



May 2023

## THE “INTERIM” HEAD OWL HOOTS

Burnell Breaker

Greetings WISE Division members!

We had a great April 16 meet at the Oconomowoc Historical Museum and was hosted by the Milwaukee Northwestern Model Railroad Club. 2 clinics were presented by Dave Evans and Chuck Gevaert along with Chuck having his home layout open for us to visit afterwards. We introduced our 2023-2024 schedule and will have flyers in the local hobby shops soon.

Speaking of presentations for our monthly meets . . . If you don't feel comfortable doing a ½ hour or longer presentation, consider doing a shorter presentation more on the lines of the “Bring and Brag” that we're encouraging everyone to do. It's always interesting to see and hear what everyone else has been doing on their layout or on vacation. A few pictures or your latest railroad's acquisition is always fun to see.

This will be the last Owl Car until September. The deadline for that issue will be August 15. Take pictures of rail trips this summer, along with any projects you might work on your railroad. This is your publication!

If you were at the April 16 meet, you got introduced to our 2023-2024 schedule of events. October, November, February and March we will meet at the New Berlin Entertainment Center in the afternoon after the Lionel Railroad Club Train Show. Come early and check out their show.

We will have our Train School in January at the VFW Hall on Beloit Road. Think about how you can help educating new modelers at Train School. We will end our season at the East Troy Electric Railroad Museum in April with a chartered ride of the line, tours of their car barn and maintenance facility and a box lunch from the Elegant Farmer. We are still working out the timing and monetary details. This event has a capacity of 50 people and is only open to WISE members and their families.

Jon Dettmann has offered to be our Layout Tours Corrdinator. If you would like to have your railroad open to Division visitors after a meet, or know someone who might, let Jon know. His email is [layouts@trainfest.com](mailto:layouts@trainfest.com). The railroad does not need to be completely scenicked or large. Everyone likes to see various sized layouts and in various stages of completion.

Have a great summer! See you in October!

Burnell

### Upcoming Division Events:

Executive Committee Meetings  
May 24 7:00pm  
Milwaukee Lionel Railroad Club

WISE Division Meeting  
No meeting until October



**Wisconsin Southeastern Division  
Midwest Region  
of the  
National Model Railroad Association**

## 2023-2024 Schedule of Events

**Sunday, October 15, 2023 - 1:00 p.m.**

**Monthly Meet - New Berlin Entertainment Center**

16000 West Cleveland Avenue, New Berlin

(Non-members - \$5.00, Buy-Sell-Trade, Contests, Clinics, Layout Tour)

**Sunday, November 19, 2023 - 1:00 p.m.**

**Monthly Meet - New Berlin Entertainment Center**

16000 West Cleveland Avenue, New Berlin

(Non-members - \$5.00, Buy-Sell-Trade, Contests, Clinics, Layout Tour)

**Sunday January 14, 2024 - 1:00 p.m.**

**Train School - Hoepfner-Horn Bros. VFW Post 5716**

**FREE ADMISSION** - 17980 West Beloit Road, New Berlin

Learn about this great hobby and all it offers from local modelers.

Stations will be set up to discover different aspects of the hobby.

**Saturday & Sunday, February 17-18, 2024**

**Mad City Train Show - Alliant Energy Center, Madison**

(Extra Fare Event)

**Sunday, February 25, 2024 - 1:00 p.m.**

**Monthly Meet - New Berlin Entertainment Center**

16000 West Cleveland Avenue, New Berlin

(Non-members - \$5.00, Buy-Sell-Trade, Contests, Clinics, Layout Tour)

**Sunday, March 17, 2024 - 1:00 p.m.**

**Monthly Meet and Membership Meeting**

**New Berlin Entertainment Center**

16000 West Cleveland Avenue, New Berlin

(Non-members - \$5.00, Buy-Sell-Trade, Contests, Clinics, Layout Tour)

**Sunday, April 21, 2024 - Time (TBD)**

**East Troy Electric Railroad**

**WISE Division members and their families only - pre-registration required**

(Extra Fare Event - Train Ride, Car Barn Tours, Lunch)

**NEW - BRING & BRAG about your recent acquisitions,  
layout progress or rail adventures at the Meets!**



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

Dennis Janssen

### How Long Should I Keep Records

From Irs.gov

The length of time you should keep a document depends on the action, expense, or event which the document records. Generally, you must keep your records that support an item of income, deduction or credit shown on your tax return until the period of limitations for that tax return runs out.

The period of limitations is the period of time in which you can amend your tax return to claim a credit or refund, or the IRS can assess additional tax. The information below reflects the periods of limitations that apply to income tax returns. Unless otherwise stated, the years refer to the period after the return was filed. Returns filed before the due date are treated as filed on the due date.

**Note:** Keep copies of your filed tax returns. They help in preparing future tax returns and making computations if you file an amended return.

#### Period of Limitations that apply to income tax returns

1. Keep records for 3 years if situations (4), (5), and (6) below do not apply to you.
2. Keep records for 3 years from the date you filed your original return or 2 years from the date you paid the tax, whichever is later, if you file a claim for credit or refund after you file your return.
3. Keep records for 7 years if you file a claim for a loss from worthless securities or bad debt deduction.
4. Keep records for 6 years if you do not report income that you should report, and it is more than 25% of the gross income shown on your return.
5. Keep records indefinitely if you do not file a return
6. Keep records indefinitely if you file a fraudulent return.
7. Keep employment tax records for at least 4 years after the date that the tax becomes due or is paid, whichever is later.

The following questions should be applied to each record as you decide whether to keep a document or throw it away.

#### Are the records connected to property?

Generally, keep records relating to property until the period of limitations expires for the year in which you dispose of the property. You must keep these records to figure any depreciation, amortization, or depletion deduction and to figure the gain or loss when you sell or otherwise dispose of the property.

If you received property in a nontaxable exchange, your basis in that property is the same as the basis of the property you gave up, increased by any money you paid. You must keep the records on the old property, as well as on the new property, until the period of limitations expires for the year in which you dispose of the new property.

#### What should I do with my records for nontax purposes?

When your records are no longer needed for tax purposes, do not discard them until you check to see if you have to keep them longer for other purposes. For example, your insurance company or creditors may require you to keep them longer than the IRS does.

## The Frugal Modeler Thinks Out Loud

Dave Nelson

Opinions can and will differ whether today's hobbyists have it better than we did back in the 1960s and 70s. Sure, costs were lower and teens and other beginners had a better chance at being able to buy some things for their layouts without it seeming like a major purchase, yet at the time I do not recall model railroaders basking in the sun at how cheap their hobby was, and the offerings back then could not approach the detail and accuracy of what is being sold today. Sure, local hobby shops had a better chance of having a pretty complete inventory, but that is because the supply of model railroad goods was pretty static. There was little urgency to buy a newly introduced product because firms such as Walthers, Athearn, and Mantua -- even the brass locomotive importers -- kept products available for years, even decades, as opposed to today's limited runs that have to be purchased before you even can inspect or evaluate the model.

But while I take a backseat to nobody in fondly remembering the good old days, it has to be admitted that the selection of model trucks and automobiles back then was not just meager but disappointing in terms of choice and quality. Most of us in HO were satisfied with placing Dinky Toys (yes that was the real name, and a very fitting one) or Matchbox vehicles on our layouts, even though Dinky Toys were mostly closer to S scale, and Matchbox models, while nicely done, were not to a specific or consistent scale. Some were pretty close to HO. Some were not. But they were affordable, or so they seem now.

And the firms that actually catered to "serious" scale modelers could offer nearly anything and we'd snap it up because there were so few choices.

One photo shows a pretty mediocre Gloor Craft delivery van and a truly disappointing Ford mini-van -- wheels and tires NOT included. It almost looks like a piece of waxy Halloween candy.



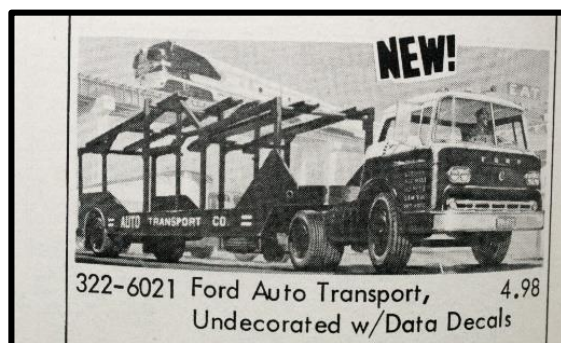
Delivery vans and a dark brown Ford mini van that looks like a tootsie roll candy

Compare to a Mini Metals/Classic Metal Works International truck.



But before we conclude that everything is better today, there were some nice offerings in the past that are worth keeping

your eyes open for at swap meets and other opportunities. As early as 1959 Revell was offering a very nice Ford truck, and the cab tilted forward just like the prototype. Revell offered it with a moving van and an automobile carrier.



## The Frugal Modeler Thinks Out Loud (continued)

Heljan and Con-Cor later picked up the tooling and those trucks might still be available, and are certainly seen at swap meets. Don't let the dated look of the packaging fool you - these are nice models.

Ulrich was known for its all-metal freight cars, a line which Walthers later offered but has now discontinued.



Working with metal is not something many younger modelers seem to feel comfortable with, but the

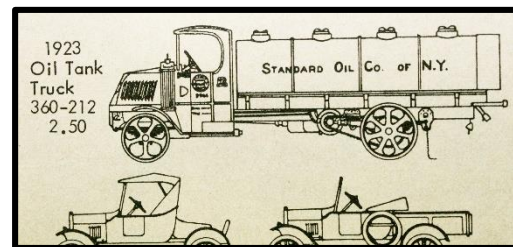
freight cars and more particularly the trucks that Ulrich offered are worth checking out.



They included a Mack cab-over-engine truck, a Kenworth truck, and a variety of trailers including semi, flatbed and tank. When carefully assembled they build up into a decent looking model that offers genuine options to the modeler seeking a variety of trucks.

For those who model older eras such as the 1920s, it is lamentable that the Jordan line of plastic trucks, automobiles, and horse-drawn wagons and carriages was discontinued when the original owner passed away. You still see Jordan kits being sold at swap meets but it seems the supply gets more limited every year.

So if you model World War I to the Great Depression, keep your eyes open at train shows. I almost never see Walker Model Services or SS Ltd kits any more at swap meets but they were exquisite little models, not the easiest to assemble, and Walker and SS also catered to that early era modeler



## Gondola with Switch Load

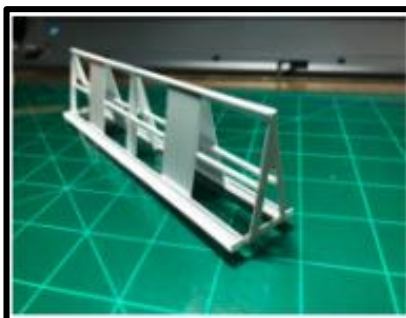
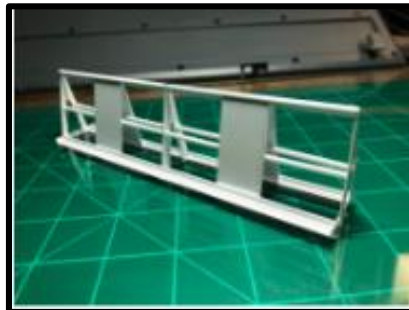
By Don Reinicker - Waukesha

As an NMRA member I enjoy reading the monthly magazine. One of my favorite sections is the "Love Those Loads!" articles. Even though I have never seen loads like are shown in the articles I enjoy seeing how the author recreates the loads.

About 1-1/2 years ago I was driving north on Hwy 64 from Waukesha towards Slinger. The road had an overpass over the UP tracks just south of Hwy 60. When I looked at the track, I saw a work train with a turnout leaning on a frame in a gondola. Unfortunately, there was nowhere to pull over to try to get a picture. Every time I drive over that bridge, I look to see if there is another work train in the sidings west of the overpass. Unfortunately, I have not seen anything other than everyday freight cars and engines.

I spent time looking for prototypical pictures of a turnout in a gondola. There are a few but they don't show much detail. MTH did make an "O" Scale gondola with a turnout and frame to hold it. Based on this info I decided to build a frame out of styrene structural plastic.

Materials used:  
Evergreen 0.020" sheet, Plastruct 1/8" T and Plastruct 3/32" tubing. The frame was then primer painted to be a steel color and decals were added. The turnout is an Atlas #6 RH turnout cut back to fit the gondola.



## Division Video Library

A reminder for everyone that the Division's Video Library is available for members to checkout DVDs.

As I stated after the Division went inactive, I cannot do both jobs of being the Interim Superintendent and Video Librarian, bringing and managing the Video Library at our meets. If you would like to checkout any DVDs, look at our catalog on [wisedivision.org](http://wisedivision.org) and contact me with the number and title of the one(s) you would like to view. I will bring them to our next meet or you can pick them up at my business. The DVDs are currently stored in my company's warehouse in Caledonia.

If you are interested in taking over the Video Library, contact me. It's an easy job, where you need to bring the Video Library to our meets and manage the checking out and receiving of them from the members.

Burnell Breaker  
[superintendent@trainfest.com](mailto:superintendent@trainfest.com)  
 262-939-9193



We are in need of layouts to visit after our monthly meets. The information we have is over 10 years old and it needs to be updated. Many WISE members have moved or passed away since our last directory was published in 2011. If you would like to have your layout open to visit after one of our meets, let us know. You can send your railroad name, scale and contact information to [layouts@trainfest.com](mailto:layouts@trainfest.com). We do have a new layout tour coordinator and his name is Jon Dettmann. Jon lives on the east side of Milwaukee and models the C&NW in N scale from Fond du Lac to Marshfield in 1939. Help Jon out to get a new database of layouts available to visit by sending him your information.

### A Word about Constant Contact e-mail

Each Constant Contact e-mail includes links to update or unsubscribe your e-mail address. **Please do not use these links.** If you unsubscribe using the Constant Contact link, your e-mail address will be removed from the NMRA membership database, from the Midwest Region e-mail database and probably from your Division's records. If you get an e-mail that you don't want, just hit the delete key. Furthermore, if you use the update link, your change may not be timely posted to the NMRA membership database.

**If you need to change your email address with the NMRA please follow these directions:**

The direct way is to log on to the "Members" page of the NMRA website, choose the "View your NMRA membership" box on the right side of the screen, scroll down to the bottom of the page and select "Update". Enter the new email address in the appropriate box and click "Submit".

## Clinicians Needed

Probably every one of you has at some point sat down for a visit with another model railroader and told them what you're up to lately. Maybe it was during a WISE Division bus ride, or during lunch at a train show, but whether you realize it or not you were giving a clinic. Well -- why not give that same clinic to the entire Division? Do you have a layout but don't feel comfortable hosting a layout tour just yet? Why not take photos of its highlights and narrate it for us at a meeting? Remember that the less complete your layout might be, the more there might be to learn from it. Are you starting or have you finished a project (track, scenery, detailing a freight car, whatever)? Again, take some pictures, scribble down some notes, and you have just made it into a clinic. Clinics do NOT have to be any particular length. Even just five or ten minutes describing what you've been up to will of interest to your fellow model railroaders. If photography is not something you feel confident about, I can help. This is a hobby about doing -- and our monthly meets are about sharing what we're doing. Every one of you has done something, or knows something, or is working on something, or has acquired something, or has gone somewhere and seen something, that is of interest to others. Contact me, Dave Nelson at [engine1385@aol.com](mailto:engine1385@aol.com) and we can discuss.



### A Note from the Editor:

It is tradition that the Owl Car ceases publication for the summer. So, this is it until September. But just because the publication may stop for the summer, your submissions don't have to. There's no need to wait until August. You can send me, anytime, your photos, articles, or something you found that you would like to share.

Please send everything for the Owl Car to [owlcar@trainfest.com](mailto:owlcar@trainfest.com). I check for your submissions periodically.

Your Editor  
Cindy Mielke



## Division Leadership

### Executive Committee

Burnell Breaker --- Interim Superintendent  
[superintendent@trainfest.com](mailto:superintendent@trainfest.com)  
 262-939-9193

Robert Niedermann --- Assistant Superintendent  
[Asst.super@trainfest.com](mailto:Asst.super@trainfest.com)  
 414-587-4778

Dennis Jannsen --- Paymaster (Treasurer)  
[dennis@trainfest.com](mailto:dennis@trainfest.com)  
 262-544-6324

David Rohr --- Chief Clerk (Secretary)  
[chiefclerk@trainfest.com](mailto:chiefclerk@trainfest.com)  
 262-783-7230

Tim Koch --- Member at Large  
[tim@trainfest.com](mailto:tim@trainfest.com)

Gary Hendrickson --- Membership  
[members@trainfest.com](mailto:members@trainfest.com)  
 847-800-1380

Dave Nelson --- Clinics  
[engine1385@aol.com](mailto:engine1385@aol.com)

Dave Poquette --- Achievement Program  
[ap@trainfest.com](mailto:ap@trainfest.com)

Jon Dettmann --- Layout Tours  
[layouts@trainfest.com](mailto:layouts@trainfest.com)  
 414-469-7660

Dave Mielke --- Train School  
[mielkemanor@att.net](mailto:mielkemanor@att.net)

Cindy Mielke --- Owl Car Editor  
[owlcar@trainfest.com](mailto:owlcar@trainfest.com)

Mike Slater --- Social Media Manager  
[m Slater@wi.rr.com](mailto:m Slater@wi.rr.com)  
 262-515-3623

Jim Hebner --- Webmaster  
[webmaster@trainfest.com](mailto:webmaster@trainfest.com)

Picnic/Bus Trips ---  
 Contest ---  
 Video Library ---

### FROM the NMRA Please Keep in Touch



Please make sure the NMRA has your current contact information. You will not be able to access the full range of NMRA benefits unless we can reach you.

- Please visit [nmra.org/members](http://nmra.org/members)
- Use your email address and password to log in.
- If you have not yet registered, or forgot your password, there are buttons for that. Take a moment to easily correct any problems.
- Once logged in, click on Member Info (top right corner).
- Make sure your information is correct.
- If not, please go to:

[nmra.org/request-membership-info-changes](http://nmra.org/request-membership-info-changes)

to submit a request for changes to be made.

*Thank you!*

The WISE Owl Car is published by the Wisconsin Southeast (WISE) Division of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA).

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Please send any comments, information, or editorials to Editor Cindy Mielke via email: [owlcar@trainfest.com](mailto:owlcar@trainfest.com)

## March Executive Committee Minutes

**Wisconsin Southeastern Division (WISE) of the NMRA  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Wednesday March 8, 2023  
Location: Lionel Railroad Club & Zoom**

Meeting called to order by Burnell Breaker at 7:08 pm

**BOD Present** - Burnell Breaker (Interim Superintendent & Video Library),  
Dennis Janssen (Treasurer, Paymaster)  
Robert Niedermann (Interim Asst-Superintendent, & Contests),  
David Rohr (Secretary, Chief Clerk)

**Chairs Present** - None

**Guests** – Bob McGeever (Zoom)

**Absent** – Tim Koch – BOD

Prior to meeting, Breaker, Niedermann, Rohr, and Hendrickson met at the New Berlin VFW to discuss with manager Michelle, the Train School plan. Contract obtained for Sunday, Jan 14, 2024, and submitted.

**Minutes:** No changes noted from February 8 meeting, approved

**Paymaster Report:** Janssen asked if any changes needed for the 990 submission for 2022 tax year.  
No changes needed, so it will be filed with the IRS.  
No changes noted for the treasurer report from January 11 meeting,

**Train Sales:** February 12 Kenosha Train Swap. Collected \$125.00  
Reserved 2 tables again for the March 12 Kenosha Train Swap.  
Will have 3 tables for selling at March 19 Lionel Club Show before our meet.  
Need to discuss what to do with some of our for-sale items after March. There is another swap at OAW Sports complex in April 23.

We did give 6 On3/On30 San Juan Car Co. cars to South Side Trains to sell on eBay.  
Did quite well, \$300.24 gross sales, \$183.15 net receipt

**Committee Reports:**

Gary Hendrickson – will attend meeting

Gary is donating up to 4 cars to the person/s that joins up the most members.

See the challenge details in the March Owl Car

Gary does not seem to be making much progress on getting membership increases.

Gary discussed suggestions from Christina Zambri Marketing Consultant from HQ.

Dave Nelson – Has an article in the Owl Car

Dave Poquette – nothing to report

**Owl Car:**

March edition looked good.

Plan to do an April, May, maybe an Aug or Sept issues.

Need pictures. Deadline for April edition is March 15.

Tried to do the March edition, in Publisher, took 15 hours. Doing it in Word, was done in 5 hours.

**Meets:**

March 19 Meet – New Berlin Entertainment Center

Dave Nelson has 3 clinics set.

Jon Dettmann has offered to have his railroad open after the March 19 meet.

Jon D also has offered to be the layout tours coordinator.

John Hagen can't find layout information binder. So, we will have to recreate layout info.

May have info in our storage unit, or Slater may have info.

April 16 Meet – Oconomowoc Historical Museum

2 clinics arranged by Club: Dave Evans & Chuck Gevaert,

No contests are planned, short membership meeting, one layout tour.

The WISE Website needs an update with this latest info.

**Train School review:**

Discussion of New Berlin VFW Hall as home for Train School (Jan. 14, 2024)

Advertising on Facebook, local newspapers

**Other news:**

The Bus trip from Madison area visiting MKE layouts has been canceled.

Had 12 signed up and is \$50 per person with 32 min. Carpool has not much interest.

Rockford is having a May 7 gathering with folks from SCWD.

MWR Region no convention planned this year

**2023-2024 Schedule discussion:**

Piggyback onto Lionel Club show dates?

Dates: Oct 15, Nov 19, Jan 14 Train School, Mad City Feb 17 & 18, Feb 25?,

Mar 17 member meeting & elections??, Apr 21 East Troy.

Go somewhere else in Division for 1 meet?

East Troy for April 21, 2024 meet. Have contract from ETRR. (East Troy RR) \$450 for

50 people + box lunch at \$10 each from Elegant Farmer. Beverage would be extra.

**Trainfest**

No show in 2023. Next show 2024.

**April Business meeting:**

How much do we need/want to tell membership at April 16 meet in Oconomowoc?

Discuss concerns that were brought up regarding membership demographics and participation.

Future of the WISE Division?

**Next Meeting:**

Scheduled for Wednesday April 12, 2023 at 7 pm at the Lionel Railroad Club in New Berlin.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted by David A. Rohr, Chief Clerk.

**Financial Summary of WISE**  
**presented at the Membership Meeting**  
**April 16, 2023**

Cash in bank March 31, <b>2022</b>	\$114,941
Cash in bank March 31, <b>2023</b>	\$112,110
Total Operating Expense for Fiscal Year ending October 31, 2022. Our Fiscal Year ends October 31 of each year.	\$8,399
Total Operating Expense for Calendar Year ending December 31, 2022. The Calendar Year includes the twelve months ending December 31.	\$8,326



**Central Indiana Division**  
of the  
**National Model Railroad Association**  
*presents the 2023*



## FRANKLIN TRAIN SHOW

**Saturday, Aug. 5th, 10am to 4pm**  
**Sunday, Aug. 6th, 10am to 3pm**

- 4 Buildings filled with vendors and portable layouts
- 1 Building for demonstrations



**Admission: \$7.00 per Adult**

**(Kids under 16 free with parents)**

**(\$5.00 with proof of current NMRA membership with card)**

**JOHNSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

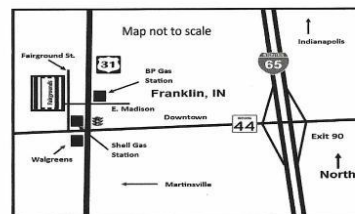
**250 Fairground St., Franklin, IN • Check in at Shooting Sports Building**

**Show Features:**

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| • Operating Layouts | • Displays    |
| • Dealer Tables     | • Demo's      |
| • Manufacturers     | • Door Prizes |
| • Free Parking      | • Food        |

**★ Popular Vote Contest ★**

*Bring what you are working on*



**Check out our website at**  
**<http://www.cidnmra.org>**

For information contact Michael Roderick at (317) 833-3556 or [FranklinTrainShow@gmail.com](mailto:FranklinTrainShow@gmail.com)

**NOTE: The next CID train show is at Danville, IN on November 18, 2023**

**2023 NMRA Winnebagoland Division**

**Spring Meet - May 13th, 2023**  
**Hosted by: The Green Bay Area Model RR Club**  
**333 N. Broadway De Pere, WI 54115**



**2023 Spring Meet Timetable**

**Friday, May 12th**

- 7:00 – 9:00 pm GBAMRC Operating Session (pre-registration required)

**Saturday, May 13th**

8:00 – 10:00 am **Meet Registration**

**Clinics (schedule)**

	Room 1	Room 2
8:30 -9:30 am	Gregg Condon - Operating my HON3 RR	Tom Noth & Gary Glatfelter
9:45-10:45 am	TBD	Repairing Rollingstock
11:00-noon	Cody Grivno - ICG's Souix City Sub	

*Show off your railroad photography skills - bring your pics for the photo contest!!!*

*Bring your models to show off or enter in the modeling contest!!!*

- 12:30 – 1:30 pm **Lunch Served by: GBAMRC (Brats & burgers w/potato salad, beans, water....)**

**Winnebagoland Division Annual Meeting**

- 1:30 pm **Model-Photo Contest Awards**
- 2:00pm – 6:00pm **Layout Tours**
- 7:00 – 9:00 pm **GBAMRC Operating Session (pre-registration required)**

*Two Nights of Layout OPS!!!*

**2023 Spring Meet Registration (Checks Payable to Winnebagoland Division)**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NMRA#:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OPS Session** Friday  Saturday  **No. of Operators** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meet Registration Fee**

**Member \$10 X** \_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **+ Non-Member \$13 X** \_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **+ Lunch \$10 X** \_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**For more info visit** [www.wld-nmra.com](http://www.wld-nmra.com) **Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form and Payment by 5/6/2023 to  
 Phil Herman  
 5123 Wild Meadow Drive  
 Sheboygan, WI 53083



# NMRA NEWS



## TEXAS EXPRESS

**AUGUST 20-26**  
**Dallas/Fort Worth**  
 GAYLORD RESORT, GRAPEVINE  
 SUPERCHARGED - HIGH SPEED - STREAMLINED

### NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW

August 25-27

### SPENCER CHRISTIAN

Banquet Speaker

### GAYLORD RESORT

4-star Hotel and Water Park

### BNSF HQ TOUR

Dispatching Center and Intermodal Yard

### CLINICS

### SIG ACTIVITIES

### LAYOUT TOURS

### OPERATION SESSIONS

### CONTEST AND DISPLAY

### FREMO-N OPERATIONS



### RAIL TOURS

### GENERAL INTEREST

- Texo Grain Mill
- Private Railcars
- TexRail Back Shop
- Texas State Railroad
- Trinity Rail Car Plant
- BNSF Intermodal Yard
- Six Flags Railroad Shop
- Grapevine Vintage Railroad
- McKinney Ave Trolley Shops
- Trinity Tank Car Cleaning Plant
- BNSF National Operations Center
- Museum of the American Railroad
- BNSF Private Western Art Collection
- T&P, Santa Fe, & Dallas Union Stations
- Fort Worth & Western Railroad Back Shop
- Union Pacific Dallas International Terminal
- Light Rail & Commuter Shops (DART & TRE)
- George W Bush Library
- Fort Worth Stockyards
- Grapevine Wine Tour
- Sixth Floor Museum
- Fort Worth Modern
- Holocost Museum
- Kimbell Museum
- Globe Life Park
- AT&T Stadium
- Dealey Plaza

**NMRA National Convention**  
**2023 TEXAS EXPRESS.COM**