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October 2018

## Trainfest 2018...

What we have and what we need!

— Ken Jaglinski, Trainfest Committee Chair

Trainfest 2018, our 47th show, fills the EXPO Center at State Fair Park with 64 manufacturers, 36 vendors, 55 layouts (Z -3, N - 7, HO - 29, S - 2, O - 5 STD - 1, LEGO - 2, G - 6), 13 Historical Societies and 22 Displays. We have 30 layouts participating in the Jr. Engineer program letting kids of all ages operate on their railroads.

New Manufacturers to visit this year include Aero-Car Hobby Lubricant, Arrowhead Models, Central Valley Model Works, Daylight Sales, Dimensional Modeling Concepts, Hornby America, HummingWorks, Round 2 LLC, Speedwitch Media, The TrainMaster, LLC, Value Trains USA and Xuron Company .

New vendors are F Models, Muirwoods Reclamations, and Nace's Videography LLC. We also have 12 new Layouts and Displays. They are: American Steam Railroad, Circus Winter Quarters, Cream City Traction, Gulf Western Modular RR Society, Jansen Display, Mid-Continent Railway Museum, Midwest Historic Trains, Milwaukee Transit Archives & Museum, Niagara Frontier Region NMRA, Rhineland Railroad Association, SS Edmund Fitzgerald, and the Szukalski Layout. Make sure to stop by and welcome your fellow railroad enthusiasts.

This year's theme "Celebrate the Great Northern" includes a Historical Display and HO and N scale limited run Box Cars from Accurail and Micro Trains respectively.

The only way that Trainfest can be successful is with the help of many volunteers. **We need YOU!** Help guide future modelers in the **Make and Take, STEAM and Jr Engineer Programs**. Even if you are at the show working a layout or display you can sign up to work a one hour session. There are many other places where people can help. So, if you are willing, please go to the website and complete the volunteer form or complete the form on Page 6 of this "Owl Car".

**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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## Great Clinics Highlight September Meet

Our WISE Division September Meet featured two excellent clinics. Leading off was Jim Osborn, a member of the Fox Valley NMRA Division, who gave a presentation on how he implemented operating signals on his HO Scale CNW based layout. Jim's layout is built for operations and the signal system design was developed to insure smooth operations with minimal mistakes and conflicts.

Hal Miller, editor for Model Railroader magazine, then gave an overview of the project layouts that the magazine has built over the past 50 years. The pictorial presentation included details on why the different layouts were constructed. Of interest was the methods of construction which have greatly changed over the time period.

A big thank you to both gentlemen for taking time from their busy schedules to present at our Meet.



Jim Osborn (above) reviews the basic concepts which were the cornerstone of his signal system design. Hal Miller (below) begins his overview of the nearly 50 years of Model Railroader project layouts.



## The Head Owl Hoots

### Is this the last Trainfest?

Did that get your attention? I hope so, as that's not the way I wanted to start this column. The question about Trainfest is certainly something for members to ponder, as should what they want the Division to be, and that should be on every member's mind. Have we allowed Trainfest to get too big in that it drains the Division of resources instead of supplementing them (as it was originally intended)? Should we move our meets to a different day, or perhaps evenings? Should we bother with layout tours, once the icing on the cake for a meet, as fewer seem to want to drive to visit a layout or two after a meet? Do we go to an all-day layout tour instead?



Since my last column one member has come forward to offer to fill a position, likely the membership director spot. While that is greatly appreciated, again, he was only one. We need more and we cannot properly function with only two officers. We NEED a chief clerk (secretary) and assistant superintendent (VP) soon.

As I write this, we have a little over two months to fill those positions before December, and I am very concerned not so much that nobody has come forward yet inasmuch as no one has even asked what's all involved. In short, no one has shown any interest. The crickets are rather loud. When I have asked members who I thought would be good at certain board positions to consider it, I hear, "Well, I would but..." ...I'm waiting until I retire (I didn't know we were a branch of AARP). ...I'm too young (Really? In the lean years of the 1970s and 1980s many of our board were in their 30s and 40s). ...I'm too busy and want to work on my layout (that applies to all of us).

If everyone currently on the board, and the Trainfest committee, had that, "Well, I would but..." attitude, we would have folded up the tent long ago.

I have found you get out of the NMRA, and the WISE Division, what you put into it. Yes, it's work. Yes, there are headaches, a learning curve, challenges (I'm in a new one now) and at times, politics. But I've met a lot of friends I wouldn't have met by not being involved, had a lot of fun and learned a lot I wouldn't have known otherwise about the hobby. And even learned a bit about myself.

This is your Division. If you enjoy the meets, bus trips, Trainfest and other events you should consider stepping up. And some younger blood would be good, as they may have better ideas to help the organization evolve and with technology.

See you at the next meet, which will, by the way, have a contest area but not a swap room.

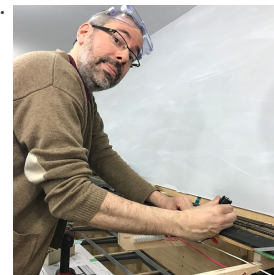
Joe Russ  
Superintendent  
262-408-1946

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

— Dennis Janssen

### Model Railroading - Try Just 15 Minutes a Day

Below is something I recently wrote on my [HO scale Kingston Sub](#)\* layout Facebook page. Hopefully it resonates with some of you.



*Last year, I hardly made it down to my model railroad room. It became more and more difficult to face what is supposed to be my favourite place in the world. Thinking about the gargantuan task that it is to build the Kingston Sub would just cause me anxiety as I was so rarely down there and progress was so slow. It also caused me to question why I was in this hobby and why I was in this business if I never actually worked on my layout.*

*I turned 43 last month and I made a birthday resolution to try and spend 15 minutes a day in my layout room. That's it - just get down there for 15 minutes. Sometimes I can't get there - the logistics just don't allow it, like getting home from work at 10:30 p.m. But sometimes 15 minutes turns into 45 or more, which is a bonus. In the last three weeks I have definitely been down to the layout for more days than I've missed.*

*WHAT A DIFFERENCE! When I get to work on the layout, even just for 15 minutes, I go to bed feeling I have accomplished something. I actually sleep better than when I don't work on the layout. It's reduced my overall anxiety. My wife has noticed a difference. No more existential talks before bed (much to her relief).*

*I'm no longer so worried about the end result of the layout. When you get to work on the layout every day it becomes all about the process and the little accomplishments on the way. The end result becomes less and less important. I still have to travel for work and on those days, working on the layout will be impossible. But I am going to try to continue this new approach and get down to the layout room for just 15 minutes a day when I can. And then I hope to be able to update the Facebook page in real time and not just a couple of times a year.*

*I pray that I will have the strength and persistence to continue this new tradition. It's had an enormous impact on my outlook and overall quality of life.*

*You can see my layout progress and join in the conversation by [clicking here](#)\*. You can skip directly to the layout progress photos by [clicking here](#)\*.*

\* \* \*

The author of this article is Jason Shron. He is the owner of Rapido Trains in Canada. It is very likely that you can meet him at Trainfest. This article is re-printed with his permission.

\* Jason's website is [www.kingstonsub.com](http://www.kingstonsub.com). Links in this reprint are not active.



## Upcoming Division Events

### 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](mailto: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](http://WWW.WISEDIVISION.ORG)



## Upcoming National And Regional Events Of Interest

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

Wisconsin State Fair Park Expo Center, Milwaukee  
<https://www.trainfest.com/>

### February 16-17, 2019—Mad City Train Show

Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI

### April 27-28, 2019—Tittletown Train Show

Resch Center, Green Bay  
[www.Reschcenter.com](http://www.Reschcenter.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)

### June 26-30, 2019—National N-Scale Convention

Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare, Rosemont, IL  
[www.NationalNScaleConvention.com](http://www.NationalNScaleConvention.com)

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

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

## Historical Society Meetings

### April 27, 2019—Green Bay & Western Historical Society

Annual Meeting & Banquet, Green Bay, WI  
(Same weekend as Tittletown Train Show)  
[www.gbwhs.com](http://www.gbwhs.com)

### May 30—June 2, 2019—CNW Historical Society

2019 Convention, Crown Plasa Hotel, Milwaukee, WI  
[www.cnwhs.org](http://www.cnwhs.org)

### June 20-23, 2019—Milwaukee Road Historical Association

2019 Annual Meeting, Envision Hotel, South St. Paul, MN  
[www.mrha.com](http://www.mrha.com)

### July 20-24, 2019—Great Northern Railway Hist. Society

2019 Convention, Fargo, ND  
[www.Gnrhs.org](http://www.Gnrhs.org)

### September 12-15, 2019—Soo Line Historical & Tech. Society

2019 Annual Convention, Lake Delton, WI  
[www.sooline.org](http://www.sooline.org)

## Jim's Tips and Tidbits

—Jim Kelly

Not long ago I learned that one sure way to find out how much something you want to sell is worth is to sell it on E-bay, or in my case have someone else sell it on E-bay for you. I had several dozen N scale Kadee and Micro-Trains 50-foot boxcars to sell, and as expected most of them went for \$8-\$9. Two, though, really surprised me. One went for \$111 and the other for \$130. That happened because these cars were attractive to collectors. Most Kadee/M-T cars are not particularly valuable, but the collectors have their catalogs and the experience to know which cars are hard to find and which ones they need to fill out their collections. Collectors keep an eye on E-Bay and if you've listed something valuable, they'll soon find it. You don't have to know what it's worth because they do.



Ever wonder why almost all railroad cars and many structures before World War II were painted boxcar red? It was a matter of economy. The pigment, iron oxide, came straight from the ground, was easy to treat and mix with a vehicle, linseed oil, to make very durable paint.

# September Meet Contest Nets Grand Slam!

Our first Meet of the year broke the trend that we had seen in the earlier part of the year. We had consistently had a lot of entries and competition in most of the judging categories. But whether it was attributed to the Packers or nice weather, the entries were sparse with the only competing models being in the structures category where Ed Varick and Ted Zieger went head to head, both with great entries.

Ted Zieger came out with a “grand slam” winning 1st and 2nd Places in Structures and Best of Show. Congratulations and thanks for your entries. Popular vote contests will continue at our October, January, March and April Meets.

# From Your Contest Director

— Mike Slater

As some as you may have noticed I was not at the last meet, I had other obligations in the hobby, however I want to thank those that submitted items to the contest room and for those that helped out running the Contest room. While I am thanking people I want to personally thank Dave Evens for his work as the former Contest Room Chair. In the past month since officially becoming your Contest Room Chair I have been working on ways to make the process go smoother for all of us, eventually I will have the form for entering items online, this will make things easier when entering, don't worry we still have forms on hand for those that wish to fill out their entry at the meet.

If you have not entered anything in the Contest room please consider doing so..... You will find it fun and rewarding..... Remember you will only get something out of the NMRA and the division if you put something into it.

*See you at the October Meet!*

## LA Junction Layout Featured at September Meet

The WISE Division was treated to a tour of Tony DeBates's LA Junction HO Scale layout after the September Meet. Located in Waukesha, this layout is built for operations and includes some excellent scratch-built structures with some unique switching scenarios.

On behalf of the membership of the WISE Division we thank Tony for giving us the opportunity to visit the layout. See some pictures of the layout below.



*Ted Zieger's "Jacks" (left) took first place in Structures and netted Best of Show*



*Ted Zieger's "Lumber Company" (right) was the second place winner in Structures*



*Ed Varick's entries of the Greendale Gazebo and the "Bits N Pieces" 25th Anniversary flatcar demonstrated some great modeling.*

## Railfan Alert...

The Soo Line Historical & Technical Society convention this year was in Stevens Point and included a tour of CN's local car repair facilities. During the presentation, it was mentioned that CN trains would be using "Air Cars" this winter on longer trains in Wisconsin. These cars have been used by many railroads for more than 10 years.

The CN cars are 40 foot boxcars equipped with a generator and compressor. The cars are placed mid-train to maintain brake line pressure during the winter months. So keep your eyes open—one car was in the Stevens Point yard painted orange.



## WISE Division NMRA

# Model Railroad Meet

October 21, 2018

**PUBLIC WELCOME — FREE ADMISSION**

- 12:30 pm Doors open and contest registrations
- 1:00 to 3:15 pm **Hands-on Clinic: Build a Backdrop**  
Ken Jaglinski of the WISE Division will take you step by step through the cut and paste techniques for building a backdrop (see article below)
- 3:15 to 3:45 pm **WISE Membership Meeting, Contest Awards**
- 4:00 to 5:30 pm **Layout Tours**  
*Two layouts will be open to visit. Don Drum's HO Scale Chicago and North Western System. This is based on the CNW Lakeshore Division, Ashland District. The second layout, Dave Poquette's, also features the CNW in the Green Bay area. Dave's layout is also HO Scale.*

**Bring in Your Best and Enter the FREE Model and Photography Popular Vote Contest**

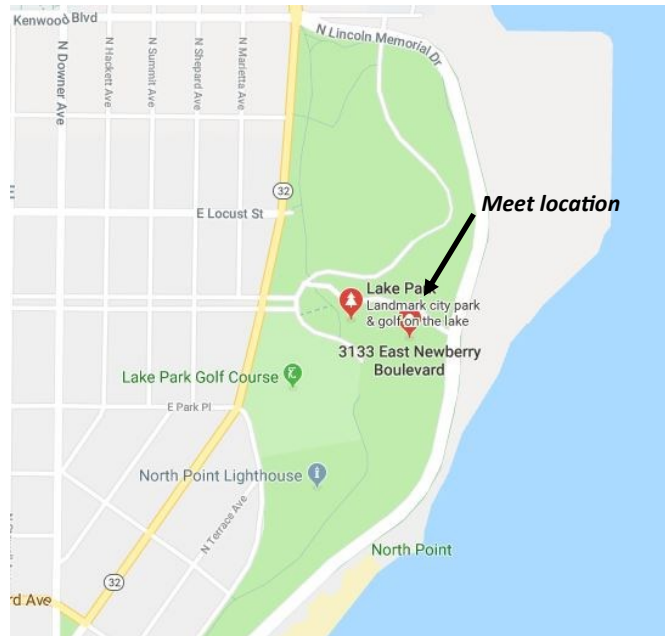
**If you don't enter—you can't win!**  
*2 Entries Allowed, per Person, per Category*

## Special ONE-TIME Meet Location

### Lake Park Community Center

3133 Newberry Blvd. in Milwaukee

((See Map Below



### 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!**

## Video Library News

— Burnell Breaker

The Video Library will be available for members to check out DVD's at the October 20 meet at the Lake Park Community Center. Due to space limitations, we will only have a portion of our library available at this meet. Any DVD's checked out at this meet will be due for return at the January 20, 2019 meet at the Four Points by Sheraton. I will not be accepting any DVD returns at Trainfest. We do have one new DVD from Kalmbach Video on the Rio Grande narrow gauge last runs in the 1960's.

Please remember to return any DVD's you have checked out at the next scheduled meet.

There are still a few copies available of the Division's membership directory, with one free copy available for each Division member.

## October Meet Details...

— Ken Jaglinski

On October 21<sup>st</sup> 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 3:15. There will be a contest but no swap tables at this meet and when the clinic is over, we will have layout tours from 4:00 to 5:30 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!

# 2018 Trainfest Volunteer Interest Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best way to contact you? \_\_\_\_\_

What days/times are you available to help (circle all that apply), note any specific time restrictions below:

Available:      Thursday 8am—3pm      Friday 8am—8pm      Saturday 8am—6pm      Sunday 8am—8pm

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you volunteered at Trainfest before?     Yes       No

If so, what years? \_\_\_\_\_

If you volunteered, what did you do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to:      Bob Henderson, Trainfest Office Manager  
7824 Pathfinder Lane  
West Bend, WI 53090

Questions: Call Bob at 262-692-6999 or e-mail rhender1@charter.net



## Modeler's Corner

— Steve Miazga

### Simplify your Terminal Wiring

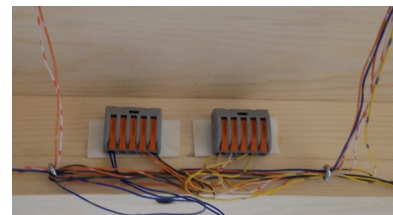
Assuming you are not running battery powered trains, at some point you need to provide power to the track and the accessories that make your layout come alive. The span of my hobby involvement is nearly 45 years and a lot has changed since the early days of DC block control with DPDT toggle switches controlling the power routing to each track block. Now, especially with DCC, you need a quality power bus with plenty of track feeders to insure smooth operation.

Up until several years ago, I was using large heavy duty terminal strips. These were bulky and fairly expensive. A couple of years ago I stumbled on a nifty little lever connector made by Wago of Germantown, WI. The specific connector I found works



like a terminal block with 5 lever locks to provide the power connection. The slots can handle up to 12 gauge wire, or if you use smaller gauge wire like I do on my N-Scale layout, you can easily connect up to 20 feeders with one lever connector. The connectors come in bulk quantity as well so you won't break the bank with your terminal wiring projects.

Wago makes a variety of pressure fit and lever style connectors that can really simplify the wiring process. Do a little research on the internet to find the best solution for your project. They are available at most home improvement and hardware stores, Amazon and E-Bay. With a little research you can find the right one for your wiring job. A typical track feeder connector block using the Wago lever connectors is shown at the right.



## 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](mailto:rkahrs@charter.net)

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