

# THE WINNEBAGOLAND WHISTLE

*The Official Quarterly Newsletter of the WinnebagoLand Division - MWR/NMRA*

Volume 43 Issue # 4

Winter 2010



## WLD Operating Session A Success!

Inside This Issue:

AP Program: Is it really that hard to understand?

WLD Operating Session and Fall Meet Roundup

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# The Superintendents Report...

## *A Busy Year!*

As 2010 draws to a close, I would like to thank all of our members who have participated in any WLD event this year. Whether you are actively involved in running the division or just attended one of our meets, thanks!

We have had a real upswing in membership. Now we all realize that we will drop off some since a fair number of memberships have been via the Railpass program, but nationally the program has retained over 60% of Railpass participants. For the first time in recent memory we have over 200 members in our division.

It's been a lot of work, and we are committed to more of the same in 2011. Some of our goals were not met this year, but I'm confident that over the next 12 months they will be. Here's our tentative work/meet schedule:

Arctic Run Train Show (WLD Display) - January  
Mini-Meet (Location TBA)- March  
TTS (WLD Display and Workshops)- April  
WLD Spring Meet- May 14th, Neenah  
Strawberry Fest (WLD Display)- June  
W&M Train Show ( WLD Workshops)-September  
WLD Fall Meet- October, Plymouth  
WLD Operating Session- November

As you can see, we have something happening all year long. I didn't list the locations of all the events here, but see the Ready Track listings for the particulars. In general, I feel good about where we are as a division but I think we need to get more input from certain areas, especially from our western front. It looks like 2012 will bring us to that part of the WLD if all goes as planned.

Keep warm this winter and get some modeling done! Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

**Mark Preussler, Superintendent**

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The Next WLD Board of Directors Meeting will take place during the Arctic Run Train Show at Stevens Point on January 15th beginning at 1:00pm. All NMRA members are welcome to attend.

## HOW TO:

### WORK IN THE NMRA ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

#### Is it *really* that hard to understand?

For a short time this fall, I was sucked into a dangerous, time consuming world known as Yahoo Groups "NMRA Regions and Divisions". A site dedicated to discussing what works in your local NMRA Division. Wow, I can't believe I didn't stay! It sounds lovely.

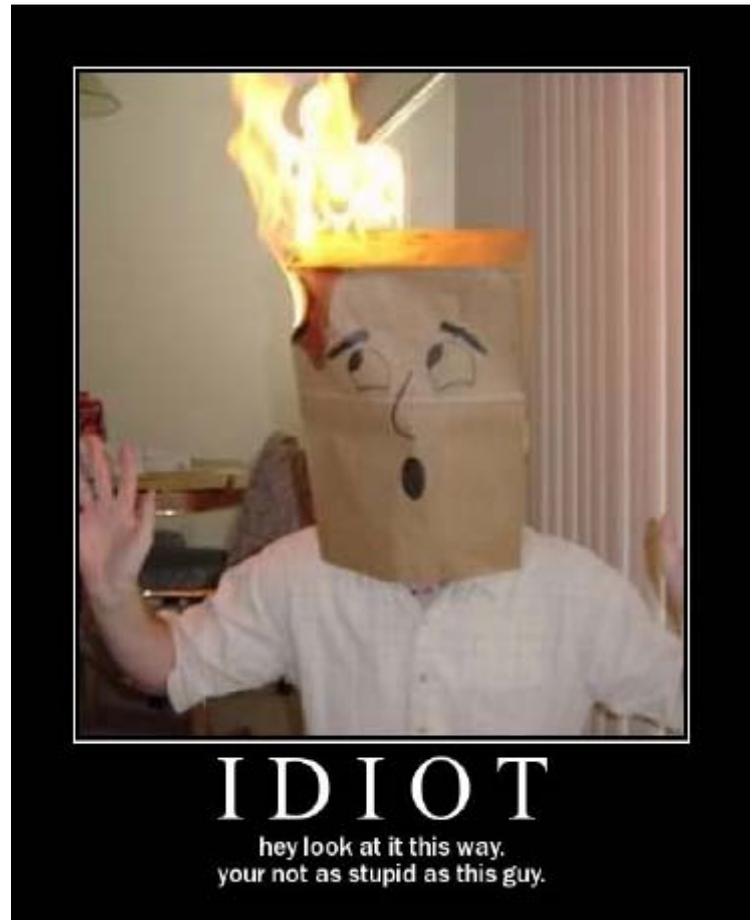
Now before I go further understand that I have (or had?) a lot of good friends on that group. Certainly all the folks have an interest in their region and/or division and that's good. However, the problems and issues brought up by many of the people posting are beyond my comprehension as so much of it has been discussed or answered by various NMRA outlets in the past. While I am a firm believer in the NMRA and its mission to the hobby, I'm also critical of some of its programs -as regular readers know. These Internet forums seem to exacerbate the "real" problems when possible solutions are met with personal feelings or attitudes getting in the way of understanding or change.

Case in point was the discussion which sent me packing: The AP Program and NMRA Model Contests. We are fortunate that those who set up the WLD and maintained it through the years had the foresight to create chairman positions for AP, Model and Photo Contests, Clinics, etc. The MWR is set-up in similar fashion. What is clear to me is that most divisions do not operate like we do.

The model contest was the first issue I addressed to the list. I explained that what works for us in the WLD is to have an expert-level modeler head the program, then have the models "judged" for AP points at the contest if the entrant is interested. We try to make everyone aware that the judging is done via a matrix supplied by the NMRA, the judges confer on the model, then points are awarded. It's not about a "Me vs. Him" contest rather it's about how the model stacks up against the NMRA scale. We also have a popular vote format and we are going to implement more of a symposium format in the coming year having the modeler explain a bit how the model was constructed.

The responses from the group were all based on personal bents such as "I got screwed on the contest", "why should I enter against a professional modeler", and my favorite; "I don't need anyone to justify my modeling ability!" How can I respond to that?

Soon enough the entire AP program is being questioned by some in the group. While most felt it's a relevant part of the NMRA, it seems no one can understand how to participate. Too much paperwork!



***Irony:** The idiot who posted this on the web doesn't understand proper English capitalization or conjunctions.*

The rally cry was that no one from the region has ever done a clinic on how to work in the AP Program. I bring to your attention the entire series of articles last year in the NMRA Magazine which highlighted each category and what was expected from the participant. I also told the list that the AP program is a natural fit with the model contest format. It's not realistic for any one person to travel hundreds of miles to judge someone's models when it can be accomplished at the local level via a "contest" with AP judging included.

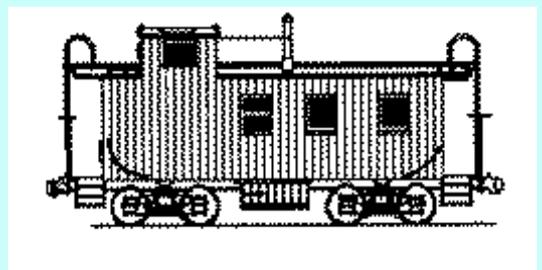
In my frustration, I basically told the group that their divisions were not set up correctly and to follow the example here in the WLD. Guess how that suggestion was taken! The bottom line was that most of these guys complained about things that could easily be fixed with a phone call or some personal responsibility to actually read and digest information already out on the web or in the NMRA magazine. At some point the "spoon feeding" needs to stop. No one can do the work for you. Now bring those models to the WLD Spring Meet and see how easy the AP Program is to master. - *Mark Preussler*

# Winnebagoland Operating Session 2010- Sheboygan Area

On Saturday November 6th, 18 area modelers came to the Sheboygan area for our annual operating event. I would like to especially thank Joe Lallensack and The Clipper City Model RR Club for running a morning session for us as well to make sure everyone had a chance to operate on different layouts throughout the day. In addition to the cover shot which features Dave Jasch and Paul Hillmer working on The Soo Line, here are a few of the guys working on the GBW layout of Marvin Preussler, who provided the pictures. Next year the event moves to Waupaca. Plan on attending now- the first Saturday in November!



Reid Kahrs (above) came up from the WISE Div. To participate in the event. Here Reid is working the Mill Job in Green Bay on Marvin's Green Bay and Western. At upper left, Don Manlick, Phil Hermann, and James Cruthers are busy! Don and Phil are working the Kewaunee Boat Yard while James is working Seymour on the upper level. At lower left, Dave Allen and Jim Zabel are working at East Green Bay in the Cheese House District. All photos: Marvin Preussler



# Winnebagoland Division 2011 Spring Meet To Team With Soo Line Historical and Technical Society on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in Neenah, WI

Clinics, Contests, and Historical Displays will be the focus of next year's Winnebagoland Division NMRA Spring Meet to be held at The Boys and Girls Brigade building in Neenah, WI on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

For the first time, the WLD will team with a railroad historical society to offer something for both groups as the SLHTS has set up a mini-meet of their organization with us at the same location. We have many never before seen slide presentations of the Soo and WC planned which will be of interest to railfans and modelers as well as several well-known clinicians scheduled including Dennis Eggert and David Leider. Have you ever been to a Regional or even a National meet and been less than impressed with a slide or power point clinic due to the room's acoustics? The Brigade building features a **theater** with stage and AV capabilities which will allow participants to actually see and hear what's happening. Modeling clinics will take place in other rooms and many will be set up for audience participation.

Model and Photo Contests are certainly a big part of the event. We have both NMRA merit judging and popular vote contests to participate in. A special display of Soo Line and related road models is planned along with a weathered freight car display! Bring those models! We would love to see what you did over winter. Modelers will be able to show you their techniques and answer any questions at this event.

A catered luncheon and short NMRA member meeting/update is also planned. Then it's back to seminars and clinics in the afternoon to be followed by several home layout tours planned for late afternoon and early evening.

This event is open to all, but pre-registration will be required to attend. Please look for our registration sheet and other promotional items in early 2011 in the *Whistle*, at your local hobby shop, and as well as on the WLD website at [www.wld-nmra.com](http://www.wld-nmra.com) MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

## Clinics and Symposiums Scheduled Include:

Freight Car Weathering- Fred Firkus

Modeling Waupaca- David Leider, MMR

Static Grass Application- David Leider, MMR

WC/CNW/ FRVR/ in the Fox Cities- Will Watry

Old Kate- The CNW Hortonville Branch- Larry Easton

Railfanning the LaCrosse Area- Will Watry

Modeling the CNW- Dennis Eggert

**MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON!**

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## Winnebagoland Wanderings:



News and Notes from the WLD:

*It's coming up on Election Time again for our division*  
Why not consider running for an Officer position? We also have an opportunity for someone to join the WLD BOD. It would be great if someone from Wausau, Marshfield, or another town from our "western front" would volunteer. Contact Marvin Preussler at [mpreussler@milwpc.com](mailto:mpreussler@milwpc.com) if you are able to help. Marvin and the rest of our Election Committee will be looking for candidates this winter.

*New 100% NMRA Club!* The Three Lakes Model Railroad Club has formed and now boasts 100% NMRA membership status. We look forward to Big Things from this group and we will hopefully have a chance to have a future WLD meet in the Northwoods!

**NEW! Route of the Northwoods Hiawatha-  
The Milwaukee Road's Valley Line!**

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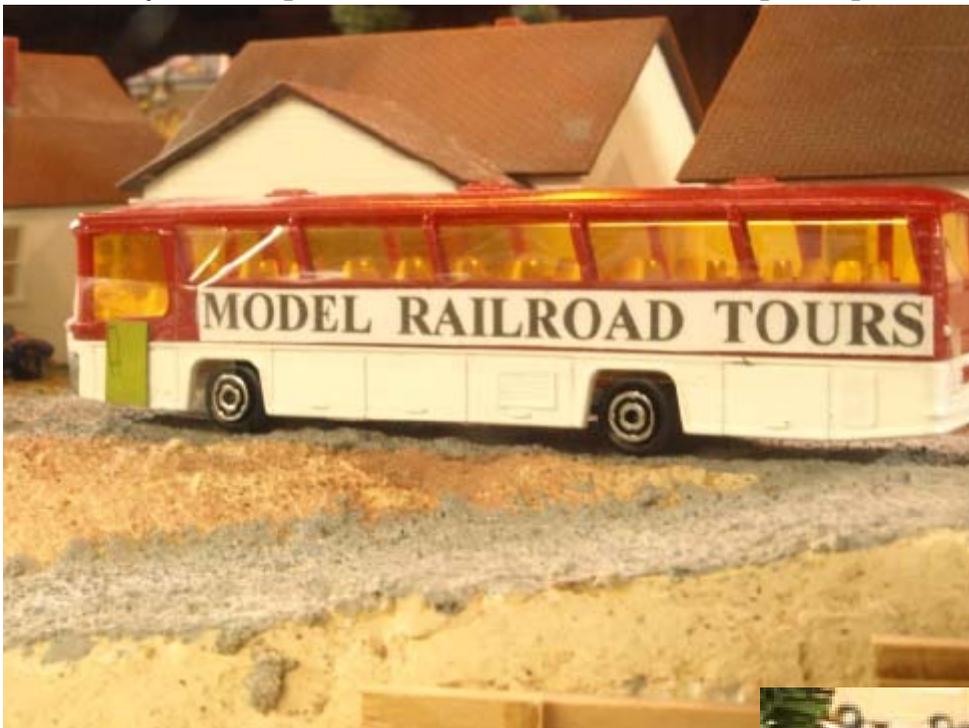
**MEMBERSHIP OPEN**

# WLD Fall Meet Highlights

On October 2nd the WLD gathered for a fine meet in Escanaba, MI. Our co-hosts, the Upper Michigan Central Model Railroad Club provided a space above their club layout which proved adequate and the planning done by the club, especially Darryl Bennett and Gary Stiles was awesome. We had a great turnout and especially the walk-up crowd. Great work guys! The luncheon format was held at Pacino's restaurant and the food was excellent. Steve Beranek from Cleveland Cliffs (LS&I) was our luncheon speaker. He provided us with a look into his history on several railroads.

For those interested in operations, Skip Caswell hosted a Friday night OP Session on his SP&S-themed HO layout. It was one of the better shows as far as attendance and content in recent memory. We will use the show as an example of what's possible when we visit the extremes of our boundaries. I have highlights and results listed on the following pages. Photo Contest Results will be posted in the next issue as they arrived past deadline. Thanks to all who participated.

*Here's something you don't see modeled every-day! Gary Stiles set up a layout tour- complete with WLD Whistle signage on his model railroad!*



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# Layout Tour Highlites...



A Big Thanks to all of the guys who graciously opened their model railroads up for us to tour. We had a lot to look at including various scales and themes.

**RESULTS OF WINNEBAGOLAND DIVISIONAL MODEL CONTEST**  
**October 2, 2010 Escanaba, MI**

It was a good show with ten contest entries and 3 display only entries submitted by seven people. Participants included: David E. Allen, Tyler Anthony, Adonica Badura, Rodney Grimes, John Leow, Trevor Lloyd-Lee and Raymond Smit. Results were:

**RICHARD EGGERT BEST-OF-SHOW (POINTS)**

Trevor Lloyd-Lee; Semaphore Signal - British Prototype

**DON STEFFEN BEST-OF-SHOW (POPULAR VOTE):**

John Leow; A Pair of GE 25T Boxcab Diesels (HOn3)

**DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE**

1. John Leow; A Pair of GE 25T Boxcab Diesels (HOn3) (88 points - merit level)

**STEAM LOCOMOTIVE**

1. Trevor Lloyd-Lee; LNE Y 0-4-0 Sentinel Shunter (12mm ga)

**FREIGHT CAR**

1. John Leow; CM&StP 48260 "Lindsey" Box Car (91 points - merit level)  
2. Tyler Anthony; GTW 206947 Refrigerator Car

**STRUCTURE**

1. Trevor Lloyd-Lee; Fully Operating Semaphore, British Prototype (92 points - merit level)  
2. Adonica Badura; Warehouse  
3. Ray Smit; Sandhouse

**TRACK**

1. Rodney Grimes; 12mm ga turnout and machined track gauges

**OFF-LINE DISPLAY**

1. Raymond Smit; Norm's Food Stand trailer

**SHARON WILLIAMSON AWARD:**

1. Dolores Manlick; Engineer Bear

Three other models, by David Allen, were shown but not judged:

SP 20242 28' box car

ML&T 30401, a CS-20 Canada box car

SP 81109, a CS-31 box car of 1902

I had fun judging nice models. Three were at the Merit level (87.5 points), and all were nice. Two of the entrants were teenagers. It is refreshing to have their energetic outlook on things. Two of the entries - the Semaphore Signal and the Turnout - are not common entry types. While technically the turnout was in the display category, I could rename the category as Track (no other display entries). Moral of this story? We can handle off-the-wall out-of-the-box entries. And I got to share the contest table with Dolores Manlick's delightful Engineer Bear. Models were judged by: David Allen and Rich Cooke. Dave A.

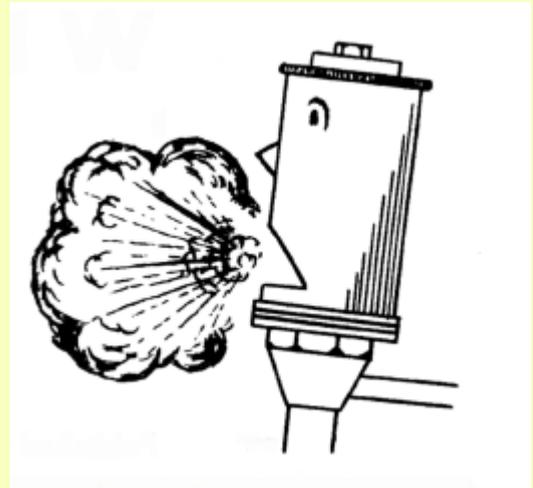
# Operating Session at Skip Caswell's!

As part of our Fall Meet activities, an operating session was held at Skip's place operating his SP&S HO scale layout. This is the type of layout I enjoy visiting as Skip has been very busy; each time you visit something new has been added! Operating it was especially appreciated. I would like to see more of our division members take advantage of this type of event. I will continue to push them in this newsletter! For now, here are some pics provided by Larry Easton.



Don Manlick (above), Emory Luebke (Upper RH), enjoy working a yard and wayfreight respectively on the SP&S of Skip Caswell. At right, Joe De-Groot and Mark Preussler are seen working along a scenic stretch of the layout.





## **WELCOME TO THE WINNEBAGOLAND DIVISION OF THE NMRA..**

On behalf of the officers, board of directors, and all members of the WinnebagoLand Division I welcome the numerous new members that have joined us during the past year. This has been an exceptionally busy year for model railroaders with the various activities that took place within the division, regional events during the year, and the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the NMRA held in Milwaukee in July. The division presented spring and fall meets at varying locations during the year and conducts an operating session in November that is held at a rotating location. Swap meets are offered by clubs within the division and full venue train shows are held throughout our broad division boundaries. And, of course, the NMRA Convention provided the opportunity to meet local and regional modelers as well as prominent national representatives known to most of us only through model industry publications. Many of our own members participated by having their home layouts open for layout tours and a number of them entered the modeling contest at the convention and were awarded with top honors for their excellent work. Our members are willing to share their ideas and modeling knowledge that is available to you at our meets or through personal contact at clubs or informal groups in your area.

Information on upcoming events is available at our website, [www.wld-nmra.com](http://www.wld-nmra.com) I encourage you to search out our members and wish you success in your modeling projects with the idea that model railroading is a very enjoyable hobby for people of all ages. I would like to extend to you a personal invitation to renew your membership when the time comes and fully participate in division activities now and in the future.

**WELCOME ABOARD!**

Sincerely,

Paul Inman, Membership Chairman-WLD/NMRA

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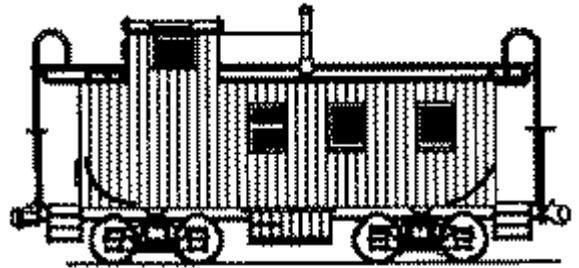
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# On The Ready Track



January 15-16, 2011- 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale- Stevens Point, WI  
Ramada Hotel- Corner of Business 51 & North Point Drive  
[www.trainweb.org/cwmr](http://www.trainweb.org/cwmr) Or Contact Tim at [btvictor@charter.net](mailto:btvictor@charter.net)

January 15, 2011- WLD BOD Meeting-Ramada Hotel- Stevens Point, WI

January 16, 2011- WISE Division Meet-Midway Hotel-Milwaukee, WI  
[www.wisedivision.org](http://www.wisedivision.org)

January 29, 2011- Great Tri-State Rail Sale- LaCrosse Center- 2<sup>nd</sup> & Pearl Streets  
LaCrosse, WI Info at: [www.4000foundation.com](http://www.4000foundation.com)

February 20, 2011-WISE Division Meet-Country Springs Hotel-Waukesha, WI  
[www.wisedivision.org](http://www.wisedivision.org)

February 19-20, 2011- Mad City Model RR Show- Alliant Energy Center- Madison, WI  
[www.nmra-scwd.org](http://www.nmra-scwd.org)

March 5-6, 2011- Traintime 2011 Model Train Show- MSOE-1025 N. Broadway  
Milwaukee, WI Free Admission

March 5-6, 2011- High Wheeler Train Show- Harper College- Palatine, IL  
[www.highwheelertrainshow.com](http://www.highwheelertrainshow.com) Or [www.foxvalleydivision.org](http://www.foxvalleydivision.org)

March 13, 2011- Metro Model Railroad Club Show- Circle B Recreation Center  
Hwy 60 Cedarburg, WI- [www.metrorrclub.org](http://www.metrorrclub.org)

April 9-10, 2011- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Train Show- Menomonie Middle School  
Menomonie, WI Info Call: (715) 505-4044

April 15-17, 2011- NMRA Midwest Region Annual Convention- Madison, WI  
Info at: [www.nmra-scwd.org/Badgerland](http://www.nmra-scwd.org/Badgerland) Express 2011.html

April 30 & May 1, 2011- Titledown Train Show- Shopko Hall- Green Bay, WI  
Info at: [www.tsgblc.com](http://www.tsgblc.com)

May 14, 2011- NMRA Winnebagoland Division Annual Spring Meet- Neenah, WI

*On the Way to Escanaba...* Do you enjoy stopping along the way to one of our meets and documenting the goings on in a town? Larry Easton does and supplied a series of pictures taken en route to Escanaba for our fall meet. The ex-CNW Wilson depot is seen at the IXL museum in Hermansville while the SD-9 and "critter" were photographed by Larry at Crivitz.

