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Fan Favorite Lives On

— Ed Varick

A perennial favorite for 25 years at TRAINFEST, Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces Railroad was retired by the club due to physical and personnel issues. Rather than destroy the layout, it was put up for sale, but no takers came to buy. It was then decided to donate the unique layout to some place where it could be seen by the public in the future.

Thanks to the "Country Springs Hotel", it has found a new home. It was accepted for their Winter Light Show. It will be on exhibit along with their G scale layout. So if you want to see an old friend again, come visit the Spectacular Show.



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Time to Pick Those Weeds!

If you use native vegetation as a base for your scenery trees and shrubs, now is the time to head to the outdoors and do some serious weed picking. Goldenrod, which is one of the best options for multiple shapes and sizes is perfect for the picking right now. And don't forget those perennials in the garden such as astilbe and sedum. Use your imagination as you walk the roadsides and fields. There are lots of shapes to pick.



The Head Owl Hoots

I'm baaack

Not something I was expecting, but here I am. For those who haven't heard, on June 25 Superintendent Pete Lakatos resigned. As assistant superintendent, I rolled into the superintendent's position upon the resignation. With my knowledge of our 45 of our 52-year history, I believe this is the first time this has happened in this Division.

A few days later, Contest Director Dave Evans also resigned.

Both resigned for separate reasons, and as you may know Dave was on a leave from the board as he took care of some family matters.

I would like to thank Pete and Dave for their service to the Division and the hobby. Hopefully they will remain active in other roles.

Fortunately, I was able to quickly fill those positions. Mike Slater volunteered to take on the contest director position, and his appointment was approved at the August board meeting. Jim Hebner has volunteered to take over the webmaster duties (a non-board position) from Pete and that transition is underway. Thank you to Mike and Jim for stepping up.

However, we are far from being out of the woods. On the officer side, we need to fill the Assistant Superintendent (vice president) position, we also need to fill the Chief Clerk (secretary) position in order to operate (thank you to Neil Michel for stepping in temporarily).

Then we are short both a clinic director and layout tour director, and have been for a couple of years. Right now myself, Steve Miazga (newsletter) and Dennis Janssen (paymaster) are filling those roles for this season, but that is NOT a long-term solution. We also need a membership director.

While the board has decided to roll through this meet season as is, if we don't fill the positions soon there will be changes to the Division. For starters, without a full slate of officers our ability to operate will be brought into question. Then, if we fill those, we still have board positions to fill. If we don't, I am proposing we go to two meets a year – fall and spring – with the later fulfilling our annual meeting requirement. We could possibly make them two-day meets. Bus trips, WISEop and the WISE Ride would remain as they are self-sustaining or low/no cost

events. And if we aren't having as many meets, and there is lack of interest in running the Division, then we need to question Trainfest. The show was originally created to fund the Division, but should we bother with all the work if we don't need the funds? It's not an option I like, but being Superintendent, and looking at current volunteer staffing, it has to be considered. Plus I have heard from too many modelers that they don't want to work for the Division or the show - they just want to come and run their trains. Remember, the Division runs Trainfest, not the other way around, and if we don't have the volunteers to run the Division, there isn't a reason to have Trainfest.

It's easy to think, "someone else" will do the work, but with membership down to 180 there aren't as many of those "someone else" as there used to be. Plus those running the Division are not getting younger, and some have served on the board for a long time and deserve a break (and time to maybe work on their own layouts). In short, it's your Division. If members don't want to step up, things will change.

I am setting a time limit of December 1 to have candidates to fill the positions in question. If we don't then I will propose to the board we start rolling things back for the 2019/2020 season. You have time (a few months) to think about it, ask questions and volunteer.

Thus we will be having an emergency membership meeting at 3:00 p.m. at the September 16th meet. I will present any updates and we can discuss the direction we want the Division to take on the matters mentioned above. I encourage you to attend.

In the meantime, if you are interested in a one of the vacant board positions, or have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me.

I'll end this column with some good news. Congratulations to Gary Children for being the recipient of the NMRA's 2018 President's Award for Service to Divisions – Midwest Region. Gary has been on the WISE board for at least 25 years so this recognition is well deserved.

Joe Russ, Superintendent

262-408-1946

jruss@execpc.com



Upcoming Division Events

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

November 10-11, 2019—Trainfest

Wisconsin State Fair Park Expo Center, West Allis, WI
Show hours each day are 9:00 am until 5:00 pm

January 20, 2019—Division Meet

Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport, 12:30 pm

February 16, 2019— Bus Trip to Mad City Train Show*

\$39 per person
\$19 (17 and under with an adult)
Includes admission to the show and on the the bus
coffee, soda, water and donuts.
Pick up at Park & Ride Lots

- College Ave. Southwest lot 7 a.m.
- State Fair Park I-94 and 76th St. 7:15 a.m.
- I-94 & Barker Rd. (Goerke's Corner) 7:30 a.m.

Arrive show about 9 a.m., Depart show 2 p.m.
More info contact Art Oseland raydenny1@aol.com
414-764-5375

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 5, 2019—Bus Trip to DuPage County Swap Meet*

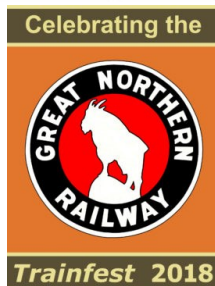
* Denotes extra fare event

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

Advance Order Your Trainfest Memorabilia

Trainfest is rapidly approaching. This year we are celebrating the Great Northern Railway. Contrasting to past years, there will only be a limited quantity of HO and N Scale models commemorating the Great Northern. So to avoid not being able to get your special car, go to the Trainfest website www.trainfest.com and place an advance order. You can also advance order the 2018 Trainfest pins and plaques.

There is another way to get your pin and plaque—just volunteer to work at the show and receive it free! Check in with Ken Jaglinski to sign up to help.



Upcoming National And Regional Events Of Interest

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/>

May 17-19, 2019—Joint NMRA Regional Convention

Joint meeting of Midwest and Thousand Lakes Regions
Days Inn, La Crosse, WI (see Page 7 of the Owl Car)

July 7-13, 2019—NMRA 2019 National Convention

Salt Lake City, Utah
<http://www.nmra2019slc.org/>

Historical Society Meetings

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

April 27, 2019—Green Bay & Western Historical Society

Annual Meeting & Banquet, Green Bay, WI
(Same weekend as Titledown Train Show)
www.gbwhs.com

May 30—June 2, 2019—CNW Historical Society

2019 Convention, Crown Plaza Hotel, Milwaukee, WI
www.cnwhs.org

June 20-23, 2019—Milwaukee Road Historical Association

2019 Annual Meeting, Envision Hotel, South St. Paul, MN
www.mrha.com



Gary Children Receives NMRA President's Award

WISE board member Gary Children was awarded the NMRA President's Award for his long time service to the WISE Division of the NMRA. Gary has served on the WISE board for nearly 30 years and is currently in charge of the NMRA Achievement Program. In addition to his service to the board, Gary has also worked on Trainfest, supports the efforts of Operation Lifesaver and is a representative to the NMRA



Midwest Division board. Gary was nominated by the Midwest Region for the award. This is only the second year that this award has been given. The

Congratulations to Gary and a big thanks to him from the WISE board and membership for his support of our programs.



Mystery Photo Trivia...

The photo below was furnished by member Mike Hurlburt and we thought we would challenge you all to identify the following information. Bring your answers to the September Meet to have a chance to win a gift certificate. Here are the questions:

1. In what year was the photo taken?
2. What was the Wisconsin event that the individuals were attending when the picture was taken?
3. What are they doing in the photograph (other than posing)?
4. Who is the lead person in the event occurring in the photo?

Bonus Question:

Who are the two persons in the photo on the left and the right of the lead person?

Good luck! You must have answered the top 4 questions to qualify for the drawing. You will receive one extra ticket for the drawing for each person you identify in the Bonus Question.



Mark Your Calendars!

— Ken Jaglinski

On October 21st the WISE Division meet will be held in a **new location** and will have a **new format**. The meet will be held in the **Community Room at Lake Park** which is located directly beneath Bartalotta's Restaurant overlooking Lake Michigan. There is a parking lot right next to the restaurant which has several spaces dedicated for use by the Community Room participants. Sign up will start at 12:30 PM and the clinic will start at 1:00 PM and run until 3:00. There are a few picnic tables outside the room that can be used for the swap meet. Please make sure to share your space. There will be no contest at this meet and when the clinic is over, we will have layout tours from 3:15 to 5:00 PM.

The clinic will be a **"HANDS ON"** event. We will construct a 2' x 8' backdrop for a HO scale model railroad. You will need to bring scissors, a hobby knife with a new blade, a straight edge and a cutting board. In addition to the above items, you can bring colored pictures of structures. They can be cut out of magazines, kit boxes, catalogs, or be blown up photographs printed on a color printer or pieces of commercially printed backdrops. They should be approximate HO scale or smaller. I will provide the rest of the needed materials.

Looking forward to working with you!

Video Library News

— Burnell Breaker

The Division's Video Library will be available for members to check out at each of our meets this season. We have a few new additions to the Library since last season. Members can check out up to 6 DVD's per meet, free of charge. You just have to remember to return them at the next scheduled meet. ENJOY!

A reminder to those of you who still have DVD's from last season, please return them at the September 16 meet. I will be contacting you before the meet to remind you.

Also, there are still a limited number of the Division's last membership directories available. One free copy per member.



WISE Division NMRA

Model Railroad Meet

September 16, 2018

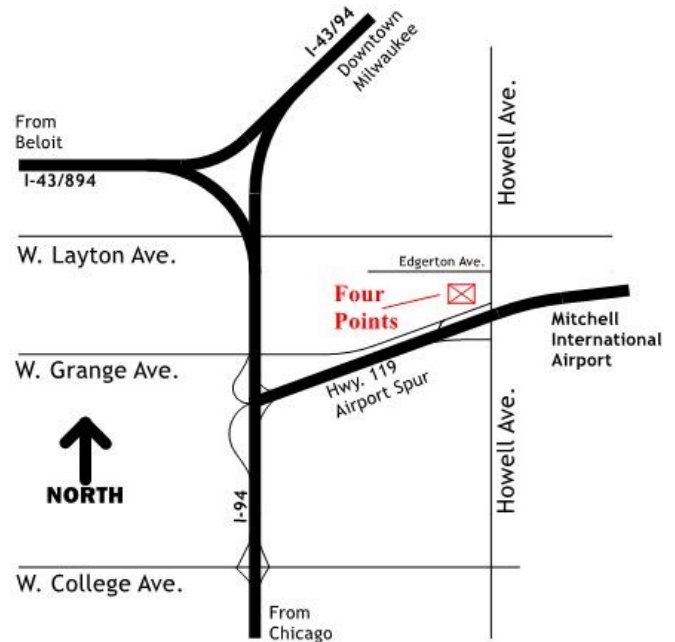
PUBLIC WELCOME — FREE ADMISSION

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 12:30 pm | Doors open and popular vote contest registrations
Until 1:30pm |
| 1:00 to 1:45pm | Adding Working Signals to Your Model Railroad
Jim Osborn, a member of the Fox Valley Division of the NMRA, will present a case study on how he implemented operating signals on his HO Scale CNW West Division Railroad. |
| 2:00 to 2:45 pm | A Historical Tour of MR Project Layouts
Hal Miller, editor of Model Railroader magazine will present a historical tour of the many project layouts the magazine has undertaken over the years. |
| 3:00 to 3:45 pm | WISE Special Member Meeting |
| 3:45 to 4:00 pm | Announcements and Presentation of
Contest Awards, Layout Tour to Follow |

**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!

Trainfest Update

—Ken Jaglinski

Trainfest 2018 is progressing nicely and this year we are celebrating the Great Northern railroad. We will again have HO and N scale cars for sale for this road as well as pins and plaques. As of this date we have received 170 applications for space. 59 are for manufacturers (9 new), 35 vendors (2 new) and 81 Layouts and Displays (10 new). We have had 10 manufacturers, 3 vendors and 11 layouts and displays decline to participate in Trainfest 2018 and we are waiting to hear from 14 manufacturers, 7 vendors and 7 layouts and displays who participated last year. If you know of someone who would like to participate in this year's Trainfest, have them contact me directly at kenj@trainfest.com to request an application.

This year we are receiving 1000 "Bridger" locomotive sets from a new manufacturer out of Japan, Fame Toys. So in addition to the Make & Take and Jr Engineer programs we will now have a STEM area where these sets can be purchased, assembled and tested. We have added a new member to the Trainfest committee, Lloyd Steiner, to handle this area.

The only way that Trainfest can be successful is with the help

of many **volunteers**. This year we are reaching out to youth groups to help staff the MLES riding railroad crossings. If you know of a group who would like to attend Trainfest in exchange for one hour of service per participant please have them contact me. In addition, we need **you** to help staff the show. Even if you are at the show working a layout or display you can sign up to work a session which will last approximately 45 minutes. There are many other places where people can help. So, if you are willing, please sign up through the website www.trainfest.com.

Tickets sales, clinic listings and the Trainfest Store are all up and running on the website. Local hobby shops will have tickets to sell by the beginning of September.

Remember Trainfest is your show. Let me or other committee members know what you would like to see in the future.

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

— Dennis Janssen

Prevent Elder Abuse: Recognize the Signs and Common Scams

No matter how careful you are, anyone can become a victim of financial fraud. However, older adults are particularly at risk. Those who commit elder fraud range from loved ones—family members, friends, or caregivers—to complete strangers. In its financial form, elder abuse is the exploitation of senior citizens to gain access to their property, investments, cash, or real estate. Learn about common elder abuse scams and red flags below. You could prevent a loved one from becoming a victim.

Common Scams

- ◆ **Grandma Scams** – "Hi Grandma! It's your favorite grandkid calling, and I need your help." Many seniors find it difficult to resist pleas like this and are more than willing to immediately wire money to their "grandchild" in need. The most important thing to do in this scenario is to verify the caller. Most scammers will plead with their "grandparent" not to tell anyone, but if you receive a call like this the fastest way to determine if the request is real is to contact another family member. Do not wire money or provide a credit card number until you've verified the identity of the caller.
- ◆ **"Free" Prize or Cruise Calls** – Scammers call to inform an elderly consumer that they've won a sweepstakes prize or free cruise—they just need to send a "processing fee" or "cover shipping costs" to collect their winnings or tickets. Sometimes, these callers go straight to asking for credit card or bank account numbers. The best way to avoid this scam is to simply hang up. It is illegal to charge a fee to enter a sweepstakes. If the caller says you've won a cruise, ask what cruise line is involved and then verify the contest.
- ◆ **Fake Charities** – This type of scam is especially popular after a well-publicized natural disaster. The scammer solicits "donations" and sometimes provides official-looking documents to prove the charity exists. When donating money, it's best to go through a well-known company and verify the organization or charity through the Better Business Bureau.

Red Flags for Abuse

- ◆ **Isolation** – The number one tactic used by perpetrators is to separate the victim from family and/or friends who would stop the abuse. Watch for victims to stop attending social events or even disconnect their phone line.
- ◆ **Changes in spending habits** – Drastic changes in account balances or unusually flamboyant purchases like cars and real estate are a sign that the senior citizen is not the person in charge of their finances. Keep a close eye on lavish "gifts" to new friends or acquaintances.
- ◆ **Unfamiliar names on joint accounts** – Sometimes perpetrators convince their victims that they will help them organize their finances by creating a joint account. In reality, this gives the perpetrator unlimited access to the victim's funds. If a senior citizen wants another person to manage their finances, they should use a Power of Attorney (POA) account instead, which puts a legal obligation on the co-signer to protect the elderly person's interests.

If you notice these warning signs, what should you do about it? Visit ReportElderAbuseWI.org for more information about elder abuse and how to report it. You can also visit the Waukesha State Bank website [Security Resources](#) page to learn more about other scams and ways to protect yourself.

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WISERide Bike Tour

— Dave Poquette

The WISERide took place on Aug 12 at 4PM due to the potential for hot weather which proved to be a good idea. It was 81 degrees at the start of the ride, down 5 degrees from the temperature at noon. Jon Dettman and myself were the only participants for the bike ride. We met at the Domes' parking lot.

The ride was 7 miles long traversing through the Hank Aaron State Trail. We saw the various historical markers of what was once the site of the Milwaukee Road Shops and ended up at the Harley Davidson Motor Restaurant for some evening appetizers. We did get some attention as our bikes were the only ones there that didn't have a motor! Enjoy some pictures of the scenes along our route.



Photos along the trail which follows the Canadian Pacific yards in the Menomonee Valley



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**



2019 Midwest Region and Thousand Lakes Region Joint Convention

The 2019 Midwest Region convention, will be hosted by the Thousand Lakes Region and held in partnership with the Midwest Region, on May 17-19, 2019. The convention facility will be the Days Inn, La Crosse, WI.

A tentative schedule is:

- Thursday: Registration, Contest Room, Clinic & Layout tours.
- Friday: Morning clinics, tours of Pearl Street Brewery, Dahl Auto Museum & Copeland Park Railroad display.
- Saturday: Clinics, Non-rail tours, 5 pm Happy Hour & 6 pm Banquet with a Chinese Auction.

Questions? Email Reid Kahrs, MWR Convention Chairman at:
rkahrs@charter.net

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Open—Chief Clerk
Open - Layout Tour Director
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