a total of 22. While the participation was low, all had a great time operating on the N, HO and O Scale layouts. While we did not have pictures from all of the sessions, here are a few showing the fun had by all.



April Meet Popular Vote Contest Results

Our April Meet once again featured some tough competition and brought out some great examples of modeling and photography. Our next popular vote contest will be at the September 2018 Meet. A big thank you to all the entrants for their submittals. Here is the tally of the popular contest vote:

Best of Show -

Ed Varick for his HO scale scratch-built structure Legion Post at Oak Creek

Diesel -

1st Place: Mike Slater for his HO WSOR GP35 Bandit (former SP)

2nd Place: Asa Morey for his weathered HO BN GP9-M # 1709

Freight Equipment -

1st Place: Asa Morey for his HO scale "boat move" flat car

2nd Place: Ed Varick for his HO scale MGD custom tank car

Structures -

1st Place: Ed Varick for his HO scale Legion Post at Oak Creek

2nd Place: Bill Money for the HO scale Honey Shop

Traction-

1st Place: Andy Breaker for his South Shore Boxcab

2nd Place: Mike Slater with his CNS&M #250

Non-Revenue -

1st Place: Bill Morey for his custom HO scale Blacksmith Car

2nd Place: Ed Varick for the HO scale Power Car

General -

1st Place: Mike Slater—CNS&M MD Train

2nd Place: Andy Breaker—South Shore Line Interurban Train

Prototype Photo -

1st Place: Steve Miazga—"Plowin' the Way", Agawa Canyon Snow Train

2nd Place: Steve Miazga—"Not the Dolly Sisters", SOO 2719 and SOO 1003 at Osceola, WI

Model Photo -

1st Place: Mike Slater—CNS&M train at O'Dell

2nd Place: Steve Miazga—"Arrival"



Mike Slater's 1st Place in the Diesel category—WSOR bandit (former SP) GP35



Asa Morey's "Boat Move" flat car

April Layout Tours

N Scale ruled for the April layout tours after our Meet. Keith Schmidt hosted on his 12' x 16' freelance Midwest themed railroad. And then there was "Larry's World", Larry Pizur's 19' x 30' modern city layout. Enjoy the highlights in the pictures on this page. If you would like to host a tour at one of our meets reach out to any board member. Contact information is on Page 7 of the Owl Car.



Photos top, right and left from Keith Schmidt's N Scale Midwest themed layout. The Milwaukee Hiawatha passes the engine terminal in top photo.



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

— Dennis Janssen

On Sunday, April 22nd, the division hosted its annual meeting of all members.

I presented the financial facts for the past fiscal year, November 1, 2016 through October 31, 2017. It was a combination of our income and expenses along with how much money we had in the banks as of October 31. Included in the presentation was the annual budget for Fiscal 2018.

I think the presentation went well, there were several questions and the reports were accepted into the minutes by unanimous vote.

These facts are important to all members of the division and I urge you to save the date for April of 2019 so you can also participate and be well informed.

P.S. We also had great presentations by Jeff Otto and Jim Wrinn at this meet (see page 1).

"Larry's World" shown above, right and below includes a modern city with subway, trollies and an oil refinery. The layout uses Kato Unitrack for the track plan.



OWN THIS UNIQUE CAR



The Fox Valley Division of the NMRA offers a unique refrigerator car kit in HO scale. It is based on an original design by the late Master Model Railroader Don Cook. Cook Orchards was a major industry on Don's Great Northern Railway Spokane Division layout and he had many of these cars in service moving apples from the Washington State orchards to the storage facility

This is an Accurail kit made in the USA and the artwork faithfully replicates Don's original design. The kit includes decals for road numbers 100 through 156. **The cars sell for \$23 per car. Shipping and handling within USA: \$7.50 - one car; \$14 - 2 to 4 cars. Money order or check payable to: Fox Valley Division, NMRA. Please send orders to: Fox Valley Division Car Project, c/o Charles Rita, 331 Florence Avenue, Evanston, IL 60202. For more details, visit www.foxvalleydivision.org . For questions or international orders, contact website@foxvalleydivision.org**

Jim's Tips and Tidbits

—Jim Kelly

Back around 1978 when I was working at Model Railroader magazine, editor Russ Larson got a call from a gentleman who wanted to come in and demonstrate running the N scale Clinchfield project railroad with a computer. This kind of thing was quite interesting to Russ, as before coming to MR he had studied at the Milwaukee School of Engineering and worked for Collins Radio. Gordon Odegard knew a little about electronics but the rest of us were pretty much clueless.

The fellow arrived early one morning and spent four or five hours under the layout. This was before the advent of home computers and he was mostly setting DIP switches in an open-frame contraption. Mid-afternoon we gathered for the demo. A pair of Trix F-units started out slowly with about a 20-car coal train and gradually accelerated. It went faster and faster and then it was going way, way too fast. Gordy, who had invested his heart in the railroad, looked especially horrified. Finally the train started to slow and came to a stop, much to everyone's relief. Then, horror of horrors, it did the same thing over again, only in reverse!



Over the years new and smaller model railroading scales were introduced, from O to HO to N to Z. Each contributed much to model railroading because they allowed enjoying the hobby in less space. What contributed most to this trend was the evolution of small motors, adopted from other technologies.



Ever wonder why Amtrak can't run trains at over 200 miles an hour? Some model railroaders do it all the time.



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