

November 2023

THE “INTERIM” HEAD OWL HOOTS

Burnell Breaker

Greetings fellow WISE members!

For those of us that attended the October 15 meet, we were treated to a great clinic on model and prototype photography by Dean Jensen. Thanks again to David Mielke for bringing Dean in to present this very interesting clinic. Mark Willmering and Ken Jaglinski had their model railroads open to visit after our meet was done. Thanks to Jon Dettmann, our new layout tours coordinator for arranging these tours. A great selection of items were for sale at the Lionel Railroad Club Toy Train Show and Sale before our meet. Be sure to come early to check out the great deals at their show. We are selling our collection donation items at the Lionel Club Sale, as well as at our meets. We did have some swap tables with items for sale early on at our meet. Remember that selling tables are free for WISE members at our meets.

Again, we had no contest entries at our meet. This has become a sad trend for the past number of years in having little or no entries. This is a great way for you to showcase your modeling or photography and maybe even walk away with a gift certificate or two from your favorite hobby shop. If this trend continues, we might have to consider not having contests.

Our meeting room at the New Berlin Entertainment Center is very nice, but we really don't need that large of a space and the cost does add up for us over the course of a season. I would like to find a smaller

venue at little or no cost, with maybe a couple of rooms, so we could have a clinic going on in one room, contests in another, sales and visiting in a larger room. Western Milwaukee County or eastern Waukesha County is a good location for us, since most members live in that area. If you have any ideas for a meeting location, let me or one of the other Executive Committee members know and we will investigate it. We still want to travel around and have meets in other areas of the Division, so all of us can enjoy what is happening in the Division. If you know of a good location for us to meet elsewhere around the Division, let us know about that, too, for future reference.

We also were a bit late in getting word out reminding our members about the October meet. We will do better in the future and put more information out regarding the clinics being offered. We all can do more to boost attendance by bringing a friend along to check us out and hopefully to join the NMRA. Gary Hendrickson, our membership chairman, put out the challenge for everyone to bring in at least one new person to our meets. If so, he has a prize of a new HO scale freight car for the first people who do.

Flyers were available and the details were discussed for our East Troy Electric Railroad charter trip April 21, 2024. Signup sheets will be available, and you will be able to sign up and pay beginning at our November 19 meet.

This will be an adult only event, for liability reasons as we will be going into the railroad's car barn and maintenance building. Don't wait! Space is limited.

Train School is also fast approaching. The date is January 14, 2024, at the Hoepfner-Horn VFW Post, 17980 West Beloit Road, New Berlin. David Mielke is working on getting people to man various stations to help people new to the hobby and those of us who have been in the hobby for years. If you can help with this, contact David at mielkemanor@att.net. We plan to have some displays, an operating layout for people to run trains on, and the various stations for people to learn about the hobby.

David Mielke and I collected the remaining items from our latest collection donation in Muskego. I will begin to go through and catalog everything so we can have these items for sale at our November 19 meet. The model railroad is still in the house and needs to be taken apart and moved. It is HO scale 5-1/2' x 13' and separates into 5 manageable pieces. The ideal situation would be for us to find a home for it and move it from the widow's house to its new home. It comes with a Digitrax command control system, code 83 track, Peco turnouts, Tortoise switch machines on most turnouts, dwarf signals to show turnout direction and lighted buildings. Check out the pictures of the model railroad on page 16 of this issue. If you know of someone who might be interested in this, let us know.

Regarding this donation, David and I learned from his widow that in the early 2000's that her husband investigated joining a local model railroad club which met across from the airport on South Howell Avenue. He ended up not joining because he was basically ignored when he came to their meetings. Need I say more as to what that club was??? THE WISE DIVISION!!! For those of us who were around at that time, it was obvious that the people running the

Division, at that time, were involved with their own cliques and not doing much to advance the membership. Trainfest was a big part of the problem. The show was a great event and made a lot of money for the Division over the years, but it also became quite time-consuming and ended up taking over the Division. Trainfest was all that the Division lived and breathed for 9 months out of each year. Very little thought was given to anything else within the Division. Those of us on the Executive Committee are working hard to right the wrongs of the past and bring this Division back to where all are welcome.

Hope to see everyone at our November 19 meet. Remember to come in the morning and check out the Lionel Railroad Club Show and Sale.

Happy Railroading!!!
Burnell

Upcoming Division Events:

Executive Committee Meetings
November 8 7:00pm
Milwaukee Lionel Railroad Club

WISE Division Meeting
November 19 1:00pm
New Berlin Entertainment Center



**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 - 11:00 a.m.

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!**

see back side for contact and more information



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

Dennis Janssen

Phishing Links

What happens if I clicked on a phishing link?

Clicking on a phishing link can sometimes set off a malware download that contains malicious files capable of harvesting information stored on your device. Hackers can steal credit card numbers, bank account numbers, usernames and passwords, and other personal information.

Don't Panic! Here is what to do if you clicked on a phishing link.

If you've just clicked on a phishing link, you're probably starting to worry. Have you just unleashed dangerous malware onto your systems? Is a hacker now scanning through all your files in a plot to steal your identity?

Before you tear your hair out speculating, read this article, we'll tell you exactly what to do to prevent any damage and how to avoid clicking on phishing links in the future.

Phishing has evolved over time and can now be highly sophisticated. We are currently dealing with different kinds of phishing - URL phishing, Clone phishing, business email compromise - and different entry points.

People can get tricked via the traditional email method, but we're now seeing phishing attacks made over the phone (vishing) or SMS (smishing) become more popular among hackers. In fact, it was reported that SMS-based scams [rose by 328%](#) in 2020 during the pandemic.

So, don't be too hard on yourself for clicking on a phishing link. People are fooled every day as these scams become harder to spot.

According to the UK Government's Cyber Breaches survey, phishing took first place as the most common threat vector this year, making up [83% of cyber-attacks](#).

Ok, so maybe you didn't click on a phishing link...or perhaps you did? If they've done their job well, hackers won't make it glaringly obvious that they're trying to fool you. Luckily, most phishing attacks usually have one or two giveaways.

The sender: If the message appears to be from someone you know, check in with them and ask if it was really them who sent it. They'll probably appreciate the heads-up if it turns out someone has breached their account! This has happened to a couple of our members and occasionally, I get a link from a hacker, supposedly from one of our members, saying I should click on a link to see a picture of some "old friends".

You should also check the sender's domain closely to see if it's consistent with who they say they are. Often hackers will change just one letter of a trusted domain, which the recipient might easily miss. Often, the sender's email address has nothing to do with the person identified as the sender.



Phishing Links (continued)

The content: Read through the message. If you're being urged to act fast or provide specific information like banking details, treat it with caution.

The spelling: Phishing emails are often not written in the best English, so look out for poor spelling and grammar, which might suggest it's spam.

The link: Hover over the link itself to see if it's consistent with the domain.

Don't provide any personal information: If the link has taken you to a page asking you to fill in your details, avoid this at all costs. This gives the hacker precisely what he's after.

Disconnect from the internet: Clicking on the link may have triggered malware to be downloaded, so it's a good idea to disconnect from whatever WiFi you're using to avoid malware moving across the network onto other devices.

Back up: Ideally, you back up regularly anyway, so this doesn't necessarily have to be a complete device backup, but if malware has been downloaded onto your device, chances are it could wipe or damage your data.

Backing up important data can be done using an external hard drive or USB and will prevent you from losing everything in the case of a data breach.

Check for malware: Whether you suspect malware or not, it's always best practice to scan your system for viruses that might have been downloaded when you clicked on the phishing link. Most operating systems already have built-in antivirus software, which you can use to check if any harm has been done.

If you don't have any malware scanning software, there are plenty of [free and paid options](#) online, but you should use another device to download the software online and then, with a USB, transfer it across to the affected device. You mustn't reconnect the original device to the internet to avoid any malware spreading.

Change Passwords: Hackers can access your credentials via phishing links, so if you think you clicked on one, changing your online passwords, particularly to things like bank accounts, is essential to avoid further damage.

Don't reuse the same passwords across accounts, as this makes it even easier for a hacker to wreak havoc. Always create strong, unique passwords, and use something secure like a [password manager](#) to keep track of them.

You might escape from clicking on a phishing link with no real damage done. Nevertheless, use it as a wake-up call to help you act more cautiously online in the future.

It's always best to assume the worst and go through the steps above if you think you've been targeted in a phishing, vishing or smishing attack.

Remind yourself periodically of what to look for when you're being phished, especially as attacking techniques grow more sophisticated.

This article does not detail how to perform the suggestions. If you have questions on how to do some of these, type the suggestion into your favorite browser on a safe device such as your phone. If you still have questions, look me up at a WISE Meet.

Making A Silk Purse – Part Three

Ken Mosny

This is a 10-part series in the RRVD Flimzie about building an 0-6-0 locomotive.

Part Three: The Rods, Cylinders and Such

Most MDC diecast kits and locomotives have not been made for many years. Ones that you see for sale are probably 40-60 years old by now. Some diecast zinc has a reputation for swelling, cracking, and crumbling away as it ages. This is because the metal was originally of poor quality having contaminants. The good news is that the bad ones have by now probably crumbled away. Old Japanese imports, Mantua/Tyco and Varney products are well known to have this problem. There is no way to restore deteriorated diecast metal. It is junk, period. I have never seen MDC products have deterioration problems, a testament to their quality control, but it doesn't mean that they don't exist. Inspect any locomotive you may buy carefully. A small crack or a little distortion can be the start of deterioration, and it is a cancer that only gets worse.

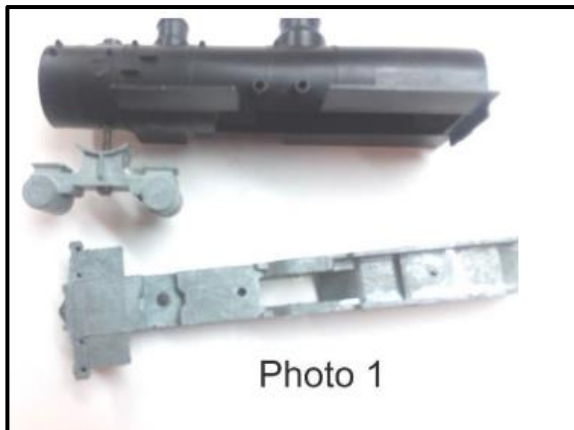


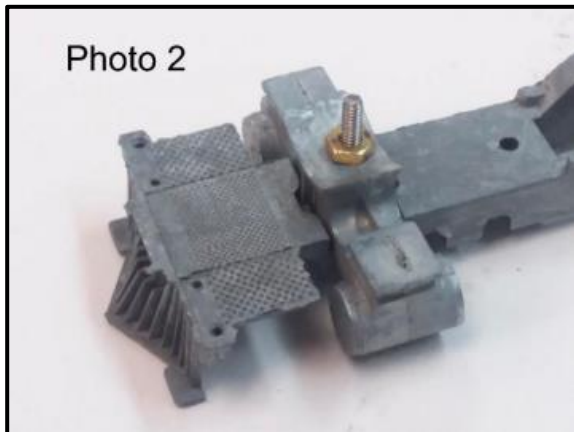
Photo 1

Now that the drivers on the 0-6-0 are done, it is time to work on the rest of the mechanism. This installment will cover the side rods, main rods, alligator guides and cylinders. Steam locomotive models have lots of moving parts which, if they don't move correctly, will cause binding. I have seen many models set aside, even discarded, because of mechanism problems. One of the advantages of the modeling the 1903 era is that the Stevenson type valve gear common at the time has few visible parts and is rarely modeled working, in HO at least. As a matter of fact, there is only one commercial HO model that I know of that has a working Stevenson valve gear, and it is a rather crude model made in the early 1950's. So, you need only model the visible parts of the valve gear statically with the rods and pistons the only moving parts.

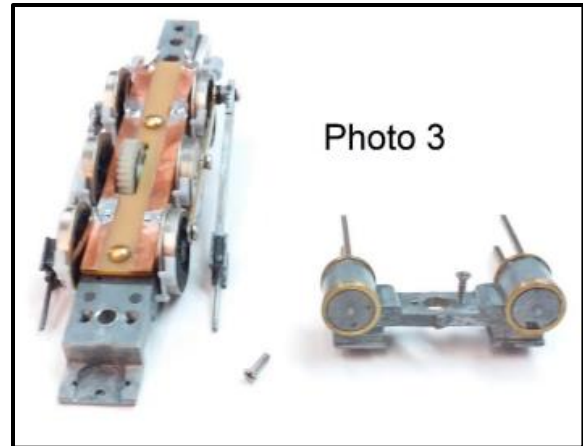
The cylinder block of the MDC 0-6-0 is not attached to the frame. It is simply held in place by a long 2-56 screw passing up from the bottom through clearance holes in the frame and saddle on its way to a tapped hole in the boiler, photo 1. This is common for diecast models. The method uses minimal parts, is low cost, but leaves the cylinder block loose when the boiler is off. I always screw the diecast cylinder block to the frame by tapping it for 0-80 screws and drilling clearance holes in the frame. If your 0-6-0 has a plastic, rather than a diecast block, I suggest #0 sheet metal screws (Kaydee 402 or 403 can be used) as less likely to strip. By screwing the block to the frame, it is locked in position when the boiler is removed for testing the mechanism. You could simply thread a nut on the boiler screw to hold the cylinder block in place with the boiler removed. However, there is quite a bit of free play in positioning the block on the frame making its position not repeatable. Flat head screws and close fit clearance holes make its position very repeatable.

Making A Silk Purse – Part Three (continued)

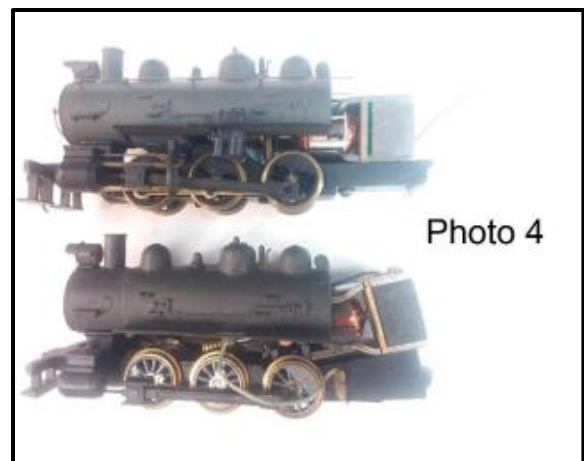
Here is an easy way to make sure all the holes and taps line up without doing a lot of careful measuring. Fasten the block and frame tightly together with a screw and nut as in Photo 2.



Center punch the two screw holes in the bottom of the frame. Using an 0-80 tap drill (#56 or 3/64") and drill press, drill two holes into the frame and cylinder block as deep as you can without breaking out the far side. Do not try this by hand. This is deep hole drilling so drill a little, withdraw the drill out of the hole to clear the chips, put a drop of oil in the hole, and drill some more. For the plastic block, use the drill press to drill the diecast frame and finish the hole in the plastic by hand with a pin vise. Now, take the pieces apart, enlarge the frame holes only with a 0.062" bit for an 0-80 clearance hole and countersink for a flat head screw if desired. The holes in the frame and cylinder block will now be perfectly aligned. Tap a diecast cylinder block with an 0-80 tap. Make sure that you lubricate the tap with oil as diecast zinc can jam and break miniature taps easily. When tapping turn it only one quarter to one half turn before reversing to break the chips and withdraw the tap every few turns to clean the chips and oil the tap. The result is shown in Photo 3

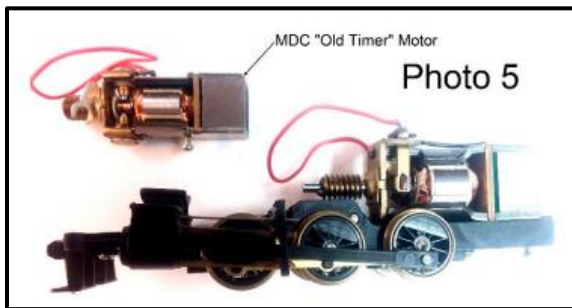


If you are going to alter the boiler saddle to lower the boiler, now is the time to do it. The boiler on this MDC 0-6-0 locomotive is very high, ungainly so. This is necessary to fit two of the large open frame motors MDC used as shown in Photo 4.



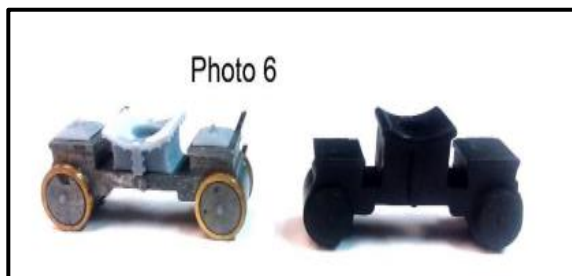
There are many modern smaller motors that can be used which have better performance, lower stall current and are more decoder friendly. This locomotive is small so most any size motor 12mm or so will be fine. A flat can motor is good choice and there is a seller on eBay, cv-backshop, that makes a conversion kit for this locomotive. A motor from MDC 2-6-0 or 2-8-0 "old timer" with the reduction gear will do the job and already has the correct worm gear fitted to the motor, Photo 5.

Making A Silk Purse – Part Three (continued)

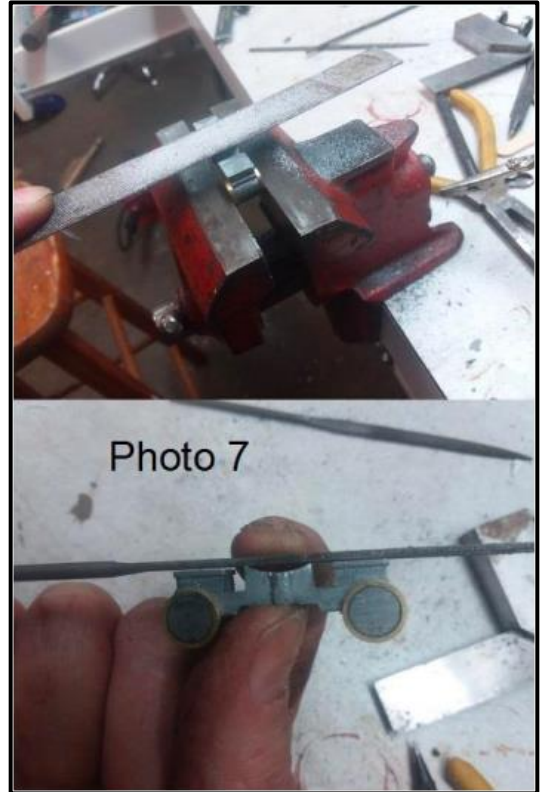


If you chose to adapt your own motor, you will likely need a sleeve to match the worm gear hole to your motor shaft diameter. I routinely make these sleeves on my lathe. NWSL makes these sleeves in various sizes, also.

I lowered the boiler 0.100", almost 9 scale inches, to more closely match the height shown in drawings for this type of locomotive by using a 12mm diameter coreless motor. I milled off the boiler saddle and 3d printed a new one with better bolt details. Photo 6 shows the height difference.



With a bit of work, you can rework the boiler saddle on the steam chest to lower the boiler. File off the saddle plate with a half round mill file that has a radius close to the radius of the boiler. Keep filing until the saddle is the desired height. It is easy to file this shape crooked. Go carefully keeping the file centered and square with the work, Photo 7.



If the radius of the file cut is not to your liking, just finish the cut with sandpaper wrapped around a stick or rod of the correct size. Then cut and bend a piece of brass plate for the new saddle plate. I bend thick plate like this by tapping it on a rod with a small hammer, Photo 8



Making A Silk Purse – Part Three (continued)

You can soften half of the hard brass plate to make it easier to bend by heating it to red heat with a propane torch and allowing it to cool of its own accord. Use CA to glue the plate on and flow more CA to fill any gap as needed. Some of the later steam chest castings MDC made from plastic would be much easier to rework. I would cut off the plastic boiler saddle at the base, shorten it and glue it back on. I have not tried it, but it looks like the steam chest casting from an MDC 2-6-0 or 2-8-0 “old timer” will fit and lower the boiler about 0.063” without changes.

The alligator guides need to be smooth and polished. Hone the sides of square brass guides on a fine Arkansas stone to polish them. I press them into the square holes after I nickel plate the guides. I make sure they are straight, and the alligators slide freely. Then I lock the guides in place with a little water thin CA applied to the joint. The guides as supplied are too long and should not extend past the back of the guide yoke. Now is the time to shorten them.

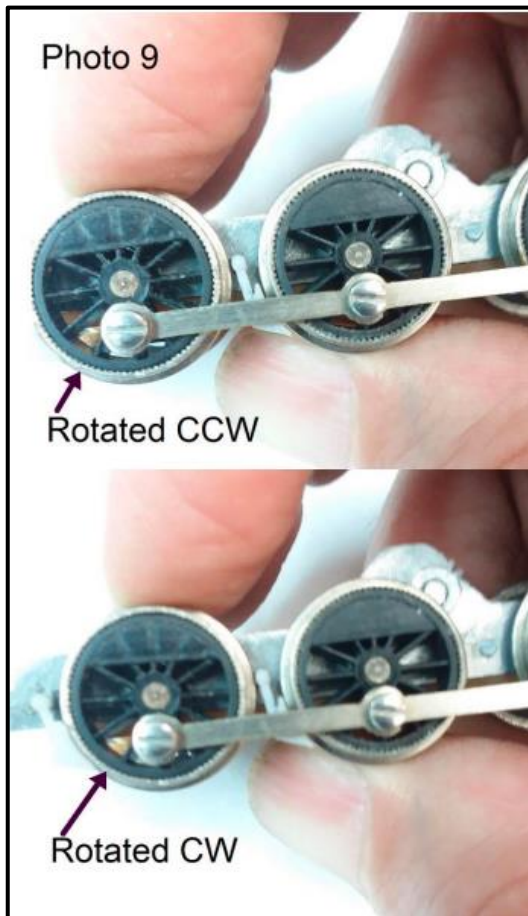
On to checking the side rods. It is important that the side rod hole spacing be exactly the same as the axle hole spacing, that they are straight and flat, and that all the holes in the side rods are the same diameter. Check the flatness and straightness on a flat surface. You can gauge the side rod hole sizes easily with a drill bit. Find a drill which just passes through the holes in the side rod. Numbered and fractional bits in this size range differ by only a few thousandths of an inch so you should be able to find a size to use as a gauge. Using the smooth shank of the drill, not the twist end to avoid cutting, try the bit in all the holes to see if the fit is the same and the holes are round. If you have a NOS kit or unmolested locomotive, it is unlikely there will be any perceptible difference in the

sizes of the holes. Someone, however, may have enlarged a hole or filed one oval in a used locomotive to try to correct a “problem”. Bad idea. An out of quarter driver is a likely cause of the “problem” and this is a tip off to inspect the driver quartering closely with a jig if you have one. A bad hole should be noted but is difficult to fix if it causes the mechanism to not run smoothly. You can shrink a hole a little on a flat brass rod of an MDC locomotive by tapping the rod at the hole on a steel plate with a small hammer. Your only recourse to correcting a bad hole may be carefully enlarge the hole and solder in a sleeve.

Deburr the side rods with a few passes of a single cut mill file and polish using 320 wet or dry sandpaper lubricated with penetrating oil. I then lightly chamfer the holes with a countersink by twirling the tool in my fingers. Some people use a drill to do this, but I don't like the way the high cutting angle on a standard drill causes the drill to grab. Countersinks have a lower cutting angle and won' grab or chatter. Select a drill bit which closely fits the holes and burnish the holes by inserting and rubbing the inside of the holes with the smooth shank of a drill. You can finish up the rods by nickel plating them to represent bare steel if you want. It is also possible to iron plate brass to look like steel, but I have not tried this yet.

A side rod with an incorrect hole spacing would be rare unless it is made wrong, the wrong rod or the holes have been altered in some way. Accurate inspection of the spacing is done by measuring the hole spacing with calipers, but a quick check can be done by eye. I find this is usually good enough unless a problem arises later. Assemble the rods and drivers in the frame. Hold one driver with the crank pin vertical. With your fingers, rotate the adjacent driver back and forth as far as the clearance in the rod hole allows. Photo 9

Making A Silk Purse – Part Three (continued)



Observe whether the rotation is the same either way from vertical. Your eye can be quite good at seeing small angular errors. A sheet brass rod which is too short can be lengthened. I did this once on a 4-4-0 when the rod was shortened by bending for a modification. To lengthen the rod, I thinned the rod slightly by hammering the back with a small hammer against a steel block. Flattening the metal lengthened the rod a small amount and widened it. I then filed the edges to restore the width. There are, of course, limits to how much a rod can be stretched. In my case, the rod was about 0.010" too short.

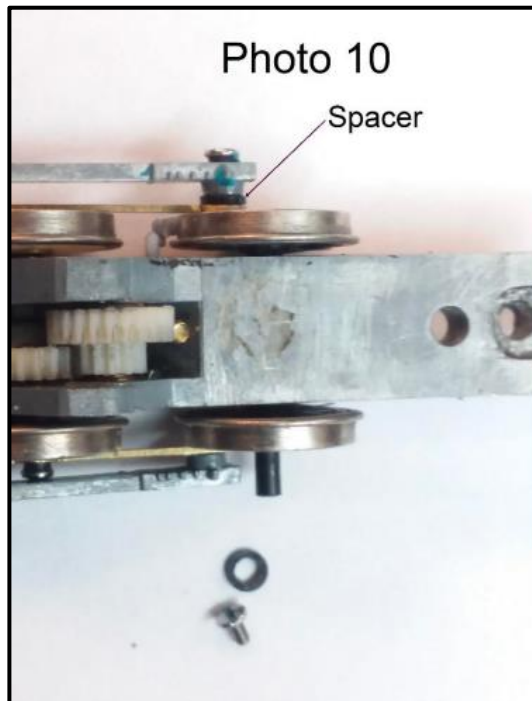
There is not much to do with the main rods. Make sure that they pivot freely on the crankpin bosses, the rod to alligator staked joint is free and it slides freely on the guides. On used locomotives, the rod to alligator or crosshead pivot made be poorly staked, loose, or binding. I don't try to fix a poor stake. It doesn't usually work well. I cut the pin off and tap the alligator for a small screw using blue Loctite on the screw, or it will come loose. I also chamfer and burnish the crank pin holes like on the side rods. Polish the piston rods so they have as little drag as possible.

Having inspected all the pieces, it is time to assemble the mechanism to check the work. Make sure all the parts including the screws are clean and free of debris. I give the parts a rinse in mineral spirits and wash them in hot water and 409 cleaner while scrubbing with an old toothbrush. When they are dry, assemble the drivers and cover plate oiling the axles lightly. Rotate while pushing the drivers axially making sure they are absolutely free in all positions. Roll the chassis on a piece of straight, level track while pressing down firmly to burnish the axles and slots a little. If the drivers don't turn freely, check for debris in the axle slots. You may have to polish the axles more or carefully file the slots in the frame. MDC frames have very good frame slots and I have only had to remove flash, not file the width. When you are satisfied with the driver rotation, mount the side rods with screws. Push the chassis without pressing down back and forth on the bench and a piece of straight track looking for any signs of binding. If all the parts are checked out as previously discussed, the mechanism will work perfectly. With the chassis held upside down, rotate the drive axle gear slowly with your thumb while feeling carefully for any resistance or any "jumping" or "hitching" of the drivers. It should be absolutely smooth in any position of the rotation. My experience, at this point, that binding is caused by an out of quarter driver. Poke each driver one by one to see which one is tight.

Making A Silk Purse – Part Three (continued)

If you can help a driver a little by poking it, that driver is out of quarter. Other possibilities are a side rod hole spacing off, not likely, or too much play in the frame axle slot if it was filed. Too wide of an axle slot can be shimmed with brass shim stock.

Mount cylinder block and main rods. Unless the rods are not sliding or pivoting freely, the only problem which could arise here is an interference with the side and main rods. Rotate the mechanism pushing all the parts side to side observing for potential interference. One of the issues with the MDC 0-6-0 is that there is enough axial play on the main rod crank pivot that the main rod could strike the screw heads on the drivers. I fixed that with washer spacers shown in Photo 10.



These were plastic washers of unknown origin from my parts bin, but you could make them from slices of tube or punch them from sheet styrene. Fortunately, the main rod crank bosses were long enough to accommodate the washers. Sometimes I have filed the side rod crank bosses on the drivers a little so they don't protrude as far, and you could also use hex head screws with the heads thinned using a lathe or just filing.

Next installment will be replacing the motor and looking at gearing. I will cover various motor options and how to mount them.



The Holiday Train is coming to town!!

The Candain Pacific and Kansas City (CPKC) Railroad is returning for its 25th year of visiting communities across the CPKS network and helping those in need as it glides on the rails across the region.

Formally, known as the CP Holiday Train, the train has raised more than \$22.5 million and more than 5.1 million pounds of food since 1999 for community food banks serving those with food insecurities.

The Holiday Train will be in Northern Illinois and Southwest Wisconsin on December 3rd and 4th. For times and locations, see page 3 on the following web site.

https://www.cpkcr.com/content/dam/cpkc/documents/english/pdfs/holiday-train/2023%20US%20Holiday%20Train%20Schedule_Oct.13pm_2.pdf

The Second Life of a Collection

Burnell Breaker

It is a fact for every railroad modeler. At some point, through illness or death, our layouts will be dismantled, and our collections will need to be disseminated. We hope that our layouts and collections are passed on to fellow modelers who will value our work, our effort, and our investment as much as we do. Through the Division's collection donation process, your collection can have a second life.

This process is initiated by the families who are tasked with the enormity of dealing with their loved one's hobby. So, they contacted the Division for assistance. Recently, David Rohr, David Mielke and I visited Vicki Staeger in Muskego to see if the Division would be interested in accepting the donation of her late husband Al's model railroad collection.

As you can see by the pictures, it is a very nice model railroad. The railroad measures 5-1/2' x 13' and comes apart into 5 pieces. The wiring below has spade connectors between the sections and small track pieces are across the joints. There are about a dozen or so locomotives, 40 or so freight and passenger cars, along with the buildings, scenery materials, and books. All nice, quality stuff. Also included is his American Flyer S Gauge freight set from the early 50's.

Before Al was diagnosed with dementia in 2016, he was working on it and had some issues with the wiring and his DCC.

He couldn't remember what to do and the railroad has sat since 2016.

We think he was trying to replace his MRC Prodigy with Digitrax and hadn't finished because the Prodigy system was still connected and a Digitrax power supply nearby and the rest of the Digitrax system was in a box under the railroad. The track and locomotive wheels are also quite dirty from sitting for 6 years. David Mielke has 6 of the locomotives to clean their wheels and make sure they operate. We will go back sometime next month to start packing up the cars, locomotives, etc. along with swapping out the DCC systems and cleaning the track to see if we can bring the railroad back to life. If we can debug the railroad, we are thinking of using this at Train School and giving this collection a second life.



Upcoming Clinics

For the November meet, Keith Schmidt will be giving two presentations sharing his recent drone photographs and a report on the N Scale Enthusiasts convention which may be returning to Milwaukee in a few years.

At this time February is still open, but I have been approached by someone from the DuPage Division to deliver a clinic.

The March meet will include Brian Siegl. His presentation will probably be on the railroads in Oshkosh.

Additional clinicians will be sought for Feb and March, and you could be one of them.

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. 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 and we can discuss.



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 wisdivision.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
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. 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 Note from the Editor:

Thank you to our members who have submitted articles and photos to the Owl Car. I still am on the hunt for photos that I can use as filler. If you have any, please send them to me along with a sentence or two about the content of the photo.

Please send everything for the Owl Car to owlcar@trainfest.com. The deadline is the 20th of each month for the next month's issue.

Your Editor
Cindy Mielke

Remember when....

Downtown Main Street of Anywhere, USA was decorated for Christmas? The lights, the excitement, the *trains*? Back when stores decorated their front windows for the Christmas season, and included an operating electric train, usually a Lionel train. Well, it's back! Downtown Hartford, WI, has many stores who have decided a classic-styled window display, complete with prewar and postwar trains, would be a great way to get into the Christmas spirit!

November 11, from 3PM to 5PM, Hartford has its annual Christmas parade on Main Street, featuring Soo Line 1003, a 1913-built 2-8-2 Mikado type locomotive, which will be parked near Main Street, where the little ones can meet Santa Claus, and this year, the railroading goodness does not stop there.

Along Main Street are a dozen stores with model trains in the windows, operating accessories, signals, crossings, a true miniature wonder that hearkens back to a simpler time when the mechanical and electronic wonders of automatic trains and accessories thrilled young and old alike.

The Soo Line locomotive will be out in advance of the parade, so come early, see the engine up close, meet the crew that keep her running, and be sure to stroll up and down Main Street to see the many displays of classic model railroading!

While the Christmas parade is on November 11, the displays will be up all throughout the Christmas season, so if you miss the parade, not to worry, the many model railroads will still be running!



Member Photos



These photos were taken by Burnell Breaker of Al Staeger's model railroad layout in Muskego, Wisconsin. His wife, Vicki Staeger, contacted the Division about the donation of Al's model railroad collection. While many items of the collection have been removed, the model railroad layout is still in the house and needs to be taken apart and moved. It is HO scale 5-1/2' x 13' and separates into 5 manageable pieces.

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".

Division Leadership

Executive Committee

Burnell Breaker --- Interim Superintendent
superintendent@trainfest.com
 262-939-9193

Robert Niedermann --- Assistant Superintendent
Asst.super@trainfest.com
 414-587-4778

Dennis Jannsen --- Paymaster (Treasurer)
dennis@trainfest.com
 262-544-6324

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

Tim Koch --- Member at Large
tim@trainfest.com

Gary Hendrickson --- Membership
members@trainfest.com
 847-800-1380

Dave Nelson --- Clinics
engine1385@aol.com

Dave Poquette --- Achievement Program
ap@trainfest.com

Jon Dettmann --- Layout Tours
layouts@trainfest.com
 414-469-7660

Dave Mielke --- Train School
mielkemanor@att.net

Cindy Mielke --- Owl Car Editor
owlcar@trainfest.com

Mike Slater --- Social Media Manager
m Slater@wi.rr.com
 262-515-3623

Jim Hebner --- Webmaster
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
- 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

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

September Executive Committee Minutes

**Wisconsin Southeastern Division (WISE) of the NMRA
Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday September 13, 2023
Location: Lionel Railroad Club & Zoom**

Meeting called to order by Burnell Breaker at 7:05pm

BOD Present – Burnell Breaker (Interim Superintendent)
Dennis Janssen (Treasurer, Paymaster)
Robert Niedermann (Interim Asst-Superintendent)
David Rohr (Secretary, Chief Clerk)

Chairs Present – Jim Hebner (Website), David Mielke (Train School) Dave Poquette (AP)

Guests – Bob McGeever (MWR President)*
Attended via zoom

Absent – Tim Koch – BOD, Gary Hendrickson (Membership), Cindy Mielke (Owl Car)

Minutes: No changes noted from August 9 meeting minutes, approved.

Paymaster Report:

Shawn's check has been cashed (deposit on Train School location)
No changes noted for the treasurer report from the August 9 meeting, approved.

Membership: About 135 members as of Aug 31. No report from Gary H.

Clinics: Wondering if anyone went to TX for the National Convention. This would be an interesting clinic. No one knew of anyone that went.

AP Program:

Dave P, no update. It was suggested to promote the Golden Spike, an easier award to obtain.

Website:

Jim H. – currently working on building a new website from the ground up. Our current website platform is not being supported anymore and would cost about \$3K for the IT people to upgrade the site to the new format without changing much else. Jim has completed in test mode, the Meets and Owl Car. Will bring the proof to a future meeting for approval. The current website is updated with current scheduled events.

Layout Tours:

No report. Ken Jaglinski is the planned layout tour for the October meet.

Train Sales:

Have items ready to sell at the Lionel Swap (3 tables) & WISE October Meet / Swap,

Don Strike's collection – Burnell will take the brass cabooses, a select number of locomotives that have been reverted back to DC operation to Southside Trains to be sold on eBay, along with a Walthers GN passenger dome car. Mark Heinen is slowly working on removing the Dynatrol receivers. Cleaned foam from the locos from being packed in the original boxes, was a bit of a challenge.

Owl Car – Email blast went to members in mid-August.

Great September Issue! Looking for local train events. Please submit details. Like KMBS swap, LRRC Festival of trains, etc.

September issue sent to members early September.

September 15 is deadline for October issue.

2023-2024 Schedule discussion:

East Troy trip, tour & lunch – Sunday April 21, 2024 – Finalized details with Jim Feyerherm, GM of ETER. Plan to have max of 60 people. Depart East Troy Depot at 11 am, using the CSS&SB #30 & # 33 (South Shore cars), travel to the Maintenance Barn near Elegant Farmer, and tour the barn. Lunch at Indian Head Park (or on the train if weather requires). Return trip past the East Troy Depot, to tour the Car Barn. Will need someone to pick up the box lunches from Elegant Farmer, and meet us at the park. Div has 2 coolers, and LRRC has 2.

Train School:

We have 27 blue box kits, 7 Accurail kits, 2 Accurail 3-pack kits.

Can display Don Strike's circus train.

Need flyers, 2'x2' posters for hobby shops,

Get any Blue Box kits from Tom at Southside Trains if they come available.

Could have the Youth group layout, Dave P can help wiring. 3D printing is planned again

Next Meeting:

Scheduled for Wednesday October 11, 2023, at 7 pm at the Lionel Railroad Club
in New Berlin, or via zoom

After that, the next meeting is November 8 at the Lionel Club in New Berlin.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm

Respectfully submitted by David A. Rohr, Chief Clerk.

Shows and Swaps

Wisconsin and Northern Illinois

Monthly Shows

DuPage County Fairgrounds -
Wheaton IL

<https://www.trainshow.com>

August - June Mornings

Typically, on first Sundays - Oct 1, Nov 5,
Dec 3 2023, Jan 7, Feb 4, Mar 3, Apr 7,
May 5, June 2, Aug 4, Sept 8, Oct 6, Nov 3,
Dec 1 2024

Lionel Railroad Club – New Berlin
Entertainment Center - New Berlin WI

www.milw-lrrc.com

October - March

3rd Sunday, except February, which is on
the 4th Sunday.

Oct 15, Nov 19, Dec 17 2023, Jan 21, Feb
25, Mar 17 2024

Kenosha Union Hall Swap Meet,
3030 39th Ave – Kenosha, WI

Nov 12, Dec 17 2023, Jan 14,

Feb 11, Mar 10 2024

Bill - 262-331-0392

WISE Division Meet – New Berlin
Entertainment Center – New Berlin

<https://www.wisedivision.org>

Oct 15, Nov 19 2023, Feb 25, Mar 17 2024

Afternoons

K-Town Toy Show,
Moose Lodge - Kenosha

3003 30th Ave – Kenosha, WI

Nov 19, Dec 17 2023

Yearly

Lionel Railroad Club,
Festival of Trains – New Berlin, WI
2721 S. Calhoun Rd, New Berlin

Nov 18 & 19, 25 & 26, 2023

Apr 13 & 14, Nov 30 & Dec 1, 2024

10:00 – 5:00

WISE Division Train School
Hoepfner-Horn Bros. VFW Post 5716

<https://www.wisedivision.org/>

Jan 14, 2024

4000 Foundation – Great Tri-state Rail
Sale – La Crosse Center

<https://www.4000foundation.org/>

January 27, 2024

Mad-City - Alliant Energy Center, Rim
Rock Rd, Madison, WI

<https://www.nmra-scwd.org/mad-city-show.html>

3rd weekend in February, Feb 17 & 18, 2024

March

O Scale Meet

<https://marchmeet.net/WP/>

March 14, 15, 16, 17, 2024

Racine Lionel Club Open House –
4625 Washington Ave – Racine WI

Nov 18, Dec 16, 2023,

Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 23, Apr 20, May 11, 2024

Shows and Swaps (continued)

Lena-Winslow Elementary, Lena IL
<https://www.facebook.com/lenadepotstovegan>
[g/](#)

March 23 & 24, 2024 – typically 3rd or 4th weekend in March

Ozaukee County Fairgrounds –
 Cedarburg

Metro Model Railroad Club -
<http://members.trainorders.com/scrimjimmy/spring.html>

April 7, 2024

Title Town Train Show 2024 -
 Green Bay

<https://www.ttsqbllc.com/>

May 4 & 5

4000 foundation – Rail Fair,
 Copland Park, La Crosse, WI

<https://www.4000foundation.org/>

July 13, 2024

Onalaska Omni Center,
 La Crosse and 3 Rivers Model
 Railroad Club - Onalaska, WI

Typically, a Saturday and Sunday in March;
 date unknown

The Oconomowoc Historical Society
 & The Museum Railroad Group
 Invite You To



The 9th Annual Model Railroad Open House

Sat. Nov 4, 2023:
 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

The Large 21' x 32' Milwaukee North
 Western Model Railroad will be running



- See Other Model Train Display Locations
- Visit the Museum!
- All ages from 0-99 Welcome!
- Don't Miss the Streets of Old Oconomowoc
- Free Admission

Come and Run the Trains!

103 W. Jefferson St., Oconomowoc
 (262)- 569-0740

www.oconomowochistoricalsociety.org
facebook.com/MilwaukeeNorthwestern

Ramp Accessible: at the Main Side Door



Model Railroad Available

HO Scale 5' x 13.5'

- Separates into 5 manageable sections.
- Labeled wiring has spade connectors between layout sections.

- Digitrax DCC Control System Code 83 track
- Peco turnouts
- Tortoise switch machines
- Most turnouts have dwarf signals to indicate direction.
- Most buildings have lighting inside.

Interested??

Contact WISE Division for more information
superintendent@trainfest.com



(turn over for Train Sale & Show Schedule)



Our 75th Year
OPEN HOUSE
Since 1947

SATURDAY and SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 25 and 26, 2023
APRIL 13 and 14, 2024
NOVEMBER 30, DECEMBER 1, 2024
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Parkland Plaza
2721 South Calhoun Road
New Berlin, Wisconsin 53151
(262) 754-9900

(entrance in back of building)

Open Fridays 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm
year round (unless a holiday)

October through April
Saturday & Sunday: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
call to confirm or check website

See Many Toy Trains Running on Our Huge Layout
--- Minor Train Repairs ---

OPEN HOUSE DONATION: \$2.00

Veterans get in **FREE** – Scouts in uniform get parents in **FREE**
Children 12 and under are **FREE** with an adult

Visit our Web Site
www.milw-lrrc.com

Like & Follow us on
FACEBOOK



(turn over for Club Hours)



Toy Train Sale and Show

(See below for more information)

All Gauges & All Scales

SUNDAY DATES

<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
October 15	January 21	October 20	January 19
November 19	February 25	November 17	February 23
December 17	March 17	December 15	March 16

BUY • SELL • TRADE
NEW • USED • PARTS

Sale: New Berlin Entertainment Center
8:00 am to 12:00 noon ADMISSION: \$4.00

16000 West Cleveland Avenue • New Berlin, Wisconsin
(Enter on east side of building)

Kids 12 and under: FREE with Adult

For More Information or Table Reservations



Robert Sobolik
(414) 483-5886
RobertDSobolik@netzero.com

TRAIN SHOW: at Club will be open by 10:00 am
2721 S. Calhoun Rd (in back of building) Donations Accepted

Visit our Web Site
www.milw-lrrc.com

Like & Follow us on
FACEBOOK



VOL 9

K-TOWN

TOY SHOW

**HOLIDAY
TOY SHOW!**



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH

10AM-3PM



@ THE MOOSE LODGE

3003 30TH AVE KENOSHA WI

ADMISSION \$3

12 AND UNDER ARE FREE

KTOWNTOYSHOW.COM



**MODEL RAILROAD
TRAIN SHOW**



SWAP MEETS

at the

KENOSHA UNION CLUB
3030 39th Avenue, Kenosha, WI

Easy access from I-94 See map on back

Show Dates

October 15, 2023

November 12, 2023

December 17, 2023

January 14, 2024

February 11, 2024

March 10, 2024

Show Hours - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Admission: \$5.00

Women and children 12 & under FREE

More information? Call 262-331-0392



TRAIN SCHOOL

An illustration of a model train engine, specifically a Union Pacific locomotive, shown in profile facing right. It has a blue, white, and red color scheme.

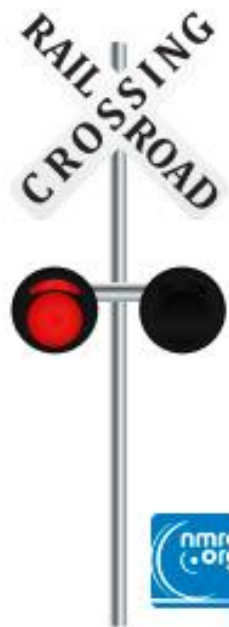
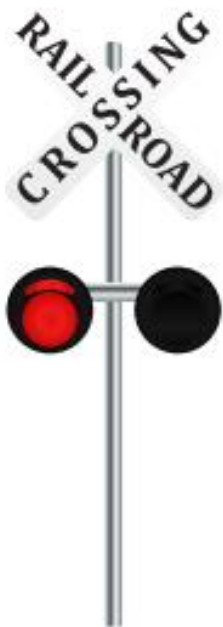
Sunday, January 14, 2024
1:00 - 4:00pm

Hoepfner-Horn Bros. VFW Post 5716
17980 West Beloit Road
New Berlin, WI

Free admission

Come, learn about model trains
from experienced model railroaders wanting
to share their knowledge of the hobby.

Sponsored by the WISE Division of the NMRA





**26th Annual
Model Railroad Show and Sale**

Arctic Run 2024

January 20 – 21, 2024

Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Holiday Inn – Convention Center Hotel

1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54482

Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM

Sunday 10 AM – 3 PM



Admissions: \$5.00 Adults \$2.00 Ages 12-17 11 and under FREE

**Sponsored by Central Wisconsin Model Railroaders Ltd, a non-profit educational organization.
For layout or vendor information contact Don Anderson at (714) 340-8103 or email Don at cwmr_mnw@yahoo.com or Jim Miller at (715) 340-0263 or email Jim at jimbro67@gmail.com.**

Our proceeds, after expenses, support local non-profit organizations.

- A fun filled family event featuring activities for children as well as adults. Operating model train layouts, exhibitors, and vendors from throughout the upper Midwest will be on hand entertain, answer questions and sell you the latest in model railroading fun.



East Troy Electric Railroad Charter Trip of the Line

Tours of the East Troy Car Barn &
Elegant Farmer Maintenance Building

Sunday, April 21, 2024

2002 Church St., East Troy, WI

- 11:00 a.m. Depart from the East Troy depot
- Arrive at Elegant Farmer and tour the Maintenance Building
- Continue to Indianhead Park, Mukwonago for an Elegant Farmer box lunch
- Return to East Troy and tour the East Troy Car Barn

\$15.00/ person

Space is limited

**This will be an Adults only event due to liability concerns going into the railroad's car barn and maintenance building.*

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

Sign up starting at the November 19th meet!

(The deadline to register by is the March 17, 2024 meet.)

