

Published by the Wisconsin
Southeastern Division of the
Midwest Region of the
National Model Railroad
Association, Inc.

November 2019

October Clinics Highlight Photography and History

Attendees at our regular October Meet were treated to two great contrasting presentations. Our first presenter, Jim Osborn, is a member of the Fox Valley Division where he is in charge of Web Technologies. Jim is a first class modeler and has utilized photography on his layout for backdrops and scenery effects. Jim's presentation focused on achieving truly "in focus" photos utilizing camera features and "stacking" computer software that helps achieve full depth of field for your photos.



Shown above is Jim Osborn giving his presentation "Keeping Your Layout in Focus." Below is Andy Breaker beginning his presentation "Death Rides the Rails" - A History of Funeral Trains.



Second up was our Assistant Superintendent Andy Breaker. His presentation, "Death Rides the Rails", was on funeral trains for dignitaries that have been utilized since President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Andy was able to offer some special perspective since his "paying" day job is that of a funeral director.

The WISE Division offers our sincere thanks to Jim and Andy for giving us two first class presentations.



From Your Superintendent...

— Mike Slater

Let me start this column with a request for help, all of your help. Many of our Division members that were our go-to people in the past have either passed on, had a decline in health, or have other priorities in their lives now preventing them from helping out. I had hoped I could spark new life within our division when I ran for office, however it does not appear to have happened. The new September RPM meet was a hope for new life. We had many people show up to that event from outside of our division, but not many from our own division showed up. At our recent October Meet, we only had about 25 members that showed up to participate. What am I doing wrong? What is the Board doing wrong? What can we all do to improve the interest within the Division? The Board of Directors of the Wise Division can only guess when it comes to making the Division more interesting without the input from rest of the membership.

Recently I watched a YouTube video on why car museums were closing. All of the points referenced can also relate to the NMRA on a National and yes on our Division level. Since I have become Superintendent we have had a few people join the NMRA within our division, however we have had more Division members pass away than new members who have joined. You may say that the millennials have no interest in our hobby, but that is a false statement. Twenty years ago the same excuse was being made, but yet our hobby has never been stronger. According to the video, the reason the Millennials are not joining groups is that they feel they are not welcome, and because of that, they have gone elsewhere to get their information, ie the internet and social media groups.

(Continued on Page 2)

Inside this issue:

- Page 2: Trainfest Party Invite, Video Library Update, Video Library New Additions, Superintendent Report Cont.
- Page 3: WISE Upcoming Events, National & Regional Events WISE Board Contact Information
- Page 4: Don Strike Layout Tour Highlights
- Page 5: October Popular Vote Contest Results
- Page 6: From the Contest Director, Fall WISEops Wrap-up, Board Meeting Notice
- Page 7: December Meet Details, Jim's Tips & Tidbits
- Page 8: Mad-City Train Show Promo

From Your Superintendent Continued...

Hopefully I have now opened your eyes and ears to a problem we have, can we all fix it? Yes, together we can. How can you help? Participate..... we are in need of clinics for our meets. It could be a series of photos about your layout, the research you did for a modeling project, a vacation trip that had to deal with trains, or photos from a trip you did some time ago. If you do not want to get in front of the group, how about writing an article for our Owl Car? Don't worry about being too perfect with the writing (*you should see how our editor makes sense of my rambling thoughts - he probably has to take aspirin working out my mess*). I'm sure our editor would be happy to work with you.

If we do not get more participation, we will have to cut back on our activities. If we can't get articles for the Owl Car, we may have to consider fewer issues. If we cannot get people to present clinics, we may have to cut back on our meets. Currently we have cut back from three to two clinics per Meet. I'm glad that we have had some people step up and volunteer, but we need more. This past spring the board decided to drop the Bike Ride, we had a member step up and volunteer to bring it back. Next year the dates for the event will be in the Owl Car and will be posted on line well in advance so you can plan. The RPM was a success this year and we will do it again next September.

Recently two of our division members were looking for help working on their railroads. As a single modeler we can only go so far, but as a collective we can do many great things together. Some of us are great at many things while some of us are not. Personally, there are things in this hobby I currently do not have the skills for. This is where I turn to other modelers for help. For me this is what the NMRA is truly about, helping one another learn new skills and helping other modelers when they don't have the abilities.

This is the reason we are trying something completely new for our December Meet. We want to share our skills with other modelers. Some of these skills require us to get our hands dirty as one would say. I will bring an airbrush and a compressor if you want to learn how to airbrush. Want to learn how to decal -- no problem, I will have the supplies so you can learn to do that also.

Here is another thought I have had for a while -- does the Division need to own some layout tools that members can borrow to build their layout? One of the tools I have been thinking about are the Fastrack switch building templates. My thought is that the Division would own jigs in both HO Scale & N scale for #4, #6, & #8 turnouts. This is something we could promote as a benefit for belonging to the WISE Division of the NMRA.

I am sorry I went on a negative tone, but when I see a problem, I will call it out. Hopefully together we can make or create real solutions for the problems we are facing. If you have solutions or ideas, please contact me. My contact information is listed in this issue. If I don't answer the phone, leave a message, or you can always email me.

Video Library Update

— Burnell Breaker, Video Librarian

The Video Library will be available for checkout at the December 8 Modeler's Workshop at the Lake Park Pavilion in a limited basis on account of limited space in the room. Video Library availability could be subject to change depending on the weather that date. DVD's checked out in October are still expected to be returned December 8. Future dates the Video Library will be available are January 19, 2020 and March 15, 2020. All DVD's are due back by the April 19, 2020 Annual Meeting. At right is a list of many of our new DVD's available for checkout to WISE members. Up to 6 DVD's can be checked out by each member per meet.

Free Pre-Trainfest Kickoff Event

Join fellow WISE members, Trainfest exhibitors and fans at the Gathering Place Brew Pub for a casual gathering to catchup with friends and kick-off the Trainfest weekend.

Meet Ken Patterson of the podcast show "What's Neat This Week in Model Railroading." Let him know your thoughts on his show and give him suggestions for upcoming show features. He wants to hear from you!

For every glass of beer poured, the Gathering Place will donate \$1 to the Trainfest Builders Scholarship Fund. This event is free.

The invite RSVP link is on the Trainfest website. Address is <https://www.trainfest.com/event/pre-trainfest-fundraiser-ken-patterson-meet-and-greet/>

Thursday, November 7th, 6-9 pm
Gathering Place Brewing Company
 811 East Vienna Ave., Milwaukee
www.gatheringplacebrewing.com

New Additions to the Video Library

Below are listed some of the newest titles we have added to our video library for check-out.

Trains Hot Spots - Chicago's Racetrack	Kalmbach
Trains Hot Spots - Horseshoe Curve	Kalmbach
Trains Hot Spots - Wisconsin's Speedway	Kalmbach
Trains Hot Spots - Intermodal	Kalmbach
Trains Hot Spots - Joint Line	Kalmbach
Trains Hot Spots - Tehachapi	Kalmbach
Trains - Rio Grande Freight Trains	Kalmbach
Airbrushing Techniques: Getting Started	Kalmbach
Midwest Electric Rails	Charles Smiley
Journey to Promontory	Kalmbach
Iowa, Chicago & Eastern - Coolest Railroad on Earth	C Vision Prod.
Locomotion - The Amazing World of Trains (2 disks)	History Channel
Skookum Lives - The Lazarus Locomotive in Action	Kalmbach
Big Boy - Back in Steam	Kalmbach
Great American Scenic Railroads (6 disks)	Quester
Monster Steam (4 disks)	Topics Entertmt.
The C&NWS 2003 Annual Meet DVD	White River
Union Pacific Big Boy Collection	Pentrex
Big Boy Combo DVD, Part 1	Pentrex
Big Boy Combo DVD, Part 2	Pentrex
Donner Combo DVD	Pentrex
Cab Ride Through the Rockies - Part 1	Railway Prod.
Cab Ride Through the Rockies - Part 2	Railway Prod.
Cab Ride Through the Rockies - Part 3	Railway Prod.
The Ultimate Railroads Collection (6 disks)	St. Clair Vision
Railway Journeys - Vanishing Age of Steam (5 disks)	Madacy



Upcoming Division Events

- *November 9-10, 2019—Trainfest 2019**
Wisconsin State Fair Park Expo Center, West Allis, WI
- December 8, 2019—WISE Modelers Meet—a Learning Session**
Lake Park Pavilion, Milwaukee, 12:30 pm
- January 19, 2020—WISE Division Meet**
Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport, 12:30 pm
- *February 15, 2020—Annual Bus Trip to Mad City Train Show**
- March 15, 2020—WISE Division Meet**
Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church, Racine, 1:00 pm (*Note time*)
- April 17-18, 2020 – Spring WISEops Operating Weekend**
- April 19, 2020—WISE Division Meet and Annual Meeting**
Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport, 12:30 pm
- *May 2020—Bus Trip—Great Midwest Train Show, DuPage, IL**
- September 26, 2020—WISE Division RPM Meet**
Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee Airport,
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

** Denotes extra fare event*

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



WISE Division NMRA Officers & Board of Directors

- Mike Slater—Superintendent
mslater@wi.rr.com, 262-515-3623
- Andy Breaker—Assistant Superintendent
funeralguy20@gmail.com
- Dennis Janssen—Paymaster (Treasurer)
dennis@trainfest.com, 262-544-6324
- David Rohr — Chief Clerk (Secretary)
chiefclerk@trainfest.com, 262-783-7230
- Ken Jaglinski—Trainfest Chairperson
kenj@trainfest.com, 414-331-9643
- Gary Children—Achievement Director
csuperchief20@wi.rr.com, 414-327-1666
- Mark Hintz—Youth Group Director
gp30@fuzzyworld3.com, 414-745-4613
- Burnell Breaker—Video Library Director
brbreaker@yahoo.com, 262-939-9193
- Art Oseland—Bus Trip Director
raydenny1@aol.com, 414-764-5375
- Steve Miazga— Director & Owl Car Editor
smiazga50@gmail.com, 262-894-6411
- Ted Zieger—Contest Director
ptzieger@sbcglobal.net, 262-247-6946
- Andy Greco—WISEops Director
nmrawiseop@gmail.com
- Jim Hebner—Webmaster
hebnerj@gmail.com, 937-207-0163
- John Hagen — Layout Tour Director
sprinthag@yahoo.com, 262-385-4450
- Open - Clinic Director and Membership Director



Upcoming National And Regional Events Of Interest

- February 15-16, 2020—Mad City Train Show**
Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI
- April 18-19, 2020—Tittletown Train Show**
KI Convention Center, 333 Main St., Green Bay, WI
- May 14-17, 2020—Midwest Region NMRA Convention**
"The Peoria Rocket"
Holiday Inn & Suites, East Peoria, IL
www.mwr-nmra.org
- July 12-18, 2020—NMRA 2020 Convention St. Louis**
Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark, St. Louis, MO
www.gateway2020.org
- July 17-19, 2020—National Train Show**
Dome at America Center, St. Louis, MO
www.nationaltrainshow.org
- July 4—10, 2021—NMRA 2021 Convention Santa Clara**
Santa Clara, CA

Historical Society Meetings

- November 16, 2019—C&NW Historical Society**
21st Annual Chicago Area Get Together, 2pm to 9pm,
Riverview Banquets, Batavia, IL
www.cnwhs.org
- April 30—May 2, 2020—Burlington Route Historical Society**
2020 Mile High Spring Meet
Joint Meet with Rio Grande Modeling & Historical Society
Denver Marriott West, Golden, CO
www.burlingtonroute.org
- June 2020—Milwaukee Road Historical Association**
2020 Annual Meeting, Elgin, IL (details not final)
www.mrha.com
- September 10-13, 2020—Burlington Route Historical Society**
2020 Fall Meet, Radison Duluth-Harborview,
Duluth, MN
www.burlingtonroute.org
- September 17-20, 2020—Soo Line Historical & Tech. Society**
Holiday Inn, Manitowoc, WI
www.sooline.org
- September 19-23, 2020—Great Northern Railway Hist. Society**
2020 Convention, Nelson, BC
www.gnrhs.org

34 Years of Operations on Don Strike's Great Northern Railway Layout

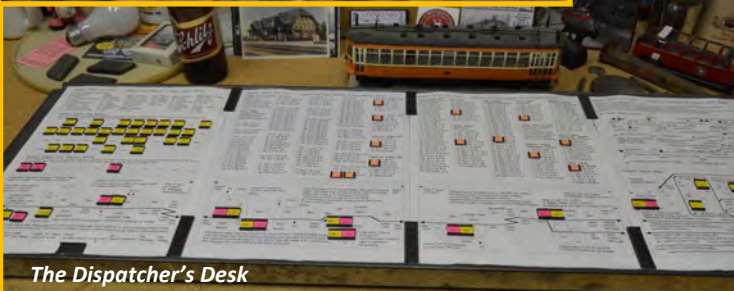
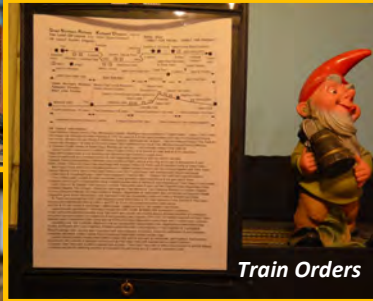
It was off to Shorewood after our October Meet to visit Don Strike's Great Northern Railway layout. The two level full basement layout depicts operations of the Great Northern around and in Glacier National Park. Designed for operations, sessions kicked off at the 50th NMRA National Convention in Milwaukee in 1985. Thirty-four years later, Don still hosts an operating session from time to time, but in years past his basement saw a regular schedule of full operations on the layout.

Don's layout takes foundation in a lot of accurate research on GN operations at Glacier. The room also contains numerous artifacts that had Glacier connections. And, just to keep you honest, a little humor is scattered around the room—once again with some GN or Glacier relationship.

The timing of our visit leads to a sad note. As we all mature in our years, we ultimately deal with the reality that our layouts need to be dismantled. While Don does not have an exact schedule in place, his plans are to sell the collection and dismantle the Great Northern in the near future. Thanks Don for allowing us to give the Great Northern one last viewing by our members! Enjoy some pictures from our visit.



The commemorative car from the 1985 NMRA Convention in Milwaukee. The event celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the NMRA.



The Dispatcher's Desk



"Rocky" observes and relaxes!

October Popular Vote Contest Results

While we did not get an overwhelming number of entries this month, the competition was still tough. There were competitive entries in the Freight Equipment and Structures categories. The remaining entries were judged in the General Category.

Harry Evans entry of a scratch-built house took Best of Show and First Place in Structures. Ted Zeiger took Second Place in Structures with his "Crate Company".

In Freight Equipment First Place went to Ed Varick for his flat car load "New House Arrives" based on a prototype photo. Second place went to Ted Zeiger again with his Blue Moon Reefer.

In the General category, First Place went to Andy Breaker for his "Inland Empire System Interurban Train". Second Place went to Steve Miazga for his N Scale scratch-built/model bashed Potato Harvesting Truck.

Thanks to all for the competitive entries. Our next contest will be at the December 8th Meet. A complete list of entries follows.

Structures

- Ed Varick—1940's Greendale Gas Station
- Steve Miazga—Rail Museum Train Shed
- Ted Zeiger—Crate Company (2nd Place)
- Harry Evans—Scratchbuilt House (1st Place and Best of Show)
- Carl Priepe—N Scale Windmill

Freight Equipment

- Ed Varick—"New House Arrives" on flat car (1st Place)
- Ted Zeiger—Blue Moon Reefer (2nd Place)

General

- Jim Osborn—NPK 765 (Proto Photo)
- Steve Miazga—N Scale Potato Harvesting Truck (2nd Place)
- Andy Breaker—Columbus, Delaware & Marion Parlor Car
- Andy Breaker—Inland Empire System Interurban Train (1st Place)



Harry Evans' Best of Show entry shown above.



Above, Ted Zeiger's Second Place Crate Company. Shown below is Steve Miazga's N Scale Potato Harvesting Truck.



Ed Varick's "New House Arrives" Flatcar and Load



Ted Zeiger's Blue Moon Reefer



Andy Breaker's First Place Interurban Train

From Your Contest Director

— Ted Zieger

I hope everyone had a great summer. Now it is getting time to work on our model railroads again. I want to remind everyone about entering your work in our "Popular Vote Contest" at our monthly meets. You do not have to be a master modeler to enter. I know I'm not and I have won some 2nd place and a couple 1st places. It does not have to be scratch built. It can be kits you have assembled or train cars you have painted or detailed. You can also enter your photos.

We have 12 categories to enter. The only requirement for a contest in a category is that 2 different individuals have entries so there is true competition. If we don't get 2 people in a category, we move them to the "General Category" so there can be a contest. Below are the categories:

Motive Power—Steam	Motive Power—Diesel
Traction/Electric	Passenger Equipment
Freight Equipment	Non-Revenue Equipment
Structures (on and off-line)	General (includes dioramas and trains)
Photos—Model	Photos—Prototype
Train Related Crafts	Youth (8 to 17 years of age)

First and Second Place certificates are awarded in each category. Meet attendees also vote for the "Best in Show" entry which covers all categories. The "Best of Show" winner receives a plaque and gift certificates at local hobby shops. First Place category winners also receive gift certificates. It is fun and the more that enter the more fun it is. Please enter! You can't win if you don't.

Note: At the December meet at the Lake Park Pavilion we have limited space so we won't have all 12 categories, but don't worry if your category isn't there we will have "General". So don't let it stop you from entering. We look forward to seeing your work!

Wisconsin Southeastern Division NMRA Popular Vote Contest



Shown above is the artwork on the "Best of Show" plaques that we are awarding in 2019-2020. Each plate is mounted on an 8" x 10" walnut award plaque.

Next WISE Board Meeting

All WISE/NMRA members are welcome to attend our monthly board meetings. They are held at the clubhouse of the Milwaukee Lionel Club at Parkland Plaza, 2721 S. Calhoun Road, New Berlin. Entrance is at the rear side of the building.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Meetings generally last an hour and a half. We look forward to seeing you as a guest at our next meeting. Member input is always appreciated.

A Busy Weekend—WISEops Fall 2019

—Andy Greco

The WISE Division hosted Fall WISEops on the weekend of October 4th to the 6th. We had seven participating layouts and 32 operators, including three first time operators that took the plunge and had fun!

There were all the elements of normal sessions... occasional derailments, throttle communication issues, faulty locomotives, and operator errors. The result was lighthearted operating sessions that allowed both hosts and operators to get to know each other, and see different layouts.

Please mark your calendars for the spring WiseOps on April 18 & 19th. We will have a different mix of layouts and schedule. Below are a couple of photos from the session on Mark Willmering's Rock Harbor HO Layout.



The WISE Owl Car is published by the Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE) Division of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). Subscription is free in an electronic format to all NMRA members residing within the boundaries of the WISE Division.

The Wisconsin Southeastern Division, Inc. does not offer any warranties or guarantees, nor assume any liability from the information contained in this publication.

Permission is granted to use news items in other publications provided credit is given to the Owl Car and author.

Trainfest and the Trainfest logo are registered trademarks of the WISE Division, NMRA, Inc.

Please send any comments, information, or editorials to the editor.
Editor: Steve Miazga, W224N2280 Elmwood Drive, Waukesha, WI 53186
Email: smiazga50@gmail.com Phone: 262-894-6411



WISE Division NMRA
Model Railroad Meet
December 8, 2019
12:30 pm

PUBLIC WELCOME — FREE ADMISSION

12:30 pm *Doors open and contest registrations*

Whether you are a beginner or a long time modeler, you are bound to learn something at this meet. WISE members will demonstrate their techniques for designing, painting modeling and more! There will not be a swap meet at this event due to space limitations.

1:00 to 2:15 pm **Session 1: Hobby "How-To" Techniques**

2:15 to 2:30 *Break for Contest Voting*

2:30 to 3:30 pm **Session 2: Hobby "How-To" Techniques**

3:30 to 4:00 pm *Contest Awards & Announcements*

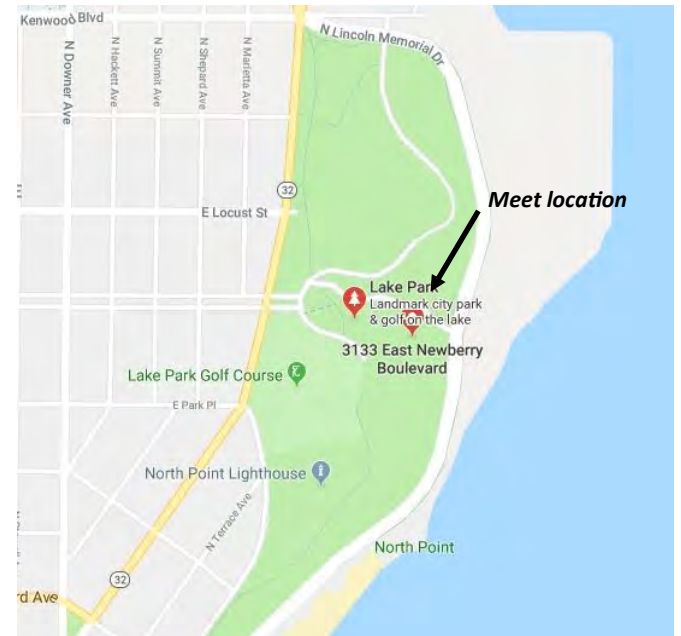
4:00 to 6:00 pm *Layout Tour: To Be Determined*

**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 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!

Jim's Tips and Tidbits

—Jim Kelly



My friend Andy Sperandio, who was the editor of Model Railroader magazine in the 1990s, was a painstaking modeler and a perfectionist. He used knot-free, top-grade lumber for his benchwork.

The cuts and joints were perfect. He hand laid his track. His wiring was strictly color-coded and he used terminal blocks for everything, his reasoning being that it made it much easier to troubleshoot and repair electrical problems. "True," I would say, "except that if you test every connection as you're wiring, you won't have electrical problems, and if you do they're not that hard to find." I use some terminal blocks, but I still don't think they're worth the extra expense and work.

Once I asked him why he hand laid track and I ex-

pected the usual answers: "You can make switches to fit the situation exactly. Your track will flow more gracefully, Your trackage will be more realistic and reliable, etc." Andy's answer was simple though: "I hand lay track because I like too." For him that was reason enough, and that was pretty much his approach to all aspects of the hobby. He liked to. That was why he super detailed freight cars and why his equipment was strictly prototypical. That was why his DCC installations were meticulous.

If he had lived long enough, say 200 years, Andy might have finished his layout, but I don't think he concerned himself much about that. He loved model railroad operations, but he could scratch that itch by operating on other modeler's railroads, and so he did. After Andy retired he and Gordy Spiering travelled all over the country to operate. Layout building for Andy was mostly about the journey, not the destination.





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

CATCH THE TRAINS!

MadCity

53rd Annual

MODEL RAILROAD SHOW AND SALE

Sat. Feb. 15, 9AM-5PM • Sun. Feb. 16, 9AM-4PM
Alliant Energy Center, Exhibition Hall, Madison, WI

Four HO train sets given away each day!

Family Pak \$32

Includes two adults (regular or senior) and two kids (5-15)

Adults \$12 (16 & older), Seniors \$11 (65 & older)

Children \$6 (age 5-15), 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 5-15, can register to win a train set!