

# THE WINNEBAGOLAND WHISTLE

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

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Spring 2010

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## Getting Ready For NMRA 75!

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### Inside This Issue:

WinnebagoLand Division Promotional Event- Free Model Railroad Symposium.  
Reflections of The Membership Survey.  
NMRA WLD News and Coming Events.

## The Superintendents Report...

Welcome to our newly re-done web-based Winnebagoland Whistle. I am excited to finally find a page layout program which will allow me to sidestep all connections to Universal Lithographers. I will be forever grateful for all the free printing and expert advice they gave me and the WLD, but websites can gobble up documents at light speed and to impose on them again, especially since I am no longer employed there would start to stretch our friendship! I think we can finally cut the cord as far as Whistle issues are concerned.

By now everyone who wanted to has returned their membership survey. In this issue, I will touch upon some of the highlights again and let you know if any of our wishes can be turned into reality. Your BOD has been busy considering ways to augment our meets and return them to some of their past promise. The Spring Meet in Menominee, MI is one you will not want to miss. We have several new layouts open and we are looking to involve a great number of folks from the area.

Next issue of The Whistle will highlight our meet, as well as TTS. Remember, your division is a co-sponsor of the event and we want to make a better impression on the visitors than in past years. Please stop by and visit our booth for modeling displays, a chance to win free prizes, and other activities. All of this takes manpower and it seems as though there is finally hope that more people are willing to get involved for the betterment of the hobby in our area.

Finally, keep modeling throughout the summer and try to attend our NMRA 75 Convention in Milwaukee. For those of you north of Highway 29, Milwaukee is not that far away and is not as "dangerous" as many of our northern members think! Although it isn't affordable for some, you should get your monies worth at this one. Besides, how many of us will be able to wait for another 25 years till it most likely returns to Milwaukee? No promises it will be back in our state before then. Have a great summer and get some modeling done!

Mark Preussler, WLD Superintendent

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# Getting Ready For NMRA 75

( Or “ Cramming 3 Years of Work into 3 Month’s Time”)

By: Mark Preussler



*Above: Action at West Neenah on Mark Preussler’s Soo Line*

I knew it would happen this way... Back in 1999 when I got married one of the oddities my new in-laws and friends had to deal with was my hobby. I had a nice layout back then, but with a new outlook on life I thought at some point I’d be moving into new quarters and hence the old layout would be gone. About 16 months later that’s what happened. One of the goals which I explained to all who would listen was that I needed a fully functional and completed layout by 2010, which seemed like a long ways off back then. Thoughts and stories of bus loads of people paying my railroad a visit amused the in-laws and work began in 2002 to make it happen.

Well here I am, about 75% finished, but 25% away from what I would call complete. Problem is that the remaining 25% involves a lot of scratchbuilding! I won’t make it, but at least everything runs well and honestly it looks “finished” to most visitors even now. Is it a race to the finish? Yes and no... Both answers are right from different viewpoints.

I was recently talking to fellow modeler and tour host Hans Schlegel from Two Rivers. Hans is a careful modeler who has really taken his time to study and construct his CNW and Soo Ironwood-themed layout to follow the prototype. Hans isn’t cutting corners, but has decided that several areas will be “finished” with stand-in structures until time will allow him to revisit the area for further work.

Of course that opens up the old “good enough” ideas of Allen Mc Clelland and adopted by Tony Koester on his new NKP layout. Honestly, I would not know what a mine outside of Hurley or Ironwood was named, much less what it exactly looked like. No doubt the same can be said of scenes on my layout; visitors usually aren’t experts. If I can justify a stand-in painted and weathered to look right, I’m sure it will fool most visitors as well. Operators like to spot cars and roll through finished scenes, not a never ending expanse of plywood. So, the pressure is on to get ready!

I’ve added a few photos Hans recently took of his progress. I’m sure you would agree that he is well on his way to impressing fellow modelers in July!



*Soo 2112 pulls a string of empty ore cars back to the yard before another trip is made to the mines around Ironwood on Hans' layout.*



*Yes it's that short 60-day season called summer up in the UP as a local miner cuts his lawn oblivious to the ore jennies clacking through his yard. Soon the cold winds and lake effect snow will send everyone back into their homes. Hans' attention to detail is seen in this wonderful shot.*

*Both Photos:  
Hans Schlegel Collection*

## On The Ready Track

**April 10-11, 2010-** 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Train Show- Menominee Middle School  
920 21<sup>st</sup> Street South- Menominee, WI  
Info at: (715) 505-4044

**April 24-25, 2010-** Titledown Train Show-  
Shopko Hall- Green Bay, WI  
Info at [www.ttsgblc.com](http://www.ttsgblc.com)

**May 15, 2010-** Winnebagoland Spring Meet-  
Menominee, MI See Flyer Included

**June 10-13, 2010-** Chicago & North Western  
Historical Society Annual Convention  
Kenosha, WI Info at: [www.cnwhs.org](http://www.cnwhs.org)

**June 17-20, 2010-** Milwaukee Road Historical  
Association Annual Convention  
Wausau, WI Info at: [www.mrha.com](http://www.mrha.com)

**June 19, 2010-** Strawberryfest Annual Train  
Show-Waupaca, WI WLD BOD Meeting- 1:00pm

**July 11-18, 2010-** NMRA National Convention-  
Milwaukee, WI [www.nmra75.org](http://www.nmra75.org)

**July 17, 2010-** La Crosse Rail Fair- La Crosse, WI  
Info at: [www.4000foundation.com](http://www.4000foundation.com)

**August 20-22, 2010-** 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Soo Line His-  
torical & Technical Society Annual Convention  
Neenah, WI Info at: [www.sooline.org](http://www.sooline.org)

**October 1-2, 2010-** 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Marshfield Train  
Show- Marshfield Community Center  
201 S. Oak Ave. -Marshfield, WI  
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**Nov. 13-14, 2010-** Trainfest- State Fair Park-  
West Allis, WI [www.trainfest.com](http://www.trainfest.com)



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## WLD Holds A Free Model Railroading Symposium

On March 27, The WLD held its first "Model Railroading Symposium" as a way to get out and meet fellow modelers and more importantly introduce ourselves to the general public. We had a turnout of about 15 people at the Plymouth Public Library but certainly could have had a better turnout. As part of the 3-man Membership and Growth Committee, I decided the best method of advertising the event was to use public newspapers and community bulletin boards along with posting info at the local hobby shops. The program was geared toward beginners. Of course we have a good core of members heading up the BOD and Growth Committee so changes will be made from my "mistakes". I feel we could have had a better turnout with radio and additional advertising via the various Yahoo Groups and local websites. All told, we still sold \$25.00 worth of merchandise, we met several NMRA members from the area that I didn't know, and we gave away 2 door prizes on top of that. Our next Symposium will be in Marinette during the W&M Train show this fall. We also hope to have our booth at Strawberry Fest in Waupaca. We are trying to gain new members with new methods and much more interaction with NMRA members in the area. Do you have any ideas? Please let me know. We are always looking for more input.- Mark Preussler



*Layout tours remain one of the highlights of our meets according to our members. - photo MP*

# Reflections from the Membership

By: Mark Preussler

Our recent Membership Survey was well received and of the roughly 150 members in the WLD, about 50 surveys were returned. Not too bad considering our voter turnout statistics. In a future issue of The Whistle, we will break down some numbers and examine the responses closer, but as Superintendent, I feel we should begin the dialog now starting with some trends which jumped off the survey page. The major obstacles of better attendance at our meets seem to be the following among current members: 1: Travel is too difficult. 2: Too many other events happening the day of the meet.

No doubt our division is large. It is an issue when our meets are held for only one day with travel times in excess of 3 hours. In addition to the overall time, there is the issue of driving at night. Many of our members no longer wish to attend a banquet and then drive in the dark for long distances. What can be done about this? Well, we can't turn back time, but we can try a few different approaches here. Finding a location is always an issue for a meet and we have lately tried to go to some of our less traveled locations such as Escanaba this year. Making the show a 2-day event is one idea worth pursuing if there is enough help from the host group as well as perhaps other area modelers. Another idea is to turn the traditional banquet into a luncheon with attendees free to leave and plan their trip home in the daylight hours. This is what we're trying at Escanaba in fall 2010 for those not staying in town for the weekend. In my opinion for future meets in outlying areas, we should pursue a weekend that would allow us to team up with another local group such as a historical society to provide a better reason to stay an extra day. Easier said than done however!

We also have been working through the Membership and Growth Committee to bring a series of Symposiums and Mini-Meets to towns in between our traditional spring and fall events. We need to make members feel connected and we need YOUR help in doing that. So far, it's been a 3-man show road show, but we plan on getting local modelers more involved with these events in the future.

By getting smaller events going on more often than the 2 times a year we hold our big meets, it should give us an opportunity to hold an event "close by" for more of our membership. More importantly it will give us a chance to gain new members and meet current members.

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*The Annual WLD Operating Session in November is another chance for all modelers to get involved in NMRA events.*



As far as issue #2, it's another thing the WLD has no real control over. This one affects our family guys more than issue #1, but it's just as bad for our attendance. Normally this involves a conflict with a sporting event and really hits us more during the fall when football is in full swing. If it isn't a child's team event, it's some college homecoming or event involving a member's alma mater. In this case it comes down to which event is more important and for most model railroading gets pushed back. Our only recourse is to try to work around Packer games, etc and again get more of the general public to attend the meets to offset the loss of our members.

In future issues, we will examine other aspects and responses to our Membership Survey. We certainly have a better idea of what we want going forward and I am personally taking on the results as a challenge to get more involved and make new friends throughout the WLD of the NMRA.

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## Operating Session Returns to the Lakeshore...

**Plan ahead!** November 6th, 2010 is a date you will not want to forget as the WLD is planning a return to the Manitowoc and Sheboygan areas for our annual WLD Operating Session. Details will be coming in later this year, but here's your chance to learn operations from experienced layout builders and operators! Remember, you don't need to be a NMRA member to participate.

Full details and guidelines are available right on our website [www.wld-nmra.com](http://www.wld-nmra.com)

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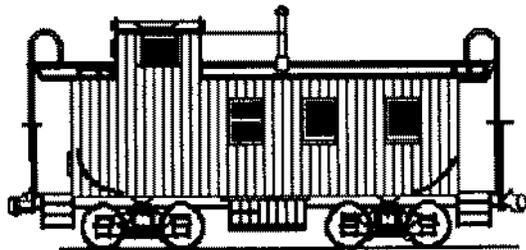
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## The New Master Model Railroader!

On behalf of the entire Winnebagoland Division I would like to congratulate Marvin Preussler for earning his Master Model Railroader Certificate from the NMRA. Marv becomes MMR #432 and only the 4th from our division. He's posing with our first MMR, Don Manlick who earned Certificate #56 before Marv was in kindergarten! Wow, time sure does fly. Don's work remains a benchmark in the hobby and he certainly has fulfilled one of the aspects of the MMR program; to pass along the skills and help other modelers attain the MMR Certificate. It is now my turn to apply for this certificate. Hopefully it will be approved before the NMRA 75 in Milwaukee. Yes Marv beat me to it and managed to keep his promise to file the paperwork before turning 40! Give him a "way to go" when you see him at the Spring Meet in Menominee on May 15th.- *photo and article by Mark Preussler, WLD Superintendent*