

THE WINNEBAGOLAND WHISTLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WINNEBAGOLAND DIVISION
MIDWEST REGION – NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 49, ISSUE No. 3

FALL 2016

*What is a gravy train? I didn't know they were actually hauling gravy by rail.
Do people gather around big mounds of mashed potatoes waiting for the 5:15 gravy to show up?*

COVER PHOTO:

On September 29, 2016, a NJ Transit commuter train crashed at Hoboken Terminal in Hoboken, New Jersey. The accident occurred during the morning rush hour, at one of the busiest transportation hubs in the New York metropolitan area. The train went over the bumper block, through the rail concourse and came to rest at the wall right before the station's waiting area.

Events leading to the crash remain unclear but are being investigated. One person died and 114 others were injured. The train driver, who was in the cab car, was among the injured.



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Superintendent's Report

By John Leow

I went for a ride yesterday with my wife and son, Paul. Renee works for the Conservation District, and had some signs to install out in the middle of nowhere. It was a beautiful, sunny day – until it started to rain. Such is the weather in the UP. But it really was nice to get out – the air is starting to get crisp and fall-like, and the leaves are starting to turn. Fall in the UP can be its most beautiful season.

Which reminds me – the Fall Division Meet is coming up in Marquette on October 15th. It's going to be a beautiful time to come visit the UP, as the colors are expected to peak just about the weekend of the meet. We've got a great selection of clinics scheduled, with topics ranging from historical logging and mining in the UP, to layout design, signaling, and modelling techniques and an entertaining luncheon speaker. I think there should be something for everyone. I've posted some links to teaser videos of a few of the layouts on the Division Facebook page, and they should also be posted on the Division website. And don't forget to bring your models and photos for the contests. I think I've even got Renee talked into doing a native plants walking tour for the non-rail inclined, if there's enough interest. If you signed up for any of the op sessions or tours, be on the lookout for more information in the next week or so. If you haven't registered yet, don't delay!

And speaking of events, there's a lot going on in the Division. The Fall Operating Session will be hosted by the FROG group, the Spring Meet will be held in Plymouth on May 6,

(Continued on page 2)



Superintendent's Report

(Continued from page 1)

2017, and the Fall 2017 meet is slated for Sheboygan. Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for more information on these upcoming events.

At our last board meeting, Todd Bushmaker "volunteered" to put together a slate of officers for our next election, which will happen next spring. I know it seems like a long way off, but I'm sure Todd would be interested in hearing from anyone who's interested in running for an officer position. And don't forget, the board can always use some fresh meat – I mean, new members. Seriously, the board members are all great people, and joining the board is a great way to help move the Division forward. I'm sure there are a ton of good ideas out there, and as board members, we're always looking for new ideas. If you're interested, track one of us down and let us know.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Marquette!

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Editor's Note

By Todd M. Bushmaker

Lots to cover in this issue, and plenty going on in your Division this fall! First, yet more opinions both pessimistic and optimistic about the state of the hobby, which I included here because it interests me, as I personally struggle with organized local efforts to "keep the fires burning", so to speak.

But more importantly, an exciting itinerary awaits you "up north" in Marquette for the WLD Fall Meet. You may have received an email earlier in September as a reminder; uptake for this meet has been meager despite the activity schedule and efforts to make this a terrific showcase for the sometimes forgotten corners of this vast Division. We have included the application form at the end of the Whistle once again, but time is short to get it in on time!

Paul Hillmer and Joel Weeks have organized a November operating session on behalf of the Fox River Operating Group (FROG). The morning session will be at either the Paper Valley Model RR Club OR at Paul's Badger Midwestern layout, depending on the number of registrants. The afternoon session will be at Joel's Great Northern layout. The registration form is attached; Paul will forward locations and descriptions to the registrants.

Also wanted to discuss opportunities for YOU in the Division. First, we are accepting nominations for officers; the only qualifications having a love of the hobby and membership in the NMRA. Election is at the Spring meet in May, with ballots going out in early April... let me know, or anyone else on the Board, if you are interested.

Second, as the Titledown Train Show eventually transitions to WLD control, we are looking for a few people who would like to "job shadow" this year. Basically that means being included in communications as we organize and complete tasks, attending meetings if you'd like, and essentially learning what goes into the show as a lead-in to taking on those responsibilities. Interning if you will. Again, contact me if you are interested.

Finally, speaking of TTS, the Division is looking for ideas and volunteers to help with planning and staffing of the WLD booth at the show. Some ideas include a timesaver module, a "micromodule" clinic, and professional trade-show quality marketing materials. The WLD is the area's rightful hobby ambassador organization and as such we'd like to "kick things up a notch"! Later this year we might send out an online survey but we'd like to hear from you first. Tell us what you think we should be doing and if you're willing to help realize it.

So much going on here that our inboxes should be overflowing, right??? We certainly look forward to hearing from many of you. Until next time, *keep on trainin!*

- Todd (tbushmaker@sbcglobal.net)

Meet Your Board!

Phil Herman is a Board member and our Clinic chair.

"I've been interested in trains since I was a young boy. I helped my dad build my first layout which started out as a 3'x6' oval when I was eight years old. A couple years later some old doors were used to add onto the layout. After dad's first layout until I was in my early 20's I built a number of layouts in my parents' basement. From that point until my mid 30's my modeling took a backseat to college, girls and remodeling my first home.

"I had a number of lawn cutting jobs as a teen and one of those jobs was for Cornelius (Casey) Buteyn. Casey had a large layout room filled with trains. When I finished my yard work I loved to just wander around his layout room and look at all the trains. Casey's eyesight was failing so a number of times he asked if I would help him troubleshoot an electrical or rolling stock issue or we would just run trains. Casey was probably the biggest influence on my interest in model railroading.

"My brother and dad are also interested in trains. We have done a lot of railfanning and rail photography together. We would frequently take railfanning trips around the Midwest. My brother went to school and later worked in Minneapolis. Dad and I would take at least one trip each year to visit my brother to railfan. We occasionally traveled to locations a little farther away from home to visit places like Pennsylvania's horseshoe curve or Rio Grande in Colorado. My brother has always been employed in a rail-related occupation. He currently lives in Washington State where he is Manager of Rail affairs for the Washington state DOT.

"Fast forward to age 35 when I met my wife Sandi. Sandi has two children Alyssa and Trevor; Alyssa was 13 and Trevor eleven at the time we married on New Year's eve 2004. That Christmas Trevor asked for a train. Well that was my reunion with model railroading. Trevor and I started a layout together with mostly trains that had been packed up for years in my parents' basement and a few pieces we bought him that Christmas. Alyssa even helped out with scenery, it proved to be a great way to bond with the kids. Trevor soon moved on to video games and skateboards. Not me, I moved from Athearn blue box to Kato and DC to DCC.

"After being back in the basement for five or so years modeling I felt the need to start networking with local modelers so in 2010 I joined the NMRA and started attending meets. I attended the National show in Milwaukee that year and rubbed elbows with some of the modelers I read about in MR magazines as a kid. Since then I've become involved in an informal operating group "The boomers". I was elected to the Winnebagoland Division Board of Directors in 2015 and took over the clinic chair position from Emory Luebke. So if you have a skill or story you would like to share at a division meet I would love to talk to you.

"Sandi and I are now empty nesters and built a new home (basement) in 2014. Before the hole was dug I had the new

(Continued on page 5)

WLD Bylaws Change

Recently the NMRA and Midwest Region adopted language to allow organizational changes at the Division level, particularly the creation of "sub-divisions" for more localized governance of NMRA-sanctioned activities. The large geographical area of the Winnebagoland Division makes it difficult for everyone to participate in Division activities as much as they would like, for reasons such as drive time.

Because of this, the WLD approved a change to the bylaws that allows the creation of subdivisions. Here's the approved language, taken primarily from the MWR bylaws:

"ARTICLE XI—SUBDIVISIONS

1. To ensure that NMRA members can participate in NMRA activities within a reasonable distance of a member's residence, a Division may establish one or more Subdivisions within its territory.
2. Subdivisions should consist of groups of NMRA members who want to affiliate, and should be named for cities, counties, towns, etc. that identify the area served by the Subdivision, but should not be defined with specific geographic boundaries.
3. Subdivisions must comply with NMRA membership and other policies applicable to Regions and Divisions and with any policies established by the Midwest Region or the Winnebagoland Division.
4. Subdivisions must designate a leader and report his or her name, address, phone number and email address to the Winnebagoland Division. It is expected that this leader will take an active role as a Winnebagoland Division Committee Chair, report Subdivision activities to the Board of Directors, and attend Board meetings.
5. The Winnebagoland Division must report the names of any Subdivisions that it establishes or dissolves to the Region Secretary by email or postal mail whenever a change occurs."



You can safely assume Phil is the one on the left...

Merrill Railroad Reference Library Opens

By Jane Francoeur

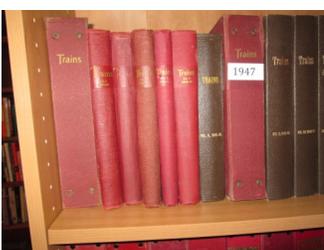
The Sherburne S. Merrill Railroad Reference Library opened in Merrill on Saturday, May 14, 2016. The library is a joint effort of a group of area railroad historians and Merrill Historical Society and is housed in the lower level of the Society's History & Culture Center, 100 East Third Street in Merrill. The library contains a collection of books, magazines, and periodicals that are helpful when doing railroad research. The materials, which have been donated by private individuals and organizations, are being curated by Dr. Brett Barker, associate professor of history at UWMC.



"I have accumulated a lot of railroad research materials and I was looking for a way to share my resources with people who are interested," says Tom Burg, author of numerous railroad history books. "In the reference library, these materials are more accessible to others."

Some of the magazines in the collection go back to the 1930s. Model railroad builders will enjoy seeing era-specific magazines that will help make their results more authentic.

For non-railroad buffs, some of the magazines contain "Railroad Fiction"; stories told by well-known authors which include romances, mysteries, and action-adventure tales all with railroad settings. Many of the covers have beautiful art work, reminiscent of Norman Rockwell.



In the periodicals section, official guides containing railroad timetables for all of North America as far back as 1895 are available, as is the equipment register of every rail car. Books covering the histories of various railroad lines, and

types of locomotives, freight and passenger cars line one wall of the library.

The library is decorated with railroad lamps and lanterns from the Historical Society's collection. Shelving was funded by donations from Wisconsin Valley Model Railroad

Club, the family of Harry and Della Nelson, and Ralph Wehlitz, master model railroad builder. The Nelson family donated a cabinet that belonged to Harry who for many years was the section foreman on the railroad in Merrill. This cabinet now contains time tables, maps, plans and other railroad memorabilia. The bubbler, or water fountain, from the Milwaukee Road Depot in Merrill, also a part of the Historical Society collection, is on display.

"Merrill is named for Sherburne S. Merrill, who was the general manager of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad," explains Burg. "He was one of the top railroad executives in the country and a factor in bringing the railroad to and through what was then Jenny. Naming the library for him was an appropriate thing to do."

Ralph Wehlitz adds, "For persons with an interest in railroads and railroad history, this is the most extensive source of material in north central Wisconsin." Donations of railroad literature are still being accepted. Please contact the Historical Society office to set up a time for your collection to be reviewed.



The library will initially be open for browsing on Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at which times there will be a railroad historian available for research assistance. The library is also open by appointment when the History & Culture Center is open.

May 14, National Train Day, was the official opening day of the Sherburne S. Merrill Railroad Reference Library. As an added attraction on May 14, portions of the extensive antique model train collection of Greg Tourinetti, the Northwoods Flyer Collection, were exhibited and operated throughout the day.

The Merrill Historical Society's mission is to educate the public about our heritage using the unique historical and cultural resources we collect and preserve. For further information on the programs and activities of the Merrill Historical Society, or to become a member, please contact the Society at 715-536-5652 or merrillhs@frontier.com, or see the website at www.merrillhistory.org.

Ode to Caboose Hobbies

By Charlie W. Getz - NMRA President

The news of Caboose Hobby's imminent closing hit like a thunderbolt. This Denver train shop was more than a hobby shop catering to model railroaders; it was a seminal destination for generations of hobbyists.



Started in 1938 by Glenn Brazelton and originally located downtown on 15th street, Caboose quickly became identified with a large inventory and excellent service. Son Duane Miller and wife Joanna took over, expanded and moved when the old location could not handle the increasing inventory. Their new location on South Broadway was the size of a supermarket, complete with shopping carts, and quickly became a "must" stop for visitors. Certified by Guinness as the World's Largest Train Store, Caboose became known for its staggering inventory, inspiring store layouts and dioramas, and brass case with hundreds of pieces. It offered clinics and seminars, carried a wide range of magazines and books, and a massive inventory in all scales. If Caboose did not have it, it did not exist. Over the decades, Caboose also expanded its mail order and internet presence until fully half of its sales were internet originated.

A changing hobby business and a landlord who wanted to sell the building for a major redevelopment meant the Millers had to either move or close. Originally, they chose to downsize and move to a smaller location but after such a long time in the business, Duane and Joanna decided to close up and call it an era. And it truly was; stories of first visits to Caboose are legion and often very similar. As many times as I have been there, Caboose was not to be taken lightly. The more you looked, the more you found. I never was able to visit without getting something, and often, to Margaret's horror, many somethings! But always they were wonderful items at fair prices and often products you did not find elsewhere.

Now Denver is left without a major train shop, although there are some excellent smaller shops in town including a favorite of mine that specializes in used equipment. Colorado Springs still has two major shops left but that is a one hour drive south. Regardless, I wish the Millers

well and thank them for all of the wonderful years they gave us. Classy folks. Hopefully, another shop will provide train equipment to the many modelers in the Denver metro area.

Did you notice that the 2017 Walthers catalog combines HO-N-Z in one volume? Some may celebrate this as it presents more scale options, but this also is another example of the contraction of the hobby. There simply is not enough product to justify two catalogs, as in past years. Walthers, like Caboose, is a seminal part of the hobby industry and while far from closing, is an example of changes in the industry.

The future of Walthers, Caboose-style shops, and the NMRA resides in your hands. For every product you buy online to save a dollar, you contribute to the Caboose closing or the Walthers contraction. For every new member you ignore at an event or fail to make welcome, you doom the NMRA. In reality, the answer to the contracting hobby lies with us all. We are the customers and the ambassadors of model railroading. We can make a difference.

In the November issue of NMRA Magazine, I will expand on this topic but also address the very different situation overseas. There the hobby is thriving and shows it can here also. So do not be discouraged but please do recognize that we face challenges which together we can meet and overcome.

[Editor's Note: see the next page for a different take...]

Meet Your Board ...cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

layout designed. The architect needed to make a few modifications to house plan to fit the layout design. The layout is based on Marias Pass in Montana during the period from the late 80's to late 90's. My goal is to replicate the operations of a big time mountain railroad. I plan to model many of the trestles, the unique Great Northern depots and hotels of the Glacier area. This will start my work towards an MMR.

"My other past times include carpentry, road biking and hiking. I enjoy hiking at many of our National parks which is one of the reasons I chose to model Marias Pass. The Great Northern Railroad was instrumental in the formation of Glacier National park which borders the southern boundary of the park.

"I am employed at Kohler company's Wisconsin Pottery division in the Industrial Engineering Department. My main responsibilities are coordinating capital projects and managing the Pottery maintenance team." —Phil

“Caboose Hobbies”, a rebuttal

By “*skiloff*”

[Editor's Note: this is a response to the NMRA president's recent editorial lamenting the state of the hobby. This was posted early September in a blog on Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine's website. I take no position on this, just publishing it as food for thought.]

I find your commentary from the latest bulletin troubling. Not because of the closure of Caboose Hobbies, but your continued insistence that the hobby is in a state of contraction using the evidence of Caboose closing and Walthers' catalogs becoming one. This is looking at a few facts and making broad assumptions of them without really looking at many other facts out there. Caboose closing and Walthers' catalogs is not a sign of the hobby dying - it is a sign, like the world at large, that things are changing. It is very frustrating when people in your position in the hobby paint it as dying because of change, but fail to acknowledge or understand that change, perhaps, is renewal, not death. Is the hobby of the 50s and 60s dying? Yes, indeed. Is the hobby of model railroading dying? Absolutely not!

In fact, there are many signs that we are in a new era of growth for the hobby. The current range of products has never been of higher quality, and a broad range of affordable options are still out there for those entering the hobby. The options available to modelers is second to none in terms of how they want to enjoy the hobby - scratch building, kits, or built-ups. The real problem is, this is seen by many of the old guard as a negative, because it isn't "as it used to be." Everything in the world is changing, so why would model railroading expect to be static? And in fact, if it doesn't change, I would say THAT is the bigger concern, because failing to change (like so many in the hobby) is what will kill businesses. Just ask Kodak or Polaroid or Tower Records or Montgomery Ward or Woolworth's.

In reality, I feel that the most damage done to this hobby is done by it's leaders who continually trumpet it's death and make statements, such as you made in a newspaper article in the past year that suggested young people are only interested in their phones. THAT is the kind of nonsense generalization that will drive young people from the hobby. In fact, there are probably the same proportion of young people in the hobby today than there were decades ago, but they enter the hobby differently. But this is not understood by leaders, such as yourself, and through this lack of understanding, you inadvertently do damage to the hobby you are trying to protect.

The real issue, I believe, for the NMRA is it's shrinking base of members. Let's be clear - this is mostly an NMRA problem, not a hobby problem. Why is the NMRA membership sinking? In many ways it's because of these out-of-touch comments by it's leadership. Who wants to

join an association that openly generalizes about young people and their cellphone addictions? Or one that suggests internet shopping is bad for the hobby? The failure of the NMRA is it's failure to change with the world and understand the world it operates in. But that doesn't seem to be understood - it's simply blamed on the internet and young people that only care about their cell phones, which are both patently false.

I hope the NMRA will succeed for the long term, because I believe the hobby is better with it than without it, but there needs to be a sea change in how the NMRA leadership views the world in which we live and the way the hobby is evolving.

Arctic Run Train Show

20th Annual Arctic Run Model Railroad Show & Sale
Sponsored by the Central Wisconsin Model Railroaders Ltd.

January 21 & 22, 2017

Holiday Inn Convention Center:

1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

Exit 158 East, I-39/51 & Hwy 10. East one mile on Hwy 10- to Elizabeth Avenue (just past Fleet Farm).

Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM; Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM.

Adults \$4.00; Ages 12 – 17 \$2.00, Age 11 & under FREE.

Fun for the whole family! Enjoy a convention center full (25,000 square feet) of trains, trains and more trains. Featured are operating model railroad layouts (some as large as 24' x 52"), a hands-on Thomas the Tank Engine layout for the children, swap/sales tables, hobby shop dealers and vendors.

If you are just interested in watching trains, thinking of getting started in the hobby, or a seasoned model railroader there is something here for everyone. On a cold January week-end there is no better place to be than among friendly fun-loving model railroaders!

The show is sponsored by the Central Wisconsin Model Railroaders Ltd (a non-profit educational organization). Activities include promoting model railroading as a life long hobby and family activity, supporting community events and organizations including the Portage County Historical Society.

For more information contact:

Paul Clasen, 4546 Buckhorn Ln., Stevens Point, WI 54481 or designcentralwi@yahoo.com, or

Don Anderson, (715) 340-8105 or crm114@tds.net.

Website www.trainweb.org/cwmmr.

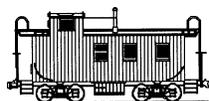
Team Track

Division Officers

John Leow	Superintendent
Mike Wadinski	Asst. Superintendent
Scott Payne	Paymaster
Vern Ehlke	Chief Clerk
John Leow	Division Director

Board of Directors

Wally Rogers	thru 04/17
Roger Wurtzel	thru 04/17
Joe Lallensack	thru 05/17
Dave Nitsch	thru 05/17
Todd Bushmaker	thru 06/17
Dave Allen	thru 09/18
Mary Eiden	thru 09/19
Mike Eiden	thru 03/19
Phil Herman	thru 11/19
Chris Heili	thru 01/20



Committee Chairs

Todd Bushmaker	Whistle Editor, Ads, Circulation, Subscriptions
Marv Preussler	AP Chairman
Wally Rogers	Membership Chairman
Phil Herman	Clinic Chairman
James C. Cruthers	501(c)3 Committee Chairman
Lynn Jasch	Convention Registrar
Vacant	Convention Co-Chairman
Vacant	Convention Co-Chairman
Vacant	Company Store Chairman
Scott Payne	Operating Session Coordinator
David Allen	Model Contest Chairman
Joe Lallensack	Photo Contest Chairman
Mary & Michael Eiden	Co-Webmasters
Rich Hopfensperger	Hobby Shop/Model Club Liaison
Vacant	Scout Coordinator

Please note the vacant positions and let the Superintendent know of any possible interested parties!



www.wld-nmra.com

Facebook:

“WLD Division, NMRA”

On the Ready Track

- October 14-15** WLD Fall Meet
Marquette, MI
(see attached form)
- November 5** WLD Fall Operating Session
(see attached)
- November 12-13** Trainfest, www.trainfest.com
Wisconsin State Fair Park
- January 14** WLD Board Meeting
SLHTS Archives, Appleton
- January 21-22** Arctic Run Train Show
Stevens Point



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Black—47x36x15.5"; Silver—41x29x17.5"

Drawers are 2"+ clear inside. Ball bearing slides, good shape. Must be able to pick up. Contact the editor!



THE QUEEN CITY EXPRESS

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN



2016 WINNEBAGO LAND DIVISION FALL MEET
OCTOBER 14 - 15, 2016
EXPLORER ROOMS, NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, October 14th:

- 10:00 – 3:00 – Mineral Range Railroad chase/photo opportunities *
- 3:00 – 5:00 – Lundin Mining Humbolt Mill Tour **
- 5:00 – 6:30 – Dinner (on your own)
- 7:00 - ??? – Operating Sessions ***

Saturday, October 15th:

- 8:00 – 10:45 – Registration
- 8:30 – 11:30 – Model/Photo Contests (Judging 11:30 – 12:30)
- 9:00 – 12:00 – Clinics (Schedule and lineup subject to change.)

Modeling Clinics:

- David Allen Preparing a Model for a Contest/How the Achievement Program Can Improve Your Modeling
- Trevor Lloydlee Building Semaphore Signals Using Relays
- Rich Cooke Proto-freelancing the Grand Trunk Pontiac Belt Line in O Scale

Historical/Prototype Clinics:

- Troy Henderson Historic Fayette – Early Iron Smelting in the UP
- Paul Truckey History of Logging in the UP
- Chuck Pomazal History of the Quincy and Torch Lake Railroad

- 12:30 – 2:00 – Luncheon and Program (Jack Deo – Vintage Views of Railroading in the UP - in 3D!)
- 2:30 – 6:30 – Layout Tours

- * Schedule to be Determined. Additional information will be provided to those attendees indicating interest on their registration form.
- ** Limited to the first 20 individuals indicating interest on their registration form. See additional requirements on reverse side.
- *** Limited to the first 21 individuals indicating interest on their registration form. See additional requirements on reverse side.

Admission: Meet Only (Pre-registered or at the door): NMRA Members \$10.00, Non-members \$15.00
 Luncheon - Barbeque Buffet (Pre-registered only): \$13.50

Accommodations: Arrangements have been made with the following Marquette hotels:

Ramada Inn	412 W. Washington St.	1-800-2-RAMADA	\$99.95 - \$109.95
Cedar Motor Lodge	2523 US 41 West	1-888-551-7378	\$69.00 – \$89.00

Pre-Registration Form (Required for Luncheon) - Must be received by 10/01/2016 (Please fill out one form for each attendee)

NAME	NMRA NUMBER	MEET (\$10.00 / \$15.00)	LUNCHEON (\$13.50)	TOTAL

Contact Information: Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

RETURN THIS FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Lynn Jasch, WLD Registrar
1850 Adler Way
Green Bay, WI 54303

(Make checks payable to: Winnebago Land Division)

INTERESTED IN.....	YES	NO
Operating Session? (Please fill out info on reverse side) FIRST 21 REGISTRANTS!		
Mineral Range RR Photo Op?		
Lundin Humbolt Mill Tour? (Please see additional info on reverse side) FIRST 20 REGISTRANTS!		

Lundin Humbolt Mill Tour Requirements/Restrictions (FIRST 20 REGISTRANTS):

- Must wear long pants. No capris or shorts.
- Must wear closed toe walking shoes/hiking boots. No sandals or clogs.
- Alcohol, drugs, or firearms are prohibited on site.
- No photos on site.
- Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) will be provided: hard hat, safety glasses, high visibility vest, ear plugs.
- Participants must be able to climb several flights of stairs, steep inclines, walk on metal grating, and tolerate strong odors.

Operating sessions will be held at the following layouts (FIRST 21 REGISTRANTS):

Rich Cooke – Grand Trunk Western Pontiac Belt Line. Rich’s 12x31 foot O scale (two rail) layout is set in and around Pontiac, Michigan in the early 1970s. It features urban scenes, and lots of switching – after all, the auto industry is still booming in Lower Michigan. It also interchanges with the rural Stoney Creek and Romeo. The emphasis is on industrial switching. Up to six operators.

Trevor Lloydlee – Dunnaw Junction. This 46x16 foot layout, set in a small part of the West on England, models British Railways in 3mm scale (British TT). It is set in the mid-1960s steam-to-diesel transition, and is unique in that the operator represents the tower operator, instead of the train crew as we’re used to on American layouts. The emphasis is on managing freight and passenger movements. Up to five operators.

Dave Allen – Pacific and Idaho Northern. Dave’s HO scale layout is set in western Idaho in 1908, and features the Oregon Short Line, Northern Pacific, and Union Pacific as primary railroads. It is 12x13 feet (with a 2x6 extension), and proves that a large area isn’t necessary for spectacular scenery. The emphasis is on mining, way freight, and passenger trains. Up to six operators.

Peter Lloyd-Lee – Freelance, currently unnamed. Peter’s HO scale layout is 13x14 feet, plus closet staging, and is set in the North East U.S. in the Late Steam (1940s) era. It represents a branch line to a port city, with intermediate industrial switching along the way. It features all hand-laid code 70 and 55 track and turnouts. The emphasis is on local freight and passenger trains, with industrial switching. Up to four operators.

A limited number of vendor tables are available for \$5.00, based on space available,. Please include a note with your registration.

If you checked the box on the first page indicating interest in participating in the operating sessions on Friday, October 14, please indicate your preferred layouts below by placing a number (1-4) next to the layouts you’d like to operate – where 1 indicates your first preference, 2 your second preference, etc. We will make every attempt to assign everyone’s highest preferences. Assignments will be based on a first come, first served basis – so get your registrations in early!

_____ Rich Cooke – Grand Trunk Western Pontiac Belt Line. Up to six operators.

_____ Trevor Lloydlee – Dunnaw Junction. Up to five operators.

_____ Dave Allen – Pacific and Idaho Northern. Up to six operators.

_____ Peter Lloyd-Lee – Freelance, currently unnamed. Up to four operators.



**REGISTRATION FORM
WINNEBAGOLAND DIVISION FALL OPERATING SESSION**

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE #:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

INTERESTED IN DINING AFTERWARDS: YES ____ NO ____

Cost is \$5.00 which will be collected at the first layout of the session, DO NOT MAIL the \$5.00. You will be notified by email or mail. Openings are limited so slots will be filled on a first come first served basis.

The exact number of slots is not known at this time. Also, if you wish to operate with another attendee, please indicate that below, however we cannot guarantee this request:

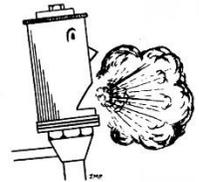
I would like to operate with: _____

SEND THIS REGISTRATION FORM TO:

Paul Hillmer

4711 N. Tanglewood Dr.

Appleton, WI 54913



Rock River Valley Division



HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, ROCKFORD, IL
APRIL 28, 29 & 30, 2017

Welcome to RRVD – Golden Rails

The members of the Rock River Valley Division would like to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Division with you. We are hosting the 2017 Midwest Region Convention with layout tours featuring many great railroads in our Division, operating sessions on some fine layouts, numerous clinics - some yet to be confirmed - which will include some well-known clinicians, a silent auction (bring items to sell), a photo and model contest, a few great non-rail activities showcasing the Rockford area and a not-to-be missed banquet program by Randy Garnhart and Jerry Pyfer.

The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn located west of Interstate 90 and north of Business U.S. 20 (State St.) at 7550 East State St in Rockford, IL. The Holiday Inn is only 60 minutes from O'Hare airport. The hotel also has an indoor pool, Jacuzzi, fitness center and free Wi-Fi service.

The Holiday Inn has reserved a block of rooms and is offering a special convention room rate of \$99.95 (mention NMRA-RRVD). Reservations can be made by calling the Holiday Inn front desk at (815) 398-2200 or 1-800-315-2621. You may also reserve via the Internet at [National Model Railroad Association](#).

Clinics

We are lining up some very fine clinics this year. Several clinics will be offered twice. As we go to

press, the following clinics have been scheduled:

Cody Grivno (*Model Railroader* magazine)

- TBD

Randy Garnhart

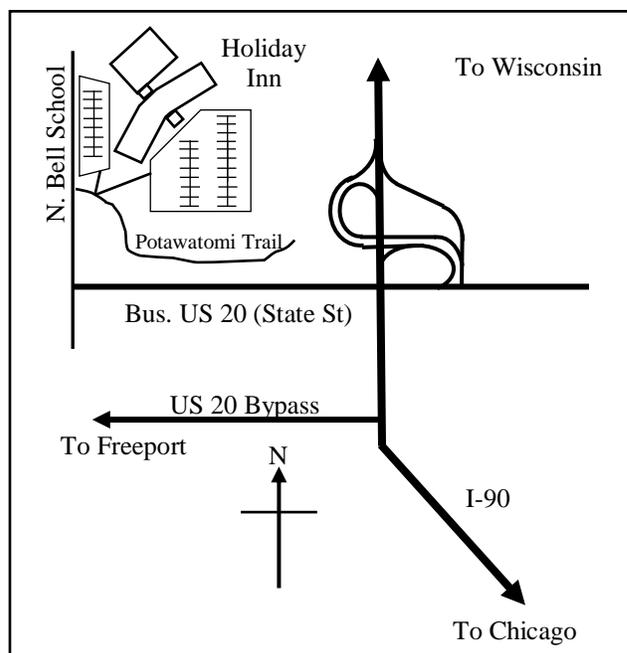
- How to Design your Model RR for Realistic Operation
- Realistic Operation of Your Model Railroad

Jerry Pyfer

- Chicago North Western – KD Line

McKeegan Curran (Nat'l Conv clinician)

- Teenagers: The Next Generation



Friday Night Operating Sessions

There will be three layouts open for Friday night operating sessions:

1. Toma, Onalaska & Western (TO&W); HO; Double decked; 2 staging yards, lots of industrial switching in 5 towns; Digitrax; 12 operators
2. Chicago & North Western (CN&W); West Chicago, IL to Clinton, IA; HO; double decked; 1950's; steam; 12 operators
3. Toledo, Peoria & Western (TP&W); HO; double decked, lower level is Peoria, IL, upper level is Effner, IN to Fort Madison IA; a lot switching and interchange with other railroads; 1960's; 15 operators

The operating sessions will be limited to the first 39 operators who register. Indicate your layout preference and the Registrar will make every attempt to get you to the one you want. A waiting list will be established for registrants who don't make the cut. You will be notified of your assignment when you check in at the Registration desk.

Layout Tours

We have layout tours planned for Saturday afternoon, and Sunday afternoon. There will be a number of layouts open for your enjoyment as we go to press. About half are fully scened. Most layouts are diesel; some are steam.

Convention Mug

All attendees will receive a commemorative RRVD - Golden Rails Convention Mug.

Non-Rail Activities

The Klehm Arboretum – provides a uniquely wonderful place to enjoy a beautiful natural landscape. With quiet space for contemplation, another for horticultural demonstration, and another designed for child's play; choose the places most intriguing to your personal interest. Klehm demonstrates standards of horticultural excellence through creative displays, collections, and educational programming. Klehm also offers a shuttle from which you can see everything in comfort.

Tinker Swiss Cottage – Robert Tinker's inspiration for the Cottage came during a tour of Europe in 1862, where he fell in love with the architecture of Switzerland. In 1865, Tinker began building his Swiss Cottage on a limestone bluff overlooking Kent Creek. He surrounded his Cottage with 27 acres of trees, vines, winding pathways, flowerbeds, and gardens. A Swiss inspired barn housed cows, chickens and horses. Tinker constructed a suspension bridge crossing Kent Creek, which linked the Cottage with the limestone mansion and estate grounds of his wife Mary Door Manny Tinker. In 1906, the railroad bought the remainder of Mary's estate. At the end of the suspension bridge, Tinker planted elaborate gardens, where passengers could stroll as they waited for the train.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens – Wander around inside and outside as you look at all the many different plants and flowers and great gardens; also visit the fish pond. From March to May you can find the Butterfly Exhibit.

Midway Village Museum – Come step back into Rockford's past. The main museum building holds a number of permanent exhibits reflecting Rockford's history and culture, including The Girls of Summer: Rockford Peaches of the AAGPBL. Stroll the grounds and tour the many Rockford area Victorian buildings which have been relocated to the museum.

Model/Photo Contest

Models will be judged in the Master and Novice classes. The Master class is for those modelers who have won a 1st place in the category at the regional level. The Novice class is for those who have not won a 1st place yet. The following categories will be judged: steam locomotives, diesel locomotives, traction, passenger cars, freight cars, cabooses, on-line structures, off-line structures, on-line displays and off-line displays.

The photo contest will include Model and Prototype in Black and White, Color Slide, and Color Print.

And don't forget the Bob Moskal Memorial Award for models and the Mick Grimsby award for best all-around N-scale model.

Auction and Banquet

This year we are planning an evening of super entertainment. Following the banquet buffet, Randy Garnhart and Jerry Pyfer have created a beautiful presentation centered on the 50th anniversary of our division using dual slide projectors and music. This program "must" be seen and heard! The program will be followed by the Awards presentations and the results of the silent auction. Don't forget to bring your own overstocked items for consignment.

Confirmation

Confirmation of Registration will only be mailed to those individuals whose registration materials are delivered to the Registrar by April 21, 2017.

Registration

Use the registration form on the next page or go to www.2017mwrconvention.com to download a form.

Registrar:

Don Brindle

815-874-6095

donbrindle@aol.com

Tentative Timetable

Friday, April 28, 2017

11am – 4pm	Hobo Grill at Rochelle Railroad Park
4pm - 10pm	Registration
7pm – 10pm	Clinics
7pm – 11pm	Operating Sessions
6:30pm – 10:30pm	Hospitality Suite
7pm – 9pm	Contest Entry (Model)*
8pm – 10pm	Auction Entry

*tentative

Saturday, April 29, 2017

7am – 10am	Registration
7:30am – noon	Hospitality Suite
8am – 12:30pm	Clinics
8am – 10am	Contest Entry (photo/model)
8am – 10am	Auction Entry
10am – 4pm	Non-Rail Events
1pm – 5pm	Layout Tours
5pm – 6pm	Attitude Adjustment
6pm – 9pm	Banquet
9pm - ????	Auction

Sunday, April 30, 2017

9am - 11am	MWR Board Meeting
10am – 5pm	Layout Tours

Hospitality Room

The Rockford Club Car will be open Friday night, providing snacks, soda and coffee. Stop by and visit with old friends and make new ones.

Hobo Grill

Friday, April 28th, 2017

11:00am - 4:00pm

Rochelle Railroad Park

The Rock River Valley Division will be hosting a free grill-out to all pre-registered guests. We will be offering brats, dogs, chips and drinks; you sit back and watch the trains go by. You may want to bring a folding chair since there is limited seating. The park includes a gift shop, parking, public restrooms, picnic area, and RR artifacts. A great way to kick off the Convention weekend!

To help us plan for food, please indicate on the registration form if you expect to attend.

Midwest Region NMRA 2017 Spring Convention

“RRVD – Golden Rails” Registration Form

April 28, 29 & 30, 2017

FARES^{##}

(Spouse of a member will qualify for the member price)

	<u>NMRA</u> <u>Member/Spouse</u>	<u>Non-NMRA</u> <u>Member/Spouse</u>
Full Fare (Includes Banquet) ^{##}	\$50/\$50	\$60/\$60
Convention Only (No Banquet) ^{##}	\$40/\$40	\$50/\$50
Banquet Only ^{##}	\$30/\$30	\$30/\$30

^{##}Registrations received after April 14, 2017 or at the door will be \$10 extra

Activities Registration

- Friday Night Operating Session (indicate your preference, i.e., 1, 2, 3):
(Not a “layout tour;” you are expected to operate)

TO&W _____ CN&W _____ TP&W _____

- I expect to attend the Hobo Grill lunch at the Rochelle RR Park: # attending: _____

Enter Desired Meal Choice in the “Meal” column: B = Buffet (chicken & pork), S = Special Diet

<u>Name</u> (PLEASE PRINT)	Circle One for each registrant			
	Full	Convention Only	Banquet Only	Meal B/S
NMRA Member: _____ Last name First name	\$50	\$40	\$30	
Member Spouse: _____ Last name First name	\$50	\$40	\$30	
Non-NMRA Member ^{**} : _____ Last name First name	\$60	\$50	\$30	

Add \$10 each for late registration: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

^{**}Includes \$10 RailPass membership – must be eligible (either never been a member before OR haven’t been a member for 2 years or more; can join at RailPass rates **ONLY ONCE**)

NMRA #: _____ Phone #: (____) _____

Street: _____ E-mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to: “RRVD – Golden Rails”
c/o Don Brindle – Registrar
3159 Far Hill Rd
Rockford, IL 61109

Office Use Only

Am’t Rec’d: \$ _____

Check No.: _____

Op Session Status: _____

Make checks payable to: “Rock River Valley Division - NMRA” (No cash, please)

Additional registration forms available for download at www.2017mwrconvention.com.