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From the Superintendent...

I first of all want to thank everyone that has helped me within the past few months during my time as being your superintendent. It may be the people that I have proof read this little segment in the Owl Car, or the people who have stepped up to fill empty positions within the division. I want to say thank you.....

We still have two open positions to fill, we need a person to keep track of the Division membership and we need a person to help setup the Clinics at our meets. If you would like to help our division succeed and would like to volunteer for these positions please let me know. My e-mail and phone number are on Page 3 of the Owl Car.

Thank you,
Mike Slater

Two More WISE Leadership Spots Filled

Since our last Owl Car, two more key leadership positions have been filled. David Rohr has volunteered to handle the Chief Clerk's position. Since this is an officer's position, the WISE Board confirmed his appointment at the March board meeting.

John Hagen has volunteered to coordinate our Meet layout tours. We are developing an updated list of layouts so if you want to host the Division after a meet, simply send John an e-mail to get the ball rolling. He can be reached at sprinthag@yahoo.com. John will be approved for the position at the WISE April board meeting.

REMEMBER... WISE Spring Election Ballots Need to be received no later than April 10th!



What's an OWL CAR?

—Contributed by Ed Varick

It's the masthead of our newsletter.

But what really is an OWL CAR?

Our NMRA Division is called the "WISE" Division (sorta like a Wise Old Owl).

But is it a car for birds?

Us old timers remember when streetcar tracks laced the city's streets like a huge spider web. The streetcars ran on a strange schedule... 6:00 am until 12:00 midnight only. The last car on the various routes pulled into the barns at midnight. This was known as "The Owl Car Run". There was no service from midnight to 6:00 am.

So when you see "Owl Car" somewhere, now you know... it's a Street Car.

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Layout Tours Featured at March Meet

Our Division was treated with two great layout tours at the end of our Meet at Oconomowoc. The closest was at Maxim's Depot Restaurant which is located in the former Milwaukee Road Depot. A historic HO Scale rail display, it features 21 historic structures. Operated as a non-profit, it is in its sixth year of operation.

The second layout was the Wisconsin Central Lines operated by Chuck Gevaert. This 15' x 24' layout depicts the Wisconsin Central railroad from 1987 to 2001 in southeastern Wisconsin with interchanges to the WSOR and GB&W.

A big WISE Division thank you to the owners for allowing our members and visitors to enjoy these two great layouts. Enjoy the pictures.





Upcoming Division Events

April 12-14, 2019—WiseOps Operating Weekend
April 28, 2019—Division Meet & Annual Meeting
 Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport, 12:30 pm
May 5, 2019—Bus Trip to DuPage County Swap Meet*
November 9-10, 2019—Trainfest
 Wisconsin State Fair Park Expo Center, West Allis, WI
 * Denotes extra fare event
 For more event details go to our website:
WWW.WISEDIVISION.ORG



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 Open - Clinic Director
 Open—Membership Director

Website: www.wisedivision.org



Upcoming National And Regional Events Of Interest

April 27-28, 2019—Tittletown Train Show
*Resch Center, Green Bay
www.Reschcenter.com*
May 10, 2019—Golden Spike 150th Celebration begins
*Promontory Summit, Utah
www.spike150.org*
May 10, 2019— Golden Spike 150th Birthday Party
Milwaukee Lionel Railroad Club, New Berlin, WI, 1 to 9pm
May 17-19, 2019—Joint NMRA Regional Convention
*Joint meeting of Midwest and Thousand Lakes Regions
 Days Inn, La Crosse, WI (check Region website)*
**June 15-16, 2019 — 30th Annual Strawberry Fest Model
 Railroad Show & Model Contest**
*Waupaca Recreation Center, Waupaca, WI
www.wamrltd.com*
June 23, 2019—Milwaukee Lionel Club Swap Meet
8am until Noon—Contact Bill Hitchcock, 414-719-5656
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*

Division Dupage Bus Trip to Have Full Agenda

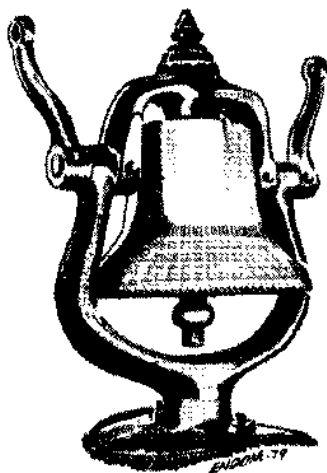
Sunday, May 5, 2019 is the date for our annual trek to the DuPage County Fairgrounds. Departure will be from the College Avenue Southwest Park-N-Ride Lot at 8:00 am.



Cost is \$39.00 per person (\$16.00 per person for 17 and under with an adult). Fees cover admission to the Great American Train Show and coffee, soda, water and donuts on the bus.

On the return trip in the afternoon we will visit two great layouts. Our first stop will be at Wayne Pelke's HO Scale Denver Junction Western Pacific layout. Then it is off to Yorkville to see the DBRR created by Brian and Diane Krupicka. This layout features many animation scenes for added interest. Arrival back at the Park-N-Ride lot should be no later than 6:00 pm.

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 Sunday unless you have paid in advance to Art.**



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

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WiseOps Sessions Update

Our annual spring operating weekend is fast approaching and there are still a few spots left. Eight layouts will be open on Friday and Saturday, April 12 and 13.

Chairing the event this year is member Andy Greco who many of you know from operating on local layouts. For more information, Andy can be reached by e-mail at nmrawiseop@gmail.com or 608-206-4195.

A big thank you to the layout hosts who are opening up their railroads for operations!

Video Library News

— Burnell Breaker

We will be adding a lot of new titles to the WISE Division Library this summer. Bob Breaker had a great collection and copies are being donated to the Division by Burnell and Andy Breaker. Bob passed away earlier this year.

DVD's will NOT be checked out at the April Meet.
ALL DVD'S MUST BE RETURNED BY THE APRIL 28 WISE MEET and ANNUAL MEETING.

Jim's Tips and Tidbits

— Jim Kelly

Some thoughts on weathering...

"Whether to Weather" — That was the title of an article in Model Railroader magazine some four or five decades ago. My answer then and now was "absolutely," and I think that most modelers today would agree with me. The question for me nowadays is why and how. The reason usually given is that we're striving for realism, but I think there's more to it than that. For me, weathering is an art, and we do it not only for realism, but because it's cool. I'd call what we do "attractive" weathering. Most modelers don't want to make their models ugly; they want to make them more realistic, but also more appealing, and interesting. You see lots of cars in real life that you wouldn't want to duplicate for your railroad.

As to how to weather, many techniques are out there: air-brushing, dry brushing, chinks, washes. Malcolm Furlow used a method he called dirt-dipping. He just rolled models around in a box of dirt and then sealed them with a clear, flat finish. Lee Vande Visse, who was an artist for MR, would place models up in a rain gutter for several weeks.

My only advice on methods is don't get stuck on one. It's so easy to settle on a favorite, but then all your equipment starts looking the same. Remember, some of your equipment is new, some is old. Some runs mostly in the Midwest, some spends a lot of time in the desert. The filthiest cars I ever saw were the Soo Line's grain hoppers, though I don't know why. They looked as if Malcom Furlow had gotten hold of them.

Summing it up, I'd say try different techniques and don't overdo it. Maybe you could even work a deal with another modeler to weather some of their cars if they'll do some of yours.



WISE Division NMRA

Model Railroad Meet

April 28, 2019

PUBLIC WELCOME — FREE ADMISSION

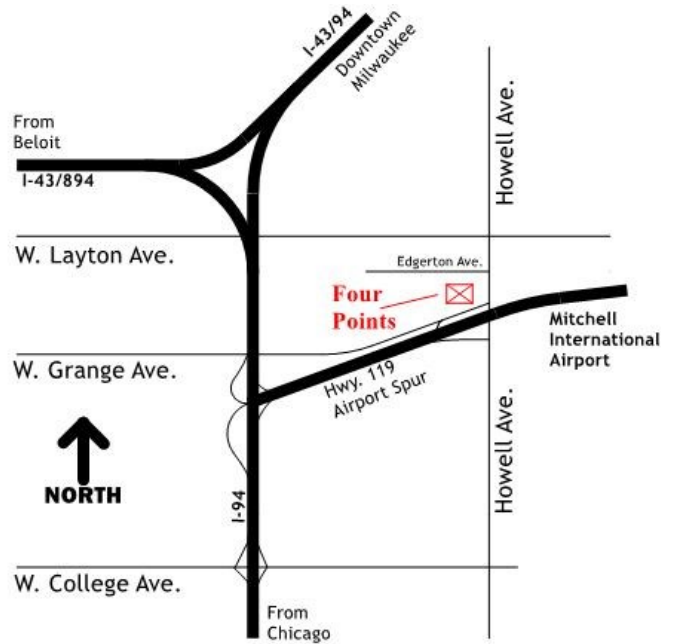
- 12:30 pm Doors open and contest registrations
- 1:00 to 1:45 pm **Clinic 1:** Mike Slater presents "Milwaukee Road from the Sky" — Milwaukee County from the lenses of Milwaukee Road company photographer Robert McCoy
- 2:00 to 2:45 pm **Clinic 2:** Andy Greco gives an overview of using Rail Pro for your DCC system
- 3:00 to 4:00 pm **WISE Division Annual Meeting**
- 4:00 to 4:15 pm **Contest Awards & Announcements**
- 4:30 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
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!



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. Check-in 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

March Popular Vote Contest Competitive

The Popular Vote Contest at the March Meet showed some steep competition with 28 excellent submittals from our attendees. The entries created a competition in six categories.

Taking the Best of Show win was Steve Miazga with his Structures submittal of the "1917 Rhinelander Soo Line Freight Depot". This also took second place in that category. Taking first place in Structures was Shawn Becher with his model of Buck's Grain and Feed complete with lighting.

First place in the Diesel category was won by John Collins with his "Bicentennial Themed Rock Island E-Unit Independence". Second place went to Roman Stelter for his nicely weathered GP38-2".

In Freight Equipment the first place went to Roman Stelter with his "Gondola with Wreck Load". Second place was garnered by John Collins with his "Rock Island Boxcar".

In the Prototype Photo category Harry Evans took first with his "Bevier & Southern Machine Shop" photo and Mike Janke took second with "Under the Bridge Downtown".

In the Model Photo category, Mike Janke took first with his "Olympian at Eagles Nest Tunnel". Winning second was John Collins with his "Dual Consist" entry.

Finally, in the General category, Shawn Becher took first with his "TMERL Street Car". Second was garnered by John Collins with his "Rock Island Rotary Plow With Tender".

Each of the first place finishes and the Best of Show award net the winner \$20 in local hobby shop gift certificates if they are a NMRA member. Non-members get a \$10 certificate. Thanks to all for some great entries. The Popular Vote Contest will also be conducted



Shown above is Steve Miazga's "1917 Rhinelander Soo Line Freight Depot" which took second place in Structures and garnered Best of Show. Below is Roman Stelter's first place in Freight Equipment. At page bottom, John Collins' N-Scale Independence Bicentennial E-Unit.



Listing of All Popular Vote Contest Entries

Diesel

- 1st Place: John Collins — Rock Island Independence E-Unit
- 2nd Place: Roman Stelter — GP38-2
- John Collins — Rock Island GP7
- Roman Stelter — SOO GP9
- Sean McGrath — Milwaukee Road F-Units

Freight Equipment

- 1st Place: Roman Stelter — Gondola with Wreck Load
- 2nd Place: John Collins — Rock Island Boxcar
- Bill Morey—Waukesha County Gandy Dancer's Anniversary Car
- Asa Morey — CNW Boxcar
- Roman Stelter — SOO Coal Hopper
- John Collins—Bethgon Coal Hopper

Structures

- 1st Place: Shawn Becher — Buck's Grain and Feed
- 2nd Place: Steve Miazga — 1917 Rhinelander Soo Line Depot
- David K. Nelson — Aunt Hazel's House
- Robert Niedermann — Ahren's Tool & Mfg.
- Robert Niedermann — Karl's Cheese Storage
- Ed Varick — John Quincy Adams Home
- Bill Morey — Yard Office

Photo—Prototype

- 1st Place: Harry Evans—Bevier & Southern Machine Shop
- 2nd Place: Mike Janke— Under the Bridge Downtown
- Mike Janke — Foggy Night at Glendale

Photo—Model

- 1st Place: Mike Janke — Olympian at Eagles Nest Tunnel
- 2nd Place: John Collins — Dual Consist
- John Collins—Rust Buckets
- Steve Miazga—Riverview Meet

General

- 1st Place: Shawn Becher — TMERL Street Car
- 2nd Place: John Collins — Rock Island Rotary Plow with Tender
- Joey Smith — LBSCR E2 in Fictional NWR Livery



At right is Shawn Becher's first place entry of "Buck's Grain and Feed" -complete with dynamic lighting. Shawn also took first place in the General category with his TMERL street car shown below



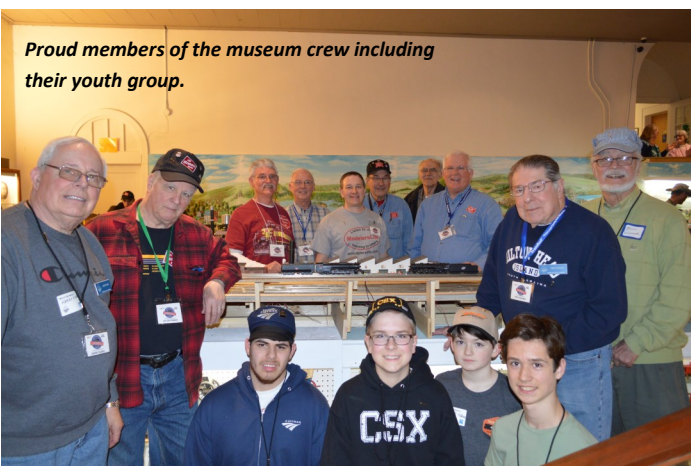
Golden Spike Ceremony Leads Off March Meet

Our March Meet was held at the Oconomowoc Historical Society Museum on March 17, 2019. Once again, the volunteers at the museum came through with a great event. The group handled all the planning of the agenda which included the clinics and tours.

The meet began with the placing of the "golden spike" on the layout at the museum which has gone through a major reconstruction of the engine facility and mainline tracks. Shown at right is Harry Evans placing the spike. The group even created a mock scene at the point of placement shown below at right.

Shown below is Shawn Becher, a museum volunteer, who lead two of the clinics at the meet. The lead clinic was an overview of the museum layout, the Milwaukee North Western. Shawn also gave a presentation related to operations using spreadsheets. Chuck Gevaert, another local volunteer, gave an overview of the electrical operations behind the Milwaukee North Western.

The WISE Division thanks the museum for being great hosts for our Division Meet. Enjoy some more pictures of the Meet.



Proud members of the museum crew including their youth group.





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 402 Dodie Drive
 Waukesha, WI 53189-7425

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