

January 2019



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

*(Leave the driving to us!)*

Join fellow WISE members on the bus to the Mad-City Train Show in Madison. We depart Saturday, February 16, 2019 from 3 convenient locations. Fare is \$39 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 \$19 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. **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.**

**March to Oconomowoc**

The WISE March 2019 Meet will be held at the Oconomowoc Historical Society Museum. It will be a special day as they commemorate the completion of the majority of the train layout. The group will also be hosting the clinics and layout tours at that Meet. Below is a summary of the last major project submitted by Harry Evans.

*"A few years ago we completed a major expansion of the Milwaukee North Western at the Oconomowoc Historical Society & Museum. At the time we talked of having a Golden Spike as we thought we had completed such a major area, but we never did have the event. Then in early 2018 as we contemplated what would be our next challenge, one of our members, George Robbins, pointed out there still remained a large area (Butler Terminal) that had never been reworked, and still wasn't operable, still a lot of brass track from 70 years ago, etc. We pondered for a bit and then decided "let's do it", and so the project commenced. What had once been the state of the art of model railroading still looked OK but also very tired and in need of a substantial updating.*

*We started on the Butler Terminal project in March, 2018, at least in terms of drawing lines on paper. Then a few months ago we were contacted by WISE to ask if we might like to host a meeting this year and March was decided for the meet. In preparation and in more discussions in our group, and in light of the UP/CP Golden Spike Ceremony at Promontory Point, UT, in May, 2019, it seemed fitting to attempt a Golden Spike of our own on the museum railroad as part of the March meeting. Getting the Butler Terminal up and running is our goal and we are more than half way there at this time. We are determined to be operational for March.*

*So...please come and be a part of the Golden Spike ceremony at the Oconomowoc museum. In addition to the Golden Spike there will be clinics relating to the railroad's design and operations theory. As typical for WISE meets, there will be the usual model contests and a swap session area."*

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## The Head Owl Hoots



Hi all,

I hope everyone had a happy holiday season.

A thank you to chairman Ken Jaglinski and to those of you who helped make Trainfest a success this year. Attendance was up six percent, and likely helped with the coating of snow we saw the day before the show.

Unfortunately, for some of us, the holidays weren't as happy this year as November was not a good month. Member Ted Zieger's wife passed away just before Trainfest, my mother passed away just before Thanksgiving and board member Burnell Breaker's father passed away on Thanksgiving. Our condolences to the Zieger and Breaker families, and I would like to thank those of you have offered myself your condolences and support.

See you at the meet on January 20.

Joe Russ  
Superintendent

## Jim's Tips and Tidbits

—Jim Kelly

### What's going on?

A lot of you may know that a Chinese factory closed its doors a few months ago and that has created a problem for our model railroad industry.

In short, that company manufactured products for just about every American company in the business, from the biggest, like Athearn and Atlas, to the smallest. There are other Chinese companies that manufacture model railroading products, but most American companies are scrambling to find new suppliers. This will take some time and we're going to be going through a dry spell when your dealer has fewer new items to sell. Obviously this is not a good thing, as new products whet our appetites for new projects.

I recently had lunch with Hal Miller, editor of Model Railroader magazine, and he had no news on this topic. Some manufacturers prefer to say little about it for fear of alarming customers. Others just don't have any news to report. Seems to me such information would be proprietary and you wouldn't want your competition to know of avenues you're exploring. Meanwhile we'll just have to be patient. Thankfully we N scalers still have our Micro-Trains and HOers have their Kadee, made right here in the good old USA.

### Why Milwaukee?

Ever wonder why autos were made in Detroit, Butterfingers were made in Chicago? Or why Milwaukee became the model railroad mecca? Sometimes industries are started because of resources, water in particular, but often they happen because of people that live there. Detroit happened largely because of Henry Ford. Butterfingers, Baby Ruths, and the Curtis Candy company were created by Otto Schnering (bet you didn't know that).

And in Milwaukee Al Kalmbach founded Model Railroader magazine in 1934. Bill Walthers had already been making model railroading products for several years and in 1935 the NMRA was founded right here.

### Banning black

If I had my way, no railroad would have ever painted anything black. I have an N scale Norfolk Southern engine and two Scale Trains carbon hoppers that are black holes on the layout. It'll take some careful dry-brushing and weathering to make them visible.



## Modelers Corner

— Steve Miazga

**GLUE...** While it isn't a glamorous item as it relates to our hobby, glue is probably one of the most basic and fundamental tools we need. The proper selection and use of glues has a major impact on what we construct, with bad choices not showing their incorrect outcomes sometimes for years. I enjoy scratch-building and scenery construction so I thought I would share my thoughts on some of the glues I use and for what. While space limits me at this time, let me know if you are interested in a more in-depth overview and I will be happy to put on a clinic at one of the meets.

- White glue—great for scenery especially when diluted.
- Yellow carpenter's glue—use for scenery construction such as roadbed and foam layers. This glue resists letting go when it gets wet from scenery construction. It is also my preference for scratch-building with wood.
- Styrene Welder—a must if you are assembling styrene kits or scratch-building. There are several brands out there; I am currently using one called *Flex-I-File*.
- Quick grab adhesive such as Loctite Power Grab. Works great for benchwork construction, foam scenery layers and more. It works great when you have to get something to set up quickly in position.
- Canopy glue—while it's primary application is for working with model aircraft glazing, it works great in bonding plastic/styrene to any other substrate, and it dries clear. Great for applying windows to buildings.
- CA (super glue) — most of us know this one. I use a medium set thick grade to give me work time. Use an accelerator spray to get it to set quickly.
- Woodland Scenics Accent Glue—probably the best glue for placing figures and features in your scenery—they remove easily!
- Walthers GOO — a great all around glue, but needs a little time to set up. Warning—don't use this on foam without testing first.

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Please send any comments, information, or editorials to the editor.

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### Upcoming Division Events

- January 20, 2019—Division Meet**  
Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport, 12:30 pm
  - February 16, 2019— Bus Trip to Mad City Train Show\***  
(See Page 1)
  - 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)



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Open—Chief Clerk  
Open - Layout Tour Director  
Open - Clinic Director  
Open - Picnic Director

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



### Upcoming National And Regional Events Of Interest

- 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*
  - May 10, 2019—Golden Spike 150th Celebration**  
*Promontory Summit, Utah*  
*www.spike150.org*
  - 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*
  - July 7-13, 2019—NMRA 2019 National Convention**  
*Salt Lake City, Utah*  
*http://www.nmra2019slc.org/*
- #### Historical Society Meetings
- April 6, 2019—Burlington Route Historical Society**  
*Spring Meet, Lyon Farm, Yorkville, IL*  
*www.burlingtonroute.org*
  - April 27, 2019—Green Bay & Western Historical Society**  
*Annual Meeting & Banquet, Green Bay, WI*  
*(Same weekend as Tittletown 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*
  - July 20-24, 2019—Great Northern Railway Hist. Society**  
*2019 Convention, Fargo, ND*  
*www.gnrhs.org*
  - September 12-15, 2019—Soo Line Historical & Tech. Society**  
*2019 Annual Convention, Lake Delton, WI*  
*www.sooline.org*
  - September 18-22, 2019—Burlington Route Historical Society**  
*2019 Fall Meet and Annual Business Meeting,*  
*Sandwich, IL, [www.burlingtonroute.org](http://www.burlingtonroute.org)*

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

— Dennis Janssen

### What You Need to Know About the New Tax Bill

It was supposed to be a tax bill that would substantially simplify tax returns and provide tax relief across the board, benefiting in some way all taxpayers. While it didn't quite get there as far as tax simplification, the Tax Cut and Jobs Act that was just passed by Congress does cut taxes for the vast majority of Americans. Just how much any particular tax payer benefits depends on a number of factors, including the amount of taxable earnings and itemized deductions, marital status, family status and the state of residency. For many Americans, the tax bill gives and takes through various provisions that, on a net-basis, results in less taxes owed. Here are some of the key provisions and the way they help or hurt taxpayers.

#### Lower Tax Brackets

Original versions of the bill sought to simplify taxes by reducing the number of tax brackets from seven to three or four. That was lost along the way to producing the final tax bill which keeps the number at seven, but many of the marginal tax rates have been adjusted downward. The top rate dropped from 39.6 percent to 37 percent and most income levels will be taxed at lower rates. The downside is that the tax brackets are now linked to an inflation index, which will push many taxpayers into higher brackets over time.

#### Double the Standard Deduction

Perhaps the bigger news is the doubling of the standard deduction from \$12,000 to \$24,000 for married couples (\$6,000 to \$12,000 for single filers). That is significant for taxpayers who don't itemize or whose itemized deductions don't exceed the lower threshold. These taxpayers are the most likely to realize a tax reduction.

For those who do itemize, the tax reduction could be much less and some could end up owing more in taxes.

#### Lower Mortgage Interest Deduction Cap

Under current tax law, the mortgage deduction is capped at \$1 million of mortgage indebtedness. The new tax bill lowers the cap to \$750,000 so, although it will affect more homeowners, it won't impact most. Homes purchased before December 15, 2017 will be grandfathered for the \$1 million cap. In addition, the tax deduction for interest on home equity loans has been eliminated except in cases where the proceeds have been used for significant home improvements.

#### SALT Deduction Remains with a Cap

The provision that caused most of the controversy was the elimination of the tax deduction for state and local taxes. Originally, the provision was to be eliminated altogether, but the final bill keeps it with a cap of \$10,000 of state and local income, sales and property taxes.

#### Personal Exemption Gone

Everyone loves the personal exemption – the amount each individual is able to use to reduce their taxable income. Families especially loved it because the exemption was available for each dependent. The new tax bill eliminates the personal exemption. With the doubling of the standard deduction and the larger child tax credit, most taxpayers will still come out on top.

#### Child Tax Credit Doubles and Access Expands

The child tax credit has been increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000. More families will qualify for the credit because the phase out has also been increased for married couples from \$110,000 to \$400,000. The first \$1,400 is refundable for people who owe zero taxes.

### Alternative Minimum Tax Still Here

One way the original tax bill was supposed to simplify taxes was by eliminating the alternative minimum tax. The final version keeps AMT, but it increases the threshold from \$86,200 to \$109,400 so AMT will impact fewer taxpayers.

### No More Marriage Penalty

Under the new law, married taxpayers will pay taxes at the same tax rate as individual filers. For example, if two individuals each earned \$150,000 under the old law they would be in the 28 percent bracket. If they got married, their \$300,000 combined income would boost them into the 33 percent bracket. Under the new law, the couple would be in the 24 percent bracket – same as an individual earning \$150,000.

### Larger Medical Deduction

For taxpayers who do itemize, more medical expenses will be deductible. The new tax bill lowers the adjusted gross income (AGI) floor for medical deductions to 7.5 percent from 10 percent and it will be retroactive to the 2017 tax year. For example, a married couple with \$100,000 AGI can start deducting medical expenses above \$7,500 instead of \$10,000.

### You Lose Some Deductions

The tax bill eliminates several deductions, including just about everything that was categorized as "miscellaneous deductions," which included items such as unreimbursed employee expenses and tax preparation fees. You'll still be able to deduct charitable contributions and student loan interest.

### Larger Estate Tax Exemption

The bill's authors originally wanted to eliminate the estate tax altogether, but the final bill only included an increase in the amount that would be exempt from estate taxes. The new exemption is doubled to \$22.4 million for married couples (\$11.2 million for individuals).

There is a lot to absorb from the new tax bill. Be sure to meet with a tax professional to ensure you understand how the new tax law will impact your specific tax situation.

\* \* \* \* \*

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## Video Library News

— Burnell Breaker

The Video Library will be available for checkout during the January 20, 2019 meet at the Four Points Sheraton – Milwaukee Airport. DVD's checked out on January 20 will be due at the March 17, 2019 meet at the Oconomowoc Area Historical Society & Museum. Please return now any DVD's you have checked out earlier this season.

DVD's will NOT be checked out or returned during the February 16 bus trip to the Mad City Train Show.

The Video Library might be available for check out during the March 17, 2019 meet at the Oconomowoc Area Historical Society & Museum. DVD's should be returned. We will let you know in the next Owl Car if the Video Library and Librarian will be available at this meet. If not, we will let you know who to return DVD's to.

ALL DVD'S MUST BE RETURNED BY THE APRIL 28 WISE MEET and ANNUAL MEETING.



**WISE Division NMRA**

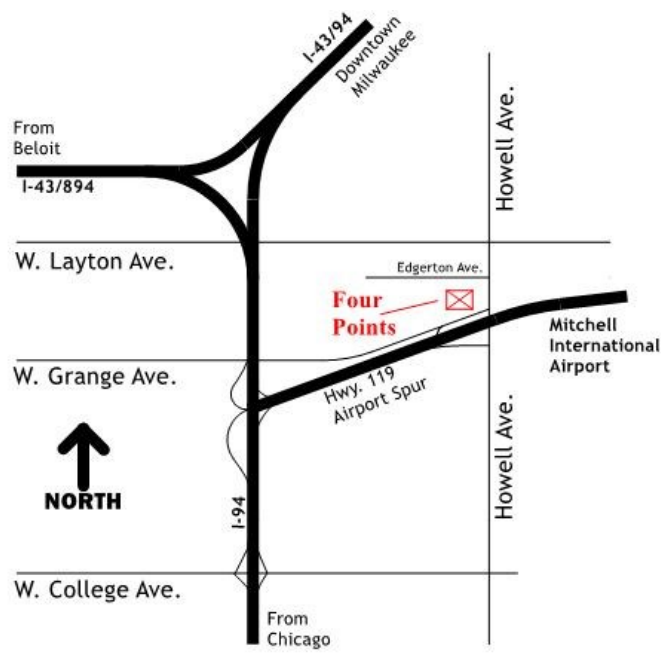
**Model Railroad Meet**

**January 20, 2019**

**Meet Location**  
**Four Points by Sheraton Hotel**  
 5311 S. Howell Ave. in Milwaukee  
*DRIVE AROUND TO THE BACK AND USE REAR ENTRANCE*

**PUBLIC WELCOME — FREE ADMISSION**

- 12:30 pm Doors open and contest registrations
- 1:00 to 1:45 pm **Clinic 1:** Jim Rindt presents “Chicago & North Western Station Stops: Defining Locations with Agencies & Their Structures”
- 2:00 to 2:45 pm **Clinic 2:** Mike Slater presents “Researching the North Shore Line in Racine, Wisconsin”
- 3:00 to 3:45 pm **Clinic 3:** Stuart Baker will present a non-technical Introduction and overview of *Layout Command Control (LCC)* including a live demo. He will cover it’s capabilities as it relates to signals, accessory control, etc.
- 3:45 to 4:15 pm **Contest Awards & Announcements**
- 4:30 to 6:00 pm **Layout Tour**  
Milwaukee N Southeastern club layout



**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!***

**Hands-on Clinic Highlights October Meet**

The WISE October Meet featured both a different location and a different format for our membership. Held at the Lake Park Community Center in Milwaukee, the group was treated to a Hands-On clinic on making backdrops. Ken Jaglinski led the charge and over the period of a couple of hours the WISE members constructed a viable backdrop on the wall. Paint (both brush-on and spray) were the main elements and all learned some simple but effective techniques to bring better perspective to your layout backdrops.

Thanks Ken for taking the extra effort to arrange for the venue and prepare the clinic.



Above, Tom Mabie, Dennis Janssen and Mark Willmering use several techniques to add clouds to the backdrop. At left, under Ken's direction, WISE members work at cutting/trimming of photos to be glued to the backdrop.



# Great Layout Tours Featured at October Meet

Having the monthly WISE Meet on the Milwaukee north shore allowed us to view two great HO/DCC layouts in close proximity, both of them being based upon the Chicago and North Western. Dave Poquette's layout highlights the transition era in the Fox Valley of Wisconsin. He also has a very nice circus train display in a park setting.

Dave Poquette



Dave's Circus Train



Don Drum

Don Drum's Chicago and North Western System is focused on the Ashland District of the Lakeshore Division. This railroad is 100 percent complete and accurately displays the rail-based history of northern Wisconsin in the 1960's. Highly detailed scenes can be found throughout the layout.

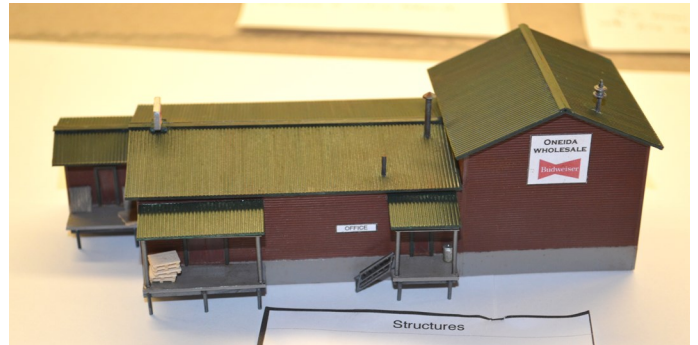
The WISE Division thanks you both for opening your homes to us for the viewing of your model railroads.



# October Popular Vote Contest Results

There was plenty of competition in the popular vote contest at the October Meet, but only in two categories—Structures and the General Category.

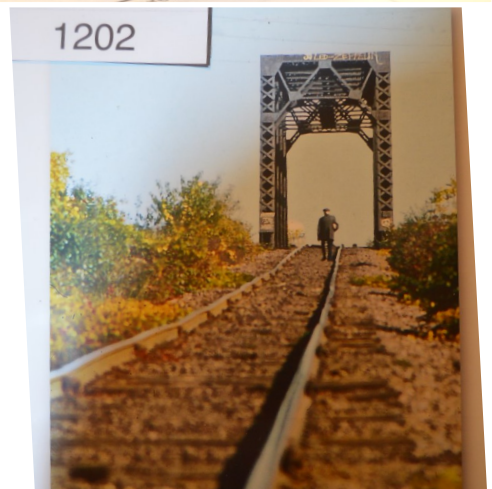
Taking First Place in Structures was Steve Miazga with his scratch-built *Oneida Wholesale*. This also won Best of Show. Second Place in Structures went to Carl Priepke for his *Nice Ice* building.



Structures



In the General Category, John Kosma took First Place with his Prototype Photo of "Man Walking Tracks". Second Place went to Ted Zeiger for his custom painted Reefer for Blue Moon Brewing. Thanks to all for some great entries!





## 2019 Midwest Region and Thousand Lakes Region Joint Convention

Our joint convention with the TLR will be in Lacrosse, WI on May 17-19, 2019 at the Days Inn. Registration will start Thursday afternoon.

Thursday night will have layout tours and clinics. Thursday meals are on your own. The Freight House Restaurant in downtown Lacrosse has \$3 burgers. The restaurant is in the restored Milwaukee Road Freight House.

Friday we will start out with early clinics then will board the bus to tour The Stella Jones railroad tie treating facility in Rockland, WI. We will also tour L.B. White, manufacturer of heating units for agriculture buildings, Dahl Auto Museum, and tour the Railroad display in Copeland Park. Lunch will be provided at the Cedar Creek Country Club in Onalaska. Dinner is on your own Friday night. Layout tours and clinics will be available in the evening.

Saturday we will have clinics running all day. Lunch will be provided at the hotel restaurant. The banquet and Chinese auctions will be in the evening. At the time this article is being written we are working on operating sessions with the local layouts. The Modeling with the Masters clinics are also in planning stages.

Non-rail events for Saturday include tours of The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Rose Convent Chapel, The Hixon House, and



Riverside Museum. (There will be a small additional charge for these tours.) If time allows, we will also do some shopping at LaCrosse's beautiful downtown. We will return to the hotel for lunch (included in registration cost). These tours will be via car pool!

For registration information, go to either the Midwest Region or Thousand Lakes Region websites. If you plan on operating on the local layouts make sure you complete the additional registration form.

Questions? Email Reid Kahrs, MWR Convention Chairman at: [rkahrs@charter.net](mailto:rkahrs@charter.net)

## Trainfest 2018 a Success

While it is in the history books now, Trainfest 2018 was a hit. Attendance and revenue were up. Discussions with vendors, manufacturers and exhibitors were all up-beat and folks are looking forward to the 2019 show which will be held November 9-10, 2019.

A big thanks to all our volunteers. Without your efforts the event would not have been the success it was. Enjoy a few photos from the event as we look forward to the planning for 2019. Our Celebrate a Railroad program next year will be the Burlington Route. Their historical society is already well along on their planning. Future roads will be the Wisconsin Central in 2020 and the Green Bay and Western in 2021.





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

**CATCH THE TRAINS!**

# *MadCity*

**52nd Annual**

## **MODEL RAILROAD SHOW AND SALE**

Sat. Feb. 16, 9AM-5PM • Sun. Feb. 17, 9AM-4PM  
Alliant Energy Center, Exhibition Hall, Madison, WI

**Four HO train sets given away each day!**

**New this year:** Family Pak \$30

Includes two adults (regular or senior) and two kids (5-11)

Adults \$12 (12 & older), Seniors \$11 (65 & older)

Children \$6 (age 5-11), Kids under 5 FREE

Active duty military \$11. Two day pass \$16. Parking fee not included.

All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.



One of the Midwest's best model RR events showcasing beautiful model train layouts in Z, N, HO, S, O and G scale; classic toy trains; historical exhibits & railroad videos. Kids can build a giant wooden train layout or run or ride a model train. **300+ vendor tables** of model train merchandise including tools, railroad collectibles, videos, books, clothing and artwork. Hourly door prizes for adults. Kids, age 5-11, can register to win a train set!